

A PUBLICATION OF  
THE OTTUMWA COURIER  
AND OSKALOOSA HERALD



# 101

# THINGS

To Do In Southeast  
Iowa 2022-23

FREE



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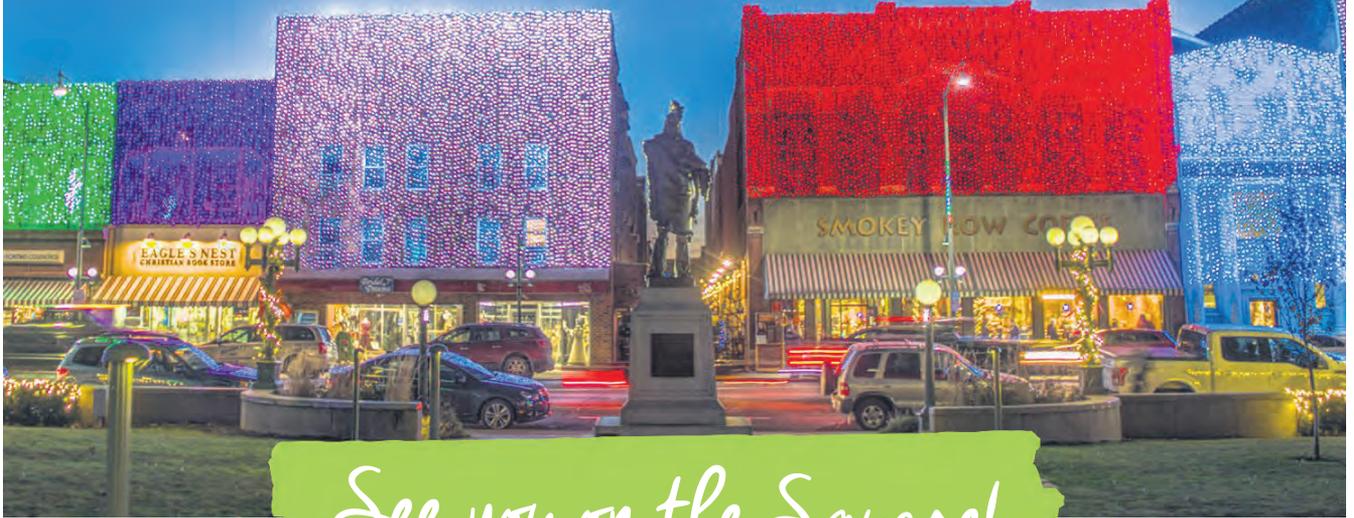
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2022:

**JUNE  
3**

*Friday After Five*

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**JUNE  
10**

*Friday After Five*

Food, fun, and live music!

**JUNE  
11**

*Art on the Square*

One of Iowa's oldest art festivals!

**JUNE  
17**

*Friday After Five*

Food, fun, and live music!

**JULY  
28**

*Sweet Corn Serenade*

Craft and vendor fair, food, live music, fresh cooked sweet corn, and more!

**Nov  
19**

*Painting with Lights*

Enjoy festivities on the square including carriage rides, and more! Enjoy the lights downtown through January 8, 2023.

**Dec  
3**

*Lighted Christmas Parade*

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What do art, music, Santa, and sweet corn have in common? They're all part of the sights, sounds, and celebrations of events in downtown Oskaloosa. And you're invited to stay and visit!

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# There's **something for everyone** in Southeast Iowa

**A**fter two years of closures, cancellations and modifications due to COVID-19, southeast Iowa is gearing up for a year full of familiar (and new) activities for all ages.

The news staff at the Ottumwa Courier and the Oskaloosa Herald have been collaborating to bring you a versatile and diverse list of things to do in the area, from local farmers markets and museums to Lake Red Rock Balloon Fest in the summer and BaconTown in the fall. No matter your age or interests, the options are endless.

As a Pella resident, you'll definitely catch me eating poffertjes

at Tulip Time in May, drinking cocktails and playing games with friends at the new Smash Park and taking walks in historic downtown with my boyfriend, Colton (peep the photo of us taking a late night walk through the Molengracht). We both love fall and all things Halloween, so you might just run into us at Halloweenapalooza in Ottumwa in the fall, too!

While there are only 101 things listed in our publication, we know there are so many other opportunities in the area for entertainment and adventure year-round. This year, I encourage you to get out of the house, explore and surround yourself with those you



love doing the things you love. Whether that's cheering for your favorite racer at Knoxville Nationals or trout fishing in Ottumwa Park, there's something for everyone right here in southeast Iowa.

– Emily Hawk, Associate Editor, 101 Things

## 101 Things...

Is a publication of the Ottumwa Courier and Oskaloosa Herald.

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# SUMMER

*June through August*

1.

## 25 Men Who Can Cook

Partner to the popular Divas Who Dish, this event is a fundraiser for the Ottumwa Symphony Orchestra. Some of the top male chefs in the area, both professional and hobby chefs, converge on the Bridge View Center to serve up food. Over 500 attendees participate in the one-day event, which is scheduled for June 18. Tickets are available to purchase to sample the diverse fares. For more information, visit [ottumwasymphonyorchestra.net](http://ottumwasymphonyorchestra.net).

2.

## Agency Fourth of July Parade

Celebrate the nation's Independence Day with a parade down Agency's Main Street. The parade is usually set for 10 a.m. A barbecue by the Agency Lions and children's games in Agency Lions Park have followed the event in the past.



3.

## Albia Restoration Days

This all-day event begins with a 5K run Aug. 6. Vendor booths set up on the Albia square with live entertainment and a parade around the square.

4.

## American Gothic Days

This annual event features a variety of activities over a three-day period in Eldon. Activities often include supper in the park, a street dance, a 5K run/walk at the American Gothic House, parade, vendor and craft fair, Gothic House tours, barbecue chicken dinner, kids' games and more.





## 5.

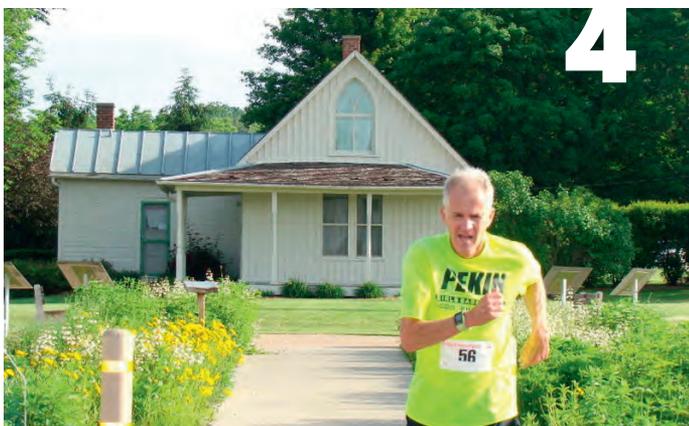
### American Gothic Performing Arts Festival

This annual event celebrates its 10th anniversary in 2022 and presents Wapello County and the surrounding region with an educational-based festival celebrating the performing arts, particularly musical theater. The festival now operates out of the Temple of Creative Arts in the former B'Nai Jacob Synagogue. For more information or details on the 2022 festival, call 641-777-9636, email [info@americangothicfest.org](mailto:info@americangothicfest.org), or visit [americangothicfest.org](http://americangothicfest.org) or the American Gothic Performing Arts Festival Facebook page.

## 6.

### Bologna Nationals

See all kinds of unique cars and trucks, old and new, during Resurrected Tin's 42nd annual Bologna Nationals. This show features a show and shine, valve cover races and more for two days at Lake Red Rock and downtown Pella on Saturday, July 9. Come enjoy a special gathering full of food, games, prizes and live music.



## 7.

### Centerville Bike Night

Main Street Centerville hosts this event, which takes place the fourth Friday of May, June, July and August. The event features live entertainment, including wrestling shows, and vendors. The July event will correspond with the Appanoose County Fair. The 2021 version was the most-attended in the seven years of the event.



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8.

## Centerville Summer Cinema

The event, put on by Promoting Appanoose and Centerville Together, offers free monthly movies that are screened on the Centerville Square. The 2022 theme is “Adventure,” and will feature “Jumanji” (June 10), “Raiders of the Lost Ark” (July 8) and “Pirates of the Caribbean” (Aug. 5).

9.

## Children’s Art Festival/ Missoula Children’s Theater

The event is hosted by Promoting Appanoose and Centerville Together, and lasts from June 13-17. At the children’s theater, kids learn and rehearse a play, with this year’s play being “Johnny Appleseed.” The event then culminates with the Children’s Art Festival where there are free crafts for kids at The Ritz Theater. There also will be a performance of the play that’s open to the public at The Majestic Theater.



10.

## Discover the Shops of Davis County

This one-day event, held June 18 from 9 a.m. to 4p.m., offers patrons the opportunity to visit 10 vendor locations in Bloomfield and the surrounding area. The locations will offer lunch, ice cream treats and other assorted items, and The Red Shed will provide an opportunity to pet farm animals. Free prizes will be given away, including gift certificates as well as a new wheel barrow. For more information, contact Joe at 641-208-5401.

11.

## Greater Ottumwa Rodeo

Voted Iowa’s best one-day rodeo in 2018, the Greater Ottumwa Rodeo returns to action July 1-2 in Greater Ottumwa Park. It is a triple-sanctioned event through the Iowa Rodeo Cowboys Association, United Rodeo Association and Missouri Rodeo Cowboys Association. Visit [gopip.org](http://gopip.org) for more information.





## 12.

### Iowa State Fair

This Midwest tradition, while outside of the traditional coverage area of our publications, is a favorite for many families in our readership with many local students showing exhibits over its duration. This year's fair will be held Aug. 11-21 in Des Moines. For more information and a full slate of events, visit [iowastatefair.org](http://iowastatefair.org).

## 13.

### Knoxville Nationals

Head over to the Sprint Car Capital of the world and enjoy an action-packed day of racing. The 61st annual Knoxville Nationals will take place Aug. 10-13 at the Knoxville Raceway. While there, discover history at the National Sprint Car Hall of Fame & Museum. For more information, visit [knoxvillraceway.com](http://knoxvillraceway.com).

## 14.

### Lake Red Rock Balloon Fest

One highlight of the summer in the Red Rock Area is the annual Lake Red Rock Balloon Fest in July. Bring the entire family to gaze at colorful hot air balloons, participate in a 5K/10K, listen to live music, camp and enjoy fun outdoor activities on North Overlook Beach. This year, the event is scheduled for July 8-10.



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15.

## Midwest Ford Fest

The 36th annual event is a free car show presented by the Iowa-Missouri Ford Club. It's in its second year as a two-day event and is scheduled for Aug. 20-21 in Ottumwa Park. The event features a show and shine with hundreds of Ford-powered vehicles and dozens of prizes up for grabs. Most of the action will be on the second day, with visits of local car builders, a pizza party and car cruise, and a car-themed movie night, with screenings of "American Graffiti" and "Bullitt."

16.

## Old Soldiers and Settlers Reunion

This annual Davis County event is set for July 28-30 in Drakesville. Highlights include a tractor pull, queen contest, talent show, parade, baby contest, rodeo and stage shows. For more information and a full schedule of events, visit [daviscountyyossr.org](http://daviscountyyossr.org).

17.

## Ottumwa Pride Block Party

The second annual event will take place June 25 from noon-11 p.m. in Ottumwa's Central Park. The event will feature speakers, music, family activities, a drag show and more. For more information contact [ottumwapride@gmail.com](mailto:ottumwapride@gmail.com).



18.

## Ottumwa Pro Balloon Races

This summer favorite brings dozens of hot air balloon pilots to Ottumwa Park for a weekend of family-friendly fun. In addition to hot air balloon flights and night glows, the weekend features live bands, food vendors, a carnival, beer garden and more. The event combines forces with the Ottumwa Elks Charity Fundraiser, which runs June 22-26. For more information, visit [ottumwaproballoonraces.com](http://ottumwaproballoonraces.com).

19.

## Southern Iowa Fair

The Southern Iowa Fair has been delighting fair-goers since 1852. Held each July, the fair provides not only a top-notch county fair experience for 4-H'ers, FFA members and their family and friends, but also draws in exciting national performers. The Southern Iowa Speedway has also attracted top-tier talent to its half-mile dirt track. This year's event runs July 18-23.



20.

## Pleasantville Pig Out

Help the city of Pleasantville celebrate their annual Pig Out Festival on Saturday, June 4, from 9 a.m. to 10:30 p.m. Come enjoy a car show, barbecue and cornhole contests, live music, wine, beer, yoga, free kids' activities, antiques and more.

21.

## Summer Reading Program

There is no age limit to reading fun. The Ottumwa Public Library opens its summer reading program in a variety of age categories, including one for adults. Prizes are awarded for reading accomplishments, and the program offers educational shows for children throughout the summer. The Ottumwa Public Library hosts a variety of events year-round for a wide range of interests. For more information and a schedule of events, visit [ottumwapubliclibrary.org](http://ottumwapubliclibrary.org).

22.

## Sweet Corn Serenade

The Sweet Corn Serenade feels like an old-fashioned, small community get-together each July. The event brings 3,000 people to downtown Oskaloosa for thousands of ears of roasted sweet corn and live music. A pie baking contest is held, and there are games and activities for the kids.



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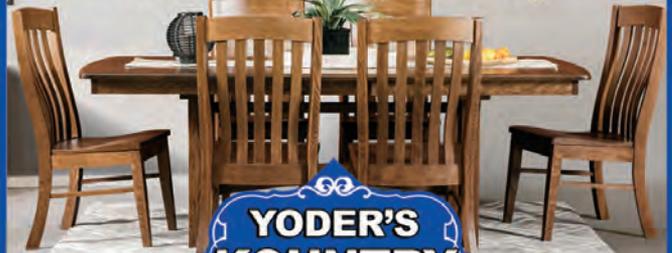
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# 24



# 26.

## Wapello County Regional Fair

This year's fair is set for June 15-19 at the Wapello County Fairgrounds in Eldon. Events include the royalty pageant, livestock judging, vendors, races and more. The grandstand features a variety of concerts and entertainment throughout the event as well. Niko Moon with special guest Travis Denning will headline the event Saturday evening. For more information, visit [wapellocountyfair.com](http://wapellocountyfair.com).

# 27.

## Wine and Finds

Centerville's yearly Wine Festival and Vendor Fair will be held June 8 on the Centerville square. Samples of Iowa wines and select Iowa craft beers join craft vendors and live music. Admission is free, with gates opening at 3 p.m. and the event lasting until 8 p.m.

# 28.

## Your Life Matters 5K

The Your Life Matters 5K in Knoxville will host its fourth annual run/walk Saturday, Aug. 27. The 5K raises money for outreach programs, guest speakers and other resources for the school district and the community to openly discuss the topic of suicide awareness and prevention.



# 28

# 23.

## Thursdays in Pella

Every summer, the Pella Area Community and Economic Alliance hosts Thursdays in Pella. The weekly mini festivals take place in Historic Downtown Pella from June to July with fun and engaging activities for the entire family. Activities change every week and correlate to a specific theme. Local businesses, organizations and food trucks also participate. This year, the festivals will run June 2 through July 28 from 6-9 p.m.

# 24.

## Ultimate Women's Expo

Area women will take part in a shopping extravaganza June 23 from 5-7 p.m. in the expo hall at Bridge View Center in Ottumwa. Swag bags, door prizes and demonstrations will be available. Booth space for vendors and sponsors costs \$75 and is still available.

# 25.

## Wapello County 4-H Expo

The Wapello County 4-H Expo is a chance for 4-H participants to show off their projects for the year, ranging from photography to crafts and welding to livestock. The expo is held at the Wapello County Extension Building, 13011 120th Ave., July 10-16.

# FALL

September  
through November



## 29.

### Antique Airfield/Antique Airfield Blakesburg Fly-in

This historic airfield, located at 22001 Bluegrass Road in Ottumwa, is home of the Antique Airplane Association and the Airpower Museum. The annual AAA/APM Invitation Fly-in is held each September over Labor Day weekend. It is a “by-the-members, for-the-members” convention and reunion. For more information on the airfield, museum or fly-in, visit antiqueairfield.com.

## 30.

### Autumn Acres

This fall destination at Stam Greenhouse in Oska-loosa offers hayrides, a giant pirate ship, a super slide, corn cannon, corn box, slingshot, pumpkin painting, corn maze, train rides, concession stand and more. Check the Autumn Acres Facebook page for dates and times for the 2022 fall season.

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## 31.

### BaconTown

This is a festival for all things bacon. This annual event began more than five years ago and brings individual cooks, restaurants and grocery stores to Bridge View Center. In the past, the event has featured free admission with samples available for a slight fee. The event features live bands and a kids' area.



## 32.

### Blakesburg Corn Carnival

This festival has been held for more than 100 years, with the first one taking place in August 1905. The festival is traditionally held over a three-day weekend in September, and activities in past years include a vendor fair, carnival rides, a talent show, kiddie parade, pie auction, tractor pulls, bathtub races, the big parade and more. For more information, visit the Blakesburg Corn Carnival Facebook page.



## 33.

### Duck Races

Thousands of rubber ducks will be dumped from a truck down a slip-and-slide on South Court Street, launching from Central Park, Sept. 24. Ducks are available for adoption with \$1 of every adoption benefiting the Heartland Humane Society, this year's 2022 nonprofit partner. First place will receive \$2,500, second place \$1,000 and Dead Duck (last place) \$500. For more information, visit ottumwaduckraces.com.

34.

## Halloween Hikes

Join Pioneer Ridge Nature Center for a fun and educational outdoor experience around Halloween. The hikes feature volunteers dressed in costumes to educate children about the natural world around them. There is a different theme each year, with this year's yet to be determined. A lighted path leads hikers from actor to actor at the nature center south of Ottumwa. Hot chocolate, snacks and games are traditionally hosted indoors after the hike. For more information or instructions on how to make reservations, visit [conservation.wapellocounty.org](http://conservation.wapellocounty.org).



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## 35.

### Halloweenapalooza

Iowa's only horror movie film festival returns Oct. 7-8 at the Bridge View Center in Ottumwa, a change of venue in the past as it was held at Hotel Ottumwa. The event is created by horror filmmakers for horror fans. In addition to the film festival, the event traditionally features a zombie walk, costume contest, vendors and celebrity appearances. More information on the event can be found at [www.halloweenapalooza.com](http://www.halloweenapalooza.com).

## 36.

### Holiday tree lighting/ Lights of Love

This moving ceremony is traditionally held shortly after dusk the Friday after Thanksgiving in Ottumwa's Central Park. Dozens of trees, often sponsored in memory of lost loved ones, in the Lights of Love display are lit one by one as dedications are read. Other trees are sponsored by businesses and other donors to offer financial support to the Main Street Ottumwa program. The ceremony concludes with the lighting of the big tree on the amphitheater stage.

## 37.

### Knoxville Living Windows

A Knoxville tradition, Living Windows brings local storefronts to life during the holiday season in November. Local businesses around the square donate window space to fill with decorations and open their doors after hours to provide goodies, music, activities and more. Santa also makes an appearance, and the tree lighting ceremony on the courthouse lawn is part of the evening. Visit the Living Windows - Knoxville, Iowa Facebook page for more information.

## 38.

### Midwest Old Threshers Reunion

Though located in Mount Pleasant and out of the traditional coverage area of our publications, the annual event brings in attendees from across the Midwest. Steam-train and trolley rides, and exhibits of steam-powered equipment dominate the event, which starts the Wednesday before Labor Day and ends on the holiday. Vendors and multiple food choices and entertainment on the property's grandstand also dominate the event. The 2022 event runs from Sept. 1-5. Tickets are available to purchase in advance or daily.



**39.**

## Oktoberfest/ Rotary Chicken Barbecue

Celebrate fall with the Ottumwa Oktoberfest celebration. The 2022 event runs Sept. 28 to Oct. 1 and features the beer and brat tent, live music, kiddie parade, big parade and more. Events typically run Wednesday through Saturday. The event unofficially kicks off Tuesday evening with the Ottumwa Rotary Chicken Barbecue, served at Bridge View Center in recent years.

**38**

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**40.**

## Pancake Day

The 2022 theme for this year's event, set for Sept. 24, is "Pancakes in Paradise." Held on the Centerville square, the event began in 1949 as a way for local businesses to say thank you to their patrons and is held annually on the last Saturday of September. Main attractions of the day include free pancakes in the morning, a Kiddie Parade, the Pancake Day Queen contest, entertainment and the Big Parade. For more information and a schedule of events, visit [centervilleia.com](http://centervilleia.com).



**41.**

## Senior Expo

Get expert advice on all things senior living, whether you're retired, approaching retirement or are the caretaker of a senior citizen. Vendor booths line Bridge View Center with speakers in the conference rooms. It is held in conjunction with a special Ottumwa Courier publication covering topics of interest to that age group. This annual event is hosted by the Courier and is set for Sept. 22.



**42.**

## Southern Iowa Junk Journey

The event is essentially the same as the annual Southern Iowa Junk Jaunt, except the original leader is taking a year off from that. This year's journey is held twice over three days, once in June and the other event from Oct. 14-16. Visitors can shop with vendors in both Appanoose and Monroe counties, and shop antiques and collectibles.

**43.**

## ¡Viva! Ottumwa Festival

Celebrate the diversity of the Ottumwa community with a day of music, dance, food, drinks and activities for all ages Sept. 11 at Quincy Place Mall. The event will feature food vendors, shopping opportunities and a schedule for the stage for professional music groups and dance troupes representing cultures from Latin America, Africa, Southeast Asia and the Philippines. For details as the event approaches, visit the festival's Facebook page.



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# WINTER

*December through February*

**44.**

## **Pella Tour of Homes**

Pella's annual Tour of Homes invites visitors inside lavishly decorated homes filled with the sights and sounds of Christmas in early December. The annual event features various homes in Pella and is perfect for those who love architecture, decorating and getting in the Christmas spirit.



**45.**

## **Albia Victorian Stroll**

Held the first weekend of December each year, the stroll is centered on Albia's historic courthouse square. Dozens of store-front windows feature live Victorian vignettes in addition to caroling, theater, trains, horse-drawn carriage rides and live music. This year's stroll is set for Dec. 3.

**46.**

## **Battle of the Brushes**

Artists are given 90 minutes to complete a painting on a canvas for a theme that is revealed at the beginning of the event, which is sponsored by the Ottumwa Area Arts Council and is held at Hotel Ottumwa. Drink specials are available throughout the evening and paintings are live-auctioned, with proceeds split between the winner and the arts council. The 2022 event was held in February. Tickets are available in advance and at the door. Visit [ottumwaarts.org](http://ottumwaarts.org) for more information.



**47.**

## **Cornbelt Cow Calf Conference and KIIC Farm Show**

This conference, now merged with the farm show, has provided an opportunity for producers, researchers and more than 100 industry representatives to come together to explore current topics and issues. The 2022 event was its 50th anniversary and is traditionally held each January at Bridge View Center.

48.

## Around Town Downtown Holiday Homes Tour

Select homes from the community are opened to visitors during the holiday season. The fundraising event, hosted by the Laureate Guild and Main Street Ottumwa, is meant to “showcase what Ottumwa has to offer: large homes, small homes, apartments and lofts, historic homes, new homes.” For more information, contact MSO.

49.

## Chocolate Lovers Benefit

This annual gala is held the February before Valentine’s Day at Hotel Ottumwa and raises funds for the American Home Finding Association. Enjoy live music, hors d’oeuvres, a silent auction and, of course, chocolate.

50.

## Eagle watching

Every winter, bald eagles flock to Ottumwa along the Des Moines River. The best places for viewing eagles are the Market Street Bridge, Bridge View Center, Des Moines River Footbridge and River Road. For a map of the trail, contact Meet Ottumwa at [meetottumwa.org](http://meetottumwa.org). Another popular spot for wintering bald eagles is Lake Red Rock in Marion County.

51.

## Holiday Nights ‘N Lights

Travel through Ottumwa Park and take in a mile of lighted holiday decorations. Hosted annually by Greater Ottumwa Partners in Progress and various sponsors, this holiday extravaganza is a favorite, drawing visitors from several counties. Volunteers man the ticket booth, and the organizations they represent are rewarded with a portion of the proceeds. The lights come on mid-November and stay lit through Christmas. Visitors also have the chance to visit with Santa Claus on select nights, and 2018 saw the addition of an ice skating rink. Check with GOPiP later in the year for 2022 dates and hours.

52.

## It’s the Most Wonderful Time of the Year

Santa arrives at the Santa House on the Centerville Square the day after Thanksgiving during the annual lighting. On Dec. 10, breakfast with Santa will be available from 9-11 a.m. There also will be a unique holiday adventure through the Holiday Sampler, in which holiday treats can be sampled at area merchants and their treasured recipes collected.

53.

## Lighted Christmas Parade/ Painting with Lights

Oskaloosa is lit up each holiday season when buildings surrounding the square are strung with thousands of lights for Painting with Lights. The illuminated buildings are a perfect backdrop to the town’s famous Lighted Christmas Parade held each December. The parade has dozens of entries, each twinkling with lights.

54.

## Kerstmarkt

Pella’s 2nd annual Dutch Christmas Market is held in early December in conjunction with Tour of Homes. Inspired by outdoor markets in the Netherlands, this cozy market will fill you with holiday cheer. Local vendors sell tasty treats and hand-made items that make for unique holiday gifts.



# SPRING

*March through May*



## 57.

### **Family Fest**

Each March, Bridge View Center hosts a free Family Fest as a fun-filled day of family activities. The goal of the event is to give back to the families of Ottumwa and southeast Iowa. The event typically includes bounce houses, science exhibits, entertainment acts, health tips, exhibitors and Safety City, a chance for kids to tour an ambulance, firetruck, patrol car and/or other law enforcement vehicles.

## 58.

### **Klompfen Classic 5K**

For 30 years, thousands of individuals have participated in the Klompfen Classic 5K. This fun run/walk raises funds for local programs to help children and families, and winners are awarded a wooden Dutch shoe. Come enjoy a touch of Holland and experience the beautiful tulips and windmills of Pella the Wednesday before Tulip Time.



## 55.

### **Diversity Conference**

The concept of diversity represents a broad range of cultures, ethnicities, values and beliefs. This event helps explore that and welcomes and celebrates all dimensions of diversity that each individual represents. The day includes keynote speakers, breakout sessions and lunch. It is hosted annually by Indian Hills Community College in March.

## 56.

### **Easter Egg Roll**

Held prior to Easter each year, the Easter Egg Roll at the American Gothic House and Visitors Center includes egg rolling races on the lawn, spring-themed crafts, an activity passport and more. The Easter Bunny is a frequent visitor, and you can get pictures with him in front of the famous backdrop.

59.

## Ladies Night Out

Fill up your passport by visiting participating businesses in the downtown Ottumwa district to be entered into a drawing for prizes donated from the businesses. Live music and prizes for drawings follow. The event is held annually on a Friday night in April. For more information, contact Main Street Ottumwa.



60.

## Lemonade Day

This no-cost experiential program teaches youth how to start, own and operate their very own business with a lemonade stand. Third-, fourth- and fifth-graders are invited to participate in order to learn business skills, responsibility, financial literacy, goal setting and teamwork while working with a local mentor. Ottumwa's May event, with stands at several locations in Ottumwa, will be the first held in Iowa. For more information, contact AJ Gevock at 641-683-5188 or [aj.gevock@indianhills.edu](mailto:aj.gevock@indianhills.edu), or visit [lemonadeday.org/ottumwa](http://lemonadeday.org/ottumwa).

61.

## Pages for Pennies

This three-day book sale is a partnership between the Friends of the Ottumwa Public Library, Bridge View Center and Meet Ottumwa. The event returns to its usual May slot after being postponed to August last year. Donations are taken for the event weeks in advance, and the sale offers books, CDs, DVDs, LPs, board games, puzzles and sheet music.

62.

## Color the Earth Day

The event, a partnership between the Centerville Young Professionals, Rathbun Area Solid Waste Commission and Appanoose County Conservation, features a 5k run, a kids' color fun run, cornhole tournament and tree planting. The event is held in April in Lelah Bradley Park. Tickets can be purchased ahead of the event.

63.

## Tulip Time

Discover Iowa's Dutch heritage during Pella's annual Tulip Time Festival each May. Thousands of visitors make a special trip to the Tulip City each year to admire blooming tulips and Dutch architecture, indulge in Dutch foods and learn the city's unique history. Locals dress in beautiful Dutch costumes and give tours at the Pella Historical Society and Museums.

64.

## Upstairs Downtown

The event, hosted by Main Street Ottumwa, is a chance for the public to see progress on downtown living spaces at various stages of renovation. Tickets are required for the tours and can be purchased at Main Street Ottumwa, and also can be purchased at the tour properties. For more information about the 2023 event (the 2022 event was held after publication), email [director@mainstreetottumwa.com](mailto:director@mainstreetottumwa.com).



# FINE ARTS

65.

## Fairfield First Fridays

As the name suggests, art and community events are held through Fairfield the first Friday of each month. The organization aims to celebrate creativity, culture and community with its events, including bringing diverse groups together to express their creativity and passion for the arts. What began in 2002 morphed into Fairfield 1st Fridays Art Walk and was recently changed to Fairfield First Fridays to focus more on community events. For more information, visit [Fairfieldfirstfridays.org](http://Fairfieldfirstfridays.org).

66.

## Oskaloosa Art Center

The Fine Arts and Cultural Events of Mahaska County's art center is an art gallery, has studio space and classes for all ages in pottery, screen printing and other art styles, and is also a venue for performances. The Oskaloosa Art Center is located in The Alley at 115 First Ave. W. in Oskaloosa.



67.

## Ottumwa Area Community Chorus

This vocal group, comprised of children and adults from the area, holds its annual concert in November. Members of the chorus, however, stay busy throughout the year by giving six to eight performances annually, including with the Southeast Iowa Symphony Orchestra and the Ottumwa Municipal Band. Membership has reached 70-plus members, and the choir is directed by Dr. Christine Bergan.



68.

## Ottumwa Community Players/Ottumwa Community Children's Playhouse

Ottumwa Community Players is a theater group that puts on several productions throughout the year. The troupe's most recent performances have been at the Temple of Creative Arts, 529 W. Main St. For more information, visit [ottumwacommunityplayers.com](http://ottumwacommunityplayers.com) or visit the Ottumwa Community Players Facebook page.

Starting its 18th year, the Ottumwa Community Children's Playhouse is a children's theatre company that provides theater involvement for children and parents of the community. Multiple productions are performed each year at Bridge View Center, each being produced with no adult cast members. For more information, visit [occpkids.com](http://occpkids.com) or the OCCP Facebook page.

69.

## Ottumwa Municipal Band

Founded in 1865, the oldest continuously operating municipal band in the state is in Ottumwa. OMB performs weekly concerts on Thursdays in Central Park during the summer with a rain/weather location of Quincy Place Mall. The band is made up of musicians from Ottumwa and the surrounding communities. For more information, visit the Ottumwa Municipal Band Facebook page.

70.

## Ottumwa Symphony Orchestra/Southeast Iowa Symphony Orchestra

Celebrating its 35th year, the Ottumwa Symphony Orchestra puts on a number of performances every year, traditionally with concerts in the fall, winter and spring. They also play for the organization's Christmas Ball as well as an outdoor concert, Music on the Green, every year. The organization also hosts fundraising events throughout the year. For more information, visit [ottumwasymphonyorchestra.net](http://ottumwasymphonyorchestra.net).

The Southeast Iowa Symphony Orchestra has a mission to promote quality orchestral experiences by providing live performances, educational opportunities and rural outreach programs. It is centered at Iowa Wesleyan University and supported by boards of directors in three locations, Burlington, Ottumwa and Mount Pleasant, where performances are typically held. It reaches 12,000 people every year and has more than 70 musicians. Annually, SEISO hosts an artist in residence as well as the Young Artist Competition. Concert for a Cause has become an annual tradition as well, with proceeds from the event benefiting a designated charity. For more information, visit [seiso.us](http://seiso.us).



71.

## Sculpture Tour

Fine Arts and Cultural Events of Mahaska County first created the sculpture tour around Oskaloosa in 2017. Each year, the sculptures on display have been updated with new sculptures from artists in the community and beyond. This rotating public art program draws residents and visitors to locations in and around Oskaloosa and are available for purchase with the hope that Oskaloosa develops a collection of permanent sculptures over time.



72.

## Pella Opera House

Built in 1900 in downtown Pella, the Pella Opera House is a premiere performing arts facility that draws visitors near and far for arts entertainment, social events, weddings and historic tours. The Pella Opera House is listed on the National Register of Historic Places with the mission to preserve and operate an historical facility in a unique, intimate setting.

73.

## Union Street Players

Pella's award-winning community theatre produces three main stage shows each year and hosts a summer youth drama camp along with other educational opportunities for community members. Founded in 1989, USP has spent over a quarter century staging quality productions of well-known plays as well as producing original works written locally.

# SOCIAL/ACTIVE OUTLETS

74.

## Beach Ottumwa

Ottumwa's water park features a variety of experiences. During the summer months, enjoy three slides, a wave pool, sand volleyball and a kids' area. The year-round indoor pool offers a slide, a shallow pool and a competitive indoor pool. You can also try your hands – or feet – on the inflatable obstacle course. The park covers 13 acres along the Des Moines River.



75



75.

## Disc golf

Wapello County is home to a number of disc golf courses, including at the American Gothic House Visitors Center in Eldon, Indian Hills Community College in Ottumwa, and Memorial and Wildwood parks in Ottumwa. Lake Fisher Disc Golf Course is located west of Bloomfield in Davis County, and Pioneer Ridge, located between Ottumwa and Bloomfield, is also home to a course. Additional listings indicate courses in Oskaloosa, Roberts Creek Disc Golf in Otley, and a course at Central College in Pella.

76.

## Eddyville Raceway

This IHRA-sanctioned track is a one-eighth mile dragstrip on more than 60 acres of land. It opened in 1965, and there are more than 50 race days per season, including Friday Fun Nights, and Saturday Bracket Events. Special race events include Midwest Nostalgic Nationals, Night of Fire and World Fuel Altered Nationals. The track is located at 3260 Merino Ave. in Oskaloosa. For more information, visit [eddyvillraceway.com](http://eddyvillraceway.com).

# 77.

## Farmers markets

Several farmers markets are held throughout southeast Iowa. Some are seasonal and some are year-round. Here is a list of are markets from Farmer's Market Online: Monroe County Farmers' Market, Albia; Centerville Farmers Market, Centerville; Fairfield Farmers Market, Fairfield; Villages Farmers Market, Keosauqua; Knoxville Farmers' Market, Knoxville; Oskaloosa Farmers Market, Oskaloosa; Ottumwa Farmer's Market, Ottumwa; Wapello County Farmers Market, Ottumwa; and Pella Farmer's Market, Pella.

# 78.

## Golfing

As many as 10 golf courses are spotted throughout the region. Ottumwa is home to two: Cedar Creek Golf Course and The Club. Appanoose County is home to the Appanoose Country Club and The Preserve at Honey Creek Resort. Oskaloosa is home to Edmundson Golf Course, Harvest Point Golf Course and Oskaloosa Public Golf Course. In Marion County, you'll find Pella Golf & Country Club, Bos Landen Golf Club and Pine Knolls Golf Club. Additional golf courses include Albia Golf and Leisure, Bloomfield Country Club, Fairfield's Walton Club, Inc., and Fairfield Golf & Country Club, Riverview Country Club in Keosauqua and Sigourney Golf & Country Club. Virtual golf is available at Nederlanders Tap & Golf in Pella.



# 79.

## Quincy Place Mall

In addition to a variety of shops, Quincy Place Mall in Ottumwa is home to multiple options for family fun. Tee-Rex Mini Golf is an indoor 15-hole challenge for the whole family and has a party room available. Ottumwa's video game history is on display with Ottumwa's Old School Pinball & Arcade. Top off the family fun with a stop at GamerTAG, an indoor laser tag course with a variety of play mode options and party space available.

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**82.**

## Wapello Chiefs Bowmen

The Wapello Chiefs Bowmen Archery Range is located on 80 acres of timber three miles south of Ottumwa. The range features four 3D courses with 10 shots per course. Membership in the club automatically makes you a member of the Iowa Bowhunters Association. Planned 2021 shoot dates are June 4-5, July 23-24 and Aug. 20-21 and are open to all shooters. For an updated list of competition dates, visit [wapellochiefsbowmen.com](http://wapellochiefsbowmen.com).

**83.**

## Wapello County Trails

This trail network, winding along the Des Moines River, is suitable for hiking or biking. The first part of the network was built in 1998, and it has been growing over its 20 years. The network runs more than 10 miles along the river and through Ottumwa Park.

**84.**

## Smash Park

New to the Pella community is Smash Park, a restaurant, bar, arcade and entertainment center located at 1000 Fifield Road near Lake Red Rock. Smash Park is the perfect venue to eat, drink and have fun during a vacation at the lake or on a Friday night after work/classes.

**80.**

## Rock n Roll Dairy Bar & Raceway

During the summer months, stop in for a cool treat. Go-kart racing is available on select dates in past seasons and is intense, high-speed fun; check for availability. The restaurant on South Madison Avenue in Ottumwa also serves a variety of hot menu items for a complete meal.

**81.**

## Trout fishing

The ponds in Ottumwa Park are stocked with trout twice per year: spring and fall. The program is through the Iowa Department of Natural Resources' Urban Trout Stocking Program and allows fishing for trout in places they might not otherwise be found. An Iowa fishing license and trout stamp are required.



# LANDMARKS

85.

## American Gothic House and Visitors Center

This Iowa landmark is where Grant Wood got his inspiration for the world-famous “American Gothic” painting. Monthly tours of the house are available on select dates. The grounds include the house, where visitors can pose for a photo in front of the famous facade, and a visitors center that features a museum and gift shop and plays host to a variety of community events throughout the year. For current hours and events, visit [americangothichouse.org](http://americangothichouse.org).



86.

## Amish Business Map

Davis County is home to about 300 Amish families, the most in the state, with about 1,400 residents being Old Order Amish. With the soil not as fertile as in other Amish settlements, those who located to Davis County began creating businesses where they saw a niche that was compatible with their craftsman skills and way of life. More than 90 businesses are listed on the Amish Business Map, which can be downloaded at [visitdaviscounty.com](http://visitdaviscounty.com) or picked up at the Davis County Welcome Center in Bloomfield.

87.

## Pella Historical Society & Museums

Pella Historical Society & Museums is a Dutch-American heritage village museum with 22 buildings and collections, the Vermeer Mill Museum and Interpretive Center, and the Scholte House Museum. Pella Historical is also home to the tallest working windmill in the United States, the boyhood home of Wyatt Earp and Maria's Tea Room. The nonprofit is in charge of planning Pella's annual Tulip Time Festival in May.

88.

## Bridge View Center

The facility located along the Des Moines River plays host to several types of events. It has a theatre for plays, concerts and other types of performances; an expo hall that has housed various types of expos and other performances, and conference rooms for meetings or break-out sessions of bigger events. A wall of windows opens to a view of the river with the trails passing by. A schedule of events can be found at [bridgeviewcenter.com](http://bridgeviewcenter.com).





89.

### Canteen Lunch in the Alley

This popular eatery opened its doors in 1927 and moved to its current location in 1936. Its old-fashioned horseshoe counter and stools are a draw for locals and visitors alike. Canteen Eating Contests were held in 2019-20. For more information, visit [canteenottumwa.com](http://canteenottumwa.com).

90.

### Chief Wapello's Grave

Chief Wapello Memorial Park is located at 6899 Chief Wapello Road, on the site of the 1842 treaty by which the Sauk and Fox tribes ceded the last of their Iowa holdings to the U.S. government. It is on the National Park Service's National Register of Historic Places. The site is open all year and has no restricted hours.

91.

### Indian Hills Community College campus

The campus on Ottumwa's north end grew out of what was once Ottumwa Heights College and was founded in 1966. The campus features a disc golf course; a pond with water feature; a cabin, trails and campsites for Boy Scouts of America; a cemetery for the nuns of Ottumwa Heights; and plenty of community events. The school itself offers arts and sciences courses, advanced technology and health sciences programs. It is supplemented by a campus in Centerville and North Campus near Ottumwa Regional Airport. The year is comprised of four terms: fall, winter, spring and summer. For more information, visit [indianhills.edu](http://indianhills.edu).

92.

### Central College

Founded in 1853, Central College is a private, four-year liberal arts college with an average enrollment of 1,100 students. The college is known for its academic rigor, leadership formation and for its work creating genuine connections among students, faculty, coaches and alumni that help graduates realize their career aspirations for a lifetime. The college also has a longstanding relationship with the Reformed Church in America.

93.

### William Penn University

William Penn University provides an educational experience with a focus on leadership, technology and the Quaker principles of simplicity, peace-making, integrity, community and equality. The private college was founded in 1873 by Quaker settlers and named after famed Quaker William Penn. The first graduate of the college in 1875 was a woman, which was relatively unheard of during that time period.



89

94.

## Iowa Heartland History Connection

What was the former Wapello County Historical Museum, the IHHC's mission is to identify, collect and preserve artifacts, images and documents from the region's history. The campus at 700 Farm Credit Drive had its grand opening in April 2022, and includes Iowa Heartland History Museum, Iowa Heartland Research and Archive Center, and the Iowa Heartland Event Center. There is also a children's area for learning. For more information, call 641-682-8676 or visit [iaheartland.org](http://iaheartland.org).

95.

## Lake Wapello, Lake Red Rock and Rathbun Lake/Honey Creek

Head out for your next lake adventure right here in southeast Iowa. Several options are available, each with its own highlights:

– **Lake Wapello State Park** sits on 1,150 acres of wooded hillsides and contains a 289-acre lake and shaded picnic areas. The lake has sand beaches and the largest beach house facility in Iowa's state park system. While swimming and sunbathing are allowed, no lifeguards are on duty. The site offers fishing, canoeing, kayaking and pleasure cruising. There is also Lake Shore Trail comprising of seven miles of trails that takes hikers around the lake and through the park. Family cabins are available for rental seasonally, as are electric and nonelectric camping sites with modern shower and restroom facilities. The park is located at 15248 Camp-ground Road, = Drakesville.

– **Lake Red Rock**, the largest lake in Iowa, holds more than 15,000 acres of water, and 35,000 acres of land form a spectacular outdoor recreation area. The lake serves as a host for fishing, boating, camping and other outdoor fun. There are overlooks and recreation areas along the entire length of the lake, and the site is popular for watching bald eagles during the winter. One of the best-known features is the "Mile Long Bridge," which carries Highway 14 over the lake. Lake Red Rock is located in Marion County; those going through Knoxville should head north on Highway



14, while those coming from Pella can head west on Highway G28 or Highway T15.

– **Rathbun Lake/Honey Creek Resort** is Appanoose County's – and Iowa's – only destination resort. The lake has 11,000 acres of water and 23,000 acres of surrounding land. The lake is the second largest in the state and is surrounded by seven campgrounds. Boating, sailing and fishing are all popular lake activities, and there are several hiking, biking, ATV and snowmobile trails. Honey Creek Resort includes 16,000 acres of park land with a hotel, rental cottages and a golf courses. The hotel houses Buccaneer Bay indoor water park, playgrounds and hosts a variety of events.

96.

## George Daily Auditorium

George Daily Auditorium is a space for school theatre and music performances, community events, professional and local theatre productions, presentations and much more. Nearly 700 people can be seated in the house. George Daily Auditorium is located at 1800 N. Third St. in Oskaloosa.

97.

## Naval Air Station

The former administration building is currently undergoing renovations by the Friends of the NAS Ottumwa to create a museum that will preserve the history NAS Ottumwa and honor the hard work and sacrifices of those stationed there. It was built during World War II to help the United States Navy increase its inventory of combat-ready airplanes and pilots. The building is located at 14550 Terminal Ave. in Ottumwa, and more information can be found at [nasottumwa.org](http://nasottumwa.org).



98.

## Nelson Pioneer Farm and Museum

In 1843, pioneers Daniel and Margaret Nelson settled in Mahaska County. More than a century later, their descendants ensured the farm would be the home of the Mahaska County Historical Society. The farm and museum have many historical artifacts and buildings. Nelson Pioneer Farm is located at 2211 Nelson Lane in Oskaloosa.

99.

## Pioneer Ridge

Located on 995 acres of land on Highway 63 between Ottumwa and Bloomfield, this nature center offers interpretive displays and programming. The site features an extensive trail system for foot, bike or horseback. It also features four fishing ponds, a bird observation blind, open grass ridge tops and oak and hickory timber. Rentals for special events are available, as are primitive and electrical campsites and modern and camping log cabins.



100.

## Richardson's Point

The migration of Mormon faithful from Nauvoo, Illinois, to Salt Lake City passed through southern Iowa. And if you know where to look, the traces are still there. At Richardson's Point, a wooded location in Van Buren County, a wood fence and a sign mark out the spot where two pioneers from the Mormon Trail are buried. The site has been protected by the Klodt family for decades. The camp was created when progress stalled out after heavy rain made travel too difficult. It came early in the trek, a bit more than 50 miles from Nauvoo. The graves themselves are among the first along the trail. Archaeologists are still trying to pin down precisely where the boundaries of the extended camp were.

101.

## Rock Island Train Depot

This former depot now houses a railroad museum. It is located at 405 KD Ave. in Eldon. It last saw passengers in 1968 with freight traffic continuing to 1980. It is open for coffee from 7-9 a.m. Monday through Friday. Weekend hours of 1-4 p.m. Saturday and Sunday run May through September, and tours are offered by appointment. For more information, visit [eldondepotmuseum.org](http://eldondepotmuseum.org).



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