



# *THE WORD ON THE STREET*

Office of Lieutenant Governor Pat Quinn

SPECIAL ISSUE-SUMMER 2004

## IN THIS ISSUE... SUMMER TOURISM

It's that time of year again. Time to go out and enjoy the sun, the parks, the roller coasters and the beaches. Illinois has everything a summer tourist could want, except maybe mountains. What better place is there to spend a summer weekend than in one of our Illinois Main Street communities?

### TOURING WITH ABE

Of course any guide to tourism in Illinois must include our favorite son, Abe Lincoln. Almost anywhere you go in Illinois you are sure to see Lincoln sites. But **Springfield** has the most. The 16<sup>th</sup> President's home, tomb and law office are all there. At the Old State Capitol you can practice your own "A House Divided" speech. A short ride up I-55 is the town named for Abe, **Lincoln**. Don't forget to ask about Abe's watermelon! **Vandalia** is home to the famous courthouse. One of the many places where Lincoln practiced law can be found at the Christian County Historical Society in **Taylorville**. **Jacksonville** was a site for one the Lincoln/Douglas debates and a hub of the Underground Railroad.

### SPORTS AND RECREATION

Illinois is blessed with many excellent state parks and recreation areas. Many of these are near Illinois Main Street communities. You might want to go to **Prophetstown** State Park and the Rock River. In Southern Illinois you can visit the sprawling Shawnee National Forest, **Golconda** and **Murphysboro**. **Waukegan** is a short drive from Illinois Beach State Park and adjacent to Lake Michigan. Many forest preserves and the Illinois Prairie Path are near **Winfield** (the Criterium V Bicycle Races ride into town August 14-15). The St. Louis Rams hold training camp in **Macomb** July 28-August 20. On August 5-7, the Rams will scrimmage the Chicago Bears at Western Illinois University.

### PADDLING THE RIVER

Illinois Main Street communities seem to have an affinity to water. Along the mighty Mississippi are **Rock Island**, **Quincy** and **Alton**. The Illinois River runs by **Pekin**. **Danville** adjoins both the Vermillion River and Lake Vermillion. North of **Marion** is Rend Lake. **Elgin** and **Batavia** border the Fox River. **St. Charles** hosts live performing arts events at the riverfront amphitheater on July 31<sup>st</sup>-August 1<sup>st</sup>.

## ON THE ROAD AGAIN

Route 66 has the song, but Illinois also has many other famous roads. The Lincoln Highway traverses northern Illinois and passes through **DeKalb** and **Plainfield**. If you are driving on the new Ronald Reagan Memorial Highway and Tollway (I-88) don't forget to stop in Reagan's boyhood home, **Dixon**. Route 66 goes through numerous Illinois Main Street towns, including **Dwight**, **Blue Island**, **Pontiac**, and **Bloomington**, before leaving the state near **Staunton**. All summer long, **Elmhurst** has cool events in its Cool Cars Festival. **Crystal Lake** and **Momence** also celebrate the wide open road with Classic Car Nights every Thursday (Crystal Lake) and Doin' It Right Cool Cars at Night (Momence). **Mundelein** is raffling off a 1979 Corvette at its last "Park on Park Cruise Night" of the season. A ride to **Genoa** will take you on the historic Chicago-Galena Stagecoach Trail.

## A CULINARY TOUR

Numerous Illinois Main Street communities host farmers' markets. **Monticello's** market has free live entertainment on August 12 and September 9. In **Galesburg** on Wednesdays you can enjoy Café in the Park. Many great restaurants can be found in Chicago's suburbs including those on Madison Street in **Forest Park**. **Collinsville** has the ever-so-unique catsup bottle. What better way to cool off than to attend **Marshall's** All American Night Lemonade Stand Contest on August 13<sup>th</sup>. Terrific BBQ can be found in many great restaurants in **Eldorado**. For a truly unique culinary experience, check out one of Illinois' many county fairs. **Cambridge** is host to the Henry County Fair. To end the summer, **Carbondale** will welcome you and your appetite September 17-18 to the Southern Illinoisan Main Street Pig Out.

## ARTS AND ARCHITECTURE

Illinois has its fair share of great architecture. **Libertyville** claims the Cook Museum. **Paxton** is home to the historic Carnegie Library and many beautiful Victorian houses. **Belvidere** boasts of being the "City of Murals." **Mascoutah** has the new Firefighter Memorial Mural. A trip to **Belleville** wouldn't be complete without a tour of the Shrine of Our Lady of the Snows. If you want to see examples of the famous Sears Roebuck catalog homes go to **Tuscola**. When in Western Illinois, be sure to check out the historic **Aledo** Opera House. **Rushville** has the Princess Theater. In **Princeton**, the entire month of July is dedicated to Festival 56, a theater festival incorporating sixty Broadway style performances (don't forget to also check out the great antiques shopping). For outdoor music in a beautiful setting check out the award-winning **Orion** Bandshell or the summer concert series in **Pittsfield**. Did you know that first run movies can still be seen for only \$2. They can in **Paris**.

## AND A LITTLE BIT OF THE REST

**Harvard's** Milk Days defy easy categorization but the festival is most certainly worth the trip.

## ILLINOIS MAIN STREET

Office of Lieutenant Governor Pat Quinn  
(217) 782-5990 Springfield  
(312) 814-5220 Chicago  
[www.IllinoisMainStreet.org](http://www.IllinoisMainStreet.org)