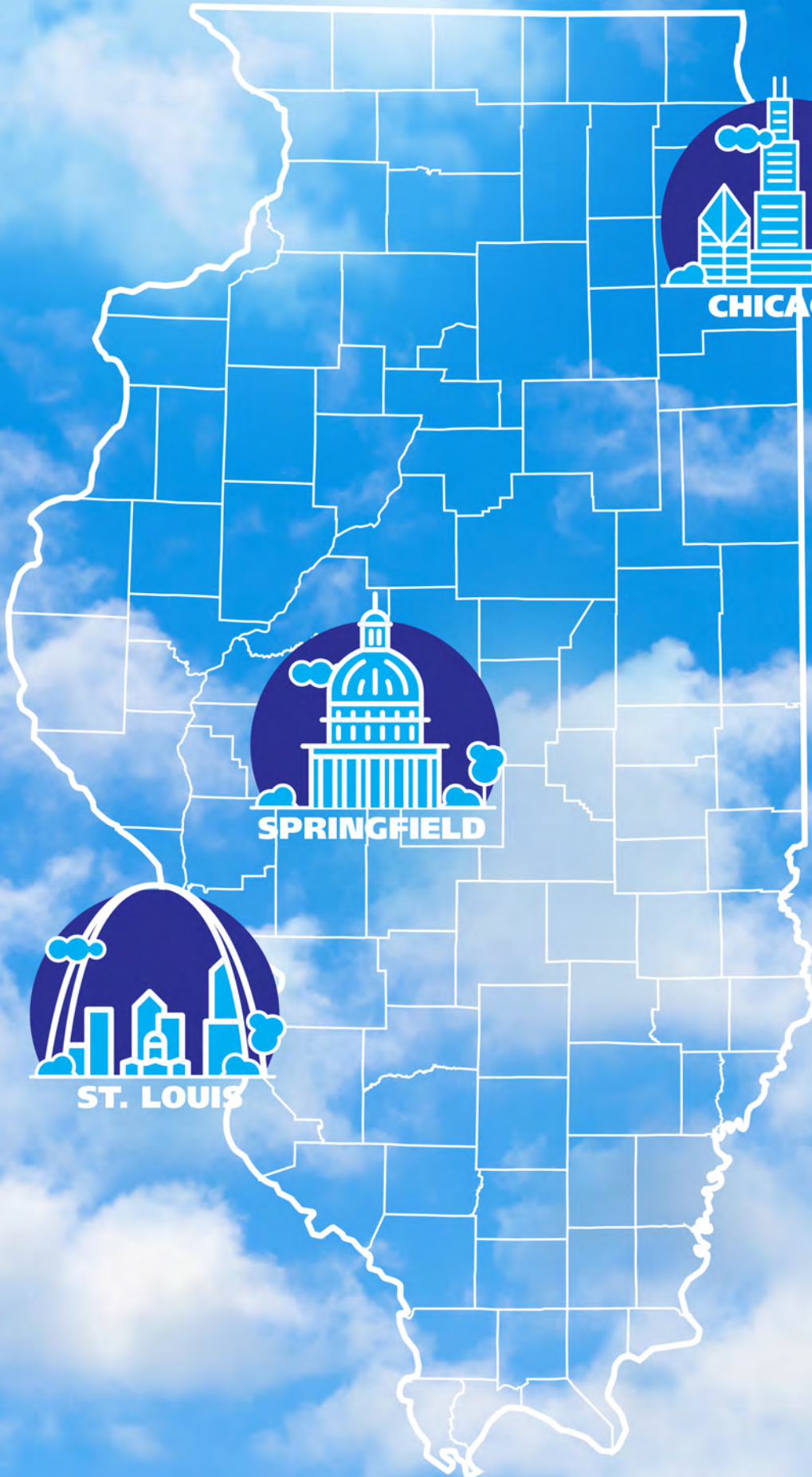


THRIVE



Living your best life
in Sangamon County, Illinois

PRESENTED BY THE SPRINGFIELD SANGAMON GROWTH ALLIANCE



CHICAGO



SPRINGFIELD



ST. LOUIS



You're going to thrive here.

Why are we so confident?

Because thriving looks different on everyone. Whether you're starting a career, investing in a startup, raising a family or moving back to your hometown, Springfield and its surrounding communities offer countless opportunities to thrive - in whatever way that is defined by you.

Springfield is often called a "big small town." You probably know most of your neighbors, but you also have many big city amenities and an air of sophistication associated with a rich arts community and diverse cultural experiences.

We're best known for - and very proud of - our famous history as the hometown of Abraham Lincoln, our nation's 16th president. You'll find evidence of that across the region at our many exciting Lincoln historic sites.

But that's not all Springfield and Sangamon County have to offer:



As the sixth-largest in the state, our city is also the state capital and home to the Governor’s Mansion, General Assembly, Supreme Court, state offices and Sangamon County Seat.

Our residents love the low cost of living and easy commutes around the area. We have a vibrant arts and entertainment scene, world-class medical facilities and a wide range of educational options.

Enjoy the many family-friendly activities found in our diverse communities. And if you want a weekend away, quick trips to major cities like Chicago, St. Louis and Indianapolis have never been easier.

In central Illinois, you experience the beauty of four distinct seasons. You can appreciate both the summer sunshine and winter snow in our natural woodlands, prairies, state parks and hiking trails.

With what is arguably the world’s richest farmland in Sangamon County, Illinois is the nation’s second leading exporter of corn, soybeans, feed grains and related products, so you’ll be surrounded by booming agricultural industry.

The vitality of other local industries is also a huge draw to this region. We are home to global leaders in enterprises that include healthcare, manufacturing, professional business services, tech and more.

From history and culture to education and business innovation, Springfield and Sangamon County truly have everything you need for a vibrant, incredible quality of life.

AREA ATTRACTIONS

Knights Action Park

Multi-amusement venue with rides and attractions, water-park features and two drive-in movie screens.

Route 66 Drive-In

A family friendly drive-in movie venue off of Route 66 offering double features nightly during the warmer months.

Henson Robinson Zoo

Operated by the Springfield Park District on the eastern shore of Lake Springfield, over 80 species of native and exotic animals reside among naturalistic exhibits.

Kidzeum of Science and Health

The Kidzeum is committed to nurturing health and wellness, promoting science education and developing environmental and global awareness through innovative programs and exhibits.





Lake Springfield

Lake Springfield is the largest municipally owned lake in Illinois. With 57 miles of shoreline, it includes more than 735 residential sites, eight public parks and several public boat docks and launches.

Springfield Park District

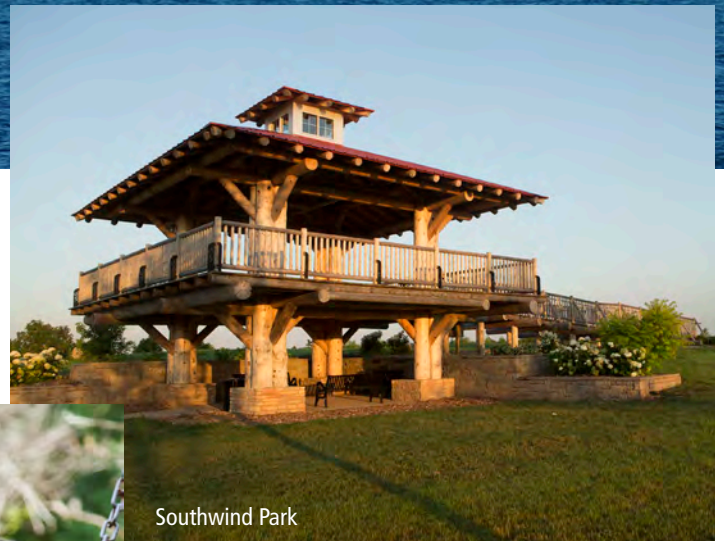
Recreation abounds, with 2,500 acres of parkland, 23 miles of bike trails, four golf courses, pools and ice rinks.

Accessibility:

Southwind Park offers accessibility for all, with fishing, sensory gardens, playgrounds and a splash pad. Southwind serves cognitive, emotional, physical and social needs without barriers.

Tom Madonia Park provides wheelchair-accessible picnic areas.

East and West Forest Parks have accessible restrooms, parking and pathways, as well as an accessible footbridge where people using wheelchairs or scooters can fish.





White Oaks Mall

SHOP TIL YOU DROP

Capital City Shopping Center
(Big Lots, AMC)

Downtown Springfield Shopping District

The Gables Shopping Center
(Talbot's, J. Jill, Jos. A. Bank)

Legacy Pointe (Scheels)

Northfield Shopping Area
(Walmart, Lowe's)

Parkway Pointe (Target, Walmart)

South Grand Pointe
(JCPenney, Sephora)

White Oaks Mall
(Macy's, H&M, Hollister)

White Oaks Plaza
(Kohl's, TJ Maxx, Home Goods)



Downtown Springfield



LOCAL SIPS

Anvil & Forge Brewing and Distilling Company, Springfield

Buzz Bomb Brewing Company, Springfield

Cooper's Hawk Winery and Restaurant

Danenberger Family Vineyards, New Berlin

Engrained Brewery and Restaurant, Springfield

Obed & Isaac's Microbrewery, Springfield

Rolling Meadows Farm Brewery, Cantrall

Sheedy Shores Winery, Loami

Springfield Beer Company, Springfield

Walnut Street Winery, Rochester





Food & Cuisine



Maid-Rite

A Springfield tradition for 100 years, is famous not only for its signature loose-meat sandwich, but as the first drive-thru in America.

Bon appetite. When it's time to eat, the Springfield and Sangamon County region does not disappoint! The Springfield area offers iconic restaurants and retailers alongside new up-and-coming local eateries, wineries and breweries. From farm-fresh local foods to the tastes of authentic Mexican, Asian, Indian and more, central Illinois covers all of your cravings - and maybe some you didn't even realize you had...

The Horseshoe

You may have already heard of the horseshoe, so we'll start there. After all, Springfield's Horseshoes were featured on Huffington Post's list of "50 Cities Known for a Specific Food."

Just one bite, and you'll know why.

It's called a sandwich, but that's a debatable term. This original Springfield dish is technically missing the other slice of bread to make it an official sandwich, but whatever you call it, the horseshoe is our area's best known culinary creation.

The horseshoe has been made famous on the international food scene thanks to coverage in food magazines, on popular food TV shows like Food Network's *Diners, Drive-Ins and Dives* and Travel Channel's *Man Versus Food*, and other media — from the New York Times to NPR.

The delicious delicacy was even described as "unbridled plebian opulence" by the authors of *500 Things to Eat Before It's Too Late*.

So, how is it made?

Start with a piece of bread, typically a thick piece of Texas toast. Top that with the meat of your choice.

Supposedly, the original horseshoe — created around 1928 by some accounts — used ham. Today you'll find your pick of hamburger, chicken, pork tenderloin, sliced turkey, fried fish and more on the menus around central Illinois.

Next add a large pile of fries on the meat, and then comes the linchpin of the entire recipe: the cheese sauce, generously drizzled on top of the entire dish.

According to the book *Springfield's Celebrated Horseshoe Sandwich* by Carolyn Harmon and Tony Leone, at least 70 different Springfield restaurants have served some version of the horseshoe over the decades since inception.

And there are many different recipes for cheese sauce out in the world... so you might have to try as many as possible to discover your favorite!

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One L or Two?

Springfield is also well-known on the chili scene.

Or is it chilli?

In 1909, The Dew Chilli Parlor opened for business under owner Joe Bockelmann, who is credited with Springfield's tendency to use the spelling with double L.

According to a 2015 article in the State Journal-Register, Bockelmann argued with his sign painter that it should read "The Dew Chilli Parlor and Lunchroom."

Apparently, Bockelmann later explained he settled the dispute by pulling out his dictionary that showed the double "L" spelling as the preferred version, with one L as a variation.

That spelling was made official in 1993 when Illinois State Senator Karen Hasara introduced a resolution proclaiming Illinois as the "Chilli Capital of the Civilized World" — and that's chilli with two Ls.

Springfield also was the original home to both Ray's Chili and Chilli Man Chilli, which were canned in Springfield in the brands' infancies.

By 1923, 11 chili parlors were listed in the Springfield City Directory; chili operators and recipes came and went frequently during the 20th century.

Springfield is still serious about its chilli/chili; in fact, "The Den" Chili Parlor originally opened by Joe Rogers was featured on *Man Vs. Food* in 2009 when host Adam Richman attempted to consume five bowls of Firebrand chili.

Today, you'll find several parlors serving up tavern-style chili around town, along with many chili cook-offs throughout the region.

This Food's On a Roll

The food truck phenomenon has exploded around the United States, and Sangamon County certainly isn't pumping the brakes on that trend.

With diverse menu options from upscale fusion to mouth-watering BBQ, there has been a surge of mobile dining around the Springfield area.

The popularity of local food trucks can be observed in well-attended local "food truck meet-ups" such as the MacArthur Boulevard Association's Bites on the Boulevard and Downtown Springfield's Street Food Festival.

St. John's Hospital has offered 'Food Truck Fridays,' giving staff and visitors access to new cuisine.

In 2017, Springfield hosted a Food Truck Festival at Conservation World on the state fairgrounds, which featured live music and more than 15 food trucks.

You'll also regularly find food trucks set up at the Old Capitol Farmers Market, as well as other special events.

Whether you step up to the window of a food truck or order yourself a heaping horseshoe, your empty stomach won't be rumbling for long. From bar food to bistros, chains and small plates to fine dining, satisfying your cravings is a piece of cake here in Springfield!



Fair Fare

Springfield plays host to the Illinois State Fair each August, and one of the best things about attending the fair is sampling the mouth-watering fair food.

An Illinois State Fair staple, the Ethnic Village (located near the main gate) hosts stands with Greek, Jamaican, Cuban, Filipino and other tasty cuisines. Sample the salt water taffy and don't forget to pop in to the popular Dairy Building for some ice cream dessert.

Traditional fair food is always popular - corn dog or funnel cake, anyone? (It's worth noting that the corn dog is credited with being invented in Springfield, originally launched as "cozy dogs" in 1946. Springfield's popular Cozy Dog Drive-In still offers the original recipe.)

Each year at the fair, the culinary creativity rises to a new level. (What will be fried next!?)

In fact, discovering the "next wild concoction" is the main goal of the Golden Abe's Fantastic Fair Food Competition, which allows vendors to showcase their talents and imagination while competing with each other. Past winners have included unique creations like deep-fried s'mores, bacon shrimp mac and cheese, dole whip taco, and turtle funnel cake.





PROFILE

David Lee

You only have one true hometown.
So why not invest in it?

That's the philosophy of David Lee, Springfield High School graduate who moved back to the Springfield area after seven years of living in Rock Island for college and in Iowa following college.

"You only get one hometown, so for me, that's special. Springfield is a special place," he says.

David graduated from Augustana College in 2012, playing football for four years and studying business, finance and marketing. He was unsure what to pursue post-graduation and explored options in coaching and sports.

Then, however, he went through a five-month-long interview process for a medical device company and was offered a job in sales.

“I knew I didn’t want to be at a desk, and I like talking to people. I didn’t know a lot about the medical device industry, but it ended up being a good fit,” he says.

For three years, David worked in the Quad Cities on a sales team for orthopedic devices, such as knee, hip, shoulder and surgical devices. Then, while flying back after a conference in Las Vegas, he struck up a conversation with a representative from a different medical company.

“He was terrified of flying, so he talked my ear off,” David laughs. “Through that conversation, he found out I was from Springfield and told me his company was hiring in Springfield for a lead rep role, which was ultimately what I was looking for. “I always thought I was going to end up in a bigger city because, in my mind, there would be more opportunities there. But there’s a lot more opportunity here in Springfield than people think.”

Today, David works for Stryker’s emergency care division, selling equipment to emergency service agencies. “We say we help the people who help save people. Our products are life-saving and life-changing,” he says. “I honestly love it; it’s really fun.”

Working in the healthcare space has given David a new perspective on his hometown. It all started because he was meeting SIU medical residents while he was present during surgeries in which his medical devices were being used.

“We would all be scrubbing in, and they would be asking me what there was to do. It cultivated a lot of hometown pride, and I enjoyed talking with them about Springfield,” he says.

That prompted David to reach out to Downtown Springfield, Inc. about getting more involved, which eventually evolved into a new community-wide campaign promoting investment in downtown.

In 2019, David helped launch — and now chairs — Momentum on Main

And the downtown community is extremely friendly and believes that ‘a rising tide raises all ships’, so it’s been very encouraging.”

Momentum on Main Street is also partnering with Innovate Springfield to offer scholarships to entrepreneurs participating in Co.Starters, a 9-week program helping to get new businesses off the ground.

“We want to see a thriving downtown scene, from business to social and entertainment,” David says. “Our ultimate goal is a thriving district in all aspects, which means filling in vacant buildings with shops and restaurants and knocking out hurdles when it comes to moving forward with projects.”

David became an advocate for down-

“We want to see a thriving downtown scene, from business to social and entertainment,” David says.

Street, which aims to educate and empower entrepreneurs, investors and developers in downtown Springfield.

Momentum on Main Street is run by a dedicated committee and hosts six events throughout the year. Past events have educated entrepreneurs and investors about topics like financing options, getting started at the farmers market, zoning regulations, the process of renovating a building and more.

“Downtown should be the place for young professionals — we already have the medical district, state government and many thriving companies,” David shares. “There are a lot of impressive people who want to take action to make Springfield better.

town revitalization after moving back to Springfield and recognizing the potential for downtown improvement — and the impact it could have on the greater regional area. He hopes his passion ignites the involvement of more like-minded community members.

“After being away for seven or eight years, I see a lot of good things going on here, but people don’t always appreciate what they have,” he says. “We want to see more professionals moving here and staying. It should matter to every business and every person in Springfield. We need a thriving downtown for the whole area to thrive. And we can all move forward together.”



Entertainment & Events



Annual Route 66 Festival

Join in one of our nearly 400 events held each year in the Springfield area! Springfield and surrounding communities play host to the Illinois State Fair, outdoor plays, BBQ events and art fairs. For family-friendly fun, Knight's Action Park and Caribbean Adventure is the area's largest water park and Henson-Robinson Zoo is home to more than 300 types of exotic animals. So, whether you're into food, history, the arts, sports or culture and community, there is no shortage of things to do here.



Bites on the Boulevard

A food truck pop-up event in the parking lot of local shops on MacArthur Boulevard in Springfield, with great food, drinks and music.

Sangamon County Fair

An annual event hosted by Sangamon County each June for families and friends to enjoy concerts, rides, animals, games and more.

Juneteenth

A two-day event held every third Saturday and Sunday of June. Activities include the annual kick-off parade down M.L.King Drive, the Marla Jean Hunter Memorial Basketball tournament, double dutch contest and tennis clinic.

Springfield Pridefest

Family-friendly street festival celebrating the LGBTQ community and equality.

Route 66 Fest

Get your kicks on Route 66! The International Route 66 Mother Road Festival takes over the streets of downtown Springfield each September. Join in for a weekend of Hot Rods, featuring a night car cruise, vendors, live music and pro-judged car shows.



Farmers Markets

Old Capitol Farmers Market - produced by Downtown Springfield Inc. (DSI) since 1999, this market strives to support small farms and local growers by providing a venue to directly market their goods.

Illinois Products Farmers Market - Held at The Shed across from the Lincoln stage at the state fairgrounds, this market is produced by the Illinois Department of Agriculture and features local growers and area wineries, often with live music entertainment.

Paint the Street

This community block party is a fundraiser for the Springfield Art Association and gives groups and individuals the chance to literally paint the streets of downtown Springfield. There are also food stands and great music, and visitors can enjoy the unique outdoor gallery.





Illinois State Fair

The Illinois State Fair is a major annual festival that centers on the theme of agriculture and has been held in Springfield each August since 1853. Experience exciting rides, animal shows, racing, food vendors and concert performances from leading artists!

Reba McEntire



Dana-Thomas House

Holiday Season

Luminari Sunday: Dana-Thomas House

The exterior of the home will be lined with 1,000 candles and guests can take a silent tour of the beautiful interior accompanied by holiday music.

Old Capitol Holiday Walks

Spending time in the downtown district allows you to create holiday magic with your family from late November until Christmas. Experience the annual holiday parade, shopping and other fun activities each year.

Light Up the Park: Chatham Community Park

Large-scale, hand-built display fills the park with over 100,000 lights that set the park a glow.

Illinois State Military Museum: Christmas at the Front

Living historians share how soldiers celebrated Christmas during four conflicts: Revolutionary War, Civil War, World War I and World War II. Holiday carols are sung by local school choirs, and cookies and hot beverages are served.

Clayville Candlelight Christmas

Step back to the 1820s with tours of the decorated Broadwell Inn, Battered Cabin, White cabin, Schoolhouse, and Ag Museum.



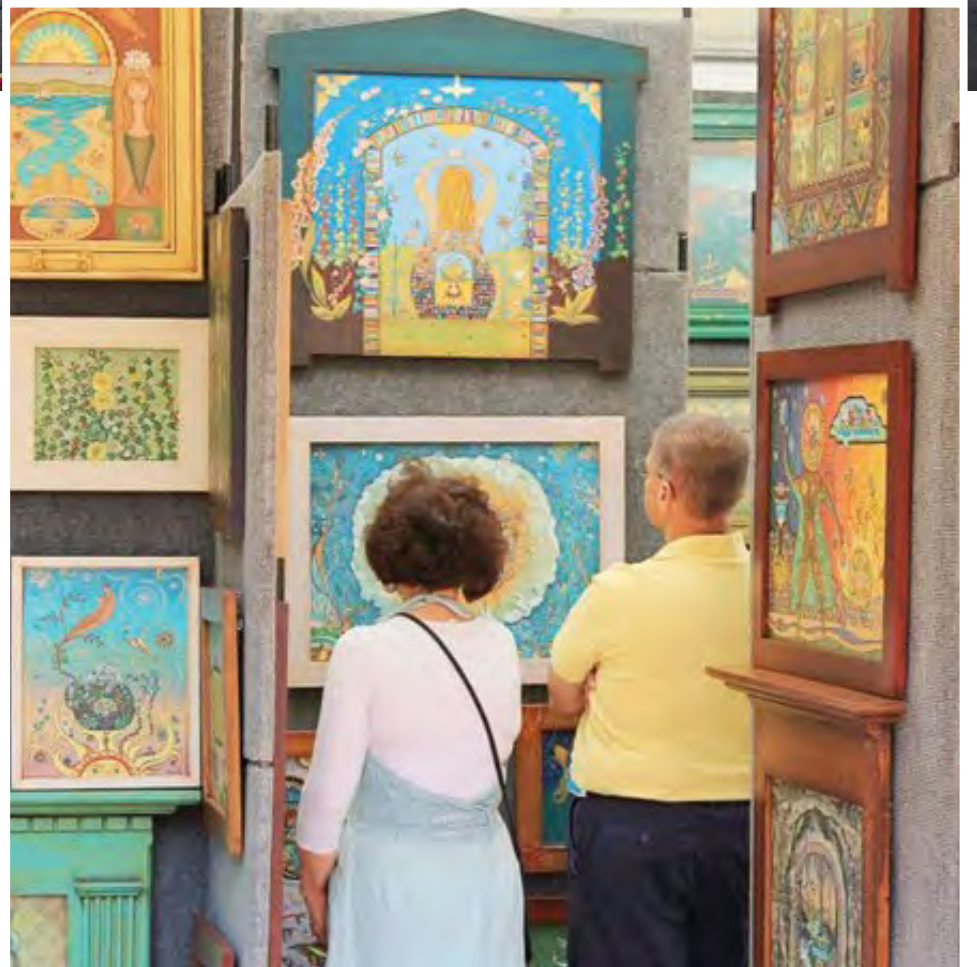
Lincoln Presidential Half Marathon

Run where Lincoln walked! The Midwest's premier half marathon takes participants past Springfield's major Lincoln sites, including his home and tomb.



Old Capitol Art Fair

Against the backdrop of the Illinois Old State Capitol, artists and shoppers from across the country flock to downtown Springfield for a two-day outdoor art gallery.





Arts & Culture

"Disney's Newsies" at The Legacy Theatre

Think you have to go to a large coastal city to find amazing arts and culture? Think again.

Springfield has an incredibly rich arts and culture scene, complete with art galleries and collectives, theater, comedy and music.

You can also catch Broadway shows, top-notch ballet performances and symphony orchestra concerts.

In fact, Springfield was named to the #27 spot in an ApartmentGuide.com's 2019 article compiling the top 50 cities for arts lovers.

As the article asks, "Any list can put NYC at the top, but what are the best cities for art lovers per capita?"

The author explored oft-underrated and underappreciated art cities in America based on the ratio of art galleries and dealers, art museums, art supply stores, cultural art organizations and more, in relation to population. Springfield shows one art business per 4,102 residents.

So, where can you find the arts in Sangamon County?

Performing Arts

Hoogland Center for the Arts

The Hoogland Center for the Arts boasts an 80,000-square-foot facility that houses three major performance spaces that host plays, musicals, dance recitals, concerts and events. Several arts organizations are based within its walls, and the Springfield Art Association's H.D. Smith Gallery offers ever-changing exhibitions in their first floor space.

The Legacy Theatre

The Legacy Theatre likes to say that it's both the oldest theatre in Springfield and also the newest. Built in 1951 as the home of the Springfield Theatre Guild, the building was vacated in 2004. Rescued and renovated by a grass-roots group in 2011 and renamed the Legacy Theatre, the building is once again filled with applause. The Legacy has emerged as an eclectic new voice in the central Illinois arts landscape, known for its lavish productions of Broadway musicals as well as concerts, films and events for families.

The Muni

As the sun sets the curtain rises on warm summer nights at The Muni. In 1950, the Springfield Municipal Opera Association transformed a 55-acre wheat field near the shores of Lake Springfield into an outdoor amphitheater. Fifty years and more than one million visitors later, the organization has become one of the largest community theatre organizations in the country, producing four musicals each summer.



The Springfield Ballet Company's "The Nutcracker"





UIS Performing Arts Center

Located on the campus of the University of Illinois Springfield, the Performing Arts Center opened its doors in 1981 and draws audiences from a 14-county semi-rural region.



Jerry Seinfeld

Springfield Dance Theatre

Springfield Dance Theatre offers youth in the Springfield area the opportunity to cultivate their unique talents in a fun, creative, artistic environment, and then perform in full scale stage productions.

Springfield Theater Center

Housed in the Center for the Arts, the Springfield Theater Center offers a series of plays and musicals, as well as educational opportunities for young people. Their White Rabbit Family Series, PAVE arts summer camp and its affiliation with the Active & Creative Teen Theatre offer local youth an opportunity to learn the skills necessary to build confidence in all aspects of performance and theatre.

Springfield Youth Performance Group

The Springfield Youth Performance Group spotlights young talent from the Springfield area and bringing beloved children's literature to life.

UIS Performing Arts Center

University of Illinois Springfield's Performing Arts Center serves as the performance home for the Illinois Symphony Orchestra, the Springfield Ballet Company, and the UIS Theatre and Music programs.

Originally known as Sangamon Auditorium, it opened its doors in 1981 as the result of a community effort to establish a performing arts facility in the capital city. Throughout its history, audiences have experienced a broad spectrum of the highest quality of music, theater and dance.



The Illinois Symphony Orchestra

Seating over 2000, the UIS PAC is the only venue of this kind and size in Sangamon County, drawing audiences from a 14-county region. The auditorium hosts nearly 75,000 attendees at more than 150 events annually.

Illinois Symphony Orchestra

The Illinois Symphony Orchestra was formed in 1993 and its commitment to the community is highlighted through its engaging Concerts for Kids, free Around the Town Chamber Music Series and the award-winning Music Matters! in-school program for students in Kindergarten – 6th grade.

Springfield Municipal Band

The Springfield Municipal Band has been providing free music in the parks for residents and visitors since 1936. The free outdoor concerts are held in rotation at Douglas Park, Southwind Park, in addition to performances at various events and festivals across the community.

Sangamon Valley Youth Symphony

Established in 1976, the Sangamon Valley Youth Symphony ensures future generations of young musicians have access to a student orchestra program, currently teaching more than 250 musicians each week. Offering five levels of youth orchestras, students with no prior musical background can begin as early as third grade.

The organization also hosts an adult community orchestra, the Sangamon Valley Civic Orchestra.

Springfield Area Arts Council

The Springfield Area Arts Council is a nonprofit organization established in 1976 with the mission to enrich the community by providing creative opportunities to participate in and enjoy the arts. Housed on the lower level of the Hoogland Center for the Arts, the organization supports art and cultural initiatives in Springfield and surrounding communities – from the Artist on the Plaza musical performances to the weekly jazz and blues performance series called Uptown Friday Night. The longest-running celebration of the arts in the country, First Night Springfield has rung in the new year since 1976.



Art by Felicia Olin

Visual Arts

Springfield Art Association

The Springfield Art Association hosts two art galleries, an art school, a Lincoln-era history house museum (the Edwards Place), and a calendar of events for both individuals and families.

SAA's two art galleries are open to the public free of charge. The M.G. Nelson Family Gallery hosts monthly exhibits featuring local, regional and international artists.

For top art talent in central Illinois, head to the SAA Collective located at the Hoogland Center for the Arts, which showcases the work of more than 80 member artists in all media, from painting to photography to jewelry.

The Pharmacy

The Pharmacy Gallery & Art Space cultivates and celebrates expressions of multidimensional artists. Located on Adams St. in Springfield, the organization strives to be a catalyst and forum for advancing, discovering and connecting through contemporary art and innovative cultural events.

Old Capitol Art Fair

For a unique outdoor art gallery, head to the Old Capitol Art Fair, held for two days each summer in downtown Springfield. Artists and shoppers from across the country convene at the fair, which provides opportunities to purchase original art in a wide variety of mediums and invests in next-generation artists through local art contests and scholarship awards.

Rich Architecture

There is a growing focus on the celebration of and preservation of historic buildings in Springfield and Sangamon Counties.

Hundreds of buildings in Central Illinois have special significance, and many are listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

In Springfield especially, you can find rich architectural beauty that will leave you in awe.

Dana-Thomas House

The Dana-Thomas House is a 12,000-square-foot building with 35 rooms, including a two-story living room. Designed by famed architect Frank Lloyd Wright in 1902, the home has 450 art glass windows, barrel-vaulted ceilings in the gallery and dining room, exquisite mural, and an indoor terracotta fountain near the entrance. There are also more than 100 pieces of furniture designed by Wright in the home.

The Dana-Thomas house is the best preserved and most complete of Wright's "prairie-style" homes.

Illinois State Capitol

With a 405-foot dome, the Illinois State Capitol is taller than the United States Capitol. The Italian Renaissance Revival/Second Empire style building features an inner dome with stained glass and plaster friezes depicting significant historical events in the U.S. and Illinois.

Edwards Place

Edwards Place offers visitors a glimpse into the lifestyle of Springfield's wealthy during the Victorian era as they tour the Italianate mansion famous for hosting the courting couple Abraham Lincoln and Mary Todd.



Dana-Thomas House

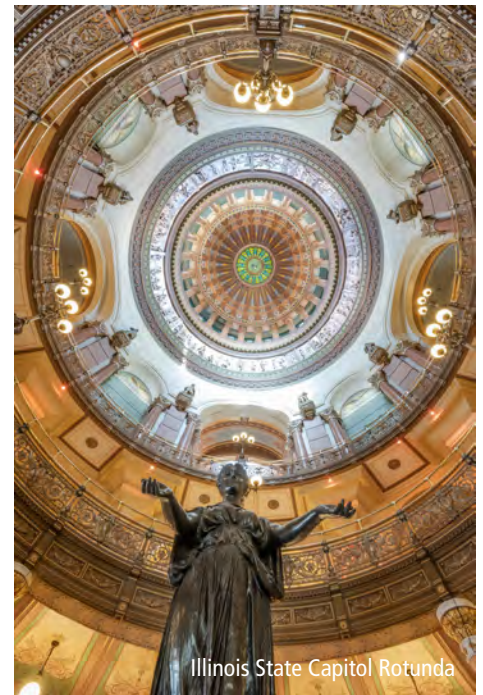
Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception

Upon entering the doors of the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, you'll find a Roman Catholic Church with classic Italian architecture. The interior is said to be modeled after Pope Francis' favorite church in Rome: the Basilica of Santa Maria Maggiore.

The Cathedral features enormous coffered ceilings and ionic columns, a marble altar, 16 stained glass windows with illustrations and a tabernacle made of rare pink and black marble that sits on the high altar of the church's back wall.

Christ Episcopal Church

Built in 1888, the Christ Episcopal Church was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1980 because of its rare Richardson Romanesque architectural style. The Church is now known locally for its unique rough mason block exterior, arched entryway and bell tower, a feature typical of Early English Gothic architecture.



Illinois State Capitol Rotunda



Historic Sites

History comes alive in Springfield, where you can walk in footsteps of the nation's 16th president, Abraham Lincoln.

Sangamon County was settled in 1821, and with Lincoln's support, Springfield became the capital of Illinois in 1837. By the time Lincoln left to take the office of president in 1861, the population had risen to nearly 10,000.

Today, you can explore the pieces of Lincoln's past, as well as many other parts of central Illinois history, through fascinating museums, historic sites and state government buildings.



Union Square Park

*“To this place,
and the kindness
of these people,
I owe everything.”*

Abraham Lincoln
Farewell Address
February 11, 1861

Lincoln

In Sangamon County, you can celebrate Lincoln’s life and legacy by experiencing the city where he lived, where he raised his children, and where he was laid to rest.

Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum

The Abraham Lincoln Presidential Museum brings to life Abraham Lincoln’s story through immersive exhibits and displays of original artifacts. Across the street, the presidential library hosts an extensive collection of materials relating to Abraham Lincoln and his era.

Lincoln’s Home

The Lincoln Home National Historic Site preserves the home and neighborhood where Abraham and Mary Lincoln lived from 1844 to 1861, before Mr. Lincoln was elected the 16th President of the United States. Constructed in 1839 and beautifully restored to its 1860 appearance, the 12-room, Greek Revival house in downtown Springfield is the only home the Lincoln’s ever owned.



The Lincoln-Herndon Law Offices

The Lincoln-Herndon Law Offices are within the only remaining building in which Abraham Lincoln maintained a law office. The site consists of the surviving portion of a three-story brick commercial block constructed in 1840-41. The Springfield Visitors Center now occupies the first floor.

Lincoln Tomb

The Lincoln Tomb State Historic Site is the final resting place of Abraham Lincoln, his wife Mary, and three of their four sons: Edward, William and Thomas.

Lincoln’s New Salem State Historic Site

Lincoln’s New Salem, about 2 miles south of Petersburg and about 20 miles northwest of Springfield, is a reconstruction of the village where Abraham Lincoln spent his early adulthood.



Lincoln Tomb

Lincoln Depot

The Great Western Depot station at 10th and Monroe streets is where Abraham Lincoln left Springfield in February 1861 to assume the presidency. The first floor is open today for self-guided tours.

Lincoln Ghost Walks

This 90-minute, five-block walking tour uses the Lincoln sites as the backdrop for strange and bizarre stories surrounding Lincoln's life and death.



OTHER HISTORIC SITES

Illinois State Capitol Complex

Located across the street from the Illinois State Capitol, this visitors center offers convenient, free parking and information on the various buildings that make up the Capitol Complex—the State Capitol, Archives, Library, Museum and state office buildings.

The Old State Capitol Plaza

The Old State Capitol is a reconstruction of Illinois' fifth statehouse, the first to be located in Springfield. The building served as the seat of state government and a center of Illinois political life from 1839 to 1876.

Illinois Governor's Mansion

Built in 1855, the Illinois Governor's Mansion is one of the oldest and most historic governor's mansions in the United States. The Mansion serves as the official residence of the Governor of Illinois, a symbol of leadership in state government and a world-class house museum.

Frank Lloyd Wright's Dana-Thomas House

The Dana-Thomas House was designed by Frank Lloyd Wright in 1902 for Susan Lawrence Dana, a forward-thinking socialite living in Springfield, Illinois. The home, the 72nd building designed by Wright, contains the largest collection of site-specific, original Wright art glass and furniture.

Edwards Place Historic Home

Begun in 1833 in the Greek Revival style, Edwards Place is now one of the oldest houses in Springfield. Additions in 1836 and 1843, and a major rebuild/expansion in 1857, created the Italianate house preserved today.



Illinois Governor's Mansion

Union Station

This historic train station, newly refurbished as a visitor center, is a great place to begin a visit to Springfield. Union Square Park is an attraction in itself, with its beautiful flower gardens, benches and Lincoln statues.

Vachel Lindsay Home State Historic Site

The Lindsay family home has been restored to depict life in 1917 in honor of author, poet and “prairie troubadour” Vachel Lindsay, who was born and died in the home.

Elijah Iles House

The Elijah Iles House was built in 1837 and has survived nearly intact for 182 years, making it the oldest such structure in Springfield. Iles, who moved to Springfield in 1821, was one of the city's earliest settlers.



New Salem State Historic Site

Clayville Historic Site

Constructed by the Broadwell family as a stagecoach stop between Springfield and Beardstown in 1824, the Inn is the oldest brick building in Sangamon County. Listed on the National Register of Historic Places, the Inn is surrounded by numerous other historic buildings from central Illinois that were moved to Clayville in the 1960s to recreate an early frontier pioneer village.

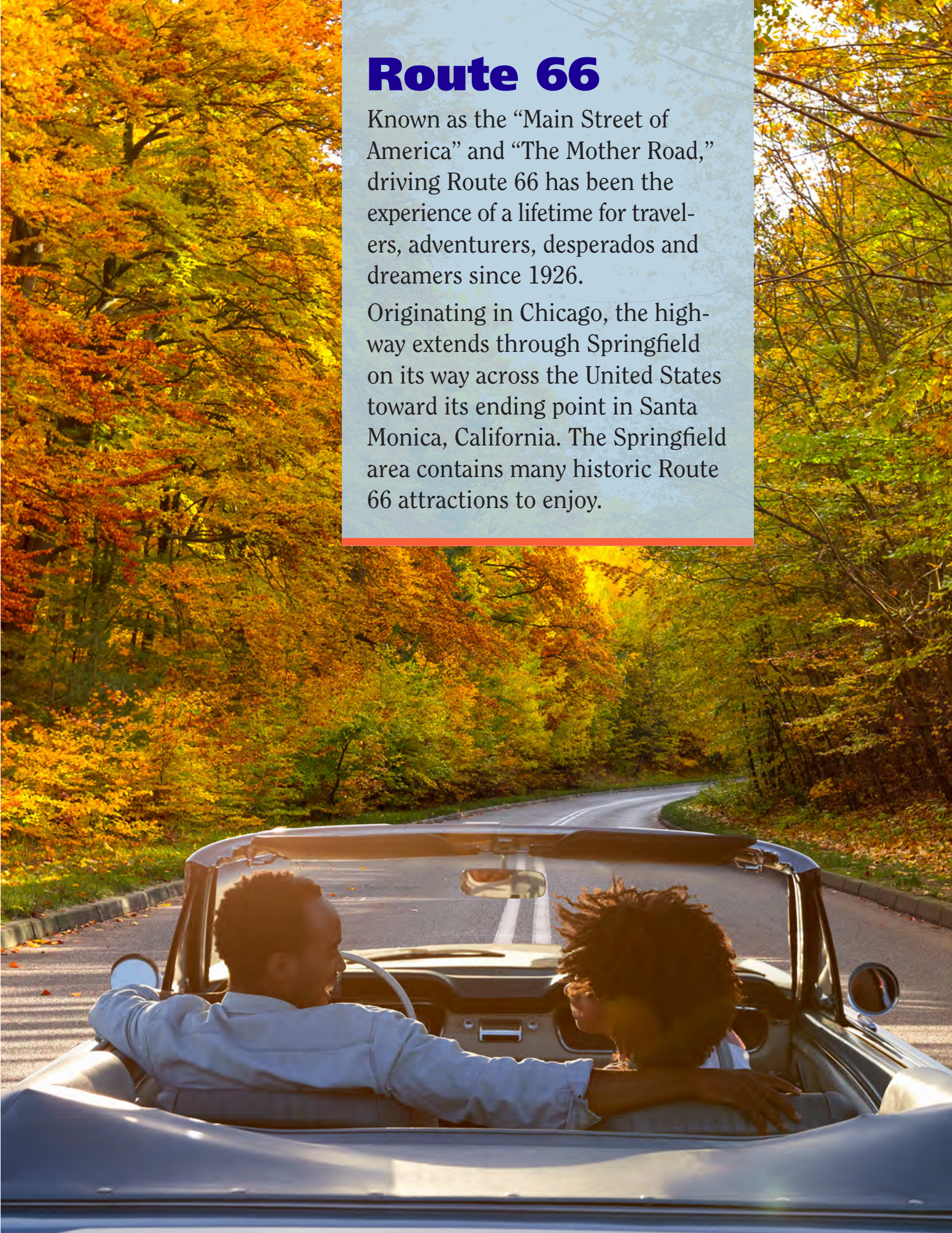


Vachel Lindsay Home

Route 66

Known as the “Main Street of America” and “The Mother Road,” driving Route 66 has been the experience of a lifetime for travelers, adventurers, desperados and dreamers since 1926.

Originating in Chicago, the highway extends through Springfield on its way across the United States toward its ending point in Santa Monica, California. The Springfield area contains many historic Route 66 attractions to enjoy.





“The way to right wrongs is to shine the light of truth on them.”

— Ida B. Wells

Springfield Race Riot Markers

A self-guided walking tour tells the story of the events that would become known as the Springfield Race Riots of 1908 with commemorative markers placed along the path of destruction in downtown Springfield.



Air Combat Museum



Springfield Area Museums

AeroKnow Museum

Air Combat Museum

Daughters of the Union Veterans
of the Civil War Museum

Grand Army of the Republic
Memorial Museum

Illinois State Museum

Illinois State Military Museum

The Pearson Museum
of Medical History

Springfield and Central Illinois
African American History Museum

Sports and Recreation

Be as active as you want in Sangamon County. Whether you're ready to run a marathon or you want to enjoy a leisurely afternoon of fishing, Springfield and surrounding communities offer everything you need for both indoor and outdoor sports and activities.



Lincoln Memorial Gardens

The Lincoln Memorial Gardens is a 100-acre woodland and prairie garden created as a living memorial to Abraham Lincoln. There are more than five miles of trails and a nature center, as well as a gift shop.

Sangchris Lake State Park

Constructed in 1964, this 3,000 acre park is the perfect place for fishing, boating, camping, hunting and family gatherings.

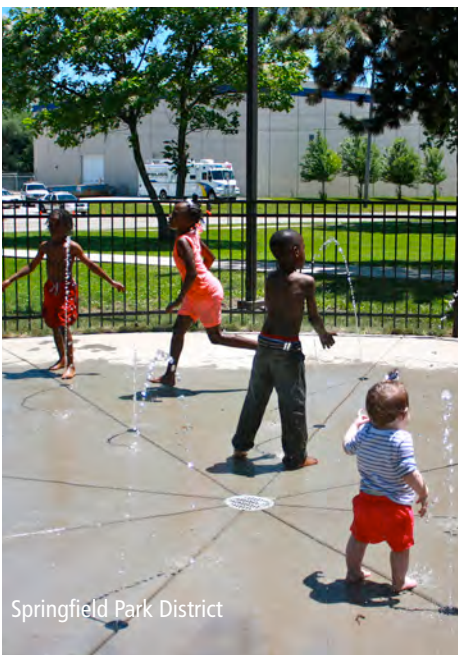
Jim Edgar Wildlife Reserve

This wildlife reserve park is a perfect outdoor getaway with more than 24 miles of mountain bike trails, hiking trails, equestrian trails and camping opportunities.

Lake Springfield

Enjoy a day out on the water at Lake Springfield. Spend time at the boat-houses, or with rentals for boats and other water sports at the marina.





Springfield Sliders Baseball

The Springfield Sliders are a collegiate summer league baseball team who plays at Robin Roberts Stadium.

Springfield Junior Blues Hockey

The Springfield Junior Blues are a junior ice hockey team who play in the North American Hockey League's Midwest Division. You can watch them play at Springfield's Nelson Center.

Spartan Sports Park

The large Chatham-based sports complex hosts top-notch turf fields and well-groomed sand volleyball courts.

Sports and Fitness

- Leagues for football, softball, volleyball, baseball, hockey, bowling
- Swim teams
- Gymnastics clubs
- Dance studios
- Karate/martial arts studios
- Ax throwing centers
- Shooting ranges

Outdoor Activities

- Parks and playgrounds
- Bike trails
- Disc Golf
- Competitive races
- Dog Parks
- Swimming (public & private pools)
- Hunting
- Fishing
- Kayaking and Canoeing

Local Golf Courses

- Bergen Golf Course
- Brookhills Golf Club
- Bunn Park Golf Course
- Lincoln Greens Golf Course
- Long Bridge Golf Course
- Pasfield Golf Course
- Piper Glen Golf Club
- Rail Golf Club
- The Oaks Golf Club

Country Clubs

Panther Creek, Illini Country Club and Island Bay Yacht Club have many activities for members, from golf to swimming and sailing.



Springfield: A University Town in Disguise

University of Illinois Springfield



UIS Student Union

It may just be the area's best-kept secret. While Springfield isn't officially known as a "university town," we definitely meet the qualifications. Our significant post-secondary options have a growing reputation for excellence and are attracting students from across the U.S. and internationally.



Lincoln Land Community College

Just on the outskirts of the city are two thriving higher education institutions with increasing enrollment, largely driven by in-demand academic programs and booming development. In addition, we're educating and training the world's future physicians and nurses.

Southern Illinois University's School of Medicine is one of the best medical schools in the Midwest, performing groundbreaking research and implementing new medical advancements in teaching every year. St. John's College of Nursing immerses students in nursing theory and practice through baccalaureate and master's degree nursing programs.

When you also consider the robust technical training available at vocational college Midwest Technical Institute, you don't need to go beyond Springfield for quality post-secondary education in any career of interest.

UIS

It won't take long to find the University of Illinois Springfield (UIS) on college ranking lists, especially when it comes to esteemed programs like Computer Science and Information Systems. The number is impressive:

- Ranked #4 for Online Bachelor's in Computer Science Degree Programs, according to thebestschools.org
- Ranked #4 by OnlineDegrees.com in study that focused on the best schools to earn a bachelor's degree in Technology online
- Ranked #4 in the Top 25 Most Affordable Cybersecurity Degrees for 2019 by Value Colleges
- Ranked #21 in Best STEM Schools in the U.S., according to learn.org

UIS, originating as Sangamon State University, became part of the renowned University of Illinois system in 1995 and is now known for its liberal arts education, public affairs opportunities and professional preparation programs.

Student enrollment surpassed 5,000 for the first time in the 2010-2011 academic year. 2019 brought the largest incoming freshman class in the school's history, with a total of 373 first-year students.

Not only are UIS' excellent programs a draw for potential students, but UIS has worked to build a diverse student body reflective of today's inclusive culture.

UIS was ranked as one of the best ethnically diverse campuses in the Midwest by the U.S. News & World Report. In the 2019-20 academic year, there are a total of 557 African American students enrolled, comprising 13 percent of the student body. International students encompass 8.7 percent (373) of students enrolled. Students who self-identify as Hispanic comprise 8.1 percent (348), with Asian students at 4.6 percent (197).



SIU School of Medicine



Lincoln Land Community College

Arts and communications, healthcare professions, computer science, business, agriculture - you'll find all that and much more just down the road from UIS at Lincoln Land Community College (LLCC).

LLCC serves 13,800 individuals annually through credit and non-credit courses. And that's not just traditional college-aged students — 33 percent of the LLCC student body is over the age of 25.

At LLCC, industrial and culinary centers are on campus for students interested in fields such as electrical maintenance or hospitality. Additional career training programs are designed to train students to enter workforce occupations - from CNA or dental assistant training to welding or transportation/aviation.

Students at LLCC are thriving, as proven not only by growing enrollment and career programs, but by the specialized opportunities students receive.

Most recently:

- Agriculture students on the 2019 Soil Specialist Team placed first and the Beef Specialist Team placed fifth at the National Postsecondary Agriculture Student Conference.
- The Lamp student newspaper received 19 awards at the 2019 Illinois Community College Journalism Association spring conference.
- The Model Illinois Government Team won the Outstanding Small Delegation award at the 2018 MIG simulation at the Illinois State Capitol.

SIU School of Medicine

For students who have already obtained an undergraduate degree and want to pursue a medical career, Southern Illinois University (SIU) School of Medicine may be the next step.

Based in Springfield with a prestigious international reputation, SIU School of Medicine partners with numerous hospitals in Illinois to ensure the needs of the communities are met in four areas of excellence: medical education, patient care, research and community service.

A few reasons SIU School of Medicine stands out:

Nurse Educators. SIU is one of only two medical schools in the nation who use nurse educators so extensively in their curriculums. Experienced nurses with master's degrees devote their days to educating students and ensuring they develop good clinical skills.

Medical Humanities. SIU School of Medicine was one of the first medical schools in the nation to establish a department of medical humanities. SIU was the fifth pilot project to bring humanities into the clinical experience within disciplines that include ethics, health policy, medical history and religious studies.

Family Practice Preceptorship. SIU established the family practice preceptorship in 1981, making SIU one of the earliest medical schools in the country to engage in community-based education. The program places students in ambulatory care settings with practicing physicians.

Health Information Technology Training. SIU is one of the few medical schools teaching second-year medical students how to effective-

ly use electronic medical records (EMR). Nationally, most students learn to use them in the clinics during their third-year clerkships.

Surgical Skills Center and the Resident Readiness Elective. The Center was established in 2000 and is now housed in the Memorial Center for Learning and Innovation. Because of the Surgical Skills Center, SIU is able to offer the Resident Readiness Elective, a surgical elective that gives fourth-year students training and simulations with nurse educators to introduce management of post-operative situations and additional experiences in the dissection of human cadavers.

With excellent primary care offerings and participation in innovative scientific studies, SIU's team of physicians and students helps to advance medical research and is an asset in retaining highly qualified physicians in the Springfield area. The school includes some of the top specialists in the country who combine their expertise and research to improve the future of medicine.

St. John's College of Nursing

In addition to nurse education programs at Lincoln Land and UIS, St. John's College of Nursing offers upper division baccalaureate nursing degree programs — for students who have completed the prerequisite liberal arts and science courses at any accredited college or university — and two master's degree programs.

The college partners with local healthcare institutions to give students a wide range of quality clinical experiences, ranging from birth and wellness to care of the dying.



With a legacy spanning more than 130 years, St. John's prides itself on offering individual attention and opportunities for students to grow outside of the classroom through leadership, mission and community service.

The innovative Simulation Center at St. John's, opened in 2016, gives nursing students a realistic hands-on experience in preparation for the routine and unexpected events they will encounter in the actual clinical environment. The school also has high-tech classrooms used in every course to allow students to learn, practice and enhance their skills in a safe, risk-free environment.



Education

Residents in Sangamon County have numerous outstanding educational opportunities. Many area schools rank consistently at the top in the state, and exceptional post-secondary opportunities provide the region with a flow of talented and successful leaders.

Residents and municipalities recognize the importance of investing in the local educational system to produce skilled and prepared workforce for generations to come.

The Regional Office of Education, which covers Sangamon and nearby Menard counties, works to create a professional learning community across districts that will enable the districts to seek solutions and evolve so that each individual system is stronger by working together. While Springfield School District 186 is by far the largest, there are 10 other school systems in Sangamon County, taught by educators who care; a fifth grade teacher at DuBois Elementary School in Springfield, Daniel Hartman, was even a top 10 finalist for Illinois' 2020 Teacher of the Year.

Our students are receiving the highest possible scores on college prep exams, playing for state championships in sports, participating in national musical competitions, and showcasing their art creations and science experiments at regional exhibits.





Higher Education & Post-Secondary

Lincoln Land Community College

Lincoln Land Community College (LLCC) is a comprehensive community college serving 13,800 individuals annually through credit and non-credit courses.

University of Illinois Springfield

The University of Illinois Springfield provides a uniquely student-centered educational experience both in and out of the classroom through active learning, meaningful research and impactful civic engagement that prepares graduates to contribute fully to society.

Southern Illinois University School of Medicine

SIU School of Medicine was established in 1970 with a mission to educate physicians to remain in central and southern Illinois. SIU's 270 physicians treat patients throughout the region through multidisciplinary clinics.

Midwest Technical Institute

Since opening its doors, Midwest Technical Institute (MTI) has provided students with the skills to succeed through a diverse, innovative mix of mechanical trades and allied health programs.

St. John's College of Nursing

St. John's College offers upper division baccalaureate nursing degree programs for students who have completed the prerequisite liberal arts and science courses at any accredited college or university and two master's degree programs.

Public Schools

There are 11 school districts in Sangamon County that include:

- Auburn Community Unit School District 10
- Ball Chatham Community Unit School District 5
- New Berlin Community Unit School District 16
- Pawnee Community Unit School District 11
- Pleasant Plains Community Unit School District 8
- Riverton Community Unit School District 14
- Rochester Community Unit School District 3A
- Sangamon Area Special Education District
- Springfield School District 186
- Tri City Community Unit School District 1
- Williamsville Community Unit School District 15

Private Schools

Private school options in the county include Roman Catholic, Christian, Lutheran, Baptist, Montessori and special education.

Homeschooling

Homeschooling is an educational choice desired by many families in the Springfield area. Homeschooling families can also join a local co-op or the local arm of the Christian Homeschooling Association.

Capital Area Career Center

CACC provides vocational and technical career training for high school, community college and adult students in 15 program areas that offer college credits and professional certification opportunities.

Matt Neale & Josh Matchuny

As a student at the University of Illinois Springfield, Matt Neale gained IT experience outside of the classroom in roles for the UIS IT HelpDesk and UIS security team. When he decided to explore other local opportunities in information technology, that led him to Springfield-based tech company Levi, Ray & Shoup, Inc. (LRS), where he was offered a summer internship.

Following his internship, Matt accepted a full-time position as a Network Security Technician, where he works for LRS' internal team in networking and penetration testing.

"I get to mimic what an outside attacker would do and then patch those holes. It's fun to play both roles — both hacking the network and fixing it," he says.

Founded in 1979, LRS is a top information technology company, providing software solutions to Fortune 100 companies around the world.

LRS boasts a supportive business environment and hires from a strong talent pool in the region, drawing in students from UIS, LLCC and Midwest Technical Institute, as well as nearby Illinois State University in Bloomington, Bradley University in Peoria, Jacksonville's Illinois College and many more.

LRS's formal tech internship program was created several years ago to help fill the need for IT expansion, says Shannon Heisler, Director of Marketing and Recruiting for LRS.

"We continue to grow at LRS and finding talent in the IT space is increasingly difficult," Shannon says. "Demand for IT employment across the board is growing substantially; there are far more jobs than candidates. This is a problem for tech across the U.S."

LRS now brings in a class of about 20 interns in areas of software development, web development and design, application development, business analysis, cybersecurity, pre-sales system engineering and product support. The interns are not only given opportunities to work on projects but also mentored and immersed in the staff activities of LRS, such as an axe throwing event for team-building.

"Our primary goal is that they walk away with added education in IT; we want to give them a meaningful experience and a good glimpse into what it looks like to work at LRS, what our culture is like," Shannon says.

Matt says he's been impressed with the longevity of the staff and appreciates being able to learn from that experience. At LRS, the average tenure

of employees is more than 12 years, according to Shannon.

"I'm able to learn from everyone else here. I'm just starting my career and am able to build connections with the staff for learning and help," Matt says. "During the internship, LRS also gave me time to achieve certain certifications, which I feel has allowed for more success within the company in my full-time position."

Illinois State University graduate Josh Matchuny was also part of the LRS internship and now works full-time for LRS as a Pre-sales Systems Engineer, assisting the sales team and going on site to implement technology solutions for clients.

"In the internship, they encouraged us to feel around for what we wanted to do, so I was able to explore systems engineering and product support. Everyone was extremely nice and helpful; it was obvious they really wanted us to succeed," Josh says. "I still like that friendly, supportive environment. LRS doesn't micromanage its team, but my coworkers are always quick to respond if someone needs help."

Despite its global expansion over the last several decades, LRS has kept its headquarters in Springfield, a vibrant city that is a great place to work, live and



Matt Neale



Josh Matchuny

raise a family. Not being based in Silicon Valley isn't a drawback when Springfield is so connected — the Abraham Lincoln Capital Airport flies to international hubs Dallas and Chicago, allowing residents to easily get anywhere they need.

For Josh, one of the major perks of Springfield is that he can efficiently make sales calls around the area without the hassle of big city traffic.

"It's easy to drive around, and Springfield offers the taste of city life but a smaller feel," he says.

Both Josh and Matt grew up as local residents — Matt in Williamsville, Josh in Glenarm — and are enjoying living here as young adults.

"It's small enough to build connections with people, but also big enough to find what you want to do, entertainment-wise or career-wise," Matt says. "I like trying new options for restaurants and love to attend shows at the PAC (UIS Performing Arts Center)."

"We have a lot of unique attractions, and downtown has a lot to offer," Josh agrees. "I like the variety of breweries, like Obed & Isaac's. I also enjoy golfing;

"It's small enough to build connections with people, but also big enough to find what you want to do, entertainment-wise or career-wise," Matt says."

we have some beautiful golf courses around here."

LRS as a whole has been extremely involved in the local community and continues to promote technology as a career choice for young people — from career programs at the Boys and Girls Club to involvement with the Sangamon CEO program.

"We'd like to get even more involved at the high school level to really help entice students to consider going into IT and STEM careers," Shannon says. "Technology is not going anywhere. And the great thing about tech as a career path is that you can drive your career: you can be a software developer if you love to write code or be more customer-facing if you like explaining technology and aligning solutions

with what customers need. Or you may want to be on the forefront of understanding the risks of cybersecurity and how to protect against disruption of daily business."

Today, the tech industry filters into virtually every other industry imaginable. From large corporations to state government, nearly every entity utilizes technology for daily operations, which opens up substantial career possibilities.

"Every organization now relies on technology so it makes the job market open to students like me. Whether it's healthcare, insurance, agriculture — everything is dedicated to tech, so you can shape your job responsibilities around your interests," Matt says.



Regional Medical Center

Springfield is the hub of an advanced, prospering medical district that boasts world-class healthcare facilities with a global presence.

From major hospital systems to rural health services and everything in between, Sangamon County is home to industry leaders in healthcare provision.

Springfield's growing network of medical institutions, wellness centers and specialty providers offer convenient care both to our residents and individuals from around the world. These healthcare organizations not only benefit individuals seeking medical care but also the community as a whole.

In fact, Memorial Health System and the Hospital Sisters Health System make up the #2 and #3 slots, respectively, on the list of major employers in Springfield and Sangamon County. Just down the list are Springfield Clinic at #5 and SIU School of Medicine at #6.

Our facilities are also devoted to innovative healthcare research, local initiatives aimed at improving the health of the community and free community services such as education classes, support groups, health fair screenings and more.

The advancements in care and constant training are always growing in this community. Sangamon County residents and even those beyond our

region are in good hands when any healthcare needs arise.

Booming Medical District

The Mid-Illinois Medical District is a one-square mile designation in the heart of Springfield just to the north of downtown. The district is anchored by the area's two major hospitals, Memorial Medical Center and HSHS St. John's Hospital, as well as the Southern Illinois University School of Medicine and Springfield Clinic, the second largest multi-specialty physician group in Illinois.

Established in 2003, the medical district serves to promote the orderly development and expansion of health care facilities and medical-related industries.

Throughout the last decade, more than \$600 million of capital investment has been made in the medical district to support patient care, bio-medical research, new medical technologies and advanced medical-related activities.

Niche Specialty Care

Cutting-edge medical procedures have put Springfield on the map within the medical industry.

- The Prairie Heart Institute at HSHS St. John's Hospital was among the first 10 hospitals in the country to perform a Transcatheter Aortic Valve Replacement (TAVR) procedure. Prairie Heart is also the first in the United States and the seventh in the world to successfully complete a procedure to implant a medical device, known as a Lotus™ valve, in a patient with an existing artificial heart valve.
- Memorial Medical Center is one of eight hospitals in the United States that is accredited for Lung Volume Reduction Surgery by the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations.
- Simmons Cancer Institute (SIU) consistently undertakes unique research in cancer treatment, such as serving as the exclusive site for a bladder cancer clinical trial in 2015. The trial combined the current use of drug therapy placed inside the bladder with a new, intravenous drug that increases the response of the immune system.
- The Institute for Plastic Surgery at Southern Illinois University (SIU) School of Medicine conducted the first clinical hand transplant program in Illinois and is one of only eleven hand transplant programs in the country.





Educating the Next Wave of Medical Professionals

Springfield's high level of medical care is ensured to continue for generations thanks to the ongoing dedication to education.

In addition to treating acute care needs, local health organizations are training the next round of doctors, nurses, radiology technicians, physical therapists, pharmacists and other professionals through a variety of advanced, hands-on methods.

In 2015, Memorial's Center for Learning and Innovation opened its doors to provide advanced technology and state-of-the-art simulation training for its staff and clinical partners.

Simulated settings include a nurses station, operating room, ambulance and outdoor environment, emergency

treatment and trauma rooms, and a patient home with a kitchen, dining room, living room, bedroom and restroom. A Surgical Skills Center enables learners to stay on the cutting-edge of practice and technology through surgical skills sessions, and degree/certification programs are offered in conjunction with academic partners.

Just down the street, St. John's College of Nursing offers two masters programs as well as upper division baccalaureate nursing degree programs focused on immersion in nursing theory and practice.

In 2016, the college opened its Simulation Center to offer students a realistic experience in preparing for routine and unexpected events they will encounter in a clinical nursing environment. The center includes

an operating/obstetrics room, emergency room, patient room, pediatric room, exam room and skills lab.

In these practice settings, each interaction with the patient mannequin can be recorded so the student and faculty can debrief and review what went well and what should be done differently in the future.

These education and training resources allow medical professionals to mimic real-world scenarios to test new workflows, equipment and safety initiatives - all of which have become a cornerstone in delivering the best possible care in the Springfield and Sangamon County community.

Community Medical Care

Hospital Sisters Health System

A multi-institutional health care system established in 1875 that cares for patients in 14 communities in Illinois and Wisconsin.

HSHS St. John's Hospital

800 E. Carpenter St., Springfield
217.544.6464

HSHS St. John's Children's Hospital

800 E. Carpenter St., Springfield
217.757.6394

HSHS Medical Group

3051 Hollis Drive Springfield
217.321.9292

Prairie Cardiovascular

619 E Mason St, Springfield
217.788.0706

Springfield Clinic

Founded in 1939, Springfield Clinic now has 450 physicians and advanced practitioners and 2,400 employees serve a population of approximately one million patients throughout the central Illinois region in eighty medical specialties and subspecialties.

1025 South 6th Street, Springfield
217.528.7541



Memorial Health System

A community-based, not-for-profit corporation founded in 1897 dedicated to patient care, education, and research. Memorial serves an average of more than 40,000 inpatients, 667,000 outpatients and 125,000 patients in emergency departments throughout its various communities.

Memorial Medical Center

701 N 1st St, Springfield
217.788.3000

Memorial Physicians Group

701 N. 1st Street, Springfield
Find a physician: 855-FIND-MPS
855.346.3677

Southern Illinois University (SIU) Healthcare

SIU Healthcare is made up of university physicians and faculty members of South Illinois University School of Medicine who offer a wide range of preventative, diagnostic, medical, and surgical services.

SIU School of Medicine

801 N Rutledge St, Springfield
217.545.8000

Simmons Cancer Institute

315 W. Carpenter St, Springfield
217.545.8000

WALK-IN CARE

HSHS Priority Care

Multiple Locations
217.789.1403

Memorial Express Care

Multiple Locations
217.588.2600

Springfield Clinic Urgent Care

Multiple Locations
217.528.7541



Families

Raising a family isn't always easy - but living in Sangamon County makes it a lot more enjoyable!

Thanks to low cost of living, endless events and activities for all ages, and opportunities for easy travel, Springfield and surrounding towns are popular for families and children.





Low cost of living

Your money goes further in Springfield, which offers residents an affordable cost of living and high wages.

Springfield's average salary across all professions is an impressive \$50,560 and average annual hourly rate is \$24.31.

Not only that, but housing is very affordable in central Illinois, so you get more for your money! Median home values hover around \$110,000, and median rent prices stand at \$850.

The low cost of living coupled with median wages that are higher than the national average make Sangamon County an appealing location for families to put down roots.

So much to do

Residents from across the area flock to the huge variety of family-friendly attractions throughout the year, including the Route 66 drive-in movie theater, Henson Robinson Zoo, Knights Action Park and the Abraham Lincoln historic sites.

Seasonal events draw in kids and adults alike, from participating in the popular Lincoln Half Marathon in the spring to New Berlin's Sangamon County Fair in June to the festive downtown Springfield holiday events in December. Warmer weather brings opportunities to get outdoors and attend the Old Capitol Art Fair, Carillon Festival, farmers markets and much more.

Summertime activities are popular with local families who enjoy boating on Lake Springfield, hiking at Lincoln Memorial Gardens, camping at Lake Sangchris State Park, catching a musical at the Springfield Muni outdoor amphitheater, or swimming and socializing at one of the area's country clubs.

Or, simply spend the day with a picnic and play at a park. No matter where you are in the Springfield area, you are less than five minutes from one of the many beautiful local parks.

Whether your family is interested in golfing, karate, swimming, music or nature, there is a league, group or organized activity to accommodate and help grow your interest!

Bright futures

The private and public educational systems across Sangamon County are experiencing growth in the right direction. Our districts offer full and evolving curricula, with several local districts receiving state awards for excellence over the last few years.

And education doesn't stop in a formal classroom setting. There are endless opportunities for experiential, hands-on learning through the region - starting with the living history found in Springfield and New Salem at the Lincoln historic sites. Visit one of our many museums or tour the state capitol and Governor's Mansion to take in the state government.

Additionally, summer camps are not only entertaining, but also provide ample learning.

Several local school sites host Camp Invention, where elementary-aged students bring STEM concepts to life through teamwork and problem-solving skills. Springfield Art Association's summer art camps are so popular they fill up months in advance, and Lincoln Memorial Garden's ecology camps run all summer long, giving participants a chance to immerse themselves in nature.



Programs are hosted year-round at the Illinois State Museum, but you can also visit nearly any day to experience life throughout the centuries in Illinois. The Mary Ann McLean play museum located on the basement level provides exploratory fun and learning for all ages.

Lincoln Land Community College also hosts year-round programming, from weekend STEAM classes to LLCC's summertime College for Kids that allows students to take unique courses of interest. (And let's not forget the parents: Lincoln Land also offers community education classes for adults on a variety of subjects from foreign languages to cooking skills!)

Expanding culture

The Springfield area is a multicultural community; residents move from all over the world to put down roots here. This cultural richness and diversity in our county expands our perspectives and bridges our connections.

With a variety of churches, mosques, synagogues and temples, faith communities are also thriving here,

offering residents from all backgrounds the opportunity to worship and practice religious traditions important to them.

Ideal location

Who wants to spend hours driving around?

At approximately 115,000 residents, Springfield's size makes it a popular choice for families who love short commutes, with the average commute time being less than 20 minutes.

And there's no doubt that Springfield and nearby towns are convenient to get to and from - the convergence of I-72 and I-55 makes travel to other regions a snap.

With bustling metropolitan cities like St. Louis, Chicago and Indianapolis all within a three-hour drive, you can just fill up the gas tank for an exciting day or weekend excursion.

However, it's likely you won't want to leave very often, because it will take a lifetime to exhaust the options for activities, entertainment and attraction in Sangamon County.

The area's friendly communities are ideal for families who want to raise their children in a comfortable, safe environment.

From state-of-the-art medical care to high-quality educational choices, Springfield and our nearby county communities are a top pick for families.



\$250-\$350K



Under \$100K



\$100-\$175K



\$750-\$800K



\$350-\$400K

Welcome Home

Your money goes far in the Springfield area, which offers residents an affordable cost of living and high wages. In fact, this stable community often has little fluctuation in home prices and investing in a home has far less risk than other communities.

Our median home value is around \$110,000 and our median rent price is \$850, giving you a great bang for your buck.

Sangamon County has many options for settling in, whether you're looking for urban living or a rural experience - or even somewhere in between. Our neighborhoods are multicultural and offer a rich diversity of backgrounds and nationalities.

Springfield offers modern downtown living spaces or desirable neighborhoods in every direction. Smaller outlying communities offer a suburban feel or small-town living. With short proximity among all community amenities and residential areas, choosing where you want to get settled is less complex. You can easily find your next home in a weekend.

Whether you want to live on a farm, next to a park, in a suburban neighborhood, near a historical site, within walking distance to a country club or in a downtown loft, Sangamon County provides every one of those options at an affordable price point.

Shawnaci Schroeder

After growing up in Chatham, Shawnaci Schroeder spent eight years living in Missouri - four years attending Truman State and another four years working in Kirksville.

But when her husband Brady's job as a State Farm insurance agent brought the couple back to Sangamon County and Chatham, Shawnaci was excited and now has no plans to leave again.

"I have five siblings and my niece here, and my parents live a few minutes away; when we decided to move back, we knew we were staying," she says.

Finding a passion for working with individuals with disabilities after college, Shawnaci now serves as Central Illinois Respite Director for a Chicago-based agency supporting people with developmental disabilities in 18 Illinois counties. Her primary role is to connect state agencies, special education teachers and families affected by disability to assist with resources and financial support.

Shawnaci has also developed a personal brand on social media as a fashion influencer, which has grown

and is now taking her to major events across the U.S, like New York's Fashion Week.

Traveling for both her full-time job and her side gig has only made her appreciate Sangamon County even more.

"I see a lot of other cities, and access to destinations in Springfield is so easy; the max you have to drive is a half hour," Shawnaci says. "It's really easy to pop downtown, and you're not wasting your time traveling and sitting in traffic.

"I also love that you know someone everywhere you go. I can go to the

area and connecting young adults, particularly women in their 20s.

Most recently, Shawnaci helped start a Springfield area chapter of SheFactor, a Denver-based organization focused on helping women build a fulfilling life and career. The first local SheFactor meeting in January at Papo's Cafe had around 55 attendees; Shawnaci says each month's gathering will have a different focus and different community partners/sponsors.

"It's almost like a blend between Girl Scouts and a sorority," she explains. "It's been so fun because there are so

"I also love that you know someone everywhere you go...you continue to grow your circle of friends..." Shawnaci says.

grocery store and probably see someone I know. As you continue to grow your circle of friends, you know people at most events or activities too."

In fact, Shawnaci enjoys living in the Springfield area so much that she's become invested in growing the community of younger generations in the

many people who need community in our age range."

Shawnaci says she recognizes there may be a general perception from her peers that there isn't enough to do in Springfield, so she's working to change that by promoting all that the area has to offer.

“It can be easy to just stay home, but I’d love to see more people exploring new interests. Most events in Springfield are extremely low cost and easy to get to,” she says.

“I have a heart for downtown because it’s so vibrant and there is a lot going on. There is so much to do in Springfield, and I really appreciate that even more when I go to other places. I love all of the different restaurants and trying new food. Springfield offers a small-town feel but is big, so there are always opportunities to create new relationships, new growth, new businesses.”

Shawnaci encourages young adults to consider moving to - or back to - the Springfield area after completing their education, “not just for work opportunities but because of the community we have.” Through her involvement, she hopes to provide and promote different avenues for people to connect.


“I’m so passionate about building the community I’m in because I want to be here forever,” she says.



Shawnaci Schroeder



New Generation

 Looking for vibrancy, diversity and opportunity in your home city?

Welcome to Sangamon County, where you'll easily find all that and much more.

For those in the generational ages considered "Millennial" and "Generation Z," Springfield and surrounding towns can be the ideal place to settle in, build a career and make a difference.

Why? Here are a few good reasons...



Down Home Music Festival

Thriving Economy

Job stability is high, and opportunities for career advancement are ample.

With thriving industries such as healthcare, IT and various professional opportunities in finance, accounting, engineering, and other fields, there are many ways to make your mark on the community and cultivate your career aspirations.

Most of Springfield's largest employers are government and healthcare organizations, but the workforce needed in our community is much more diverse than just public service and clinician roles.

As the Capital City, Springfield is the headquarters of the State of Illinois.

Running the business of state government requires business & financial service workers along with other specialized occupations such as IT, engineering and legal services.

Our healthcare industry organizations employ many other types of professionals in addition to medical staff. Home to two major health systems, Memorial Health System and Hospital Sisters Health System, and Springfield Clinic, the second largest multi-specialty physician group in Illinois, these three corporate headquarters provide jobs in back-office and professional services that include accounting, marketing, general business and IT.



With median rent prices starting at \$850, finding affordable housing is not difficult, especially considering the area's low overall cost of living and average annual hourly rate of \$24.31. It's no wonder that Springfield & Sangamon County are often ranked as one of the best places to make a living or start a career. Your salary goes farther in our community. Not only does that increase your quality of life now, but it also allows you to create a strong financial foundation for whatever your goals may be — retiring early, starting your own business or enhancing the wealth of your family tree.

Vibrant Downtown Life

Springfield's downtown district is a mix of modern and historical, packed with music festivals, shopping opportunities, art fairs and food truck events.

Thanks to the ongoing vision of our local leaders, downtown Springfield and surrounding areas are also seeing innovative retail, commercial, government and residential projects.

For those who want to be in the center of the action, it's easy and convenient to live downtown. Downtown housing is walkable to many shops, restaurants and historical attractions. And a jaunt through the downtown district enables you to take in rich architecture constructed hundreds of years ago.

Local eateries attract residents from across central Illinois, and breweries are flourishing downtown, such as Anvil & Forge and Buzz Bomb. In the mornings, grab a freshly roasted fair trade coffee at Custom Cup or William Van's to start your day.



Music festivals, concerts, art events and social activities are a constant in downtown Springfield as well, so take your pick on any given weekend!

Be a Positive Change

Springfield and nearby towns offer many opportunities to effect change in your community. Whether you're passionate about youth literacy, the arts or mental health, we welcome your volunteerism and investment in the community for social good.

Locally, we have many nonprofits who are impacting crucial short-term and long-term needs of the community, offering volunteer jobs and openings to serve on the board of directors.

Additionally, the Community Foundation for the Land of Lincoln's giving circle called Young Philanthropists enables young people in the community to give a modest annual donation and combine donations with the group, building an endowment fund that will continue to give locally for generations. The circle also gives a substantial grant each year to a local children's cause selected by committee.

In fact, social impact is so important to the community that we even

have a branch dedicated solely to that mission at Innovate Springfield. Innovate Springfield's Social Innovation Program is a catalyst for building our community's capacity to serve its most vulnerable residents as effectively as possible through the use of evidence-based programs.

Innovate Springfield also hosts a Business Incubation program to accelerate the growth and success of startup and early-stage companies by offering access to services and support.

Springfield's business-friendly infrastructure cultivates innovation, entrepreneurship and philanthropy for residents of all ages.

Enjoy the Area's Natural Beauty

If you enjoy outdoor recreation, Springfield is the place to be.

Not only do we have a plethora of opportunities for outdoor exercise — from local races to numerous bike trails — but Illinois has an abundance of natural and cultural resources.

On any given day and in any season, you can explore the natural prairies, wetlands and forests found in our beautiful state.



Levitt AMP Springfield Music Series



In Sangamon County, there are a variety of natural gems to enjoy. Hike the trails of Lincoln Memorial Gardens, set out on a camping excursion at Sangchris Lake State Park, try fishing on Lake Springfield, or take on the horse trails at Jim Edgar Wildlife Reserve.

And since transportation to and from the Springfield area is so easy, it's easy to pack a picnic and take a short drive to any number of state parks within a day's reach. There are endless options to appreciate and steward the natural wonders of Illinois.



Art Alley

With entertainment, recreation and cultural events, it's no wonder the Capital City greets more than one million visitors per year.

Getting Here

Transportation has substantially shaped local growth and development, sustaining and enhancing commerce and economic vitality.

Located in the heart of Central Illinois, Springfield and surrounding Sangamon County communities are easy to access. Two major interstates converge at Springfield, and air and train service are regular and reliable.

By Car

Major interstate crossroads I-55 and I-72 meet on the southern edge of Springfield

Take I-55 North to Chicago or I-55 South to St. Louis

I-72 takes you to western Illinois and beyond. Or go east to Champaign and then hop on I-74 to get to Indianapolis.

By Air

Abraham Lincoln Capital Airport in Springfield services United Airlines, American Airlines and Allegiant Airlines with direct flights to popular destinations like Chicago, Dallas, Orlando and more.

Flyspi.com

By Train

Amtrak's rail service is stationed at Washington St. and 3rd St. in Springfield.

Amtrak.com

By Bus

Greyhound Bus Lines is located at 2815 N. Dirksen Parkway (Bus stop only).

greyhound.com

Getting Around Town

Sangamon Mass Transit District - Bus Service

Public buses are available to most areas of the city, including a route around the downtown historic sites. Buses run Monday through Saturday from 6 a.m. - 6 p.m., except holidays. For bus schedules and maps, go to smtd.org.

Uber and Lyft

Uber and Lyft are available. For more info visit:
uber.com/cities/springfield-il
lyft.com/cities/springfield-il

Taxi services

A variety of taxi companies service the Springfield area. Visit:
yellowpages.com/springfield-il/taxis

Biking routes and locks

The Lincoln Library has bike locks for check out.

326 S. 7th St.

217.753.4900

Downtown parking:

7th St. at Lincoln's Home

Edwards St. & College St.

2nd St. & Cook St.

6th St. & Capitol Ave.

7th St. & Monroe St.

7th St. & Washington St.

6th St. between Washington St.

& Adams St. at Old State Capitol

7th St. & Capitol Ave. at Lincoln Library



Archana Rajan

Archana Rajan was unsure what kind of adjustment it would be to move from bustling New York City to the small Midwestern city of Springfield. What her family found was a welcoming community with good schools. Archana's move to Springfield was a result of her husband's career path. Originally from India, she moved to the United States in 2006. Her husband completed his medical residency in New York and then considered four different positions around the country before the couple decided on Springfield.

"We liked Springfield the most. The pay was very competitive, and The Real Estate Group took us on a tour of the community and different subdivisions," she recalls. "There are really nice people in Springfield; it's a very nice community."

Though it was a "big change" from New York, Archana found a thriving Asian Indian community in Springfield and accepted a job at LRS, which she loves.

"I work as a quality analyst, so I test software," she says. "People are really nice at my workplace, and working here is what I like most about living here."

Archana shares that she misses the activity and attractions in New York, and she wishes more people would frequent downtown Springfield on the weekends. But she does appreciate that Springfield has easy access to Chicago and St. Louis when her family is craving the "big city" lifestyle.

Her husband is currently completing a medical fellowship in Iowa, but when he was living and working in Springfield, the family would make a weekend trip to Chicago once or twice a month.

"We often go to St. Louis or Chicago to see Indian movies. We used to go every two weeks to Chicago because there is authentic Indian food to get there and a lot of shops there. I'm a traditional Indian woman who likes to shop!" she says. "We like that St. Louis is a bit closer, and there is much to do there as well."

Locally, Archana and her family enjoy going to see movies, and she says Springfield offers "some great restaurants." Some of her favorites include Little Saigon and Los Rancheros.

Archana has also been happy with the schools her daughter has attended. At nine, her daughter is now at Glenwood Elementary School. The overall community has made it much easier to adjust to moving here.

"She also goes for violin and taekwondo; we have some nice music lessons and taekwondo options here," Archana says. "We also have a big Indian community, so that's played a big role in why I have wanted to stay in Springfield. I have a lot of friends, and my daughter has company too."

"In New York, people don't even look at each other. They are in their own world. Springfield is not like that; the people are really friendly."

Professional Associations & Philanthropic Groups

Springfield hosts more than 150 associations representing a wide range of professions, causes and trades. From law to finance to engineering, these organizations provide the county with business opportunities and economic stability.

Below you'll find a list of general professional and philanthropic organizations, but there are many more - including a plethora of niche trade organizations our residents can get involved in.

American Business Club
 Association of Women in Communication
 Citizens Club of Springfield
 Community Foundation for the Land of Lincoln
 Community Foundation for the Land of Lincoln giving circles:
 Young Philanthropists and WomenforWomen
 Downtown Springfield Inc.
 Greater Springfield Chamber of Commerce
 Illinois Women in Leadership
 Innovate Springfield
 Junior League
 Knights of Columbus
 Local First Springfield
 Rotary Club
 SheFactor
 Young Springfield Professionals Network

Getting Settled



Vehicle Registration:

To register your vehicle in Illinois, you are required to provide proof that you live in Illinois. You will also need to provide your title, Odometer Disclosure Statement and proof of insurance. You must apply for registration within 30 days of moving to Illinois.

You will also need to fill out the following forms for vehicle transaction and tax purposes (all forms are available on the Illinois Secretary of State website):

Form VSD 190

Form RUT-50

You will need to take all of these necessary documents and forms along with the fee for registration (The fee for car registration is \$101, or \$114 if the car has vanity plates. The title fee is \$50) to a nearby office.

Michael J. Howlett Bldg.
501 S. 2nd St., Rm. 312
Springfield, IL 62756

800-252-8980

217.785.3000

Hours: Mon.–Fri. 8 a.m.–4:30 p.m.



Drivers License

The Illinois Secretary of State offers an online Facility Finder where you can find the location nearest to you. If you are looking to apply for your first driver's license, make sure to check the Available Services at your location to make sure the facility offers "First Time Issuance" for a driver's license.



Voter Registration

To be eligible to vote in Sangamon County, you must:

- Be a United States Citizen
- Be 17 years old on or before the date of the Primary Election and turn 18 on or before the date of the General Election
- Live in your election precinct at least 30 days prior to Election Day
- Not be serving a sentence of confinement in any penal institution as a result of conviction
- Not be claiming the right to vote anywhere else

You may register to vote at any time, in-person at the Sangamon County Election Office located in the County Building, 200 S. 9th Street, Room 105. Monday - Friday, 8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Utilities



Electric

Most residents within the city limits of Springfield will receive electrical services powered by Springfield City, Water, Light, and Power. You can find out more information on their website at www.CWLP.com.

Some residents in our county communities are also serviced by CWLP while others may have electric service providers specific to their town or village. Please contact your town or village for confirm your electric provider.



Water & Sewer

Most residents within the Springfield city limits receive water & sewer services provided by Springfield City, Water, Light, and Power. You can find out more information on their website at www.CWLP.com.

Some residents in our county communities are also serviced by CWLP while others may have water & sewer service providers specific to their town or village. Please contact your town or village to confirm your water & sewer provider.



Natural Gas

Natural gas service is provided by Ameren Illinois. You can find out more information on their website at www.Ameren.com/Illinois.



Telephone Service

Land line telephone service is available through various providers, including:

AT&T – home phone service is offered in bundles with numerous available features. You can find more information on their website.

Xfinity VoIP (voice over internet protocol) - You can find more information on their website or visit the Xfinity Store by Comcast located at 3405 S Freedom Dr., Springfield, IL 62704



Mobile Phone Services:

Multiple mobile phone services are available in the area. You can compare pricing and packages at this link: <https://www.wirefly.com/content/phone-plans/illinois/springfield>



Computer/Internet Service:

A variety of internet service providers are available in that area. You can compare rates and basic information at the link: <https://www.wirefly.com/compare-internet-providers/illinois/springfield>



Television Services:

Multiple cable and satellite TV providers are available. You can compare providers at this link: www.cabletv.com/il/springfield



Trash and Recycling

Republic Services: 217.522.7797

Lake Area Disposal & Recycling:
217.522.9317

Lake Area Recycling Services:
217.522.9271

Waste Management 217.789.7025



Proximity to larger metropolitan areas

St. Louis - 98.2 miles	Kansas City - 310 miles
Chicago - 202 miles	Cincinnati - 321 miles
Indianapolis - 212 miles	Louisville - 324 miles
Madison WI - 264 miles	Des Moines - 338 miles
Milwaukee - 278 miles	Nashville - 373 miles

Let's Do a Road Trip!

THINGS TO DO WITHIN A 1.5 HOUR DRIVE

- St. Louis Cardinals MLB
- Peoria Chiefs Baseball MiLB
- Big 10 Athletic Events, Champaign
- Six Flags Theme Park
- St. Louis Magic House
- St. Louis City Museum
- St. Louis Science Center
- Children's Discovery Museum, Bloomington
- Zoos in St. Louis, Decatur, Peoria
- Children's Museum of Illinois, Decatur
- Peoria Riverfront Museum
- Peoria Playhouse Children's Museum




For More Information

Assisting our community members, businesses and those exploring relocation is a priority for Springfield Sangamon Growth Alliance staff.

For more information, please contact us:

 217.679.3500

 ContactUs@ThriveInSPI.org

 531 East Washington Street • Fifth Floor • Springfield, IL 62701

 www.ThriveInSPI.org

The Springfield Sangamon Growth Alliance (SSGA) is committed to pursuing the economic prosperity and growth for Sangamon County and the City of Springfield, Illinois. Founded in 2018, the public-private sector partnership is dedicated to advancing economic development efforts in Springfield and Sangamon County. Led by a volunteered, diverse, industry-driven board of directors, SSGA is helping create and market a financially sound community; able to attract new businesses and skilled talent, while retaining the innovative companies and local workforce who already make Sangamon County their home. For more information about SSGA, visit www.ThriveInSPI.org.



**Springfield
Sangamon
Growth
Alliance**

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Sangamon Growth Alliance



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