

YOUR SUMMER CHECKLIST

in the greater Champaign County area

July-September 2021

visit **champaign** county

YOU'RE WELCOME 

yourewelcomeCU.com

MUST-ATTEND EVENTS & ACTIVITIES

1 FRIDAY NIGHT LIVE

July-September | 40north.org

Live music is back in downtown Champaign! Head there from 6:00-8:00 p.m. every Friday for free, live performances in three locations featuring all local musicians.

2 CRYSTAL LAKE PARK ART FAIR

August 7 | 40north.org

Back after the inaugural year in 2019, this art fair features 40 local and regional artists in the beautiful, and renovated Crystal Lake Park in Urbana.

3 HOT ROD POWER TOUR

August 27 | hotrod.com/events/power-tour

Nearly 4,000 hot rodders are expected for the Hot Rod Power Tour, stopping at the State Farm Center for a free show. Register in advance to attend to enjoy all this show dedicated to cars.

4 FIGHTING ILLINI FOOTBALL

August-November | fightingillini.com

For the first time since 2019, fans will be in the stands at Memorial Stadium, welcoming new coach Bret Bielema. Get your orange & blue gear, pack for a tailgate, and get ready to cheer for the Illini!

5 EBERTFEST

September 8-11 | ebertfest.com

Movie fans rejoice! This popular film festival returns to the historic Virginia Theatre, with a full set of films and guests planned in honor of homegrown film critic, Roger Ebert.

6 PYGMALION

September 23-25 | thisispygmalion.com

Bringing together music, literature, comedy, tech, and makers, Pygmalion is the event to check out on campus and throughout Urbana this fall.

7 CU PRIDE FESTIVAL

September 24-25 | unitingpride.org

The largest pride parade south of Chicago happens in Champaign County. We celebrate pride in September so all of campus can join the community!



Did you know?

- 100% of Champaign-Urbana residential areas are within both one quarter mile and one half mile of a park or open space.
- The Great ARTdoors features 10 pieces of public art created by local artists. These pieces can be found in Champaign and Urbana parks through November.
- Pampered Chef founder, and University of Illinois alumnus donated \$45 million for the creation of the Doris Kelley Christopher Illinois Extension Center, a vibrant, and welcoming space will be located in the Arboretum.
- Champaign-Urbana Mass Transit District (CUMTD) is the first in the nation to commercially order 60' zero-emission, hydrogen fuel cell buses. Plan your ride at mtd.org.
- Enjoying that air conditioning in the heat of summer? That was the work of University of Illinois alumnus and faculty member, Dr. Seichi Konzo. His published research on forced-air heating and the loss of air pressure flowing through sheet-metal ducts predated the commercial release of air conditioning by nearly 20 years.

COMMUNITY RANKINGS

- Champaign County ranked #16 on "40 places young people are moving" list—USA Today
- Prairie Fruits Farm & Creamery wins two Good Food Awards for their Pelota Roja and Fleur de la Prairie
- In 2019, the Institute for Higher Education at Shanghai Jiao Tong University (Academic Ranking of World Universities) ranked UIUC as the 38th best university in the world and 10th among American public universities.



Want more ideas for events & activities?
visitchampaigncounty.org

Learn more about community rankings & innovations
+ search for jobs:
yourewelcomecu.com

TOP IDEAS FOR FOOD & DRINK

Jarling's Custard Cup

309 W. Kirby Ave., Champaign | jarlingscustardcup.com
Nothing screams summer like Jarling's Custard Cup, the community's beloved stop for frozen custard treats. Try their cold-fudge sundae, or any cup, cone, shake, or float that helps keep you cool.

Red Herring Vegetarian Restaurant

1209 W. Oregon St., Urbana | redherringlove.com
This vegan stop serves up lunch and a weekly dinner on campus utilizing local, organic ingredients. As a non-profit, they support local activist groups, and offer meal kits and pay-it-forward meals.

Caribbean Grill

2135 S. Neil St., Champaign | caribbeangrill.net
This black-owned business will treat you to island flavors, from spicy jerk chicken, fried plantains, or red beans 'n rice. Serving up a crowd? Check out their catering for gatherings of all sizes!

Punch! Bar & Lounge

217 N. Neil St., Champaign | punchbarchampaign.com
Located in the Hyatt Place in downtown, this bar mixes up the perfect cocktail alongside taste shareable bites. This spot will become your new happy hour home!



Taste of Both Worlds

401 N. Broadway Ave., Urbana
facebook.com/tastebothworlds
Find authentic Filipino and Cambodian dishes in Broadway Food Hall, at this popular stop. With daily specials, you can always try something new.



Whisk

1704 Patton Dr., Mahomet | whisk-coffee-and-wine-bar.business.site
A coffee and wine café in Mahomet will serve up refreshing salads, filling wraps and unique breakfast sandwiches alongside your favorite beverages. Don't miss the boutique shopping while there!

Lodgic Everyday Kitchen

1807 S. Neil St., Champaign | everydaykitchen.com/champaign-il
Re-opening after COVID-19, Everyday Kitchen elevates Midwest comfort food for lunch and dinner in their modern space, adorned with artwork from local artists.

Selfie Spots

Check out these spots, or any on our summer checklist, and share on Instagram with #outsideofordinary and #yourewelcomecu for a chance to win a Champaign Proud t-shirt!



Clockwise from top left

1. CU Adventures in Time and Space
2. Roger Ebert at the Virginia Theatre
3. Sprout by Michael Darin at Citizens Park
4. Dick Butkus at Henry Dale and Betty Smith Football Center

STAY ACTIVE & INVOLVED

While the weather is warm, there are plenty of ways to stay cool and active. Also, check out the many volunteer opportunities throughout the community this summer.

Outdoor & Indoor Activities

Crystal Lake Park Lake House

206 W. Park St., Urbana | urbanaparks.org
This newly renovated park has a new dock at the Lake House, where you can rent canoes and paddle boats to explore the park.

Kickapoo Rail Trail

Urbana to St. Joseph | onekrt.org
Hop on your bike for a 7+ mile ride to St. Joseph and visit the shops and restaurants at the trail head.

Sholem Aquatic Center

2205 Sangamon Dr., Champaign | champaignparks.com
Splash the day away in this zero-depth pool, or go around the lazy river to stay cool!

Volunteer Opportunities

University of Illinois Office of Volunteer Programs

union.illinois.edu/get-involved/office-of-volunteer-programs

United Way of Champaign County

Get a list of community organizations needing volunteers at uwayhelps.org/volunteer