

# EXPLORE DES MOINES

CITYVIEW's seasonal guide for activities and things to do in central Iowa

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BIG GROVE BREWERY

Photo by Rob Miller



# GW



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# EXPLORE DES MOINES



THE PAPPAJOHN SCULPTURE PARK

Photo courtesy of Travel Iowa

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## Grab your friends and family

There's exploring to do.

BY CYOTE WILLIAMS

As the seasons and years continue to pass on, the question of, "What is there to do in Des Moines?" has quickly changed to "What ISN'T there to do in Des Moines?" With the weather emerging from its cold shell of the winter months, there's so much to do and explore in and around central Iowa.

In this issue, we salute some of the best Des Moines has offered for years, including the historical sites, museums and attractions that have entertained families for generations, as well as the restaurants those generations consider favorites.

With the sunshine coming and the sunscreen back on shelves, we help direct you to some of the best places to dip your toes in the water: a day on the beach, a fishing excursion and outings to some of the splash parks sure to entertain families of all ages.

We're your guide if you want to hit up some of the area's best bar patios for a drink or two (or three or four, who's counting?) or take a stroll through some of central Iowa's best shopping districts. Add in a comprehensive list of sporting events, live music, festivals and more, and, friend, you've got a lot of exploring to do. ■

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# WALK N' *shop*

In the mood for strolling through a shopping district where walkability and unique storefronts abound? These junctions, villages and town centers are perfect for you.



Photo courtesy of Valley Junction Foundation

**MAKING A SPLASH**  
ANKENY CHAMBER  
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Presented by  
**LIVE MUSIC SCHEDULE**

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**Friday Bands**  
Jordan Beem  
Tank Anthony  
**HEADLINER:**  
Big Time Grain

**Saturday Entertainment**  
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**Saturday Bands**  
School of Rock  
DJ Big Lare  
Brad and Kate  
Exit 185  
Birdchild  
**HEADLINER:**  
Not Quite Brothers

**Sunday Entertainment**  
Garden Sponsor  
HEARTLAND

**Sunday Bands**  
Ankeny Community Band  
Royce Johns  
June Bugs DSM  
**HEADLINER:**  
Emma Butterworth

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## HISTORIC VALLEY JUNCTION

137 Fifth St., West Des Moines

[www.valleyjunction.com](http://www.valleyjunction.com)

With a mix of old and new, the shops, restaurants, bars and overall entertainment in Valley Junction make it a one-stop walk and shop dream. The stores range from places like Bing's, which sells just about anything you can think of, to the Theatrical Shop, full of costumes that'll help you turn into any character your imagination desires.

## HISTORIC EAST VILLAGE

East Village, Des Moines

[www.eastvillagedesmoines.com](http://www.eastvillagedesmoines.com)

The East Village in Des Moines has been growing exponentially in recent years, with nearly 50 shops now in the area. Find yourself a parking spot and start exploring. There's the East Village Spa if you're looking to relax, a treasure trove of boutiques and clothing stores, hairstylists, tattoo parlors and more.

## WEST GLEN TOWN CENTER

5465 Mills Civic Parkway, West Des Moines

[www.westglentowncenter.com](http://www.westglentowncenter.com)

"Explore every corner" is the West Glen Town Center's motto, and that's great advice to follow. The stores in the area include a variety of shops for health and beauty and clothing shops like Look@You and Worn. Looking to slow down after the shopping? You'll find restaurants from drive-thru favorites like Abelardos to more fancy sit-downs like Irina's Steak and Seafood.



Photo courtesy of West Glen Town Center

## JORDAN CREEK TOWN CENTER

101 Jordan Creek Parkway, West Des Moines

[www.jordancreektowncenter.com/en/](http://www.jordancreektowncenter.com/en/)

Jordan Creek mall and the surrounding Town Center are bursting with shopping, dining and entertainment options. You'll find an array of retail establishments with most any purchasable good available, a myriad of restaurants and bars, one of the best movie theaters in Iowa, and major brand name stores — it's a shopaholic's heaven.

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## DOWNTOWN DES MOINES

FRIDAY, JUNE 21, 2024  
5-9 P.M.



## DES MOINES' EAST VILLAGE

FRIDAY, JULY 26, 2024  
5-9 P.M.

## TICKETS AND INFORMATION AVAILABLE AT [SUMMERSTIRS.DMCITYVIEW.COM](http://SUMMERSTIRS.DMCITYVIEW.COM)



# WALK N' *shop*

## THE DISTRICT AT PRAIRIE TRAIL

[www.thedistrictpt.com](http://www.thedistrictpt.com)

S.W. District Drive, Ankeny

The 1,031-acre community located in the heart of Ankeny has anything and everything you need from a shopping standpoint: boutiques aplenty, bookstores for those in search of the next bestseller, and, for the little ones, Imagination Street — a uniquely designed playscape that will keep the kids entertained and hopefully drain some of their energy before you tell them you have “just one more shopping stop.”

## OUTLETS OF DES MOINES

801 Bass Pro Drive, N.W., Altoona

[www.outletsofdesmoines.com](http://www.outletsofdesmoines.com)

These outlet stores, just a short drive from Des Moines, offer you and your loved ones the chance to find some great items at great prices. The Outlets' website is consistently updated to show you which stores are featuring sales. Husbands, wives, kids, dogs or grandma and grandpa, there's something for everyone at this shopping destination.



Photo courtesy of Apex Sway Marketing

## SOUTHRIDGE MALL

1111 E. Army Post Road, Des Moines

[www.shopsouthridgemall.com](http://www.shopsouthridgemall.com)

What was once a mall and a movie theater has been reimagined. Southridge Mall is the only major shopping district that serves the southside of Des Moines. There are several jewelry stores, if you're in need of that special gift; Foot Locker, if you're in need of a fresh pair of gym shoes or casual sneaker; and plenty more. ■

# Take A Walk TO MEMORY LANE!



Voted as one of  
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**BEST  
ANTIQUE  
STORES!**

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HistoricValleyJunction



@valleyjunction

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OF WEST DES MOINES

**EVENTS:**

Farmers Market/Music in the Junction *Thursdays through September*

Yoga in the Park *June 8, July 13, August 10*

Vintage in the Valley *June 23*

Junction Street Party *July 3*

Summer Sidewalk Sale *July 27*

Vintage in the Valley *September 8*

Gallery Night *October 11*

Sip & Shop *October 17, 24, & 31*

Pumpkin Walk *October 27*

**VALLEYJUNCTION.COM**



# CENTRAL IOWA *drinkeries*

Wineries, breweries and distilleries make up this list of what we like to call “drinkeries.” Get the best wines, beers and spirits specially made in the heart of Iowa.

## JASPER WINERY

2400 George Flagg Parkway, Des Moines  
[www.jasperwinery.com](http://www.jasperwinery.com)

It's not often there's an elite vineyard right in a capital city's backyard. Jasper Winery hosts events throughout the summer, including a summer concert series, fully equipped with food trucks, live music, and indoor and outdoor bars that serve up wines and plenty of other tasteful drinks. Known for its wine, naturally, Jasper Winery will also surprise you with its select choices of ciders produced there.

## TASSEL RIDGE WINERY

1681 220th St., Leighton  
[www.tasselridge.com](http://www.tasselridge.com)

An hour's jaunt outside Des Moines, Tassel Ridge Winery is a bit off the beaten path but well worth the drive. It features an excellent selection of wines, with everything from dessert to dry wines. If you pop over early enough, you can try out the bistro lunch that has a great range of sandwiches. One quick look at the wine awards section on their website indicates that you can't go wrong at Tassel Ridge.

## EXILE BREWING COMPANY

1514 Walnut St., Des Moines  
[www.exilebrewing.com](http://www.exilebrewing.com)

It's hard to believe that Exile opened its doors just a few short years ago in 2012. Its locally crafted beers, like the famous “Ruthie,” have become staples on the taps of many Des Moines and central Iowa bars. If you're an Iowa Hawkeye fan, its “Swarm” goes directly to the UT's NIL collective. Not looking for a drink? The food inside is just as good.



Photo courtesy of Exile Brewing Company

## PEACE TREE BREWING CO.

317 E. Court Ave., Des Moines  
[www.peacetreebrewing.com](http://www.peacetreebrewing.com)

Rooted in Knoxville, Peace Tree's Des Moines location has been open just on the outskirts of downtown since 2009, and it won't be going anywhere anytime soon. Its trivia nights are well rounded and well hosted; enjoy them while you enjoy award-winning concoctions like the refreshing Blonde Fatale. For those looking for something non-alcoholic, and a little sweeter, the brewery also makes a darn good root beer.



Photo courtesy of PeaceTree Brewing Co.



## 515 BREWING COMPANY

7700 University Ave., Suite C, Clive  
[www.515brewing.com](http://www.515brewing.com)

With 16 different specially crafted brews, 515 Brewing Company has something for the light, dark, stout and beyond beer drinker. Looking for something fruity? Try the I'm a Beerbie Girl. Want something with a little more kick? Ask for a Tactical Turtleneck. No matter what, a stop in the taproom is certain to live up to the hype.

## IOWA DISTILLING COMPANY

4349 Cumming Ave., Cumming  
[www.iowadistilling.com](http://www.iowadistilling.com)

Fresh off another great year at the CITYVIEW Best Of Des Moines awards where it won awards ranging from Best Local Distillery to being the maker of the Best Whiskey and several more, Iowa Distilling Company proves the votes and awards are well founded. Its Prairie Fire is worth the try whether you're interested in drinking it straight or tossing it in a cocktail. For you ISU fans, the Iowa State 1858 Vodka sees a portion of the profits go toward the University's We Will NIL Collective.

## THE FOUNDRY

111 S. 11th St. Suite 100, West Des Moines  
[www.thefoundrydsm.com](http://www.thefoundrydsm.com)

This unique drinking destination is an 1890s railcar barn and iron foundry remade into the drinking and food emporium you'll find today. Featuring a railcar aesthetic on the inside, The Foundry features barrel-aged vodkas, Manhattans, gin and great cocktails. Take a tour to see the magic that puts that tasty drink in your hand.



Photo courtesy of The Foundry

**CONFLUENCE BREWING COMPANY**

**VISIT OUR TAPROOM & BEER GARDEN**

1235 THOMAS BECK RD.  
DES MOINES, IOWA

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[RACCOONRIVERVALLEYTRAIL.ORG](http://RACCOONRIVERVALLEYTRAIL.ORG)



# CENTRAL IOWA *drinkeries*

## DEAL'S ORCHARD

1102 244th St., Jefferson

This award-winning orchard does have options for family fun, especially in the fall when it's time for pumpkin patches; however, Deal's Orchard shines when it comes to its hard ciders, made from apples (obviously), blackberries, peaches, watermelons, cherries and pears. There's plenty of fruit-flavored drinks to go around.

## SUMMERSET WINERY

15101 Fairfax St., Indianola

[www.summersetwine.com](http://www.summersetwine.com)

Just outside of Des Moines, the Summerset Winery, with its trivia nights, yoga-themed events, craft shows and the delightful Sangria-Palooza in June, does more than just provide attendees with great wine. The winery offers fancy options to impress the wine aficionado friends in your life, as well as reasonably priced flavorful choices to go with any occasion.

## MADISON COUNTY WINERY

3021 St. Charles Road, St. Charles

[www.madisoncountywinery.com](http://www.madisoncountywinery.com)

If you're looking to escape the bright lights of Des Moines, a quick drive provides you the chance to try the Madison County Winery's fun and flavorful wood-fired pizza Fridays. If you're not exactly sure what you want, take a quick look at the website, which shows you where the wines fall on the dry to sweetness scale.



Photo courtesy of Madison County Winery

## BIG RACK BREW HAUS

2475 Hiatt Apple Trail, Winterset

[www.bigrackbrewhaus.com](http://www.bigrackbrewhaus.com)

Big Rack Brew Haus has plenty of creatively named beers crafted in-house. A Chocolate Roasted Honey Badger Brown for the true IPA connoisseurs, an Abbey Normal Blonde if you're looking for something light and easy to sip on, or a Snakebite IPA that is aptly named. The Brew Haus hosts several events during the summer like Bloody Mary Sundays, gameday watch parties, and a Ractoberfest.

## COVERED BRIDGES WINERY

2207 170th Trail, Winterset

[www.coveredbridgeswinery.com](http://www.coveredbridgeswinery.com)

Found in the rolling hills of Madison County, this winery gets its name from the famous covered bridges of the area. You can find photos online of the early days of this winery, from the burning of the fields to planting the grapes that have been producing award-winning wines since 2004. The winery hosts stand-up comedy, live music and food trucks often, and even has stained glass demonstrations if you're looking to get crafty. ■

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# Patio PALOOZA

The summer weather gives plenty of reasons to go outside, and these bars and restaurants offer you a place to soak it all in while enjoying a drink in hand or a meal with friends.

## BIG GROVE BREWERY

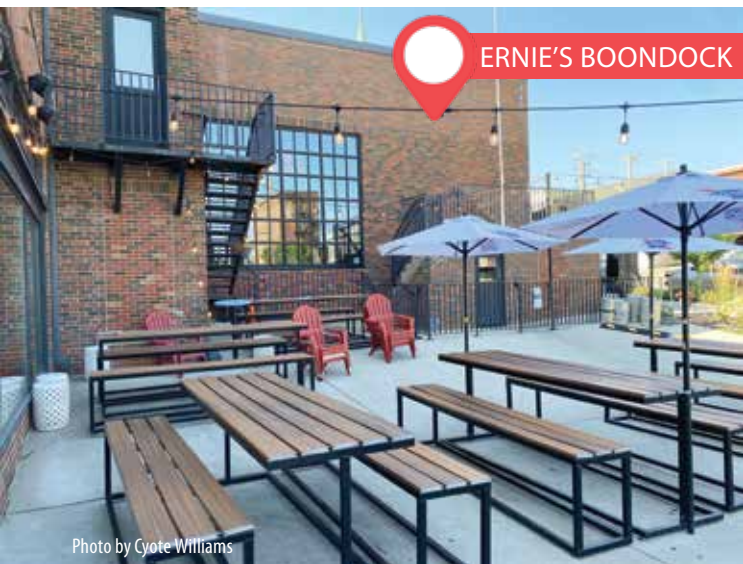
555 17th St., Des Moines  
[www.biggrove.com](http://www.biggrove.com)

Big Grove Brewery does have a few other locations, but its Des Moines location is our favorite when it comes to patios. It is big enough to allow plenty of patrons to gather outside and not feel cramped. Add in several fire pits to keep you warm when the sun goes down and TVs to watch the game. Oh, and the food is pretty good, too.

## WELLMAN'S PUB AND ROOFTOP

597 Market St., West Des Moines  
[www.wellmanspub.com](http://www.wellmanspub.com)

Wellman's Pub and Rooftop Ingersoll location is a staple in the area, with great outdoor seating, but the rooftop patio at the West Des Moines location is one of the best in the city. The sports bar has tasty food options and a vibrant atmosphere for those looking to party. It has an extensive cocktail menu featuring mules, margaritas, martinis and some unique specialty drinks.



## ERNIE'S BOONDOCK

440 East Grand Ave., Des Moines  
[www.facebook.com/pages/Ernies-Boondock/307768513246105](https://www.facebook.com/pages/Ernies-Boondock/307768513246105)

Found in the Historic East Village from our Walk N' Shop section, this bar has one of the more unique indoor atmospheres in the city. But it's the outside we're here to talk about. The patio has ample space and seating for those looking to grab a drink after a day of retail therapy in the area. At night, the food truck keeps it simple with cheeseburgers, cheese curds and fries to satiate those late-night munchies.



## THE GARDEN RESTAURANT AND SHOW LOUNGE

525 E. Grand Ave., Des Moines  
[www.grdn.com/index.html](http://www.grdn.com/index.html)

Also in the East Village, The Garden has a spacious, welcoming rooftop. The LGBTQ+ bar has plenty of late-night food fare, comfortable seating and great drinks to liven up the night. They also host drag shows and brunches, making it a great place to see a show day or night.

## ANNIE'S IRISH PUB

206 Third St., Des Moines  
[www.anniesirish.pub](http://www.anniesirish.pub)

You won't find food at this Irish pub, but what patrons are almost guaranteed to find is a good time. The patio at Annie's more than doubles the space of the inside of the establishment. The 360-degree bar makes sure there are short wait times for drinks on most nights. And plenty of booths allow friends to enjoy an evening together. The pub also opens early during the Downtown Des Moines Farmers' Market.

## CAPTAIN ROYS

1900 Saylor Road, Des Moines  
[www.captainroys.com](http://www.captainroys.com)

Right off the Des Moines and Neal Smith bike trail, this bar is equipped with an elite patio where events are hosted all summer long. Bike riders make frequent stops at the establishment to refill, enjoy live music performances, and shop at vintage markets — not to mention, partake in great Americana food and drink, all accessible on their patio with a lovely view of the river.





Photo courtesy of Destination Grille

## rita's CANTINA

401 S.E. Fifth St., Des Moines

[www.ritascantinadm.com](http://www.ritascantinadm.com)

When attendees take a seat on the inviting patio at Rita's, it's hard to resist ordering one of the expertly made margarita flights. Rita's also offers great happy hour deals on food and the aforementioned beverages. We know we already mentioned the margaritas, but don't sleep on the other specialty cocktails. The establishment has a wide selection of tequilas to make your drink (or marg) a special one.

## CONFLUENCE BREWING COMPANY

1235 Thomas Beck Road, Des Moines

[www.confluencebrewing.com](http://www.confluencebrewing.com)

We saved Big Grove Brewery, and this one, Confluence Brewing Company, from the drinkeries section because their excellent patios deserve to be mentioned. This brewery, located on the Gray's Lake bike trail, has plenty of its own signature brews and a warm patio. The spacious seating and friendly atmosphere make it a great place to spend a day or evening making memories.

## 300 CRAFT AND ROOFTOP

300 W. Martin Luther King Jr Parkway, Des Moines

[www.300craftandrooftop.com](http://www.300craftandrooftop.com)

It's literally in the name, and we can see why. The rooftop patio at 300 allows bar goers an incredible view of the Des Moines skyline, and those who are there on a Friday night at the same time the Iowa Cubs are playing get one of the best views of the post-game fireworks to be found outside of the ballpark. The only thing better than the view? The fully stocked bar and even better drinks.

## DESTINATION GRILLE

2491 E. First St., Grimes

[www.destinationgrille.com](http://www.destinationgrille.com)

The spacious and inviting patio at Destination Grille is a great spot to grab a bite, drink or celebrate. Also a great spot for the gluten-free friends and family members in your life, DG has the most comprehensive gluten-free menu in central Iowa. The seating on the patio is plentiful, and there are enough screens scattered around the rooftop to make sure diners and drinkers have a solid view of the game.

## TRAILSIDE TAP

710 S.W. Third St., Ankeny

[www.trailsidetap.com](http://www.trailsidetap.com)

A large shuffleboard playing surface is one item you won't often find on patios around central Iowa, but TrailSide Tap has avid players covered. The patio has seating at the bar, intimate one-on-one tables and plenty of space to bring your group of friends to have a relaxing evening out. The awning doesn't provide too much coverage, but the lights dangling down create a vibe and atmosphere that's hard to match while enjoying a drink or something from their focused menu.

## THE BARTENDER'S HANDSHAKE

3615 Ingersoll Ave., Des Moines

[www.thebartendershandshake.com](http://www.thebartendershandshake.com)

We'd like to shake the hand of whoever designed the patio at The Bartender's Handshake. Being able to create a backyard feeling at a bar patio is difficult, but this one nailed it, from the furniture to the cozy lighting. The drink menu features cocktails that provide plenty of flavor, and offerings from the area's best breweries are on tap. A short but sweet menu of snacks is available for those looking for a nibble. ■



# Cruising CENTRAL IOWA

Want to see the area's best classic or newest cars? From Mustangs and Corvettes to the Ford Thunderbird and Chevrolet Bel Air your grandparents used to drive, you'll find most anything at this summer's car shows.



Photo courtesy of Valley Community Center

## RUNNELLS HISTORICAL SOCIETY ANNUAL CAR SHOW

201 Brown St., Runnells  
[www.halfacre-farms.com](http://www.halfacre-farms.com)  
May 19

This will be the 10th annual car show held by the Runnells Historical Society. Held in the historic downtown, the event includes a live auction, races, breakfast and lunch available at the Runnells Community Center. There will be plenty of awards up for grabs at this family-friendly event.

## CELEBRASIAN CAR SHOW

Western Gateway Park, 1205 Locust St., Des Moines  
[www.iowaasianalliance.com](http://www.iowaasianalliance.com)  
May 24-25

Des Moines' massive celebration of Asian culture will include a car show. The annual event will feature cash prizes for the winners. And, the CelebrAsian event is right there for the whole family to enjoy.

## MUSTANG CLUB OF CENTRAL IOWA ALL FORD SHOW

801 Bass Pro Drive N.W., Altoona  
[www.mustangclubofcentraliowa.org](http://www.mustangclubofcentraliowa.org)  
June 2

From 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., this car show hosted by the Mustang Club of Iowa is sure to please the Ford enthusiast in your life. This will be the

club's 44th annual show of only Ford powered vehicles. The day will include a kid's corner with games and prizes for the little ones and more than 40 voting classes. Organizers expect to have roughly 300 cars on display this year.

## GOODGUYS CAR SHOW

Iowa State Fairgrounds, 3000 E. Grand Ave., Des Moines  
[www.good-guys.com/hln](http://www.good-guys.com/hln)  
July 5-7

The guys are good, but the cars are better. From 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. each day, the Iowa State Fairgrounds will be taken over by classic cars. Since 1983, the Goodguys Car Shows have attracted millions of attendees and the best-looking cars you could imagine. There will be plenty of vendors and entertainment during the weekend as well.

## HOT DOGS AND HOT RODS

755 Hickman Road, Waukee  
[www.shottenkirkchevy.net](http://www.shottenkirkchevy.net)  
July 20

This will be the second year that Waukee's Shottenkirk Chevrolet dealership puts on this event. Starting at 11 a.m., you'll be able to enjoy both of what the car show's name is offering: hot dogs and hot rods. There will be live music, grilling, classic cars and plenty more to entertain the entire family.





Photo by Celeste Tilton

## CLASSIC VALLEY CAR SHOW

4444 Fuller Road, West Des Moines

[www.valleycommunity.center](http://www.valleycommunity.center)

July 27

Make your way over to the Valley Community Center for the ninth annual Classic Valley Car Show. This car show will give classic car lovers that nostalgic blast-from-the-past feeling while showing off some of the best classic cars in the West Des Moines area and beyond. This event is free and is expected to have more than 400 cars in attendance.

## MUSTANGS AT THE CROSSROADS NATIONAL SHOW

6111 Fleur Drive, Des Moines

[www.mustangsatthecrossroads.com](http://www.mustangsatthecrossroads.com)

Aug. 9-11

Another Mustang club event, this one benefits the Blank Children's Hospital, Easter Seals Iowa and the Wounded Warrior Project. There will be a brunch on Sunday, several chances to see some of the area's best Mustangs win awards and expert speakers giving their analysis on topics such as restoration and upkeep of the classic muscle car.

## DES MOINES CONCOURS D'ELEGANCE

Pappajohn Sculpture Park, 1330 Grand Ave., Des Moines

[www.desmoinesconcours.com](http://www.desmoinesconcours.com)

Sept. 6-8

The finer side of car shows, this event celebrates the art in classic and vintage automobiles. The cars selected for this show are chosen for their ability to show off their style, especially of those who designed and engineered them.

## HALFWAY TO ST. PAT'S CHARITY CAR SHOW

Charlie's Filling Station, 305 Grand Ave., West Des Moines

[www.friendlysonsiowa.com](http://www.friendlysonsiowa.com)

Sept. 22

The Friendly Sons of St. Patrick are holding a fundraising car show to benefit the St. Patrick's Day Parade. Bring your classic or unique vehicle. Registration is 11 a.m. until 1 p.m. Trophies will be awarded at 3 p.m. ■

## CRUISE NIGHTS AND SHOWS

### Cars and Coffee

Starbucks, 7300 Westown Parkway, West Des Moines

[www.carsandcoffeedsm.com](http://www.carsandcoffeedsm.com)

**Every three weeks on Saturdays starting May 18**

### Concrete Cruizers Charity Car Show

6000 E. University Ave., Pleasant Hill

May 18

### The Cancer Warrior Truck's Cruise to Blank Children's Hospital

1415 Woodland Ave., Des Moines

[www.cancerwarriortruck.com](http://www.cancerwarriortruck.com)

May 19

### Big Z Car Cruise-In

6523 Merle Hay Road, Johnston

[www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100057239747853](https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100057239747853)

May 31

### V.F.W. Post #9662 Car & Bike Cruise Night

1309 N.E. 66th St., Des Moines

5-7 p.m.

**Every Thursday, May 2 through fall**

### Veteran Cruise In

Elks Lodge, 5420 N.E. 12th Ave., Des Moines

[www.elks.org](http://www.elks.org)

July 6

### 40th annual Car Cruise and Show

220 N. 20th St., Clear Lake

[www.facebook.com/CLASSCarClub](https://www.facebook.com/CLASSCarClub)

Aug. 2

### Cruise to the Carousel

Union Park, 1801 Pennsylvania Ave., Des Moines

[www.heritagecarousel.org](http://www.heritagecarousel.org)

Aug. 17



# Beaches, bays, lakes

## AND MORE

There are a number of exciting and many underrated spots for water-centered fun for the whole family in the area, whether it be a relaxing day on the lake or bombing down a waterslide.



ADVENTURELAND BAY

Photo courtesy of Adventureland Resort

### ADVENTURELAND BAY

3200 Adventureland Drive, Altoona  
[www.adventurelandresort.com](http://www.adventurelandresort.com)

Adventureland Park has done nothing but grow over the years, and one of the additions it continues to improve is the waterpark portion of the theme park, Adventureland Bay. Complete with a lazy river and swim-up bars for parents looking for a relaxing time, the water attraction has more than enough for the kids — the Kokomo Kove splash factory, waterslides, wave pools and much more to explore.

### RAMADA BY WYNDHAM TROPICS RESORT

5000 Merle Hay Road, Des Moines  
[www.wyndhamhotels.com/ramada](http://www.wyndhamhotels.com/ramada)

You wouldn't expect to find an indoor waterpark experience inside of a hotel in Des Moines, but lo and behold, a great one can be found at the Ramada hotel and conference center on the west side. There are several water slides and a family fun splash park. There are poolside suites available; make sure to book in advance.

### SAYLORVILLE LAKE

5600 N.W. 78th Ave., Johnston  
[www.saylorvillelakemarina.com](http://www.saylorvillelakemarina.com)

Just outside of Des Moines is one of the state's best lakes for recreation. Saylorville Lake and the surrounding park give you plenty of access to boating and kayaking fun, including rental opportunities. The 26,000-acre lake has plenty of places and small coves to explore and enjoy, whether you're with friends, family, celebrating a birthday, or just looking to get out on the water this summer. Give Fleetwood, the only floating restaurant in Iowa, a look if you get hungry during your time there. Just make sure to wait 30 minutes until you swim again — and don't forget the sunscreen.



# Beaches, bays, lakes AND MORE



SAYLORVILLE LAKE



Photo courtesy of Maury Kennedy

## BIG CREEK STATE PARK

8794 N.W. 125th Ave., Polk City  
[www.iowadnr.gov/Places-to-Go/State-Parks/Iowa-State-Parks/Big-Creek-State-Park](http://www.iowadnr.gov/Places-to-Go/State-Parks/Iowa-State-Parks/Big-Creek-State-Park)

Located just north of Saylorville Lake is another one of Iowa's fantastic lakes, offering just as much fun as the last. This family-friendly park is fantastic for a day on the beach, an outing on the water, or for a family picnic. Boat, kayak and pontoon rentals are available. The lake is a popular fishing destination if you're interested in catching crappie, bass, walleye or bluegill.

## RACCOON RIVER PARK

2500 Grand Ave., West Des Moines  
[www.wdm.iowa.gov/government/parks-recreation/parks-facilities-trails/raccoon-river-park](http://www.wdm.iowa.gov/government/parks-recreation/parks-facilities-trails/raccoon-river-park)

Blue Heron is a 232-acre lake and is the centerpiece of Raccoon River Park. It provides boat access for fishing enthusiasts and a great chance to get in the water (swimming is limited to the roped area by the beach). The lake is designated a no wake zone, which allows for passive recreational experiences. Surrounding the park is plenty of fun as well, with trails, spots for picnics and the chance to see wildlife.

## LAKE RED ROCK

1768 Highway G, 28, Pella  
[www.redrockmarina.com](http://www.redrockmarina.com)

Slightly southeast of Des Moines, Lake Red Rock offers a variety of recreation. Tritons, ski boats, kayaks and paddle boards are available for rental to provide a full day of fun in the sun. This man-made lake was created to be a relief from floods in Des Moines and brings an interesting history with it. Several towns were moved or deconstructed with the creation of this lake (don't worry, everyone was warned beforehand), but one thing remains from the towns under its waters: a graveyard.

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## GRAY'S LAKE

2101 Fleur Drive, Des Moines

[www.dsm.city/business\\_detail\\_T6\\_R58.php](http://www.dsm.city/business_detail_T6_R58.php)

Gray's Lake Park becomes an absolute hot bed in the summer for Des Moines residents. The area is a favorite during the sun-soaked months of the season. The trail that winds around the lake is perfect for walkers, runners, joggers and anyone else who feels like moving. The bridge across the lake is one of the most scenic in the city, and the beach is a great spot if you're looking to get into the water. Gray's Lake isn't as large as the others in this listing, so motor boat rentals aren't available, but there are still paddle boats, kayaks and canoes available.

## FURMAN AQUATIC CENTER

1635 13th St., Ames

[www.cityofames.org/government/departments-divisions-i-z/parks-recreation](http://www.cityofames.org/government/departments-divisions-i-z/parks-recreation)

North of Des Moines resides a sneakily good aquatic center in Ames. The waterpark is fully equipped with a lazy river, slides for the young ones and a slide for those who think they can handle its 10-foot drop into the pool. There are also several diving platforms of ranging heights for the thrill seekers. Also, for the kids, a splash park will keep them busy for hours.

## CASCADE FALLS AQUATIC CENTER

2350 S.W. Prairie Trail Parkway, Ankeny

[www.ankenyiowa.gov/697/Cascade-Falls-Aquatic-Center](http://www.ankenyiowa.gov/697/Cascade-Falls-Aquatic-Center)

This aquatic center is home to plenty of entertaining amenities. It features plenty of drop and tube slides (make sure you're tall enough to get on), a lazy river, lap pool, and a FlowRider surf machine (again, make sure you're tall enough). They also have an area for regular lap swimming if you're interested in getting some old-fashioned exercise. ■

## SWIMMING POOLS

There are plenty of pools dotting the metro.

**ANKENY:** Prairie Ridge Aquatic Center,

1220 N.W. Prairie Ridge Drive

**CLIVE:** Clive Aquatic Center, 1801 N.W. 114 St.

**DES MOINES:** Ashworth Memorial Swimming Pool, 101 S.W. 45th St.

Birdland Swimming Pool, 300 Holcomb Ave.

Nahas Family Aquatic Center, 1101 Porter Ave.

Northwest Family Aquatic Center,

4915 Madison Ave.

Teachout Family Aquatic Center,

2601 Hubbell Ave.

**INDIANOLA:** Veterans

Memorial Aquatic Center,

714 W. Detroit Ave.

**WEST DES MOINES:**

Holiday Aquatic Center,

1701 Railroad Ave.

Valley View Aquatic Center,

255 81st St.

**VALLEY VIEW AQUATIC CENTER** Photo courtesy of West Des Moines Parks

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# Classic EATS

Each of these restaurants has been operating in central Iowa for at least 30 years, and many of them much longer. Their flavors have been satisfying generations of Des Moines metro mouths.

## WATERFRONT SEAFOOD MARKET

**2900 University Ave., West Des Moines**  
**[www.waterfrontseafoodmarket.com](http://www.waterfrontseafoodmarket.com)**

It's a little hard to believe that there's an incredible selection of delicious seafood in a landlocked state such as Iowa, but Waterfront has made that hard to believe feeling a reality for decades. What began as a pickup truck has expanded into one of the area's best spots for a seafood experience. The market and restaurant combo sources the finest seafood from all over the world and brings it right to your plate.



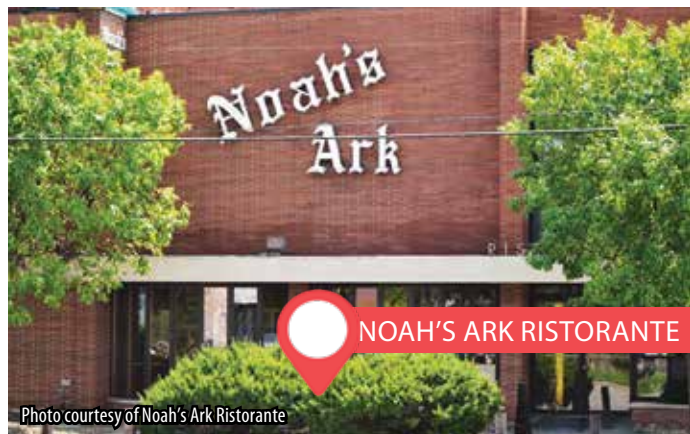
WATERFRONT SEAFOOD MARKET

Photo courtesy of Waterfront

## NOAH'S ARK RISTORANTE

**2400 Ingersoll Ave., Des Moines**  
**[www.noahsarkdesmoines.com](http://www.noahsarkdesmoines.com)**

This classic Italian restaurant has been in business for more than 75 years. What simply began as a lunch counter caterer in the 1940s has bloomed into one of Des Moines' most recognizable dining establishments. The homemade bread is to die for, and you can't go wrong with any of their authentic Italian dishes for lunch, dinner, sit down or takeout.



NOAH'S ARK RISTORANTE

Photo courtesy of Noah's Ark Ristorante

## THE TAVERN

**205 Fifth St., West Des Moines**  
**[www.tavernpizza.com](http://www.tavernpizza.com)**

Located in Valley Junction, The Tavern has some of the best pizza that central Iowa has to offer. Many of the items you'll find on the menu have been there since the restaurant's inception. Their thin crust style pizza hits double-digits in terms of options, all just as good as the last to share with friends and family. Or enjoy all by yourself, we won't judge.

## CHRISTOPHER'S

**2816 Beaver Ave., Des Moines**  
**[www.christophersdsm.com](http://www.christophersdsm.com)**

This staple business in the Beavertdale area recently celebrated its 50-year anniversary. Christopher's opened in 1963 and is known for its delightful Italian-American cuisine, incredible customer service and a warm, inviting atmosphere — not to mention a tasteful dessert menu and wide range of cocktails. Christopher's has something that can make any date night dinner a special one.

## CHUCK'S

**3610 Sixth Ave., Des Moines**  
**[www.chucksdsm.com](http://www.chucksdsm.com)**

Since 1956, Chuck's Restaurant has been serving Des Moines faithful great tasting meals. The thin-crust pizza is baked in the storefront's windows to let you in on the decades-old process. Chuck's underwent a massive renovation in 2020 and came out on the other side with an updated look and the same great food.



## BARRATA'S

2320 S. Union St., Des Moines  
www.barattas.com

Barrata's has been a southside Des Moines staple for more than five decades. It has since opened a location downtown. Barrata's has some of the richest Italian flavors practically baked into their walls — especially of authentic dishes such as their lasagna al forno, steak deburgo and cannolis. The menu has had some American dishes added to the repertoire over the years, and they are done just as well as the dishes that garnered the restaurant its reputation.

## TROSTEL'S GREENBRIAR

5810 Merle Hay Road, Johnston  
www.greenbriartrostels.com

Trostel's Greenbriar opened in 1987, which, at 37 years old, makes it one of the infants on this list, but there's no denying the excellence in the dishes proudly served there. The restaurant is a great location for hosting a dinner party with family and plenty elegant enough to be the spot you choose for your anniversary dinner. An extensive wine list ensures customers will surely find something that pairs well with whichever dish they choose.



Photo courtesy of Baratta's

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DREW GREEN

## JUNE 7-8, 2024



## Classic EATS

ELPATIO



Photo courtesy of El Patio

### JIM'S CONEY ISLAND

3700 S.W. Ninth St., Des Moines

[www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100063468341566](https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100063468341566)

This family-owned business has been proudly serving the southside of Des Moines since 1971. It nearly closed at one point, but the community rallied to keep it in business. The establishment serves favorites like coney dogs, tenderloins, cheeseburgers and specialty gyros. Don't forget the other Coney Islands either, with downtown's Ted's or Ted's West in West Des Moines.

### SMITTY'S TENDERLOINS

1401 Army Post Road, Des Moines

[www.smittystenderloin.com](http://www.smittystenderloin.com)

Since 1952, Smitty has been telling all to try his famous tenderloin, and plenty have agreed, to their benefit. The thinly cut, ultra-tender and incredibly delicious sandwich is the restaurant's staple and is a good reason why they've been in business for more than 70 years. Their onion rings are also just as fantastic, and they have malts for a sweet treat afterwards.

### JESSE'S EMBERS

3301 Ingersoll Ave., Des Moines

[www.theoriginaljessesembers.com](http://www.theoriginaljessesembers.com)

The original Jesse's Embers was established in 1963. The family-owned steak and seafood restaurant has developed a great relationship with its customer base over the years that keeps them coming back for more. The selection of steaks will have your mouth watering, and the seafood menu has all the best bits from salmon to bluefin tuna to beer battered lobster tails.

### EL PATIO MEXICAN RESTAURANT

611 37th St., Des Moines

[www.facebook.com/elpatiodsm](https://www.facebook.com/elpatiodsm)

First opening in Valley Junction in the 1940s before eventually moving just off Ingersoll, El Patio claims to be Des Moines' oldest Mexican Restaurant. Much like the name, it features a fantastic patio for a lovely outdoor dining experience. El Patio offers tasty margaritas, if you're in the mood for one, and plenty of the best Mexican cuisine. ■



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[hansensmanhattandeli.com](http://hansensmanhattandeli.com)





# Historical Attractions

Central Iowa is full of historical gems that mark the history, pride and essence of the state — and all are well worth a visit.



Photo courtesy of Des Moines Film

## Varsity Cinema

1207 25th St., Des Moines  
[www.varsitydesmoines.com](http://www.varsitydesmoines.com)

Located on the west side of Des Moines, Varsity Cinema serves as an ode to times gone by and a lesson on what it used to be like going to the movies. Designated a landmark in 2020 and originally built in 1917, the original building was a coal and feed store, vehicle service station and Coca Cola bottling plant. After being purchased by the Garbett family in 1938, it was turned into The Varsity Theater on Christmas day of that year. The venue plays classic movies but still shows modern-day blockbusters and hosts the occasional film festival.



Photo courtesy of State Capitol Law Library

## Robert D. Ray Asian Gardens

Robert D. Ray Drive, Des Moines  
[www.dsmpublicartfoundation.org/public-artwork/robert-d-ray-asian-gardens](http://www.dsmpublicartfoundation.org/public-artwork/robert-d-ray-asian-gardens)

Named after former Iowa Governor Robert D. Ray, whose humanitarian work made central Iowa a safe place for Asian refugees and immigrants, the Robert D. Ray Asian Gardens pay homage to the refugees and immigrants who have settled in Des Moines and plenty of other Iowa cities since Gov. Ray first welcomed them. The blooming flowers in the garden and structure are an essential sight when visiting Des Moines.

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## THE PAPPAJOHN SCULPTURE PARK

1330 Grand Ave., Des Moines

[www.desmoinesartcenter.org/visit/pappajohn-sculpture-park](http://www.desmoinesartcenter.org/visit/pappajohn-sculpture-park)

Opened in 2009, the world-renowned sculpture park in Downtown Des Moines displays artwork from some of the most famed names in the sculpture game. A constant winner in CITYVIEW's Best Of Des Moines awards, the Pappajohn Sculpture Park is a perfect location for a weekend stroll and family photos. It's a beautiful green space amid downtown's towering buildings.

## WORLD FOOD PRIZE HALL OF LAUREATES

100 Locust St., Des Moines

[www.halloflaureates.org](http://www.halloflaureates.org)

This building is an excellent showcase for the achievements in agriculture and the fight against hunger that Iowa prides itself on. What was once the Des Moines Library, the beautiful exterior of the building and garden surrounding have become iconic. You can view the successes in the world of food and learn about the rich history of this world class museum that's been rooted in Des Moines for more than a century.

## IOWA STATE CAPITOL

1007 E. Grand Ave., Des Moines

[www.legis.iowa.gov/resources/tourCapitol](http://www.legis.iowa.gov/resources/tourCapitol)

The Iowa State Capitol consistently finds itself toward the top of national lists ranking the most impressive capitol buildings in the nation, and for good reason. While the state legislators are hard at work, jaw-dropping architecture surrounds them. Note the globes on the outside, gorgeous spiral staircase inside the library, classic artwork and the wealth of Iowa history — all in one spot.

## SCIENCE CENTER OF IOWA

401 W. Martin Luther King Jr Parkway, Des Moines

[www.sciowa.org](http://www.sciowa.org)

A world of scientific wonders and activities awaits downtown. A steady stream of programs for all ages and interactive exhibits keep children engaged and ready to learn while also being entertained. Permanent exhibits allow kids to learn about zoology, outer space, building, designing and more.

## DES MOINES ART CENTER

4700 Grand Ave., Des Moines

[www.desmoinesartcenter.org](http://www.desmoinesartcenter.org)

The Des Moines Art Center was the first museum to open in Des Moines after World War II. It hosts classes to shape the next generation of Iowa artists and displays the works of some of the world's best artists, period. Three connecting buildings make up the art center's campus, each with its own architectural history and glorious works of art for your viewing pleasure. All for free.



Photo courtesy of Science Center of Iowa

## LIVING HISTORY FARMS

11121 Hickman Road, Urbandale

[www.lhf.org](http://www.lhf.org)

If you ever wanted to know what life was like during the Little House on the Prairie days, Living History Farms provides guests with an extensive look into what old fashioned farming used to be. Only 3% of museums are accredited by the American Alliance of Museums, and this is one of them. LHF hosts exciting events all summer long and a stream of fun activities the entire family can enjoy.

## DEXTER MUSEUM

Some favorite exhibits:

THE DEXFIELD PARK

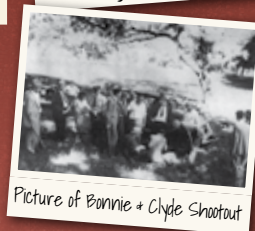
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Picture of Bonnie + Clyde Shootout

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# Historical ATTRACTIONS

## JOHN WAYNE BIRTHPLACE MUSEUM

205 S. John Wayne Drive, Winterset

[www.johnwaynebirthplace.museum](http://www.johnwaynebirthplace.museum)

If there's one thing Iowans take pride in, it's other Iowans. And there's no better example of this than the museum dedicated entirely to one of the Hawkeye state's most famous actors. Located a short drive from Des Moines, the John Wayne Birthplace Museum contains an extensive collection of artifacts and memorabilia from the actor's life and career, and get this, a movie theater.

## STATE HISTORICAL BUILDING OF IOWA

600 E. Locust St., Des Moines

[www.history.iowa.gov/history/museum](http://www.history.iowa.gov/history/museum)

Inside one of the state's best museums, you'll find more than 1,500 objects on display (80,000 artifacts are in the museum's collection) and information on everything from Iowans in major films, those who served in the Civil War, and so much more. The rich history of this state is immense, and the State Historical Building contains much of it.




Photo courtesy of State Historical Society of Iowa

## IOWA GOLD STAR MILITARY MUSEUM

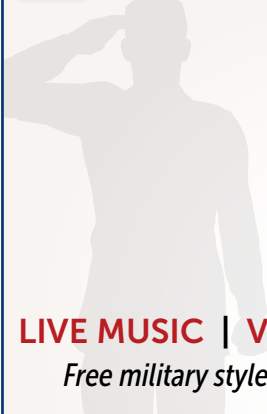
7105 N.W. 70th Ave., Johnston

[www.goldstarmuseum.iowa.gov](http://www.goldstarmuseum.iowa.gov)

This museum, located at Camp Dodge, dives deep into the military history of Iowa and Iowans. Admission is free, and the museum has a collection that will please any of the military historians in your life. The museum also hosts a number of events throughout the year like movie watches and Memorial Day celebrations. ■



### 2024 MEMORIAL DAY OBSERVANCE



## MONDAY, MAY 27<sup>th</sup>

MUSEUM LOCATED AT  
CAMP DODGE

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*Free military style breakfast 6-9AM or until gone!*

Memorial Day Hours: 5am-1pm **FREE ADMISSION**

★ **Iowa Gold Star Military Museum**  
7105 NW 70th Ave, Johnston | (515) 252-4531

Photo identification is required for adults (age 16 and older) to gain admittance to Camp Dodge (State Issued I.D.)



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# LOCAL *sports*

Local athletes try to etch their names in the record books at IHSA and IGHSAU championships while some of the next best professionals hone their skills.

## IHSA & IGHSAU FINALS

Various dates/locations

[www.iahsaa.org](http://www.iahsaa.org) & [www.ighsau.org](http://www.ighsau.org)

The best athletes from their respective sports will compete this summer in hopes of writing their names into their schools' history books.

**May 16-18:** Boys and girls track and field state championships, Drake stadium

**May 18, 20, 24-25, 29:** Girls tennis state tournaments, singles and team, various locations

**May 20-21:** Boys golf state tournament, Otter Creek Golf Course

**May 21-22, 30-31:** Boys tennis state tournament, various locations

**May 23-24:** Girls golf state tournament, various locations

**May 28, 30, June 1:** Girls soccer state tournament, Cownie Sports Complex, Des Moines

**May 29, 31, June 1:** Boys soccer state tournament, Cownie Sports Complex, Des Moines

**July 22-26:** Boys baseball state tournament, Veterans Memorial Stadium, Cedar Rapids

**July 22-26:** Girls softball state tournament, Harlan Rogers Sports Complex, Fort Dodge



Photo courtesy of Iowa Cubs

## IOWA CUBS

Principal Park, 1 Line Drive, Des Moines  
[www.iowacubs.com](http://www.iowacubs.com)

Affiliated with the MLB's Chicago Cubs, our very own minor league baseball team has been around since 1969, originally known as the Iowa Oaks. Cheer on the Cubs all summer through September, with fireworks at Friday home games and the Fourth of July. Remaining home games this season:

**May 21** at 6:38 p.m. vs. Indianapolis

**May 22** at 12:08 p.m. vs. Indianapolis

**May 23** at 6:38 p.m. vs. Indianapolis

**May 24** at 7:08 p.m. vs. Indianapolis

**May 25** at 6:08 p.m. vs. Indianapolis

**May 26** at 1:08 p.m. vs. Indianapolis

**June 4** at 6:38 p.m. vs. Toledo

**June 5** at 12:08 p.m. vs. Toledo

**June 6** at 6:38 p.m. vs. Toledo

**June 7** at 7:08 p.m. vs. Toledo

**June 8** at 6:08 p.m. vs. Toledo

**June 9** at 1:08 p.m. vs. Toledo

**June 25** at 6:38 p.m. vs. St. Paul

**June 26** at 12:08 p.m. vs. St. Paul

**June 27** at 6:38 p.m. vs. St. Paul

**June 28** at 7:08 p.m. vs. St. Paul

**June 29** at 6:08 p.m. vs. St. Paul

**June 30** at 1:08 p.m. vs. St. Paul

**July 4** at 7:08 p.m. vs. Omaha

**July 5** at 7:08 p.m. vs. Omaha

**July 6** at 6:08 p.m. vs. Omaha

**July 23** at 6:38 p.m. vs. Indianapolis

**July 24** at 12:08 p.m. vs. Indianapolis

**July 25** at 6:38 p.m. vs. Indianapolis

**July 26** at 7:08 p.m. vs. Indianapolis

**July 27** at 6:08 p.m. vs. Indianapolis

**July 28** at 1:08 p.m. vs. Indianapolis

**July 30** at 6:38 p.m. vs. St. Paul

**July 31** at 12:08 p.m. vs. St. Paul

**Aug. 1** at 6:38 p.m. vs. St. Paul

**Aug. 2** at 7:08 p.m. vs. St. Paul

**Aug. 3** at 6:08 p.m. vs. St. Paul

**Aug. 4** at 1:08 p.m. vs. St. Paul

**Aug. 13** at 1:08 p.m. vs. Columbus

**Aug. 14** at 12:08 p.m. vs. Columbus

**Aug. 15** at 6:38 p.m. vs. Columbus

**Aug. 16** at 7:08 p.m. vs. Columbus

**Aug. 17** at 6:08 p.m. vs. Columbus

**Aug. 18** at 1:08 p.m. vs. Columbus

**Aug. 27** at 6:38 p.m. vs. Memphis

**Aug. 28** at 12:08 p.m. vs. Memphis

**Aug. 29** at 6:38 p.m. vs. Memphis

**Aug. 30** at 7:08 p.m. vs. Memphis

**Aug. 31** at 6:08 p.m. vs. Memphis

**Sept. 1** at 1:08 p.m. vs. Memphis

**Sept. 10** at 6:38 p.m. vs. Louisville

**Sept. 11** at 12:08 p.m. vs. Louisville

**Sept. 12** at 6:38 p.m. vs. Louisville

**Sept. 13** at 7:08 p.m. vs. Louisville

**Sept. 14** at 6:08 p.m. vs. Louisville

**Sept. 15** at 1:08 p.m. vs. Louisville





IOWA BARNSTORMERS

Photo by Jassey Michelle/Picture Iowa

## IOWA BARNSTORMERS

**Wells Fargo Arena, 730 Third St., Des Moines**

[www.theiowabarnstormers.com](http://www.theiowabarnstormers.com)

Iowa's professional indoor football team led by Head Coach Dave Mogensen plays its home games at "The Well." This season's remaining home games:

- May 24** at 7:05 p.m. vs. Green Bay Blizzard
- June 15** at 7:05 p.m. vs. Quad City Steamwheelers
- June 22** at 7:05 p.m. vs. Tulsa Oilers
- July 6** at 7:05 p.m. vs. Jacksonville Sharks
- July 13** at 7:05 p.m. vs. Sioux Falls Storm

## DES MOINES MENACE

**Valley Stadium, 4440 Mills Civic Parkway,**

**West Des Moines**

[www.menacesoccer.com](http://www.menacesoccer.com)

One of the nation's best semi-professional soccer organizations, the Menace celebrate their 30th season this year. This season's home games:

- May 25** at 7 p.m. vs. Chicago City SC, played at Mediacom Stadium, 1427-1483 25th St., Des Moines
- June 15** at 7 p.m. vs. St. Charles FC
- June 22** at 7 p.m. vs. Sueno FC
- June 29** at 7 p.m. vs. River Light FC
- July 13** at 7 p.m. vs. Chicago Dutch Lions

## PRAIRIE MEADOWS

**1 Prairie Meadows Drive, Altoona**

[www.prairiemeadows.com](http://www.prairiemeadows.com)

Along with its impressive gambling and entertainment options, Prairie Meadows offers live and simulcast horse racing. Pick your winner and cross your fingers.

**Weekends, May 10 through Sept. 28:** Live thoroughbred and quarter horse racing

- July 5-6:** Festival of Racing
- Aug 16-18:** Regional Challenge
- Sept 27:** Quarter horse championships
- Sept. 28:** Iowa Classic



DES MOINES MENACE

Photo courtesy of Des Moines Menace

## KNOXVILLE RACEWAY

**Marion County Fairgrounds, 1000 N. Lincoln, Knoxville**

[www.knoxvillraceway.com](http://www.knoxvillraceway.com)

Originally used for horse racing, the Knoxville Raceway now hosts a different type of sport: sprint car racing. Join more than 200,000 fans each year and visit the "Sprint Car Capital of the World" at racing events scheduled on most weekends or at one of the major events below:

- Saturdays in May, 18, 25:** Knoxville Championship Series
- Saturdays in June, 1, 8, 15, 29:** Knoxville Championship Series
- Saturdays in July, 6, 13, 20, 27:** Knoxville Championship Series
- July 6:** Midseason Championship
- Aug. 1-3:** 34th annual 360 Knoxville Nationals
- Aug. 4:** 12th annual Capitani Classic
- Aug. 7-10:** 63rd annual Knoxville Nationals
- Sept. 14-16:** 19th annual Late Model Knoxville Nationals

## BOONE SPEEDWAY

**1481 223rd Place, Boone**

[www.raceboone.com](http://www.raceboone.com)

This 1/3-mile high-banked dirt oval is known as "Iowa's Action Track." Catch the weekly Saturday night series through Aug. 19, or other special events:

- Saturdays in May, 18, 25:** Saturday night weekly series
- Saturdays in June, 1, 8, 15, 22, 29:** Saturday night weekly series
- July 4:** Eve of Destruction
- Saturdays in July, 6, 13, 20, 27:** Saturday night weekly series
- Saturdays in August, 3, 10, 17, 24:** Saturday night weekly series
- Aug. 24:** IMCA Super Nationals tune-up
- Aug. 31, Sept. 1-7:** 2024 IMCA Speedway Motors Super Nationals

## IOWA SPEEDWAY

**3333 Rusty Wallace Drive, Newton**

[www.iowaspeedway.com](http://www.iowaspeedway.com)

The paved track at the Iowa Speedway is 7/8-mile long and entertaining all the way around. For those of you with an RV, bring it to the multi-tiered viewing area situated along the backstretch to watch in style. This season's events include:

- June 14-16:** Summer NASCAR weekend
- June 14:** ARCA Menards series race
- June 15:** NASCAR Xfinity series race
- June 16:** Iowa Corn 350
- July 12-14:** Hy-Vee IndyCar race weekend ■



# Live MUSIC

From symphonies to singing, festivals to intimate venues, music fans rejoice for central Iowa's options this summer.

## DES MOINES CIVIC CENTER

221 Walnut St., Des Moines

[dmpa.org](http://dmpa.org)

**June 1:** Los Tigres Del Norte

## HOYT SHERMAN PLACE

1501 Woodland Ave., Des Moines

[hoytsherman.org](http://hoytsherman.org)

**June 13:** Samara Joy at 7:30 p.m.

**June 28:** Mat Kearney: Headlights Home Tour at 7:30 p.m.

**July 2:** Little Feat: Can't Be Satisfied Tour at 7:30 p.m.

**July 3:** Mike Campbell & The Dirty Knobs at 7:30 p.m.

**July 31:** Steve Earle: Alone Again at 7:30 p.m.

**Aug. 13:** Graham Nash: More Evenings Of Songs And Stories at 7:30 p.m.

**Sept. 25:** Intocable: 30th Aniversario Tour 2024 at 8 p.m.

## NOCE

1326 Walnut St. No. 100, Des Moines

[nocedsm.com](http://nocedsm.com)

**May 16:** Jazz On The House with The Dirk Quinn Band at 7 p.m.

**May 17:** Fly Me To The Moon: The Max Wellman Big Band plays Sinatra and more at 7 p.m.

**May 18:** Damoni Phillips with Organist Mitch Towne and Percussionist Ernie Adams at 7 p.m.

**May 22:** The Des Moines Big Band at 7 p.m.

**May 23:** Jazz On The House with Guitarist Jack Curis and Co. at 7 p.m.

**May 24:** Steve Berry and Gina Gedler sing the music of Burt Bacharach at 7 p.m.

**May 25:** Napoleon Douglas with the Nate Sparks Big Band at 7 p.m.

**May 29:** The Des Moines Big Band Season Finale at 7 p.m.

**May 30:** Jazz On The House with Vocalist Lauren Vilmain at 7 p.m.

**May 31:** Salsa Night with Son Peruchos at 7 p.m.



Photo courtesy of Hoyt Sherman Place

## WELLS FARGO ARENA

223 Center St., Des Moines

[iowaeventscenter.com](http://iowaeventscenter.com)

**May 17:** Cody Johnson at 7:30 p.m.

**June 27:** Parker McCollum - Burn It Down Tour at 7:30 p.m.

**Aug. 1:** Barry Manilow at 7 p.m.

**Aug. 19:** Five Finger Death at 6:30 p.m.

**Aug. 24:** Luke Bryan at 7 p.m.

**Sept. 13:** Cage The Elephant at 6:30 p.m.

## IOWA STATE FAIR GRANDSTAND

Iowa State Fairgrounds 3000 E. Grand Ave., Des Moines

[iowastatefair.org/entertainment/grandstand](http://iowastatefair.org/entertainment/grandstand)

**Aug. 8:** Lauren Daigle at 8 p.m.

**Aug. 9:** Foreigner: Historic Farewell Tour at 8 p.m.

**Aug. 10:** Jelly Roll at 8 p.m.

**Aug. 11:** Greta Van Fleet Starcatcher World Tour at 8 p.m.

**Aug. 12:** Brett Young at 8 p.m.

**Aug. 13:** Thomas Rhett at 8 p.m.

**Aug. 14:** Mötley Crüe at 8 p.m.

**Aug. 16:** The Avett Brothers at 8 p.m.

**Aug. 17:** Ne-Yo at 8 p.m.

**Aug. 18:** Kidz Bop at 6 p.m.

## LEFTY'S LIVE MUSIC

2307 University Ave., Des Moines

[www.leftyslivemusic.com](http://www.leftyslivemusic.com)

**Every Monday:** Lefty's Manic Monday Open Jam Night at 8 p.m.

**May 18:** Exhumed, Skeletal Remains, Morbikon, Upon Stone, Traffic Death at 5 p.m.

**May 25:** SOULCAGE with Dirty Blond, Parabola and The Crust at 5 p.m.

**May 25:** Lower Automation, Moon Summoner, Duo Beat and Suttee at 9 p.m.

**May 27:** Filth with Second Death, Inferious, Snake Father and Exiled at 5 p.m.

**May 28:** The Black Moods 6:30 p.m.

**May 29:** ATTILA with Traitors, Not Enough Space, The Curse Of Hail and Calous at 5:30 p.m.

**June 22:** Corrupted Summer Dayz - Vol. 4 at 9 p.m.

**June 28:** SUPERSUCKERS with The Rumours, Jacob County & The Damaged Goods and Attacked By Badgers at 6 p.m.

**July 3:** Hillbilly Casino + Sasquatch And The Sick-A-Billys at 6 p.m.

## WOOLY'S

504 E. Locust St., Des Moines

[firstfleetconcerts.com/first-fleet-venues/woolys](http://firstfleetconcerts.com/first-fleet-venues/woolys)

**May 17:** B.Well at 8 p.m.

**May 18:** Symphony X at 8 p.m.

**May 19:** X Ambassadors - Townie: North American Tour at 7:30 p.m.

**May 20:** Maddie Zahm at 7 p.m.

**May 21:** Southall at 7 p.m.

**May 23:** Dying Fetus at 8 p.m.

**May 29:** Bodysnatcher & Spite at 7 p.m.

**June 5:** Medium Build at 8 p.m.

**June 6:** Molly Tuttle & Golden Highway at 7 p.m.

**June 11:** Sebastian Bach at 8 p.m.

**June 21:** Arrows In Action at 7:30 p.m.

**June 22:** The Menzingers at 7 p.m.

**July 16:** Citizen Soldier at 7:30 p.m.

**July 19:** Wilderado at 8 p.m.

**July 23:** Bowling For Soup at 7 p.m.

**Aug. 8:** Old 97s at 7 p.m.



## WATERWORKS PARK

Lauridsen Amphitheater, 2251 George  
Flagg Parkway

[dsmwaterworkspark.com](http://dsmwaterworkspark.com)

**May 25:** Willie Nelson & Family at 7 p.m.

**June 11:** Robert Plant & Alison Krauss with  
JD McPherson at 7 p.m.

**June 13:** Jon Pardi with Carter Faith at 6:30  
p.m.

**June 21:** REO Speedwagon with Night  
Ranger at 6:30 p.m.

**July 11:** Brantley Gilbert at 6:30 p.m.

## XBK

1159 24th St., Des Moines

[xbklive.com](http://xbklive.com)

**May 16:** Panic! at the Burlesque Vol. 3 at 7 p.m.

**May 17:** Southern Culture on the Skids at 7 p.m.

**May 18:** Jesse Daniel with special guest Alex  
Williams at 6 p.m.

**May 19:** Charlie Parr with Samuel Locke  
Ward at 6 p.m.

**May 20:** Monday Night Live does MNL!  
Season Wrap Party at 6 p.m.

**May 21:** Havok and Exmortus at 6 p.m.

**May 23:** Molly Brandt and Reilly Downes &  
The Acid Cowboys at 7 p.m.

**May 24:** Traffic Death, Druids, Electric

Assault, Lurking Corpses at 7 p.m.

**May 25:** Southbound at 6 p.m.

**May 28:** Social Cinema at 6 p.m.

**May 29:** Melt-Banana with BabyBaby\_  
Explores at 6:30 p.m.

**May 30:** Lisa Mann and Avey Grouws Band  
at 6 p.m.

**May 31:** BYOBrass with The Swallowtails at  
7 p.m.

**June 9:** Sarah Tonin, 28 Days Later, Quinn  
Trilk at 5 p.m.

**June 13:** Kevin Burt & Big Medicine

featuring Ken Valdez at 6 p.m.

**June 25:** Oliver Hazard at 6 p.m.

**June 27:** Nolan Taylor at 6 p.m.

**June 28:** Parranderos Latin Combo at 7 p.m.

**July 13:** Mountain Grass Unit at 6 p.m.

**July 19:** Modern Life Is War at 7 p.m.

**July 24:** An Evening with Stick Men at 7 p.m.

**Aug. 18:** The Motown Songbook featuring  
The Finesse at 6 p.m.

**Sept. 7:** Gurnfest: Day 2 at 5 p.m.

**Sept. 17:** Six Organs of Admittance at 6 p.m.



Photo by Blythe Ennis



## 2024-25 SEASON

**ON STAGE THIS SUMMER:**  
**The Play That Goes Wrong**  
MAY 31-JUNE 16, 2024

**School of Rock**  
JULY 12-28, 2024

**TICKETS, AUDITIONS,  
CLASSES, AND VOLUNTEER  
OPPORTUNITIES AT:**  
**DMPlayhouse.com**

831 42nd Street, Des Moines  
515.277.6261 [DMPlayhouse.com](http://DMPlayhouse.com)

IN THE SIGNATURE SERIES

**Jersey Boys**  
SEPT. 13-29, 2024

**Dracula:  
A Comedy  
of Terrors**  
OCT. 18-NOV. 3, 2024

**Disney's Beauty  
and the Beast**  
DEC. 6-22, 2024

**Men on Boats**  
FEB. 7-MAR. 2, 2025

**Jesus Christ Superstar**  
MAR. 7-23, 2025

**Waitress**  
JULY 11-27, 2025

IN THE KATE GOLDMAN FAMILY SERIES

COLLABORATION WITH PYRAMID  
THEATRE COMPANY & CITY VOICES  
**Last Stop on Market  
Street**  
NOV. 8-24, 2024

**Diary of a Wimpy Kid**  
JAN. 17-FEB. 2, 2025

**Knuffle Bunny: A  
Cautionary Musical**  
MAR. 28-APR. 13, 2025

**Alice in Wonderland**  
MAY 2-18, 2025

*Beautiful,  
The Carole King Musical*  
2023-24 Season



# Live MUSIC



Photo by Noah Whitley

## VIBRANT MUSIC HALL

2938 Grand Prairie Parkway, Waukee

[www.vibrantmusichall.com](http://www.vibrantmusichall.com)

**May 18:** Chicago at 8 p.m.

**May 31:** Riley Green: Ain't My Last Rodeo Tour at 7:30 p.m.

**June 4:** T-Pain's Mansion in Wiscansin Party at 6:30 p.m.

**June 8:** Bailey Zimmerman: Religiously. The Tour. at 6 p.m.

**June 18:** Excision: Nexus Tour at 7:15 p.m.

**June 23:** Pixies and Modest Mouse with Cat Power at 6:30 p.m.

**July 7:** The Kid Laroi First Time Tour at 7:30 p.m.

**Aug. 2:** Counting Crows at 7:30 p.m.

**Aug. 20:** The Smashing Pumpkins: The World Is A Vampire Tour at 7:30 p.m.

**Sept. 15:** An Evening With Goose at 7:30 p.m.

**Sept. 29:** Marcus King: Mood Swings The World Tour at 8 p.m.

## DES MOINES BOTANICAL GARDEN

909 Robert D. Ray Drive, Des Moines

[www.dmbotanicalgarden.com](http://www.dmbotanicalgarden.com)

**Thursdays, June 6 - Aug. 29:** Summer Concert Series. The Botanical Garden's summer music series. Enjoy the best parts of the Garden, music, family, food and the warm summer weather.

## JASPER WINERY

2400 George Flagg Parkway, Des Moines

[www.jasperwinery.com](http://www.jasperwinery.com)

When the warm weather rolls in, Jasper Winery welcomes all for their Summer Concert Series, occurring Thursdays from 6-9 p.m., May through August. Bring your lawn chair, listening ears, appetites and thirst, all will be quenched.

**May 16:** Brian Herrin Band

**May 23:** Dueling Guitars

**May 30:** Dirty Rotten Scoundrels

**June 6:** Pianopalooze Band

**June 13:** Decoy

**June 20:** The Nadas

**June 27:** Damon Dotson Band

**July 11:** Funk Trek & Mind@Large

**July 18:** Rhino

**July 25:** Dazy Head Mazy

**Aug. 1:** Not Quite Brothers ■

# GRIMES PUBLIC LIBRARY IS NOW OPEN



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SPRING AND SUMMER



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# LOCAL *events*

The best of the rest. Festivals, farmers markets, parades, you name it, central Iowa's got it.

## *Farmers' markets*

**Des Moines Farmers' Market.** Located in the Historic Court District, it's the largest farmers market in the state and operates every Saturday morning, 7 a.m. to noon, from May to October.

**Ankeny Farmers' Market.** Operates every Saturday, 8 a.m. to noon, from May through September, at the Market Pavilion in Uptown Ankeny.

**Valley Junction Farmers' Market.** Operates every Thursday evening, 4-8 p.m., from May to September, in Historic Valley Junction.

**Altoona Farmers' Market.** Operates every Tuesday evening, 5-8 p.m., from June through August, at the Heritage Plaza in downtown Altoona.

**Beaverdale Farmers' Market.** Operates every Tuesday evening, 4-7 p.m., from June through September at the Franklin Junior High parking lot.

**Johnston Farmers' Market.** Operates every Tuesday evening, 5-8 p.m., from June through September, on the north side of the Johnston Town Center.

**Indianola Farmers' Market.** Operates every Saturday morning, 8 a.m. to noon, from June through September, on the Indianola Square.

**Waukee Farmers' Market.** Operates every Wednesday evening, 4-7 p.m., June through September at the downtown triangle.

## *May*

**MAY 2-29: Blank Park Zoo's Wild Lights Festival.** Recurring Wednesday through Sunday featuring nearly 50 handcrafted, larger-than-life, illuminated Asian lanterns. Blank Park Zoo, 7401 S.W. Ninth St., Des Moines. [www.blankparkzoo.com/events/calendar/wild-lights-festival](http://www.blankparkzoo.com/events/calendar/wild-lights-festival)

**MAY 18-19: Spring Fling Renaissance Faire.** The Renaissance Faire at Sleepy Hollow returns. The park changes to



Photos courtesy of the Indianola Chamber of Commerce

immerse any and all comers into the olden days for two weekends full of fun. Sleepy Hollow Sports Park, 4051 Dean Ave., Des Moines. [www.sleepyhollowrenfaire.com](http://www.sleepyhollowrenfaire.com)

**MAY 17-18: Comedy Xperiment.** Des Moines' longest running improv troupe heads into its 17th year at the Stoner Theater, 221 Walnut St., Des Moines. [www.desmoinesperformingarts.org](http://www.desmoinesperformingarts.org)

**MAY 18-19: 34th annual Iowa Metaphysical Fair.** Featuring services and goods related to spirituality, metaphysics and holistic health, with more than 100 booths, galleries, workshops and lectures. Iowa State Fairgrounds, 3000 E. Grand Ave., Des Moines. [www.iametaphysicalfair.com](http://www.iametaphysicalfair.com)

**MAY 18: John Crist.** Comedian John Crist has performed his varying social media characters alongside his expert joke telling all over the world. Starting at 7 p.m. at Hoyt Sherman Place, 1501 Woodland Ave., Des Moines. [www.hoytsherman.org](http://www.hoytsherman.org)

**MAY 18: Nate Bargatze.** With multiple Netflix specials to his name and cementing his spot among the world's top comedians in the past few years, Bargatze

## SUMMER NIGHT LIVE STREET PARTY

performs at 7 p.m. at Wells Fargo Arena, 730 Third St., Des Moines. [www.iowaeventscenter.com](http://www.iowaeventscenter.com)

**MAY 24: Beer In Hand Sand Volleyball Tournament.** Played with an oversized volleyball, participants are required to have a drink in one hand at all times. Starts at 6 p.m. at BrickHouse Fitness, 86 Paine St., S.E., Bondurant, [www.thebrickhousefitness.com](http://www.thebrickhousefitness.com)

**MAY 24-25: Celebrasian.** A weekend of Asian cuisine, music and entertainment. Vendors and performers will fill the area with an authentic celebration of Asian culture. Western Gateway Park, 1205 Locust St., Des Moines. [www.iowaasianalliance.com](http://www.iowaasianalliance.com)

**MAY 25: Decoration Day and Historic Baseball.** Living History Farms explores the origins of Memorial Day. Interpreters will demonstrate Decoration Day at 1 p.m. with a historical baseball game to close out the day. Living History Farms, 11121 Hickman Road, Urbandale. [www.lhf.org](http://www.lhf.org)

**MAY 25: Strawberry Picking.** Gather strawberries for some homemade jam, a strawberry pie, or whatever your heart may



desire. Center Grove Orchard, 32835 610th Ave., Cambridge. [www.centergroveorchard.com](http://www.centergroveorchard.com)

#### **MAY 26: A Finesse Family Cookout.**

"The Finesse" invites people to a soulful celebration where music and food fuse together for one great night. xBk, 1159 24th St., Des Moines. [www.xbklive.com](http://www.xbklive.com)

#### **MAY 31 - JUNE 2: Greek Food**

**Festival.** A weekend celebration of delicious food, music and dancing. 1110 35th St., Des Moines. [www.facebook.com/StGeorgeDSM](http://www.facebook.com/StGeorgeDSM)

#### **MAY 31 - JUNE 2: Des Moines**

**Con.** A celebration of all things nerdy. From Marvel to Star Wars to LEGOs and around the universe and back, this Con has you covered. Hy-Vee Hall at Iowa Events Center, 730 Third St., Des Moines. [www.desmoinescon.com](http://www.desmoinescon.com)

#### **MAY 31: Summer Nights Live**

**Street Party.** Two nights of live music and local vendors. Free. Indianola Town Square, Indianola. [www.indianolachamber.com](http://www.indianolachamber.com)

**MAY 31: Touch A Truck.** From dump trucks to fire trucks, if you've ever wondered what it might be like to sit in one, this is the chance. From 5-7 p.m. at Windsor Heights Colby Park, 6900 School St. [www.windsorheights.org](http://www.windsorheights.org)

## June

#### **JUNE 1: Iowa Craft Brew Festival.**

Unlimited samples of the best brews and ciders Iowa has to offer. Not to mention plenty of food vendors, games and non-alcoholic options as well. Water Works Park, 2201 George Flagg Parkway, Des Moines. [www.iowacraftbrewfestival.com](http://www.iowacraftbrewfestival.com)

#### **JUNE 1: Family Fest.**

Dance performances, acrobatic aerial displays and plenty of fun for the whole family (it is in the name after all). Starting at 11 a.m. City of Johnston, 6245 Merle Hay Road, Johnston. [www.johnstontowncenter.com](http://www.johnstontowncenter.com)

#### **JUNE 1-2: Iowa State Fair Flea**

**Market.** All types of goods to purchase from antiques to collectibles, home décor and so much more. 4-H building, Iowa State Fairgrounds, 3000 E. Grand Ave., Des Moines. [www.iowastatefairgrounds.org](http://www.iowastatefairgrounds.org)

#### **JUNE 2: 14th annual Whirlythings**

**Garden Art Show.** An exciting evening for local art enthusiasts. Several mediums will be on display starting at noon at 4320 Franklin Ave., Des Moines. [www.whirlythings.com](http://www.whirlythings.com)



Photo courtesy of Iowa Metaphysical Fair

**JUNE 5-6: World Pork Expo.** In a state with more pigs than people, it makes sense that the expo about all things pork would set up shop here. Iowa State Fairgrounds, 3000 E. Grand Ave. [www.worldpork.org](http://www.worldpork.org)

**JUNE 6: Tom Segura.** The comedian returns to Des Moines just as much, if not more, of a worldwide hit as he was the year before. Starting at 7:30 p.m. at Wells Fargo Arena, 730 Third St., Des Moines. [www.iowaeventscenter.com](http://www.iowaeventscenter.com)

**JUNE 6: Chris D'Elia.** While Segura will be at Wells Fargo Arena, another major player in the comedy scene will be starting his show at 8 p.m. at the Des Moines Performing Arts Center, 221 Walnut St., Des Moines. [www.desmoinesperformingarts.org](http://www.desmoinesperformingarts.org)

**JUNE 6, 13, 20, 27: Ankeny Beats and Eats.** Recurring Thursdays featuring drinks, food and entertainment for all ages. Ankeny Market and Pavilion, 715 W. First St. [www.ankenyiowa.gov](http://www.ankenyiowa.gov)

**JUNE 6-8: Governors Days.** A three-day festival in Grimes with food trucks, live entertainment and parade. Grimes South Sports Complex, 750 S. James St., Grimes. [www.governorsdays.com](http://www.governorsdays.com)

**JUNE 7: Wine and Craft Beer Fest.** Plenty of samples of the best wine and craft beer Iowa has to offer, from 5-8 p.m. at the Enabling Garden, 1050 First Ave., S. Altoona. [www.altoonachamber.org](http://www.altoonachamber.org)

**JUNE 7-9: Pride Fest.** There were more than 40,000 attendees at last year's celebration. Live performances, food, drinks, all in the name of Pride. Historic East Village, Des Moines. [www.capitalcitypride.org/pride-fest](http://www.capitalcitypride.org/pride-fest)

**JUNE 8: 4th annual Raccoon River Palooza.** A full 12 hours of family-friendly fun, food, music and games. The summer festival will be at Raccoon River Park, 2500 Grand Ave., West Des Moines. [www.wdmchamber.org](http://www.wdmchamber.org)

**JUNE 9: Rumble Room Vintage Market.** 16 vintage clothing and art vendors. Maggie's Rumble Room, 1430 Second Ave., Des Moines. [www.maggiesrumbleroom.com](http://www.maggiesrumbleroom.com)

**JUNE 9: Pride Drag Brunch.** Hosted by 2024's Best Of Des Moines' Best Drag Queen Karma Kills. Starting at 11 a.m. at The Conservatory, 315 E. Fifth St. Suite 2, Des Moines. [www.theconservatoryev.com](http://www.theconservatoryev.com)

**JUNE 10: Antiques Roadshow.** The widely popular PBS program "Antiques Roadshow" will visit Living History Farms. Must submit online for tickets. Living History Farms, 11121 Hickman Road, Urbandale. [www.pbs.org](http://www.pbs.org)

**JUNE 10: Iowa High School Sports Awards.** Watch the best up-and-coming athletes in the state receive their awards for their performances from the 2024-2025 season from 7-9 p.m., Hoyt Sherman Place, 1501 Woodland Ave., Des Moines. [www.hoytsherman.org](http://www.hoytsherman.org)

**JUNE 13-15: Johnston Green Days 2024.** Johnston's annual community celebration complete with parade, carnival, games and more. Terra Park, 6400 Pioneer Parkway, Johnston. [www.johnstongreendays.org](http://www.johnstongreendays.org)

**JUNE 15: Macksburg Skillet Toss.** Think you can toss it with the best of them? If not, there's still a parade. Macksburg City Park, Macksburg. [www.macksburgskilletthrow.com](http://www.macksburgskilletthrow.com)

**JUNE 15: The Barn Town Get Down**

will feature at least 50 breweries, meaderies and cideries from across the country. Barn Town Brewing, 9500 S.E. University Ave., Waukee. [www.barntownbrewing.com](http://www.barntownbrewing.com)

**JUNE 15: Neighbor's Day**

**Celebration.** Hosted by the Iowa Juneteenth Organization. From noon to 7 p.m. at Western Gateway Park, 1000 Grand Ave., Des Moines. [www.iowajuneteenth.org](http://www.iowajuneteenth.org)

**June 21: CITYVIEW's Downtown**

**Summer Stir.** The traveling cocktail party is back again. Order a ticket and receive 10 drink tickets for use at participating locations. Downtown Des Moines, [www.summerstirs.dmcityview.com](http://www.summerstirs.dmcityview.com)

**JUNE 22: Cajun Fest.** Get ready to put some south in your mouth. An all-day celebration of Cajun culture, from food to music and back to food again. Cowles Commons, 221 Walnut St., Des Moines. [www.cajunfestiowa.com](http://www.cajunfestiowa.com)

**JUNE 22: Ankeny Pride Parade.** This will be the third installment of this parade with food, fun and festivities. From 4-9 p.m. at Ankeny Market and Pavilion, 715 W. First St. [www.ankenypride.org](http://www.ankenypride.org)

**JUNE 23: Iowa Reptile Show.**

Speak directly with some of the top reptile breeders with access to thousands of reptiles, amphibians, feeders, invertebrates, supplies and more available to the public. Starting at 10 a.m. Hilton Garden Inn, 205 S. 64th St., West Des Moines. [www.coldbloodedexpos.com](http://www.coldbloodedexpos.com)

**JUNE 23: All Ages Drag Brunch.** The third annual All Ages Drag Brunch closes Pride Month out with this family-friendly event. Starting at 11 a.m., Decades Event Center, 1208 Grand Ave., West Des Moines. [www.capitalcitypride.org](http://www.capitalcitypride.org)

# July

**JULY 2-4: Urbandale 4th of July**

**Celebration.** Celebrating America in Urbandale all weekend long. 7404 Prairie Ave., Urbandale. [www.urbandale4thofjuly.org](http://www.urbandale4thofjuly.org)

**JULY 3: Prairie Meadows All-American Extravaganza.** Home to one of the most jaw-dropping fireworks displays in Iowa. 1 Prairie Meadows Drive, Altoona. [www.prairiemeadows.com](http://www.prairiemeadows.com)



Photo by Bryan Butcher

**JULY 3: Junction Street Party.**

Historic Valley Junction will host food, drinks and activities during the West Des Moines July 3rd Parade. 137 Fifth St., West Des Moines. [www.valleyjunction.com](http://www.valleyjunction.com)

**JULY 3-4: Waukee Celebration of Independence.** Annual celebration with parade, entertainment, fireworks display and more. Centennial Park in Waukee. [www.waukee.org/777/Celebration-of-Independence](http://www.waukee.org/777/Celebration-of-Independence)

**JULY 5-7: Goodguys 33rd Speedway Motors Heartland Nationals.** Three days and more than 5,000 of the Midwest's finest 1999 and older hot rods, trucks, customs, muscle cars and classics. Iowa State Fairgrounds, 3000 E. Grand Ave., Des Moines. [www.good-guys.com](http://www.good-guys.com)

**JULY 9-13: Dallas County Fair** in Adel. [www.dallascountyfair.com](http://www.dallascountyfair.com)

**JULY 11-12: Over the Edge fundraiser.** Participants get the chance to rappel off the Wells Fargo Arena to raise money for scholarships for scouting. Wells Fargo Arena, 730 Third St., Des Moines. [iowaeventscenter.com](http://iowaeventscenter.com)

**JULY 12-18: Marion County Fair** in Knoxville. [www.marioncofair.com](http://www.marioncofair.com)

**JULY 12-14: Ankeny SummerFest.** Three days of music, carnival rides, great local food and, of course, fun under the sun. The District at Prairie Trail, 1500 S.W. Main St., Ankeny. [www.ankenysummerfest.com](http://www.ankenysummerfest.com)

**JULY 17-21: Madison County Fair** in Winterset. [www.madisoncountyfair.net](http://www.madisoncountyfair.net)

**JULY 17-21: Story County Fair** in Nevada. [www.sc-fair.weebly.com](http://www.sc-fair.weebly.com)

**JULY 18-21: Boone County Fair** in Boone. [www.boonecountyfairia.com](http://www.boonecountyfairia.com)

**JULY 19-25: Jasper County Fair** in Colfax. [www.jaspercofair.com](http://www.jaspercofair.com)

**JULY 19-20: Clive Festival.** A community festival featuring the Clive fire department's giant slip n' slide, food vendors, live music and plenty of entertainment. N.W. 114th St., Clive. [www.cityofclive.com/parkandrecreation/programs\\_and\\_events/clive\\_festival.php](http://www.cityofclive.com/parkandrecreation/programs_and_events/clive_festival.php)

**JULY 19-20: Polk City Four Seasons Festival** at Polk City Square. [www.fourseasonsfestival.com](http://www.fourseasonsfestival.com)

**JULY 19-20: Waukee Arts Festival.** A weekend of great music and local art on display at Centennial Park in Waukee. [www.waukeeartsfestival.org](http://www.waukeeartsfestival.org)

**JULY 20: Water Lantern Festival.** A beautiful display of water lanterns adorns Riverview Park alongside food trucks, live music and activities. Riverview Park, 710 Corning Ave., Des Moines. [www.waterlanternfestival.com/index.php](http://www.waterlanternfestival.com/index.php)

**JULY 20-27: RAGBRAI.** This annual bicycle ride across the state of Iowa draws participants from all over the country. Overnight stops in Glenwood, Red Oak,



Atlantic, Winterset, Knoxville, Ottumwa, Mount Pleasant, Burlington. [www.ragbrai.com](http://www.ragbrai.com)

**JULY 24-29: Warren County Fair** in Indianola. [www.warrencofair.com](http://www.warrencofair.com)

**JULY 25-28: Polk County Fair** at the Iowa State Fairgrounds in Des Moines.

[www.polkcountyfairiowa.com](http://www.polkcountyfairiowa.com)

**July 26: CITYVIEW's East Village Summer Stir.** The traveling cocktail party is back again. Order a ticket and receive 10 drink tickets for use at participating locations. Historic East Village, [www.summerstirs.dmcityview.com](http://www.summerstirs.dmcityview.com)

**JULY 26 - AUG. 3: National Balloon Classic.** Just look up. Thousands of beautifully colored hot air balloons adorn the skies of Indianola. Memorial Balloon Field, 1136 150th Ave., Indianola. [www.nationalballoonclassic.com](http://www.nationalballoonclassic.com)

**JULY 27: Polo on the Green hosted by Variety - the Children's Charity of Iowa.** Powder River Ranch, 7988 Adams St., Cumming. [www.poloonthegreen.com](http://www.poloonthegreen.com)

**JULY 28: Parking Lot Madness.** More than 50 vintage vendors will be at the fourth installment of this event. Not to mention local food vendors, entertainment and giveaways. The Picker Knows Antiques & Collectibles, 1208 Grand Ave., West Des Moines. [www.facebook.com/ThePickerKnows](http://www.facebook.com/ThePickerKnows)

## August

**AUG. 2: Grain Harvest Day.** Help Living History Farms bring in the summer harvest. 11121 Hickman Road, Urbandale. [www.lhf.org](http://www.lhf.org)

**AUG. 8-18: Iowa State Fair.** World-renowned names hit the grandstand, prized farm animals show their stuff, the giant slide beckons and mouthwatering food tempts at every turn. Iowa's state fair is one of the best in the nation. Iowa State Fairgrounds, 3000 E. Grand Ave., Des Moines. [www.iowastatefairgrounds.org](http://www.iowastatefairgrounds.org)

**AUG. 9-11: Mustangs at the Crossroads.** A celebration of 60 years of the classic American muscle car, the Mustang. Holiday Inn, 6111 Fleur Drive, Des Moines. [www.mustangsatthecrossroads.org](http://www.mustangsatthecrossroads.org)

### AUG. 10: Adel Sweet Corn Festival.

Corn is what Iowa is known for, and what better way to celebrate it than this all-day festival. From 7:30 a.m. to midnight around the city square. [www.adelpartners.org](http://www.adelpartners.org)

### AUG. 23-24: Huxley Prairie Festival.

"The prairiest festival around." Railroad Park, Heart of Iowa Nature Trail, Huxley. [www.huxleyprairiefest.com](http://www.huxleyprairiefest.com)

**AUG. 23-25: World Food and Music Festival.** The award-winning festival brings together two of life's greatest offerings from all sides of the globe. Western Gateway Park, 1205 Locust St., Des Moines. [www.dsmpartnership.com/worldfoodandmusicfestival](http://www.dsmpartnership.com/worldfoodandmusicfestival)

**AUG. 24: Ingersoll Live.** The annual block party returns to host vendors of all kinds, live music and plenty of family-friendly fun. From 3-10 p.m. along 2300 Ingersoll Ave. [www.theavenuesdsm.com](http://www.theavenuesdsm.com)

### AUG. 24: Wine and Cider Festival.

Get a taste of Iowa's grape and apple harvest from more than 20 Iowa wineries and cideries. Jasper Winery, 2400 George Flagg Parkway, Des Moines. [www.jasperwinery.com](http://www.jasperwinery.com)

## September

**SEPT. 6: Savannah Bananas.** The Bananas bring their bananas style of baseball back to Des Moines. They tweak the rules of America's favorite pastime, get the crowd involved and have tons of fun doing it. Principal Park, 1 Line Drive, Des Moines. [www.thesavannahbananas.com](http://www.thesavannahbananas.com)

**SEPT. 6: Marc Maron.** Maron has been an icon in the standup comedy and podcast scene for more than a decade. Starting at 8 p.m. at Hoyt Sherman Place, 1501 Woodland Ave., Des Moines. [www.hoytsherman.org](http://www.hoytsherman.org)

**SEPT. 14: Applefest.** Celebrate and sink your teeth into the apple harvest season. A full day of family fun and entertainment at Living History Farms, 11121 Hickman Road, Urbandale. [www.lhf.org](http://www.lhf.org)

**SEPT. 14: Norwalk Music Fest.** All participating musicians are from central Iowa. The fest will have food vendors, games, beer tent and activities. Norwalk City Park, 907 North Ave., Norwalk. [www.norwalkhometownpride.org/home](http://www.norwalkhometownpride.org/home)

### AUG. 31 - SEPT. 2, 7-8, 14-15: Fall

**Renaissance Faire.** The Renaissance Faire at Sleepy Hollow returns. The park changes to immerse attendees into the olden days for two weekends full of fun. Sleepy Hollow Sports Park, 4051 Dean Ave., Des Moines. [www.sleepyhollowrenfaire.com](http://www.sleepyhollowrenfaire.com)

### SEPT. 20-21: Beaverdale Fall

**Festival.** A community festival featuring food, drinks, art, commercial vendors and plenty of entertainment. Downtown Beaverdale. [www.fallfestival.org](http://www.fallfestival.org)

### SEPT. 20-22: Pufferbilly Days 2024.

More than 30 different events coincide during the Pufferbilly Days celebration. Everything from spelling bees to concerts, pet shows, car shows and more. Downtown Boone, 903 Story St. [www.boonecountychamber.com](http://www.boonecountychamber.com)

### SEPT. 21-22: Latino Heritage

**Festival.** An action-packed weekend for the largest celebration of Latino heritage in Iowa. Western Gateway Park, 1205 Locust St., Des Moines. [www.latinoheritagefestival.org](http://www.latinoheritagefestival.org)

### SEPT. 21: Des Moines Art Center

**Gala.** This year's theme is "Modern Dream." An evening of elegance to celebrate and support the DMAC. Scottish Rite Consistory Building, 519 Park St., Des Moines. [www.desmoinesartcenter.org](http://www.desmoinesartcenter.org)

### SEPT. 26-27: Third Annual "Ron

**Don" Cigar, Bourbon & Brew Bash.** The fun is in the name: cigars, bourbon and brews, with a pheasant hunt on day one. Country Lane Lodge, 29300 Prospect Circle, Adel. [www.rmhdsmoines.org](http://www.rmhdsmoines.org)

### SEPT. 26-28: Des Moines Area Quilt

**Guild Quilt Show.** You'll be hard pressed to find something more comfortable to keep you warm than a homemade quilt. Luckily, this show has you covered. Iowa State Fairgrounds, 3000 E. Grand Ave. [www.woodsidequilting.com/dmaqq-quilt-show.htm](http://www.woodsidequilting.com/dmaqq-quilt-show.htm)

**SEPT. 27-28: Oktoberfest.** To no one's surprise, there will be a lot of beer. However, there's plenty of fun to go around the entire weekend with food, music and competitions. Lauridsen Amphitheater, Des Moines Water Works Park, 2251 George Flagg Parkway. [www.oktoberfestdsm.com](http://www.oktoberfestdsm.com) ■

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Thursdays from June 6 to Sept. 26  
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## SIPS & SONGS

June 7 followed by Silent Disco ; June 14; June 21 followed by Silent Disco; June 28; July 5 followed by Fireworks and Silent Disco; July 19; July 26 featuring the **Pork Tornadoes** followed by Silent Disco  
6 to 10 p.m.; 10 to midnight for Silent Disco

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## NASH NIGHTS CONCERT SERIES

June 13 featuring Phil Vassar;  
July 18 featuring Chayce Beckham;  
Aug. 29 featuring Shane Profitt;  
Sept. 12 featuring Jerrod Niemann  
6 to 9 p.m.

PRESENTED BY:



## ANKENY SUMMERFEST

Friday, July 12 to Sunday, July 14  
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