

NATURALLY  
• IL •

MCH

MCHENRY COUNTY

WONDERFUL PLACES • WIDE-OPEN SPACES



• 2024 INSIDER GUIDE •



# Naturally SEASONAL

The gorgeous, open-air spaces around McHenry County are more than just summer destinations — in fact, you can enjoy our great outdoors year-round!

## Spring:

### TAP INTO SWEETNESS

Ever wonder where the all-time greatest breakfast condiment comes from? At the **Festival of the Sugar Maples**, learn about the amazing history of maple syrup and the many techniques for harvesting this naturally sweet concoction with live demonstrations in the maple groves at **Coral Woods Conservation Area**. Pick up maple-flavored treats — including candy and cookies — and grab some equipment for tapping your own tree! Register online at [mccdistrict.org](http://mccdistrict.org).



### CHEERS FOR SPEARS

Pick it, bundle it, grill it. Grab the freshest, crispiest asparagus at **Spears to You Asparagus Farm** from May to June. With 7 acres of Jersey Supreme and Millennial asparagus, pick as much as your family can put away, or bring home pre-cut, 1-pound bundles or 11- and 30-pound boxes.

### A BERRY GOOD TIME

Bushels upon bushels of juicy, delicious strawberries are just waiting to be picked at **Tom's Farm Market**. Throughout spring, bring home baskets full of tasty berries you picked yourself from the farm's vast fields, or satiate your sweet tooth with some of the market's homemade goodies, including strawberry pie and strawberry donuts!





**Biking the Prairie Trail**  
McHenry County Conservation District



**Richardson Tulip Festival**  
Spring Grove

## BLOOMING BRILLIANT

Tiptoe through rows of beautiful, blossoming flowers at the **Richardson Tulip Festival**. Planted near a private, 36-acre lake, this stunning horticultural display showcases more than two dozen varieties across 5 blooming acres. Stop by the gift shop for wine tasting and fresh-made goodies like popcorn, kettle corn, and donuts!

## ERIN GO BRAGH!

Celebrate the luck o' the Irish — and sip a green beer to match an equally emerald Fox River — at **McHenry ShamROCKS the Fox!** This two-day feis in **Downtown McHenry** features live music, family-friendly activities for the lads and lasses, a parade, and enough local food to have you shouting, “Faith and begorrah!”



**McHenry ShamROCKS the Fox**



# Summer:

## TAKIN' IT TO THE STREETS

If there's one thing we do well during the hot summer months, it's party! The festivals around McHenry County are as wonderfully varied as our communities. Celebrate love in all its forms at **Woodstock Pride**. Revel in live music and artistic wonders at **Lakeside Festival at the Dole**. Immerse in night after night of live entertainment at **McHenry Fiesta Days**. Revel in our agricultural roots and the sights and sounds of the carnival midway at the **McHenry County Fair**. Finally, savor three days of delicious, smoky BBQ, refreshing suds, and live music on the shores of McCullom Lake at **Bands Brews & BBQ**.

McHenry Outdoor Theater, McHenry



## FRESH & LOCAL

Forget the produce section — the award-winning farmers markets around McHenry County offer fresh, locally grown fruits and vegetables in addition to other artisanal goodies like baked goods and crafts. Tour some of the best farmers markets in the state of Illinois set in remarkable environs, from spacious parks and downtown districts to historic manors. Check out pages 12-13 for more information on McHenry County farmers markets!

## MAKE MINE LAKESIDE

Ready for some fun in the sun? The **Quarry Cable Park** and **Three Oaks Recreation Area** are unparalleled in terms of summertime thrills. Located on the 32-acre North Lake, the Quarry features a state-of-the-art cable wake

Lakeside Festival at the Dole, Crystal Lake



Dam Yak Challenge: Fox River in McHenry





system that allows visitors to try their hand at wakeboarding with no boat required. Or if you prefer to watch from the shore, enjoy their lakefront tap and grill, gather around the fire pit, or challenge your friends at sand volleyball and bags! Three Oaks — located adjacent to the Quarry — provides a serene environment that's perfect for a lakeside luncheon. A wide selection of vessels from paddle boats to sailboats allows visitors to explore the waters and cast a line for some world-class fishing. Certified scuba divers can even catch a glimpse of what lurks below at these repurposed gravel mines!

## DRIVE-IN DELIGHT

Nothing promises a truly vintage moviegoing experience quite like a drive-in theater. **McHenry Outdoor Theater** recreates that throwback silver screen spectacle with double features under a star-strewn summertime sky — enjoy the latest blockbusters in the front seat while your kids giggle their way through the newest animated features in the back! And while you're there, check out their Hollywood-worthy concession stand, **The Bremer Team Taphouse & Snack Bar**, that goes far beyond just popcorn and candy — enjoy burgers, chicken sandwiches, bratwurst, and pizza!

## SUMMER HARVEST

Take to the fields and  
soak in some rays  
at the agritourism

The Quarry Cable Park, Crystal Lake



spots around McHenry County! Bright, beautiful sunflowers are waiting to give your home a splash of color at **Von Bergen's Country Market** — and don't miss their annual Sunflower Festival! Pick your fill of berries, green beans, peas, beets, and peppers during the summer months at **Stade's Farm & Market**. And bring home beautiful bouquets you picked yourself from **Fleur de Lis Farm** and **Dented Gate Flower Farm**!

## EXPLORE THE OUTDOORS

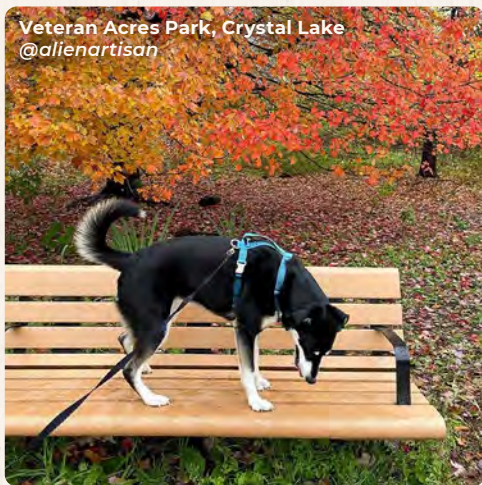
The glaciated topography of McHenry County was made to be explored — and what better time than summer to wander across our landscape? Paddle down the **Fox River**, **Nippersink Creek**, or **Kishwaukee River**. Pedal or hike through rugged yet traversable terrain at **Coral Woods Conservation District** and the **McHenry County Conservation District**, the latter of which includes **Glacial Park**, the county's largest conservation area and home to 40 endangered and threatened species.



# Autumn:

## AN APPLE A DAY

That first bite into a crisp, juicy apple is a signature autumn experience — and the apple orchards around McHenry County offer the opportunity to handpick these fall memories yourself. One of the largest apple orchards in Northern Illinois, **All Seasons Orchard** in Woodstock grows more than 15,000 apple trees across two orchards with a dozen varieties available. Opened in 2017, the orchard at **Stade's Farm & Market** promises honeycrisp, gala, evercrisp, jonagold, zestar, golden delicious, and heirloom apples from an orchard of more than 7,800 trees.







## THE GREAT PUMPKINS

Whether you're carving them, baking with them, or just adding a splash of orange to your fall decor, nothing says autumn quite like a nice, big pumpkin. **Stade's** grows a wide variety of pumpkins ranging from baseball-sized to about 200 pounds, while **All Seasons** grows thousands of pumpkins in a rainbow of fall colors including orange, white, and green. **Von Bergen's Country Market** hosts its annual Fall Pumpkin Fest through Halloween, while patches at **Richardson Adventure Farm** and **Tom's Farm Market** also offer plenty of opportunities to find the perfect pumpkin.

## EARS TO AUTUMN

Lose yourself in the twisting, winding corn mazes of McHenry County! **Richardson Adventure Farm** is home to the world's largest and most intricate corn maze with 9-10 miles of trail winding through 28 acres of live corn. Sounds daunting, but no dead ends and a perimeter path ensure you can always make it out in minutes no matter where you are! The 6-acre maze at **Tom's Farm Market** takes on a whole-new atmosphere under cover of dark — bring a flashlight for their **Moonlight Corn Maze**! The 6-acre maze at **All Seasons** features two paths — one for the kiddos and a more challenging experience for more dedicated maze enthusiasts. The 2-acre maze at **Stade's** includes 12 hidden questions to test your knowledge, while **Von Bergen's** also includes a corn maze as part of its **Fall Pumpkin Fest**.

## AN AUTUMN CANVAS

The wide-open, natural spaces around McHenry County are ablaze with vibrant fall colors! The trails at **Coral Woods**, **Marengo Ridge**, **Chain O' Lakes State Park**, and **Volo Bog** offer a chance to hike through the breathtaking foliage and get a breath of the crisp autumn air. Bring a camera and snap some photos of the changing colors — you may even cross paths with roaming deer!



# Winter:

## SKOL!

Watching world-class athletes careen down a 70-meter hill at speeds reaching 60 mph is a tradition we never grow tired of. **Norge Ski Club**, the oldest continuously open ski club in the country, has drawn thousands of visitors to this thrilling, high-flying party in **Fox River Grove** since 1905 with its annual winter competition. Bring a cowbell and cheer on the Olympic hopefuls from around the world (horned helmets optional).



## WELL, IT'S GROUNDHOG DAY... AGAIN.

Home of the 1993 cult classic "Groundhog Day," Woodstock commemorates its place in Bill Murray's filmography with **Groundhog Days**. This days-long celebration includes numerous screenings of the iconic film and of course a live prognostication from the city's resident rodent, Woodstock Willie. But visitors can also enjoy a walking tour

of the film's iconic locations, Drink to World Peace, trivia, and a pancake breakfast. This is one event you'll want to relive over and over and over.

## RETRO RIDES

Where can you see the Batmobile, a '69 Camaro, and a vintage Harrier jump jet all in one location? At the **Volo Museum**, take a road trip through time as you get up close with vintage automobiles as well as military machinery and the most iconic rides in film and television history.

## A WINTER WONDERLAND

A dip in the mercury shouldn't keep you from enjoying the great outdoors — otherwise, you may miss out on experiencing the underrated beauty of a Northern Illinois winter. Bundle up and head out to the **McHenry County Conservation District** sites for some frozen fun. Check out 17 miles of snowmobiling trails at **Glacial Park**, or rent a pair of snowshoes from the park's **Lost Valley Visitor Center**. Glide over more than 40 miles of cross-country skiing trails across the county. And don't let an early sunset discourage you — the district's solar-lit trails are perfect for a nighttime hike.



## HIGH-FLYING FUN

Indoor adventure soars to all-new heights at **Urban Air Adventure Park** in Crystal Lake. Youngsters take flight on the park's many supremely bounceable trampolines, but the fun goes far beyond just bounces and flips. Dunk like MJ at the park's Slam Dunk Zone. Channel your inner Average Joe's at Dodgeball. Relive an American Gladiators showdown on the Battle Beams. Or zip overhead on the Sky Rider. No matter how you have fun, Urban Air promises a soaring good time for all ages.

## DOWNTOWN ROCKIN'

Carrying on a long history of live entertainment in McHenry, **The Vixen** hosts concerts and kids events from local and national acts year-round. No matter what time of year, you'll find a party bumping on the banks of the Fox River.



The Vixen, McHenry



Glacial Park, Ringwood



◀ Norge Ski Club, Fox River Grove



# *Fresh from* **THE FIELDS**



Stade's Farm & Market, McHenry

## **YOUR ALL-NATURAL PRODUCE AISLE**

They say your food tastes so much better when you work for it. The many farms around McHenry County are proof positive of that idiom with some of the most delectable fruits and vegetables this side of Chicago. Of course, we don't expect you to go out and till the fields for us, but McHenry County does provide plenty of opportunities to handpick the freshest produce anywhere in the state of Illinois. Apples, pumpkins, green beans, peas, strawberries, raspberries, blueberries — why pick your produce from a grocery store cooler when you can get it straight from the Earth?

Shake off the chill of a long winter at **Spears to You** in Harvard. There in late spring, the first crop of delicious, crunchy asparagus pokes through the thawing ground ready to be picked, bundled, and taken straight to your home. As the mercury climbs into the bright and sunny days of summer, stock your refrigerator with crisp green beans and sugar snap peas — plus sweet, juicy strawberries, raspberries, and blueberries — at **Stade's Farm & Market**. Stop by the family-operated **Von Bergen's Country Market** for the freshest, in-season fruits and vegetables from spring through fall, including sweet corn, tomatoes, peppers, and watermelon, all grown on site and sold in the farm's cozy market.

Finally, as summer wanes and gives way to the crisp air of autumn, break out your best buffalo plaid flannel and get in the fall spirit at the orchards and patches around McHenry County. Bring home crunchy, flavorful apples in a broad spectrum of colors and flavors. Add some fall flair to your home with ripe, full pumpkins — or transform it into tasty, fall-flavored goodies.



## FLOWER POWER

Stop and smell the roses. And sunflowers. And tulips. Agritourism in McHenry County is more than just fresh produce. Here, stunning fields of flowers bloom before your eyes, beckoning you to arrange your own bouquet and brighten your home.

The county's first U-pick flower farm, **Dented Gate Flower Farm** in Woodstock, carries on a bright tradition with a wide variety of handpicked stems. At the **Fleur de Lis Farm** in Union, stroll through the grounds of a vintage, early 20th-century farm along with free-range fowl in search of your next colorful selection. Browse sprawling acres of tulips at **Richardson Adventure Farm** in Spring Grove, home of the annual **Richardson Tulip Festival**. Rows of sunflowers reflect the summer sun at **Stade's Farm & Market** in McHenry, **Tom's Farm Market** in Huntley, and **Von Bergen's Country Market** in Hebron.



## HOLIDAY SPIRIT IN ROWS

When the chill of winter inevitably sets in and pushes most indoors, we prefer to be outside (trust us, it's invigorating). After all, there's no better place to track down your very own Christmas tree plucked straight from the ground. Sure, you could bring home an aluminum pole that looks like it's been decked out in green pipe cleaners, but that takes away the charm and that oh-so-refreshing pine fragrance. **Richardson Christmas Tree Farm** pivots to trees around the holiday season, while other destinations like **Conifera Tree Farm** (Harvard), **Ben's Christmas Tree Farm** (Harvard), **Bill's Friendly Christmas Tree Farm** (McHenry), and **Oney's Christmas Tree Farm** (Woodstock) specialize in growing trees that would make Santa Claus himself proud.

Richardson Christmas Tree Farm  
Spring Grove







## *Best Farmers Markets in the State* **A BUSHEL BASKET FULL.**

McHenry County is well-known for its farmers markets. No, seriously — check the rankings. The farmers markets scattered all over McHenry County are consistently rated some of the best in the state and are the perfect place to pick up fresh fruits and vegetables as well as crafts and other goods from local artisans. Best of all, our farmers markets aren't just a warm weather event — many of our farmers markets hold indoor gatherings throughout the winter, ensuring you can get the freshest farm-to-table goods year-round.





## NOT SURE WHICH FARMERS MARKET TO VISIT?

Why not just visit all of them?  
Check out the locations and hours:

### CARY GROVE FARMERS MARKET

Sundays — 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. June – Sept.  
Cary Metra Lot • 100 W. Main St. • Cary  
815-519-4341

#### Indoor Winter Market:

First and third Sundays — 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Oct. – May  
Algonquin Township Building #6 • 3702 US-14  
Crystal Lake

### CRYSTAL LAKE FARMERS MARKET

Saturdays — 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. June – Sept.  
Depot Park • 90 E. Woodstock St. • Crystal Lake  
815-479-0835 • downtowncl.org

### FARMERS MARKET+ AT THE DOLE

Sundays — 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. June – Oct.  
The Dole • 401 Country Club Road • Crystal Lake  
815-307-4787 • farmersmarketatthedole.org

#### Indoor Winter Market:

Select Sundays 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Nov. – April

### HUNTLEY FARMERS MARKET

Saturdays — 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. June – Oct.  
Huntley Downtown Square • 11704 Coral St. • Huntley  
847-515-5200 • huntley.il.us

#### Indoor Winter Market:

Second Saturday — 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Nov. – May  
Legion Hall • 11712 Coral St. • Huntley (Nov. – Dec.)  
First Congregational Church Fellowship Hall  
11628 E. Main St. • Huntley

### MARENGO COMMUNITY FARMERS MARKET

Fridays — 5-8 p.m. May – August  
Calvin Spencer Park • 825 Indian Oaks Trail • Marengo

### PEARL STREET MARKET

Thursdays — 4:30-8 p.m. May – Sept.  
Veterans Memorial Park • 3400 Pearl St. • McHenry

### WOODSTOCK FARMERS MARKET

Tuesdays — 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. May – Sept.  
Saturdays — 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. Mid April – Oct.  
Woodstock Square • 100 N. Johnson St. • Woodstock  
815-338-5164 • woodstockfarmersmarket.org

#### Indoor Winter Market:

Select Saturdays — 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Nov. – April  
McHenry County Fairgrounds • 12015 Country  
Club Road • Woodstock



Huntley Farmers Market



Woodstock Farmers Market



Pearl Street Market, McHenry



Farmers Market+ at The Dole,  
Crystal Lake



Crystal Lake Farmers Market

## Fun Fact

Illinois grows more pumpkins than any state in the U.S. with 40,000 pounds grown per acre.



# McHenry County EVENTS

## JANUARY

- ◆ Norge Ski Club Winter Tournament
- ◆ Frozen Gnome 10k & 50k

## FEBRUARY

- ◆ Woodstock Groundhog Days
- ◆ Candlelight Ski & Hike

## MARCH

- ◆ Festival of the Sugar Maples
- ◆ Vintage Shop Hop
- ◆ Shamrocked Woodstock Street Fest
- ◆ McHenry ShamROCKS the Fox

## APRIL

- ◆ Richardson Tulip Festival



Woodstock Pride Fest

## MAY

- ◆ Memorial Day Water Ski Show
- ◆ Pedalpalooza

## JUNE

- ◆ Woodstock Pride Fest
- ◆ Harvard Milk Days

## JULY

- ◆ Lakeside Festival at The Dole
- ◆ Fiesta Days
- ◆ America's Cardboard Cup Regatta
- ◆ Day Out with Thomas
- ◆ Heritage Fair
- ◆ Woodstock Folk Festival
- ◆ Summer in the Park
- ◆ Algonquin Founders' Day
- ◆ Rotary's Rockin' Ribfest
- ◆ MCYSA Summer Baseball Tournament
- ◆ Crystal Lake Aquathon







## AUGUST

- ◆ McHenry County Fair
- ◆ Ice Cream Fest

## SEPTEMBER

- ◆ Downtown Cary Street Festival
- ◆ Summer Sunset Festival
- ◆ Soul Jam
- ◆ The Great Outdoors Beer Trail
- ◆ Mexican Independence Day Celebration
- ◆ Huntley Fall Fest
- ◆ Johnny Appleseed Festival
- ◆ McHenry County Farm Stroll
- ◆ Beatles British Invasion
- ◆ RiseUP Music Festival



## OCTOBER

- ◆ Cider Fest
- ◆ Autumn Drive
- ◆ Witches & Wizards of Woodstock
- ◆ Woodstock Ale Fest
- ◆ Marengo Settlers' Days
- ◆ Care4 Breast Cancer 5k
- ◆ Pub in the Park



## NOVEMBER

- ◆ Turkey Testicle Festival
- ◆ Lighting of the Square
- ◆ Festival of Lights Parade
- ◆ Downtown McHenry Holiday Walk

## DECEMBER

- ◆ McHenry County Santa Run for Kids
- ◆ Happy Holiday Railway
- ◆ Merry Cary Parade & Festival
- ◆ A Very Merry Huntley
- ◆ Miracle on Main



Scan the QR Code  
for the complete  
Events Calendar.





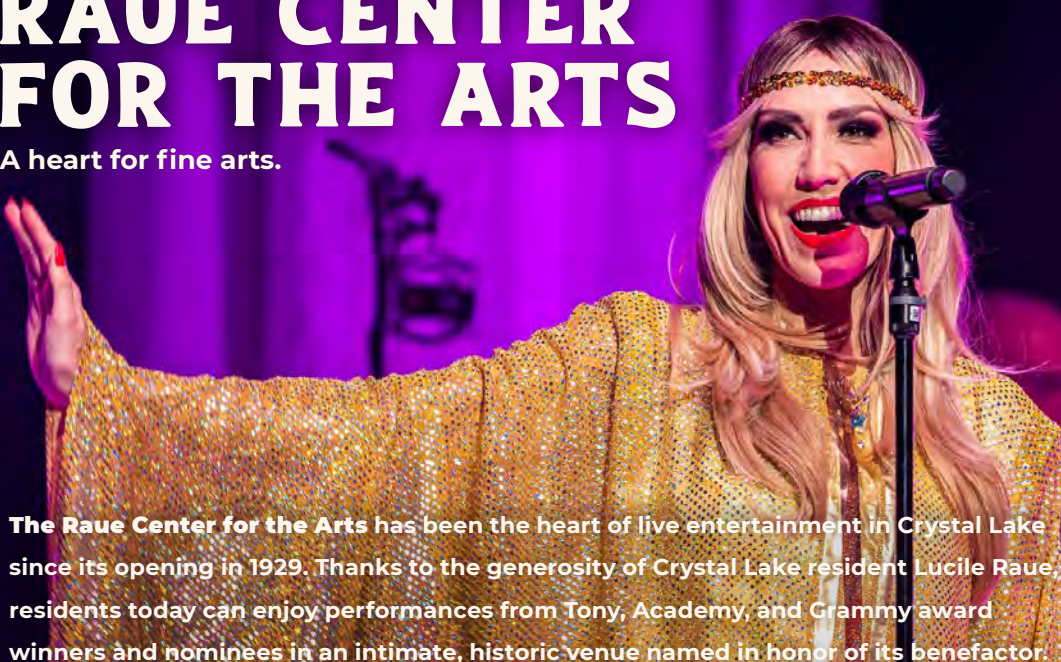
# *On with the* **SHOW**

With historic venues, gallery openings, museums, and live performances constantly filling our calendar, arts and entertainment are finely woven into the fabric of McHenry County, melding the remarkable history of our communities with our present and future. Here, you'll find contemporary artists performing on stages once occupied by some of the biggest stars from the last century and carrying on a legacy of captivating audiences.

Venture past these famed stages and halls and you'll find our appreciation for arts and history reflected in the gamut of museums and historic sites throughout McHenry County. Destinations like the **Volo Museum**, the **Illinois Railway Museum**, and the nearby the **Sanfilippo Foundation Place de la Musique** offer an unparalleled look at the technological progress that helped shape both commerce and pop culture, while the **McHenry County Historical Society** offers a rare glimpse into our rich history and how we got to where we are now.

## **RAUE CENTER FOR THE ARTS**

**A heart for fine arts.**



**The Raue Center for the Arts** has been the heart of live entertainment in Crystal Lake since its opening in 1929. Thanks to the generosity of Crystal Lake resident Lucile Raue, residents today can enjoy performances from Tony, Academy, and Grammy award winners and nominees in an intimate, historic venue named in honor of its benefactor.



# Woodstock OPERA HOUSE

Where live entertainment takes center stage.



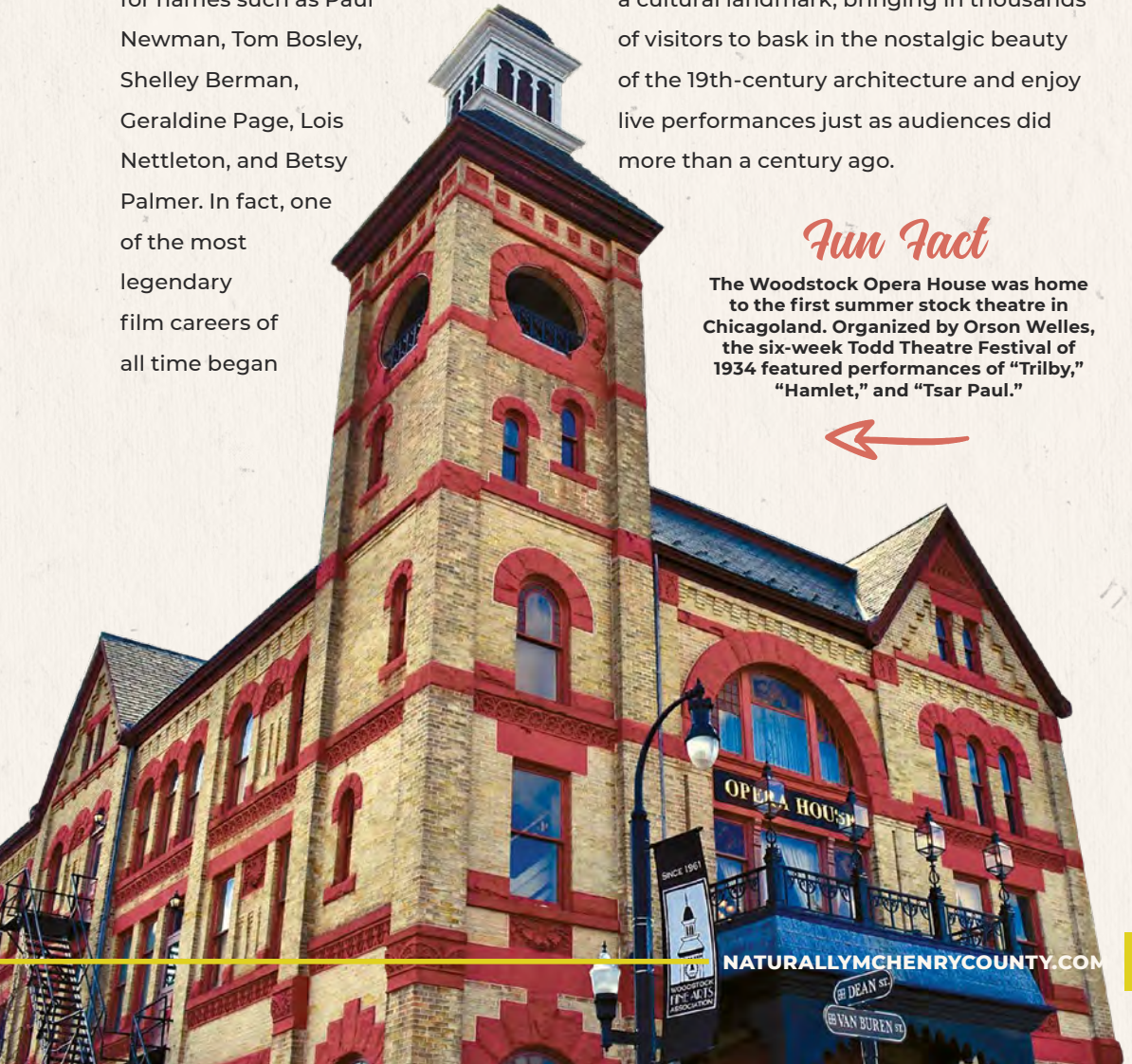
The crown jewel of the city's **Historic Square**, the **Woodstock Opera House** has been the heart of arts and entertainment since the building's construction in 1889. Originally housing the city's library, city council chamber, court, and fire department, the Opera House became a center for entertainment throughout the 20th century, serving as a launchpad for names such as Paul Newman, Tom Bosley, Shelley Berman, Geraldine Page, Lois Nettleton, and Betsy Palmer. In fact, one of the most legendary film careers of all time began

at the Opera House when a young Orson Welles began performing on the Opera House stage in the 1920s.

Today, the Opera House continues to serve both Woodstock and McHenry County as a cultural landmark, bringing in thousands of visitors to bask in the nostalgic beauty of the 19th-century architecture and enjoy live performances just as audiences did more than a century ago.

## Fun Fact

The Woodstock Opera House was home to the first summer stock theatre in Chicagoland. Organized by Orson Welles, the six-week Todd Theatre Festival of 1934 featured performances of "Trilby," "Hamlet," and "Tsar Paul."





# THE VIXEN

**A legacy of live entertainment.**

In the space once occupied by McHenry's iconic Empire Theater and the McHenry Downtown Theater, **The Vixen** carries on the long legacy of live entertainment on the Fox River. Opened in 2022, The Vixen is home to live music, comedy acts, kids' shows, and more. The Vixen hosts events from both local and nationally recognized acts for all ages year-round.



The Vixen, McHenry

# THE DOLE

**Where purpose, art, music, and history come alive.**

Built in 1865 for grain and ice merchant Charles Dole, **The Dole** boasts a rich, colorful history, serving as the first Crystal Lake Country Club owned by heiress Eliza Ringling, a Franciscan Order, and a First Congregational Church. Today, the stately Civil War-era mansion and 1922 annex serves as an extraordinary cultural arts and music center, hosting gallery openings for local and regional artists as well as the **Listening Room Venue** for live performances.

## *Fun Fact*

Using Romantic Italianate and Second Empire architectural styles, The Dole finished construction in 1865 at a cost of \$100,000 — less than half the average price of a McHenry County home today!







▲ The Sanfilippo Foundation  
Place de la Musique

# SANFILIPPO FOUNDATION

## Place de la Musique

The **Sanfilippo Foundation Place de la Musique** is a remarkably exclusive encounter. With the world's largest collection of restored, automatic musical instruments, you'll get up close with gorgeously crafted music boxes, phonographs, orchestrions, violin machines, the world's largest restored theatre pipe organ, and the most spectacular European salon carousel in existence. As a private residence, its address and phone number are not publicly available. Rather, sign up for their newsletter to get more information on admission.

# VOLO MUSEUM

**Rev your engines for a trip through time.**

Get your motor running — head out for a thrill ride through time at the **Volo Museum**, featuring a world-famous car collection where you can get up close to the most outstanding cars of the 20th century along with the most iconic rides in TV and movie history! But the Volo Museum is more than just cars — music machines, animatronics, antique arcade games, and so many more vintage items are featured in the museum's 45 amazing exhibits!



▲ Volo Auto Museum



# • NATURALLY. *Tasty* •

Your trip isn't complete without sampling the local fare. And in McHenry County, our menus take "local" to a whole other level with mouthwatering meals made from the freshest ingredients grown in our own glacier-enriched soil. No matter what you have a hankering for, the gastronomic wizards around McHenry County are sure to satiate your cravings with culinary works of art that are as good for the 'Gram as they are for your taste buds. Arrive hungry and leave with your belt a little looser.

At **Duke's Alehouse & Kitchen** in Crystal Lake, local ingredients shine through in comforting, mouthwatering meals — including one of the juiciest, most savory burgers to ever grace your sense of taste. **1776 Restaurant** elevates your palate with delectable works of art sourced from local ingredients — each pairing with an extensive wine menu, setting the stage for an out-of-this-world fine dining experience. Finally, **Cary Ale House** carries on the legacy of community pubs that came before in a laid-back, neighborhood gastropub serving delicious, handmade meals — and wash them down with a handcrafted beer.

Duke's Alehouse, Crystal Lake



1776, Crystal Lake



Cary Ale House, Cary ▶





# "Best of McHenry Co."

voted on by **1,000 LOCALS**



**DATE NIGHT SPOT**  
Montarra Grill • Algonquin



**SWEETS & DESSERT**  
Julie Ann's Frozen Custard  
Crystal Lake



**BARBEQUE**  
Moontime Smokin' Que  
Crystal Lake  
*photo by Aubrie Benson*



**BREAKFAST & BRUNCH**  
Elle's Deli & Bagels  
Lake in the Hills



**OUTDOOR DINING**  
Port Edward  
Algonquin



**PIZZA**  
Uncle Jerry's  
Pizza Company • Cary



**MEXICAN FOOD**  
Mixteca Restaurant  
& Tequila Bar • Woodstock



**ASIAN CUISINE**  
Chop Suey Hut  
Woodstock



**TEA & COFFEE**  
Conscious Cup Coffee Roasters  
Crystal Lake & Cary

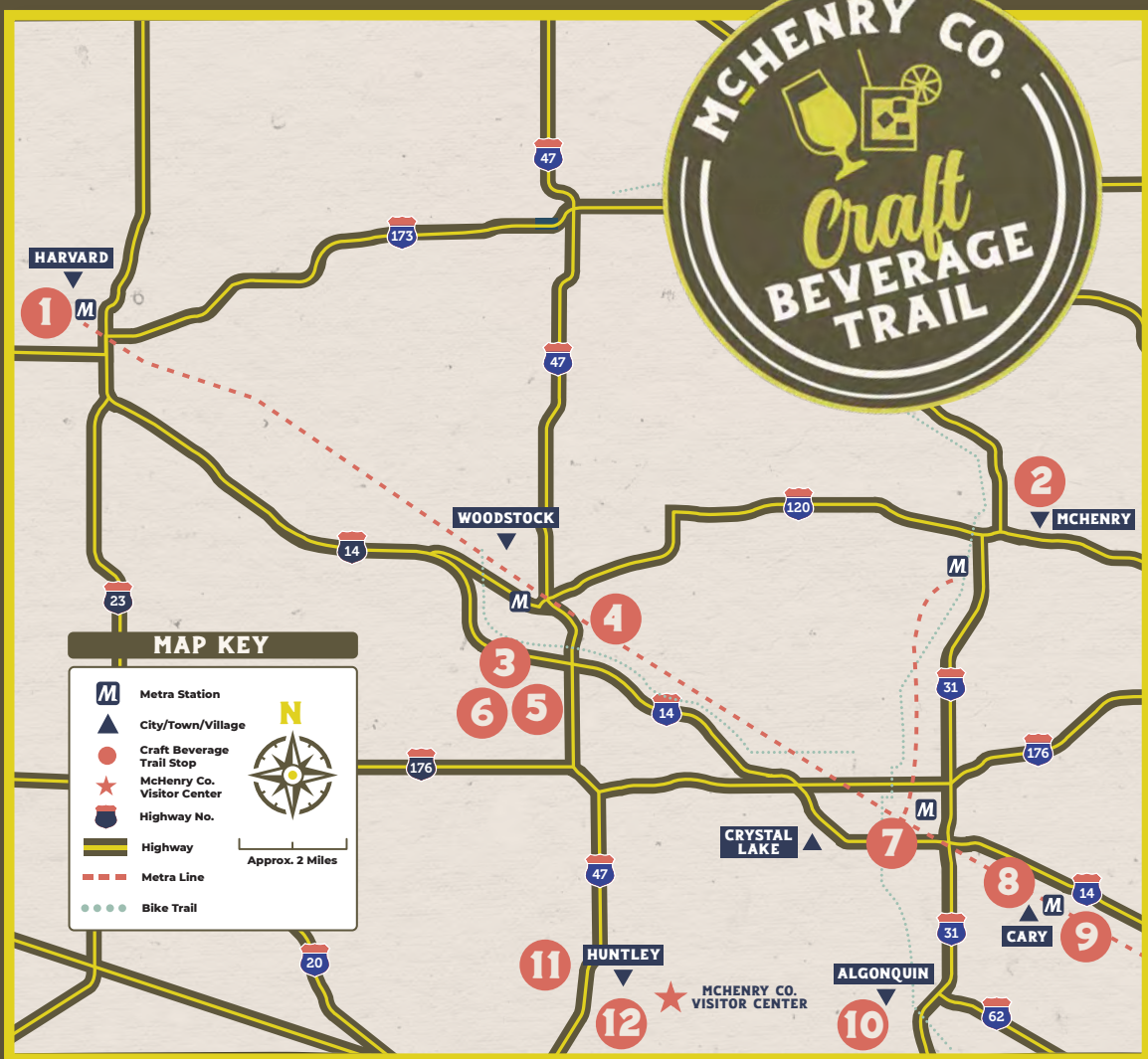


**BURGERS**  
The Tracks  
Cary



# Good Times & Great Suds ON THE CRAFT BEVERAGE TRAIL

Prost! Skol! Cheers! However you say it, raise a glass and toast to the good times at the pubs, bars, breweries, and taprooms around McHenry County! Whether you prefer a rich, creamy stout or a hazy IPA, our local biermeisters are masters in concocting a wide variety of refreshing ales and lagers. So, grab a pint, growler, or stein at each of these local watering holes and sample the many delicious flavors on tap!





# Recommended Sips



## 1. RUSH CREEK DISTILLING

1501 W. Diggins St. • Harvard  
rushcreekdistilling.com

### **Recommended Sip:**

Barrel Rested Gin  
or Coffee Vodka

## 2. MCHENRY

### **BREWING COMPANY**

3425 Pearl St. • McHenry  
mchenrybrewing.com

### **Recommended Sip:**

Fox River Scotch Ale

## 3. HOLZLAGER

### **BREWING COMPANY**

150F S. Eastwood Drive  
Woodstock  
holzlagerbrewing.com

### **Recommended Sip:**

Hawaiian Hammer IPA

## 4. KISHWAUKEE BREWING

1900 Dillard Court • Woodstock  
kishwaukeebrewing.com

### **Recommended Sip:**

Bufflehead Brown Ale



## 5. MOBCRAFT

### **BREWERY & TAPROOM**

101 N. Johnson St. Unit B  
Woodstock • mobcraftbeer.com

### **Recommended Sip:**

Too Legit to Wit  
Belgian Wheat

## 6. HEMPSTOCK PHARMS

14023 W. South Street Road  
Woodstock

### **Recommended Sip:**

Lemon8 Aronia Berry Seltzer

## 7. CRYSTAL LAKE BREWING

150 N. Main St. • Crystal Lake  
crystallakebrew.com

### **Recommended Sip:**

Beach Blonde —  
Golden Lager

## 8. SPIRIT WATER

3300 Three Oaks Road • Cary  
spiritwatertj.com

### **Recommended Sip:**

Barrel Aged Root Beer



## 9. CARY ALE HOUSE

### **& BREWING COMPANY**

208 W. Main St. • Cary  
caryalehousebrewing.com

### **Recommended Sip:**

High Road IPA

## 10. SCORCHED EARTH

### **BREWING COMPANY**

203 Berg St. • Algonquin  
scorchedearthbrewing.com

### **Recommended Sip:**

German Style Doppelbock

## 11. SEW HOP'D

### **BREWERY & TAPROOM**

1 Union Special Plaza,  
Suite 113 • Huntley  
sewhopd.com

### **Recommended Sip:**

Friendly Village Porter

## 12. MORE BREWING

### **COMPANY**

13980 Automall Dr.  
Huntley • morebrewing.com

### **Recommended Sip:**

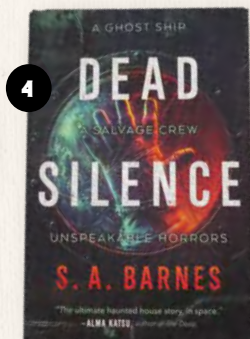
Moreover — Hazy IPA



Download the Naturally McHenry County app, go to "Challenges," and enter the codes you can get at each location. When you finish all 12, you will get a T-shirt and sticker! The good times continue — visit [naturallymchenrycounty.com](http://naturallymchenrycounty.com) for even more local libations!



# McHenry County CAN'T-MISS FINDS





- 
- 1 GOAT MILK SOAP**  
Silver Prairie Natural Soap Company  
*Woodstock*
  - 2 WOODSTOCK WILLIE'S HOT SAUCE**  
Read Between the Lynes  
*Woodstock*
  - 3 FRESH, HANDMADE BAKED GOODS**  
Sweet Reds Patisserie  
*Woodstock*
  - 4 DEAD SILENCE**  
Novel by local author S. A. Barnes.  
Read Between the Lynes  
*Woodstock*
  - 5 ARTISAN-PRODUCED OLIVE OILS**  
The Olive Tap  
*Crystal Lake*
  - 6 COLOR WOODSTOCK**  
Apple Creek Flowers  
*Woodstock*
  - 7 ILLINOIS MAP KITCHEN MITT**  
Apple Creek Flowers  
*Woodstock*
  - 8 BEAN-TO-BAR CHOCOLATE**  
Ethereal Connections  
*Woodstock*
  - 9 POTTED SUCCULENT**  
Verdant Sol  
*McHenry*
  - 10 ILLINOIS CHARCUTERIE BOARD**  
Kitchen Outfitters  
*Crystal Lake*
  - 11 UNIQUE CUSTOM JEWELRY**  
Studio D Jewelry  
*Woodstock*
  - 12 GOURMET CANDIES**  
Anderson's Candy Shop  
*Richmond*
  - 13 LOCALLY-POURED SOY CANDLES**  
Harper G. Mercantile  
*Richmond*
  - 14 MCHENRY COUNTY POSTCARD**  
Naturally McHenry County  
*Huntley*
- 



# BREAK the *Chain*

**Let's face it** — when you're shopping, you want something that offers a real "WOW" factor, something that comes with a sense of exclusivity. After all, if you can find it at one chain location, anyone can find that same, mass-produced item anywhere else in the state, country, or even world. But when you shop local, you're afforded the exceptional opportunity to discover something that can't be found anywhere else — a real shopper's treasure. And here in McHenry County, there's no better place to begin your treasure hunt than the many independent shops and boutiques that define our local retail.



# McHENRY COUNTY MADE ★★

When you can associate the extraordinary qualities of a product with its region, you know you've come across something special. That's exactly what you'll find among the products made right here in McHenry County. Each filled with its own distinct character, these makers define our region as something wholly unique from others — naturally incomparable.



- ▲ **Riverside Chocolate Factory, McHenry**  
Handmade chocolate, fudge, old English toffee, and other delicious treats.



- ▲ **Studio D Jeweler's, Woodstock**  
Creating masterfully crafted and customized jewelry, including wedding rings, since 1972.



- ▲ **Grounds Coffee Bar & Café, Crystal Lake**  
Fresh roasted coffee to kick-start your day along with tasty breakfast treats and sandwiches.



- ▼ **Richardson Adventure Farm, Spring Grove**  
Tulips in the spring and Christmas trees in the winter! Plus fudge, canned goods, décor, and more!







**Casting Whimsy  
Woodstock**



**Duke's Alehouse  
& Kitchen  
Crystal Lake**

**Crystal Lake Brewing  
Crystal Lake**

**Conscious Cup  
Coffee Roasters  
Crystal Lake • Cary**







**MORE Brewing**  
Huntley



**Holzlager Brewing Company**  
Woodstock



**1776 Restaurant**  
Crystal Lake



**Riverbottom Ice Cream Co.**  
Algonquin





**Ethereal Confections**  
Woodstock



**Julie Ann's**  
Frozen Custard  
Crystal Lake

**Sew Hop'd Brewery & Taproom**  
Huntley



**McHenry Brewing**  
Company  
McHenry







**Rush Creek Distilling**  
Harvard



**Anderson's Candy Shop**  
Richmond



**Hempstock Pharms**  
Woodstock

**Scorched Earth Brewing**  
Algonquin



**Magic Meadows Alpacas**  
Wonder Lake



**Cary Ale House**  
Cary







**Kishwaukee Brewing**  
Woodstock



**The Irie Cup**  
Huntley



**Potts & Pans**  
Steelband  
Woodstock



**Silver Prairie Natural**  
Soap Company  
Woodstock

**Spirit Water**  
Cary

**MobCraft Beer**  
Woodstock





# GET *McHitched*

## Plan Your Special Day in McHenry County

With an uncommon blend of urban and rural, McHenry County is the perfect place to plan the trendy wedding you've always dreamed about. So, what's your special day look like — natural, rustic environs or a stately and palatial venue? No matter what you've got in mind, we can accommodate. We asked Courtney Hart, lead wedding planner at **Sweetchic Events**, about some of the hottest wedding trends for 2024 and what McHenry County venues best suit these styles!



## Unconventional Venues

Couples are looking to create a unique experience their guests will remember for years. Booking a one-of-a-kind venue and hosting some unexpected after-dinner activities are sure to have your guests talking. A multi-level loft space with floor-to-ceiling windows overlooking a lake is already the Midwest dream, but **Quarry Cable Park** offers rental of their beach volleyball courts — after-dinner game, anyone? Or provide blankets for your guests to stargaze on the sand with a drink in hand.

## Bold & Bright

While a white and greenery palette is romantic and timeless, we're looking forward to bold and bright weddings in 2024. Sunshine yellows, fiery reds, hot pinks and electric oranges, patterned linens and bridesmaids' dresses... Make your colorful design pop even more in venues like **Providence Vineyards** and **Smith's Central Garage**. These blank canvas venues can host a wide array of aesthetics, but they are made for this colorful trend!



Starline Factory, Harvard





## Cottage-Core

We've seen this trend come and go throughout the years under different names like "shabby chic" and "rustic vintage," but cottage-core really embraces a feeling you're trying to emulate: ethereal, magical, and enchanting. A certain world-renowned pop star may have created an entire era of a whimsy dreamland with ivy-covered walls — have you seen **Starline Factory**? — and running barefoot through the trees like at **Whispering Woods**.

## Wedding Weekend Retreats

We're now going beyond just the wedding day celebrations — the new generation of couples are looking for a full weekend of getaway fun for their guests. Luckily, McHenry County offers a destination-like resort, **Bunker Hill Farms**, where couples can plan multiple days of pre-wedding activities like axe throwing, fishing, and golfing. The Lodge's event space and garden are perfect for an intimate wedding of close friends and family. Larger guest count? Consider a tented event on the meticulously maintained grounds.

## Residential Charm

Architectural details. Vintage fixtures. Natural light. Staircases. A ballroom with feasting tables filled with friends and family that feels like home. Well, a fantasy mansion from another era that is. While this venue was not a residence,

**Courthouse Square by Ethereal Events** has all the charming details of a manor — along with some added fun like an old jail cell!



Providence Vineyards, Hebron



# Settle Down in MCHENRY CO.

We can't help if you fall in love with McHenry County — we're just so ruggedly attractive. If you've fallen for our charm and want to make this your home, the experts from **Heartland REALTOR® Organization** are here with some tips on moving to McHenry County!

## » THE TOP 5 REASONS TO MOVE TO MCHENRY COUNTY?

### 1. OUTSTANDING SCHOOLS

From preschool to college, educational opportunities are available for every stage of life. High schools and McHenry County College provide career readiness to guide students. Various continuing education programs offer lifelong learning as well.

### 2. CULTURE

Festivals and outdoor events throughout the year, a very active art and theater scene, and historical homes and buildings create a neighborly and welcoming community for all. From family-friendly activities to shopping, dining, and live entertainment, your options are endless!

### 3. BIG CITY AMENITIES WITH SMALL TOWN CHARM

Here, you'll find a small-town lifestyle with access to Chicago via public transportation as well as easy access to Lake Geneva, WI. Business owners can expand or start anew in an area teeming with opportunity for all.

### 4. RECREATION & CONSERVATION

Experience wide-open spaces with many parks, bike paths, and river and lake access, as well as conservation areas with miles of scenic trails to explore.

### 5. VARIOUS HOUSING OPTIONS

Property in McHenry County often includes more home — and land — for your dollar than you would receive in a big city.

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*The Heartland REALTOR® Organization, headquartered in Crystal Lake, is a not-for-profit trade organization representing over 1000 real estate professionals throughout Northern IL and Southern WI.*

*REALTOR® is a registered collective membership mark which may be used only by real estate professionals who are members of the NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS® and subscribe to its strict Code of Ethics. Not all real estate agents are REALTORS®. All REALTORS® are members of NAR.*





## » WHAT IS THE AVERAGE HOME PRICE IN MCHENRY COUNTY?

In 2023, the median sales price was \$302,000, a 4.7% increase from 2022, though prices vary across each community. We recommend working with a local REALTOR® who can create a comparative market analysis and manage custom searches for the area you're interested in.



Heartland REALTORS

## » I'D LIKE TO LIVE SOMEWHERE QUIET AND RURAL WITH LOTS OF SPACE. WHAT COMMUNITIES WOULD BE BEST FOR ME?

Many of our communities offer the peace and quiet you won't likely find in an urban setting. Harvard, Marengo, and Huntley offer a small-town, rural feeling while still having proximity to amenities with plenty of farmland and larger lots available. The northeast portion of the county — Richmond, Spring Grove, and Lakemoor — offer the rural feel with one-acre per lot neighborhoods, beautiful countrysides, and small-town way of life.

### FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT HEARTLAND REALTOR® ORGANIZATION:

info@HeartlandRO.com  
HeartlandRO.realtor  
815.459.0600



Woodstock Dual Language Program



Northwestern Medicine  
Huntley Hospital





DC Cobbs

## Naturally Neighborly

McHenry County is a quilt of communities and experiences hand-sewn together by local people who know how to enjoy the best things in life. Though they share a common link and mesh together so well, each community has its own distinct identity and its own exceptional experiences. Explore the communities of McHenry County and see what each can offer you!



Cherry Tree Inn B&B



Conscious Cup Coffee Roasters

### ▲ Cary

#### HISTORIC CHARM

On the north banks of the **Fox River**, Cary is home to appetizing options in historic settings. In summer, Cary turns into a suburban celebration with cruise nights and festivals.

### ◀ McHenry

#### FROM DOWNTOWN TO DOWNTOWN

What's better than one downtown district? How about three? Located along the **Fox River**, the **Riverwalk** is the perfect place to unwind and explore the many independent shops and restaurants from one downtown to the next.

### ▼ Island Lake

#### SERVING UP FUN

Home to more than 8,000 residents, this small community hosts huge events every summer like **Island Lakefest** — enjoy live music and incredible fireworks displays! And if you're in the competitive mood, grab a bite and take in some beach volleyball!



Sideouts





The Quarry Cable Park

## ◀ Woodstock

### REAL CHARMING

With stunning, Victorian-era architecture lining an iconic square, the county seat of Woodstock is the type of city you'll want to wake up in over and over again. Nostalgic with a modern twist, Woodstock is a city that welcomes creativity and entrepreneurship.

## ◀ Crystal Lake

### CLASSICALLY ADVENTUROUS

Stunning, downtown Crystal Lake offers a relaxing, vintage experience in its charming shopping district full of remarkable discoveries. With a thriving arts center and numerous outdoor locales, Crystal Lake is the ideal place to get out and take part in brand-new experiences.

## ▼ Huntley

### BURSTING WITH COUNTRY CHARM

Huntley boasts a population that's quadrupled in the last decade, proving this is where people want to be. With a twist of country charm, enjoy delectable dining with the family — but leave the kiddos home for the annual **Turkey Testicle Festival**.



Concert in the Park

## Algonquin ▶

### THE FLAVOR OF NORTHERN ILLINOIS

With a walkable downtown including independently owned restaurants and pubs, Algonquin is a city of many flavors! This revitalized downtown district features everything from award-winning Italian to daring wild game dishes, plus more than 70 rotating beers.

Black Bear Bistro



## Lake in the Hills ▶

### JUST PLANE BEAUTIFUL

Known to locals as "LITH," Lake in the Hills is home to its own airport. Here, you'll find a quaint yet exciting village with fun festivities at **Sunset Park**.

Summer Sunset Festival





## Harvard ▶

Billed as the home of **Milk Days**, this quiet, rural town hosts one of the longest-running festivals in the state every June. But Harvard is also ready to host your own big event — its repurposed factory makes it an ideal venue for whatever you've got planned.



## ▼ Hebron

In the shadow of a basketball-adorned water tower honoring the 1952 state champions, the small community of Hebron is bursting with pride from its downtown antique shops and restaurants to its farms and country markets on the outskirts of town.



Wonder Lake



Von Bergen's Country Market

## ▲ Wonder Lake

One look at the body of water **Wonder Lake** is named after and it's no surprise people flock to take in the breathtaking vistas here. But there's no more spectacular sight than the show on the lake — don't miss their world class ski team every summer!



Pistakee Bay

## ◀ Johnsbury

There's no better place to start your **Chain O'Lakes** expedition than in Johnsbury with plenty of boat launches and marinas along Pistakee Lake and the Fox River.

Glacial Park



## ◀ Ringwood

The small, quiet village of Ringwood provides a peaceful place to stop and relax after a long hike at **Glacial Park** — maybe over a cup of coffee or an ice cream cone.



## ▼ *Spring Grove*

Spring Grove is the classic Northern Illinois community. Located near **Chain O'Lakes** and divided by **Nippersink Creek**, the gorgeous surroundings of Spring Grove have established it as a premier destination for families looking to relocate.



Marengo Ridge

## ◀ *Marengo*

Whether you're hiking the gorgeous **Marengo Ridge** or perusing consigned treasures, the city of Marengo offers the quintessential small-town experience for residents and visitors alike.



Richardson Tulip Farm

## *Union* ▶

The town of Union may be small in population but is home to some big things. While exploring this town of just under 600 you'll find the largest railway museum in the United States, the **Illinois Railway Museum**. And if history is your thing, stop by the **McHenry County Historical Society and Museum**.



Illinois Rail Museum Trolley

## ▼ *Fox River Grove*

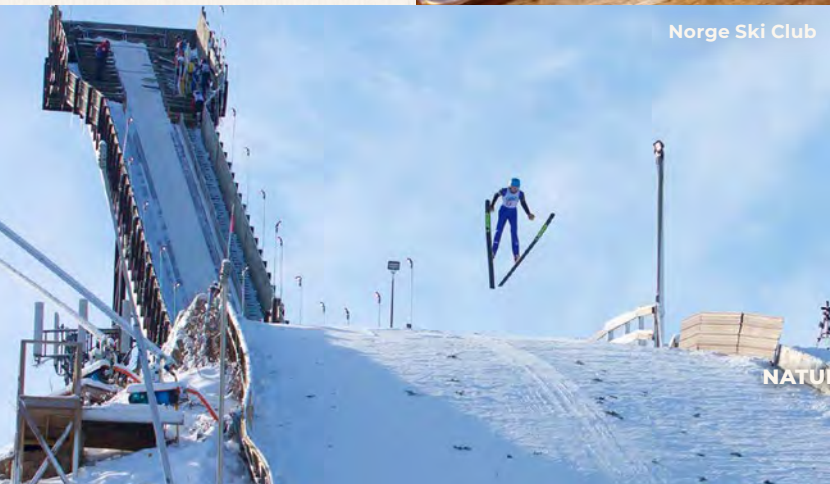
World-class skiers take flight and medieval-style castles loom large in this little village on the **Fox River**. Explore beautiful Fox River Grove and you'll find it has an event for every season.



Richmond BratHaus

## ◀ *Richmond*

Quirky and hip with something wild brewing every day, Richmond is the perfect place to stop and refuel — and maybe find that one perfect gift. Be sure to indulge yourself at the family-owned candy shop right on the main drag!



Norge Ski Club





**PLAN YOUR**  
*Trip*

**Not sure where to begin?** Completely understandable — with so much to see around McHenry County, finding a good starting point is easier said than done. Having a schedule would be super helpful, wouldn't it? Well, we're happy to help! Check out these handy itineraries that will help you plan your McHenry County getaway. Of course, nothing here is set in stone, so don't feel confined simply to what's listed here — mix and match to create your own McHenry County adventure!





# RIDE THE *Rails*

## DISCOVER MCHENRY COUNTY BY METRA

All aboard the **Union Pacific Northwest Line**, your ticket to a day of nonstop fun and excitement in McHenry County. Get ready to hop on the train and embark on a journey through Cary, Crystal Lake, Woodstock, McHenry, and Harvard. We've crafted an epic itinerary just for you. Grab your ticket and let's explore!

## THE QUIANT BEGINNING

Begin your trek in Cary with a piping hot morning pick-me-up from **Conscious Cup**, featuring delicious, fair trade coffee roasted right here in McHenry County. Not only will you feel energized, but you'll also come away with the satisfaction of supporting small-plot, cooperative farmers!

## CHEERS TO CRYSTAL-CLEAR FUN

Opened in 1929 as a movie and vaudeville theater, the **Raue Center for the Arts** in Crystal Lake is a fantastic spot to catch a show in an intimate setting. While you're there, stop in at **Crystal Lake Brewing** and sample their selection of "approachable, yet distinctive" craft suds.

## EMBRACE THE QUIRKINESS

Feel a sense of déjà vu? The iconic **Woodstock Square Historic District** served as the backdrop for the hit 1993 Bill Murray film "Groundhog Day." Retrace Phil Connors' footsteps on the **Groundhog Day Walking Tour**, from the curbside pothole to the **Cherry Tree Inn**.

## TUNES & TAPS

Got a song in your heart? Track it down at **Siren Records** in McHenry, carrying thousands of records across numerous genres. Before hopping back on the train, imbibe a libation at **Ye Olde Corner Tap** where family tradition manifests in the form of tasty, refreshing cocktails!

## A STAR-STREWN FINALE

End your Metra excursion at the historic **Starline Factory** in Harvard. Once a sprawling industrial center, this massive complex now houses the **Starline Excursion Market** — 20,000 square feet of local artisans and vendors selling home decor and gifts and the **Stanchion Pub**, serving delectable pub fare and drinks, a perfect finale to a day spent on the rails.









# ADVENTURE BEGINS IN *McHenry Co.*

## HIKE, BIKE, & KAYAK

Experience **Glacial Park** with its ancient geology and diverse wildlife, kayak along the tranquil waters of **Nippersink Creek**, and bike ride through the scenic **Prairie Trail**. Whether you're a nature enthusiast, an adrenaline junkie, or simply looking for a fun outdoor activity, this itinerary is sure to satisfy!

## TAKE A HIKE!

Our most treasured open space, Glacial Park, features rolling prairies, delta kames, oak savannas, and the meandering Nippersink Creek, an ideal location for a challenging yet relaxing outdoor stroll!

## ENJOY A LEISURELY FLOAT

Kayaking the Nippersink Creek provides a thrilling adventure with scenic views, wildlife sightings, and peaceful moments on the water. We suggest starting at **Pioneer Landing**!

## EINEN HAPPEN ESSEN

Take a trip up to Richmond and enjoy delicious, savory, German cuisine at **Richmond BratHaus**, home of some out-of-this-world bratwursts, giant pretzels, and schnitzel!

## REST EASY

With clean comfortable rooms under a familiar banner, **Hampton Inn McHenry** offers a cozy spot to recharge before another day of outdoor fun.

## EXPLORE THE PRAIRIE TRAIL

McHenry County's Prairie Trail bike path offers a scenic and peaceful 26-mile ride through prairies, forests, and small towns for bikers of all levels.

## CAFFEINATE IN DOWNTOWN CRYSTAL LAKE

Located along the Prairie Trail, Crystal Lake's quaint downtown is filled with unique small businesses. Take a quick break at **Grounds Coffee Bar & Cafe**, featuring espresso, pour-over, and drip coffee plus delicious pastries and fruit, or pop into **AROMA Coffee & Wine** to kickstart with a morning coffee or unwind with an evening wine.

## REFUEL IN DOWNTOWN ALGONQUIN

Algonquin's newly renovated downtown is at the end of the Prairie Trail, making it the perfect place to refuel before your ride back. Don't miss locally owned restaurants like **Cucina Bella**, featuring Italian dishes "just like Nonna" used to make.





Royal Oak Farm Orchard, Harvard



A vertical photograph on the left side of the page shows a person's hand holding a smartphone. The person is wearing a grey sweater and blue jeans with a tear. In the background, there are dried corn cobs hanging from a wooden structure.

# FALL IN *Love!*

## **AUTUMN ADVENTURES IN MCHENRY COUNTY**

The quintessential fall experience awaits with our curated autumn itinerary! Go apple and pumpkin picking, enjoy delicious farm-to-table dining, get lost in a corn maze, and marvel at the vibrant fall foliage. Perfect for families, couples, and solo travelers alike, come and enjoy the best autumn has to offer!

### **PICK A WINNER**

The first sign of fall is apple picking season! Wander through more than 15,000 apple trees at **All Seasons Orchard** in search of the perfect bunch of ripe, crisp apples. Then, ring in the spooky season with a pumpkin straight from the patch and wander the world's biggest corn maze at **Richardson Adventure Farm**!

### **GRAB A SEASONALLY FRESH MEAL**

McHenry County is filled with endless farm-to-table options. Nosh on a delicious, locally sourced meal at **Cary Ale House**, featuring high-quality, chef-created dishes paired with handcrafted brews in a neighborhood pub environment. Try their famous Smokehouse sandwich with BBQ pulled pork and granny smith apple slices on a pretzel roll. Pair that with a side of poutine and wash it down with one of their signature craft beers!

### **SOAK UP THE COLORS OF FALL**

From state parks to conservation land, McHenry County is home to epic autumn foliage. Dominated by old red and white oaks, **Coral Woods Conservation Area** features breathtaking, blazing scenery this time of year across more than 100 acres of oak woodland. The majestic, century-old red and white oaks make this a perfect spot for an autumn stroll!

### **FABULOUS FALL MARKETS**

McHenry County boasts some of the best farmers markets in the state of Illinois. Before they move indoors for the winter, pick up some seasonal, locally grown produce, handmade baked goods that are sure to warm your bones on a cool fall evening, and crafts and home decor that will give your home that charming fall touch!









# Merry **MC HENRY COUNTY**

## **GET IN THE HOLIDAY SPIRIT**

McHenry County comes alive during the holiday season! Experience the best of it on our Merry McHenry County Holiday Getaway. We've done all the planning; all you have to do is book your magical holiday getaway.

### **DAY 1**

Get your holiday wish list taken care of right away with a visit to Kris Kringle himself at **Santa's House in Downtown Crystal Lake**. Follow that up with a unique, locally sourced meal and drinks at **Duke's Alehouse & Kitchen**, then stop for dessert at **Julie Ann's Frozen Custard**. Once the sun goes down, light up your spirits with the **Light Up McHenry County** holiday lights tour, featuring some of the most impressive lighting displays this side of I-90!

### **DAY 2**

Knock out your holiday shopping in the **Woodstock Square Historic District**, filled with unique, locally owned stores offering the perfect gifts for all ages. Grab a cup of handmade, loose-leaf tea from

**Casting Whimsy**, sure to warm anyone on a cold winter day, then catch a holiday show at the **Woodstock Opera House**. Each year this historic venue hosts a new festive performance by **Theatre 121** as well as an annual performance of "The Nutcracker." Finally, enjoy an upscale meal in a casual environment at the **Public House of Woodstock**, offering your best view of the twinkling lights of the Woodstock Square!

### **DAY 3**

Grab a big ole' stack of flapjacks at **Windhill Pancake Parlor** in McHenry, where guests are treated to breakfast delivered by toy train — a treat for the young and young at heart! Continue your holiday shopping spree at the **McHenry Riverwalk Shoppes**, featuring 10 small businesses in a serene, idyllic setting. Before you head out, cut down your own tree at **Richardson Adventure Farm**, then grab a festive, holiday feast and indulge in the holiday spirit at **Richmond BratHaus**, featuring delectable bratwursts, seasonal treats, and warm beverages.



# Get the **INSIDER INFO**

Don't you love having someone to guide you around your destination? While we would love to take long road trips with you — riding shotgun and telling you where to turn as we queue up our summer jams mix CD from 2003 — that's unfortunately not an option. Stop by Naturally McHenry County Visitors Center in Huntley and get the inside scoop from people who know all the little secrets, the cool murals in the alleys, and local favorites around McHenry County. Packed with incredible sights and sounds around our corner of Northern Illinois, this Insider Guide is your roadmap to a memorable getaway — and best of all, it doesn't sing off-key.

With pleasure,  
*The Insiders*

## **JAKI BERGGREN**

President & CEO

[jaki@naturallymchenrycounty.com](mailto:jaki@naturallymchenrycounty.com)

## **KRISTINE AUSTIN**

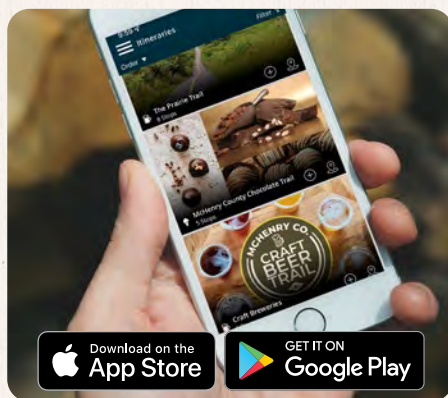
Sales & Marketing Manager

[kristine@naturallymchenrycounty.com](mailto:kristine@naturallymchenrycounty.com)

**NATURALLYMCHENRYCOUNTY.COM • 815.893.6280**

## *Download* **THE APP!**

Planning your McHenry County getaway is easier than ever! Download the Naturally McHenry County IL app for a mobile, interactive way to plan your trip to McHenry County, IL!



## *Special Thanks!*

Guide photography provided by  
**K-Adams Foto** (unless otherwise noted).  
See more at [kadamsfoto.com](http://kadamsfoto.com)



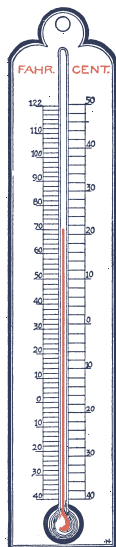


# McHenry County

## BY THE NUMBERS



### Average TEMPERATURES



JANUARY:

HI 28° LO 11°

FEBRUARY:

HI 33° LO 16°

MARCH:

HI 45° LO 26°

APRIL:

HI 59° LO 37°

MAY:

HI 71° LO 47°

JUNE:

HI 81° LO 57°

JULY:

HI 85° LO 62°

AUGUST:

HI 82° LO 60°

SEPTEMBER:

HI 75° LO 51°

OCTOBER:

HI 63° LO 39°

NOVEMBER:

HI 47° LO 29°

DECEMBER:

HI 33° LO 17°







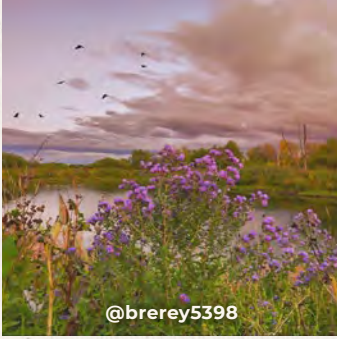
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@adventures.in.orbit



@beccakenning



@brerey5398



@flawlessbytiffany



#woodstocklpr  
@iamashleypixienesbitt



@iamjulielane



@inallthe.details



@itsabbysworldafterall



@oplaceswego



@vweezie\_eats



@wesleyron1

# FOR THE FEED

Make Instaworthy memories right here in McHenry County, IL!

#NATURALLYMCHENRYCOUNTY @NATURALLYMCHENRYCOUNTY





# Naturally **ALLURING**

You've thumbed through this guide from cover to cover, enchanted by the natural Northern Illinois beauty and exciting experiences that await. Of course, reading about them from the comfort of your own home is one thing — getting out and seeing them yourself is another. So, what are you waiting for? Find the memorable, picture-perfect moments among our patchwork of communities and find out what makes McHenry County just so naturally charming.



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