

Press Release

Springfield Convention & Visitors Bureau

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Contact:

Susan Wade; Convention & Visitors Bureau; 800-678-8767, Ext. 101; 417-799-0401; 417-830-0645 or swade@springfieldmo.org.

Fall Festivals Coming Up in Springfield, Mo.

Springfield, Mo. – As “The Middle of Everywhere,” Springfield is the perfect location for festivals of all sorts. This fall, Springfield will host festivals celebrating everything from blues to literature. If you’re looking for a fun celebration this fall, mark your calendar for these upcoming festivals:

The Battle of Wilson’s Creek 150th Anniversary Reenactment - Aug. 12-14

Learn about the Civil War with an action-packed, fun-filled weekend commemorating the sesquicentennial of the Battle of Wilson’s Creek Aug. 12-14.

Along with a full-scale Civil War reenactment featuring thousands of reenactors, horses and cannons, you can enjoy old-time craft demonstrations, games and activities for kids, food and drink, live music and entertainment, etc.

The price for a one-day adult ticket is \$20 in advance and \$25 at the gate. Children 12 and under are free when accompanied by an adult. A three-day pass is also available for \$50 in advance and \$60 at the gate. On-site parking for the event is free.

For more information or to purchase tickets, call 417-864-3041 or visit www.WilsonsCreek150.com.

Birthplace of Route 66 Festival - Aug. 13

As the “Birthplace of Route 66,” there is no better place to celebrate our nation’s Mother Road, than Springfield so the West Central Neighborhood Alliance of Springfield has done just that. They are in the process of planning the First Annual Birthplace of Route 66 Festival.

The date is set for Aug. 13 and will be on College Street, the original Route 66 byway, west of Grant Avenue. This festival was invented to celebrate the major role Springfield had in the Route 66 era. Partnering with the festival will be Mother’s Brewing (Springfield’s newest craft brewery) and Bud’s Tire & Wheel (established in 1958 to distribute custom wheels to its Route 66 customers).

This brand new festival will include a variety of activities such as live music, food, entertainment for kids, interpretive history, a classic car show and more.

Tickets for the Birthplace of Route 66 Festival are \$3 at the gate is \$5. Children 5 and younger are free. For more information about the festival, call West Central Neighborhood Alliance at 417-569-8866.

Japanese Fall Festival - Sept. 9-11

Traditional Japanese Culture will be on display for all to experience at the 16th Annual Japanese Fall Festival Sept. 9-11.

This festival attracts nearly 10,000 attendees and is an annual celebration of Springfield's sister city of Isesaki, Japan. Local and national artisans will provide items authentic to Japanese culture and tradition. This year's festival will highlight special performances by a taiko drumming group, an expert candy artist and traditional tea ceremonies. A special area will be set up at the event where proceeds from items sold and donations will benefit the victims of the March 11 Japanese earthquake and tsunami.

If you're looking to experience the culture of Springfield's sister city, experience unique entertainment and find some fall family fun, join Springfield as it welcomes the 16th Annual Japanese Fall Festival this September.

Admission for the event is \$5 for adults, \$3 for kids under 12; and free under the age of 2.

Outdoor Days at Lake Springfield - Sept. 9

This celebration of the outdoors will include the Mountain Men Rendevous, a demonstration of life in the 1800s.

Activities range from old-time to modern and include casting, archery, paintball and geocaching. Also enjoy cooking demonstrations, tent villages, canoe and kayak races and boat rides on Lake Springfield. For more information about this free event, call 417-891-5214 or visit www.basspro.com/fitness.

Greater Ozarks Blues Festival - Sept. 9-12

The Greater Ozarks Blues Festival is one of the biggest celebrations of music in the Ozarks area! This family friendly festival will take place Sept. 9-12 Chesterfield Village just off Kansas Expressway and U.S. 60 in Springfield.

The music festival began in 1996 and has been an annual celebration of Blues and Ozarks fun ever since. The all-volunteer event is meant to keep the blues alive and raise money for the Blues Society of the Ozarks.

The Springfield Community welcomes you to join in on the musical fun and experience superior blues artists such as Joe Lewis Walker, Shaun Murphy, Larry Garner, Grand Marquis, Mary Bridget Davies Group and the Norman Jackson Band.

For more information or to order tickets online visit www.GreaterOzarksBluesFest.com.

Cider Days - Sept. 17-18

Long-time Springfieldians and Springfield tourists alike look forward to Cider Days every year. The annual cider celebration takes place on Walnut Street each year and draws thousands of attendees craving delicious cider, tours of historic homes, great food, more than 25 live entertainers each day and more than 65 demonstrating craftsmen and artisans.

This famous event also features Scarecrow Village, a contest that includes rows o' crows. As a region well known for folk art, this part of the event seems to fit in perfectly as it demonstrates the local artistic talent. This event will take place Sept. 17-18 and Springfield welcomes anyone looking for fun, great food, and the opportunity to see a street full of history and beautiful homes, a historic bed and breakfast and an exciting nightlife.

Learn more about Cider Days at www.ItsAllDowntown.com.

2011 Missouri Literary Festival - Sept. 23-24

This celebration of literature Sept. 23-24 will have a Civil War theme and features well-known writers such as novelists Jeff Shaura, Steve Yates and David Wilson Atwood; historians William C. Davis, William Piston and Randall Fuller along with many others.

Enjoy readings, lectures, panel discussions, book signings and book sales. Also included is a cavalry demonstration, cannon firing, Civil War medical tent, a music tent, a period photos tent and a naked-and-take art tent.

Cost for the festival is \$5 for ages 11 and older and free for ages 10 and younger.

For more information about this event at The Creamery Arts Center and Jordan Valley Park, visit www.MissouriLiteraryFestival.org.

Taste of Springfield - Oct. 1

Downtown Springfield will tempt your tastebuds at this annual festival featuring samples from favorite restaurants along with a beer garden and live music. Taste of Springfield also features events for kids, including bounce houses.

Admission is free with food sampling booklets sold on site, each containing 10 tickets for \$10.

For more information, call 417-881-6200 or visit www.ItsAllDowntown.com.

Halloween Spooktacular - Oct. 21-31

"Treat" the entire family to Halloween at Dickerson Park Zoo Oct. 21-31. The annual Halloween SPOOKTACULAR is a frightfully fun time with the Festival of Scarecrows, children's character decorations and hundreds of jack-o-lanterns. Activities, candy treats and more await.

Admission is \$7 per person at the gate; \$6 advance tickets available in mid-October at area McDonald's restaurants; \$3 per person for Friends of the Zoo members.

For more information about this event, visit www.DickersonParkZoo.com or call 417-864-1800.

Annual Pets and Pumpkins - Oct. 22

Host to the area's largest costume contest and parade for people and their pets, the fourth Annual Pets and Pumpkins returns to Historic C-Street with its whimsical costume contests for pets and owners, games and Halloween activities, including trick or treating at local shops, giant inflatables, haymazes, cupcake/pupcake walk, pumpkin bowling and more. A wonderful family-friendly afternoon, Pets and Pumpkins donates money raised during the event day to local animal shelters, spay/neuter clinic and animal advocacy group. This event is on historic Commercial Street between Robberson and Campbell avenues.

Admission is \$2 for children and pets. Adults are free!

For more information, visit www.PetsAndPumpkins.com or call 417-881-6200.

For information about other events, festivals and things to do in Springfield, check out the calendar at www.SpringfieldAdventures.com or call the Convention & Visitors Bureau at 800-678-8767.