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Galena's official magazine | Spring/Summer 2023



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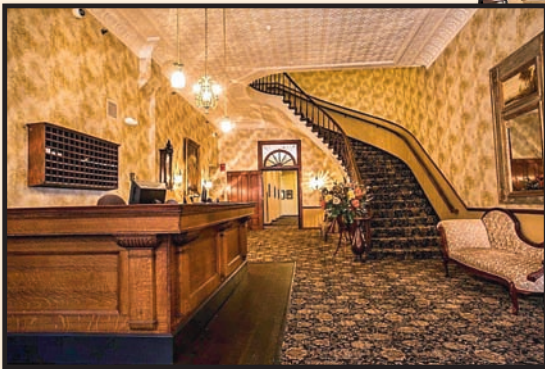
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On the cover

Chestnut Mountain goes hand in hand with winter sports, and the resort has bike trails for the rest of the year for outdoor fun! See story starting page 50.

Photo by Mark Van Osdol

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Galena Mayor Terry Renner unveils the new Grant statue in October 2022 under the watchful eyes of the Galena Generals including, from left, Jeff Klein as General William Rowley; Kevin Melancon, Gen. Augustus Chetlain; Bob Buman, Gen. U.S. Grant; Kirk Foecking, Gen. John E. Smith; and Merle Neises. *Murphy Obershaw photos*

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Some of the Galena Generals enjoy a moment with the Grant statue including, from left, Lynn Pehlke as Gen. Jasper Maltby; Kevin Melancon, Gen. Augustus Chetlain; Bob Buman, Gen. U.S. Grant; and Kirk Foecking, Gen. John E. Smith.

Just a man on a park bench. A watch in his hand. And room for you to sit down beside him.

by Sara Millhouse

Since Ulysses S. Grant settled in on a park bench in Washington Park in early October, many, many Main Street visitors have stopped by to sit beside this life-size Grant.

Next, they pull out their cell phone, flip the lens around and grin. Grant keeps his poker face.

At the unveiling in October, attendees crowded to take their picture on the bench next to Grant. Since then, there has been a steady stream of photos, many of which are shared on social media.

This is Ulysses S. Grant for the selfie generation, with at least one 21st-century value. Grant lacks his trademark cigar, but considering how badly that habit ended for him, he's probably better off without it.

Still, this is no grip-and-grin Grant. "He's got one arm clenched and the other

looking at his watch," said sculptor David Seagraves. "He's waiting for something. He's a little on edge."

Grant wasn't always comfortable socially. He abhorred public speaking, though he could regale friends and small groups with stories.

In Galena, Grant recovered financially and socially from years of struggle, including lonely months away from his family in the military and an unsuccessful attempt at farming. Working at the family leather store in Galena, Grant not only paid off debts but made friends who followed him into the Civil War and stood beside him throughout their lives.

This bronze sculpture of Grant came to Washington Park thanks to VisitGalena.org/Galena Country and the Galena Downtown Business Association. The groups commissioned Seagraves to sculpt the piece, starting

from quarter-size models until they reached a final design. Then, Seagraves sculpted a full-size model of clay.

Dana Meadows of the Downtown Galena Business Association drove the clay model to Colorado, where it was cast in bronze. Meadows also picked it up in Colorado and drove Grant home to Galena.

"Artwork should be interactive, I think, and educational," Meadows said. At his store, he gets all kinds of questions about Grant, even people asking "which side" Grant fought on.

The Washington Park sculpture is an opportunity to learn about the Union hero and U.S. president, and "a lot of people are excited" to interact with him, Meadows said. In the winter, someone wrapped a warm, cashmere scarf around Grant's neck.

Seagraves enjoys seeing people interact so naturally with this public art, "zeroing in



Galena American Legion member Dave Glasgow enjoys a moment with Gen. Grant during the dedication ceremony.

and sitting by it," he said. "It happens without even saying much. They know what they're supposed to do."

Grant is lifelike, but sculpture involves more than three-dimensional photorealism. As a sculptor, Seagraves said, "You have to exaggerate. It's like a truer picture."

Grant's facial expression may not change in Washington Park, but sculpture does change with conditions. "It changes with the light," Seagraves said. "In the morning, you have a few more shadows. He looks a little sterner. Later on, in the afternoon, you don't get the strong shadows. He looks more... sort of amused."

It's easy to imagine that Grant himself might have been amused at how people interact with his modern, bronze portrait today. Numerous stories from his life paint a picture of a humble man who didn't dress the part of a decorated general and president.

When stopped by an unwitting police officer or signing into a Washington, D.C., hotel, he insisted on being treated like other citizens.

If Grant could have chosen how he would be portrayed in the future, he probably would have cringed at heroic sculpture on a pedestal or even astride a beloved horse. He might have been more comfortable with something more—pedestrian.

Just a man on a park bench. A watch in his hand. And room for you to sit down beside him.



David Seagraves sits next to his creation, the Grant statue on Main Street.

Much like U.S. Grant, sculptor David Seagraves moved to northwest Illinois, the place he calls home. For more on Seagraves and other area artists, turn to page 56.



Every bike has a Story

by Sara Millhouse

The prominent red-and-white BISHOP'S sign at 137 N. Main St. in Elizabeth, Ill., now marks the location of Paul's Vintage Bicycle Museum, which features hundreds of vintage bicycles built between the 1880s and the 1980s.



This fascinating collection is the work of Paul Studtmann, Galena, a passionate restorer who has rescued approximately two bikes per week from rust and neglect for nearly a decade now.

Paul Studtmann has turned the old Bishop's Building in Elizabeth into Paul's Vintage Bicycle Museum. *Mark Van Osdol photos*



Studtmann is matter-of-fact about these labors of love. "In the evenings, I got tired of watching TV, so I work on bikes," he said with a shrug.

Many of us have at least one bike story, often from childhood. Studtmann hears a lot of stories about Schwinn bikes with their iconic "S"-emblazoned seats.

While Schwinn had a virtual monopoly in the United States, Studtmann explained that he prefers the technologically advanced bikes produced overseas during the steel-frame era. "I love European bikes," he said. "They were so far ahead of America."

Studtmann wasn't an early cyclist. "My dad, he didn't want me to have a bike until I learned how to roller skate and I never did learn how to roller skate, so I didn't get a bike until I was 11 years old," he said.

"All my friends had bikes and finally, I just borrowed one of my friend's bikes and learned how to ride and said, 'Dad, I'm not going to learn how to roller skate.'"

About nine years ago, a neighbor showed him how to restore a bike. "I started out knowing nothing," he said. "Everything I've learned is from people sharing their stories."

He finds bikes to restore in "garbage cans, on the internet." Other people pass on old bikes when they learn of his pastime. "It's amazing what you can get for nothing," he said with a grin.

Restoring old bicycles involves painstaking, careful work to remove rust without damaging paint or delicate decals. Studtmann first researches the model, then takes it apart to clean and restore individual parts before rebuilding.

He maintains the original parts whenever possible. "You always want to save what's there," he said.

As he walks among the rows of bikes in the museum, he stops to show a visitor how bicycle chains have evolved over the



years. And here's a bike built during World War II when chrome was unavailable. Another bike was designed for newsboys, with a heavy frame and rack for carrying bags of newspapers.

Every bike has a story. A Ranger bike was sold mail order, only in brown. An early Schwinn "was supposed to look like a motorcycle." Another bike has a shifter on the wheel. An Italian Bianchi is painted with excess army paint mixed into a pale minty blue.

Studtmann stops at an 1880s high wheel, a bicycle with one comically large and one small wheel. "They were only popular for about 10 years," he said. "They were hard to get on and hard to stop." It's easy to see why the design was dangerous.

Studtmann's collection has a spacious home where the Bishop family once sold housewares, men's clothing, shoes, meat and groceries. The Lyric Opera House occupied the second floor.

Bishop's Busy Big Store is now on the National Register of Historic Places and recently housed a community art gallery. The beautiful tin ceilings remain intact on the first floor.

Other features of the building are long gone, such as a glass entryway that customers walked over to enter the store, which

doubled as a skylight into the basement. The building even had its own generator at one time, before electricity came to Elizabeth.

Fire in the 1930s discolored flooring and woodwork and nearly destroyed the building. "I can't believe they saved it," Studtmann said.

Along one wall, Studtmann displays items found in the rambling, multi-story building, such as toys, old magazines, license plates, signs and even a strange tool with the word "x-ray" on it. Old butcher tables carry the patina of decades of use.

An adjoining room served as a granary and storage for cheap shoes. Old account ledgers in this room date back to the first half of the 20th century.

A recent visit from David Bishop, whose grandparents ran the store, added layers of family stories to the rich history of the building.

The Lyric Opera House on the second floor now shines with golden paint, its arched windows letting in light that streams over the old balcony toward the far wall that once housed the stage.

The Lyric Opera House showed silent movies, and Studtmann said that live animals were brought in for some shows. A tiger even rode in a cage up the building's elevator, he said.

A ticket booth remains intact in the theater, including unused tickets. Studtmann plans to display more bikes in the opera house in the future.

The museum is open by chance or appointment, by calling Studtmann at (815) 238-0930. There is no charge, but freewill donations are accepted. Studtmann is also looking to trade or to downsize duplicates in his collection.

You can follow his bike restorations, as well as developments at Bishop's, on Facebook at Paul's Vintage Bikes.

Clothing shop, opera house, bike museum

ELIZABETH—Bishop's Busy Big Store is a community institution in Elizabeth. When Orville M. Bishop moved here in 1905, it didn't take long for him to realize what a special place he'd found. He opened a men's clothing store, the Headlight, in the Westphal building, where Jugs is now located. The business grew to include grocery and variety departments as well.

By 1916, Orville moved his business across the street to a new building he'd built. "That was the Marshall Fields of Elizabeth," said David Bishop, grandson of Orville and son of Irwin Bishop.

That store, eventually operated by Orville Bishop's son, Irwin, was known for decades as Bishop's Busy Big Store. The sign remains in place long after the last customer was served in 2007. A third-generation member of the family, Irwin and Aimee Bishop's son, Gary, also worked with his father for several years at the store in the 1980s.

Orville created quite the space for his customers. The store was stocked with almost every imaginable item, and then upstairs there was an opera house with plays, silent movies and other events. Orville kept detailed notes on the happenings at the opera house in a journal.

The last revenue from the opera house was in the 1960s. The movies ended in 1948, and the last firemen's ball was held there in the late 1950s. There is a full apartment on the second floor as well, a 1950s addition to the property.

It was Orville Bishop, though, David said, who really conceptualized the Busy Big Store as a department store with "five departments under one roof." Irwin worked to transform the store, through advertising, into a general store.

Bishop's was a happening place, said David, who worked at the store in high school and some while in

college.

There was a full staff, with morning, afternoon and evening shifts to operate the business that opened at 6 a.m. and closed at 6 p.m. Wednesday and Friday featured extended hours until 10 or 11, and that was scaled back from Orville's original hours. Each Sunday the store opened for one hour, 5-6 p.m.

"It was very busy," said David, who did whatever was needed from cutting meat to managing the produce department or even selling Red Wing shoes.

With his dad in the store and his mom at home—until later years when she became more involved in the business—David recalls a really idyllic childhood. He always knew where his parents were and he knew virtually everyone in town, all customers at the store.

The Bishops and their loyal staff could pretty much set their clocks by who came in and on which day. David remembers Mrs. Wild and her daughters from Hanover stopping by at 9 a.m. every Saturday. There were hundreds of families that shopped at Bishop's once a week.

Times certainly changed during the decades Bishop's Busy Big Store was open. One thing, though, remained a constant: the service Bishop's customers could expect.



Bishop's Busy Big Store now houses Paul's Vintage Bicycle Museum at 137 N. Main St., in Elizabeth. Gazette file photo

Skip Schwerdtfeger said he'll never forget how welcoming the Bishops were in 1964 when he and his wife, Carol, moved to town. "You could buy anything here then," said Schwerdtfeger, recalling the dry goods, fresh oysters before Christmas, the butcher shop and the clothing selection. People traveled from all over to shop at Bishop's, where the prices were competitive.

One of Schwerdtfeger's early purchases was a \$210 pair of boots, what would have been a huge investment considering his yearly salary as a teacher at the time was \$5,000. Irwin gave Schwerdtfeger a deal: \$10 over Bishop's cost. Schwerdtfeger has never forgotten the kindness extended to him.

Irwin Bishop continued the work he loved in the business he loved until his death in November 2005. His wife, Aimee, who'd gotten more and more involved in the 1990s, worked to reduce the inventory for the following two years. The final customer was served in 2007.

Since then, the building housed an antique emporium and has recently sat empty, with various improvements completed to upgrade the electrical work and to solve water issues in the basement.

"They were just first-class people," concluded Schwerdtfeger of the Bishops.

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Ken Wong, Ecuador



Des Urbiztondo, Philippines



Tania Cancio, Philippines

Meet some of Galena's international interns

People who hone their
skills in downtown Galena

by Sara Millhouse

101 South Main Street. It all started there," said Des Urbiztondo, remembering her time living in Galena and working as an intern at the Irish Cottage. Upon returning home to her native Philippines, Urbiztondo opened her own business, using the money she earned, as well as the skills and tastes she developed here. Five years later, her Kanto Uno Café is helping build a tourism destination in her own small community.

The café's name comes from the corner apart-

ment where she hung out with her Filipino friends in Galena. "We'd hang out and talk and eat, and that's what I want for my business, that it's a place where people come to hang out and talk and eat," she said.

The menu of Kanto Uno is deeply nostalgic of her time in Galena, "with food I learned to prep and cook in the U.S.," Urbiztondo said. She found menu inspiration with some Galena restaurant favorites, such as Gobbie's chicken wings and Dirty Gurts' mango shake.

"The ingredients are different here," she added. Still, American food is comfort food for Urbiz-

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At Home in Galena owners, Bill and Patti Murphy, launched Finley Grace, a wickless soy candle business in 2009, as a way to raise funds for their granddaughter, Finley Grace, who has a rare and incurable genetic disorder. The business has taken off, and now Finley Grace products are sold across the country.



Finley is cooking up something new...



It's been 13 years since Bill and Patti Murphy began searching for a way to raise money for their now 16-year-old grand-daughter's trust fund. Finley Grace was born with a rare and incurable genetic deficiency called Cri du Chat syndrome, or 5P minus for short. Their perfect business opportunity turned out to be in

the form of a scented Wickless Soy Candle.

Launching the business in 2008, the Murphys began manufacturing the air fresheners in a room on the second floor of their store, At Home in Galena.

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and give off a delightful scent for up to 15 weeks. At any given time there are 50-60 different fragrances displayed on the first floor of the store. The Murphys also sell Finley Grace products through over 500 retail outlets mostly in the Midwest and have been able to network and market their products for fundraisers all over the United States with customers who visit their Galena store.

Finley Grace Promotions continues to develop new product lines. Nonny's Lifestyle line is the latest complete line addition with candles, soaps, travel candles, body butter, lotions, liquid soaps and shower gels. . .all produced with essential oils.

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At Home
in
Galena



tondo.

"I feel like Galena is also my home," she continued. "It's where I grew my career, where I learned things, and also where I learned business."

Urbiztondo worked at the front desk at the Irish Cottage as an intern in tourism management. She also worked as a server and hostess at Frank O'Dowd's Irish Pub & Grill.

At Kanto Uno, she has adopted the American practice of greeting each customer with a "How are you?"—a greeting not typical at restaurants in the Philippines. She even used marketing skills that she learned in Galena to land an appearance on national television.

"Galena, it's a small town, but there's so much in it, so much history, so much going on," Urbiztondo said. She thinks that Galena residents may sometimes "forget that they're living in one of the top towns in the U.S.A."

Urbiztondo wants to nourish that same feeling of pride in her small town in the Philippines as well, where her business is driving economic development in the area. "My town, though it's small, people

are coming here to my café, and they're coming to the beach, and since I opened, three other themed cafes have opened up," she said.

Today, she still proudly wears a t-shirt that reads, "Galena, Est. 1826."

The business perspective

Urbiztondo is one of dozens of international interns who have worked in Galena at businesses owned by Jack Coulter. Coulter and his wife, Deb Coulter, currently own Vinny Vanucchi's in Galena.

These internship programs bring recent university graduates to the U.S., typically for a year, with the aim of helping them develop skills in the hospitality industry while providing the businesses with a diverse, motivated workforce.

Interns from Ukraine, Turkey, Jamaica, Bali, France, Ireland, Albania, Vietnam and many other countries have worked in Galena over the years. "It adds to the flavor of the workplace, and it breaks down barriers, too," Coulter said.

He believes that international hospitality staff can enhance visitors' experiences in Galena and even provide opportunities

to learn about global culture. "It's refreshing when you get to speak to people from different countries, with different experiences," he said.

About 8 billion people live on this planet, but it can still be a small world: Coulter has kept in touch with many interns over the years, and he even encountered a former intern unexpectedly at the airport while visiting his family in Ireland.

Tania grows in Galena

Current international intern Tania Cancio describes herself as "shy and timid," but that's not how she comes across to others after a few months working as a hostess and assistant manager at Vinny Vanucchi's.

She came to Galena in September, initially planning to complete a culinary internship. However, Vinny's needed front-of-house staff. In a few months, she grew into her role. "Girl, you gained so much confidence," she recalls a co-worker telling her.

Cancio grew up in the Philippines and worked in Japan and Hong Kong before coming to the U.S. She speaks English, Japanese, Chinese, Korean, Tagalog and



“Now, it’s very emotional for me, because not everyone gets to come here, and I get that chance.”

Tania Cancio

several Filipino dialects.

In Galena, customers sometimes question Cancio’s authority, at least initially. “They say, ‘You’re the manager?’” she mimics. “There’s always a question mark there.”

Now she answers “yes,” with calm assurance.

Cancio said she is learning to adjust to Americans’ willingness to talk to strangers, to greet each other on the street (at least in Galena) and to express themselves assertively.

Some of her favorite moments in Galena have been experiencing American holiday celebrations such as those she had seen in movies. “First Halloween, first Thanksgiving, first white Christmas,” she said. “It was very surreal to me.”

She remembers singing “White Christmas” as a child, long before she had experienced an American Christmas. “Now, it’s very emotional for me, because not everyone gets to come here, and I get that chance,” she said.

A visa like Tania’s costs a lot of money, and not everyone passes the interview

required to come to the U.S. Cancio described the process as nerve-wracking and anxiety-inducing.

Without a sponsor such as Coulter, getting a visa would be even more difficult. “This program is very good,” she said. “It’s a win-win. It’s a win for Jack. It’s a win for the interns.”

Ken in the kitchen

Ken Wong had visited large American cities long before he applied to intern at Vinny Vanucchi’s. “I wanted something that pushed me a little bit, makes me uncomfortable,” he said. “I always wanted to experience the everyday life of American culture, so I searched for something like that, not big cities.”

Sponsors typically provide housing for interns, so Wong lives on Bench Street. He walks to Piggly Wiggly or Walmart if he needs to shop. “I don’t mind walking,” he said—as long as the weather is good.

After several months in Galena, he sees many cultural differences between his home country of Ecuador and the United States.



“Here in the U.S., I noticed that middle-class people can afford more things,” he said. “You can enjoy life.”

He also appreciates the opportunity to connect with people who share his specific interests, such as photography. “Here, since there’s more people, there’s more groups, a lot of different types of thinking, out-of-the-box thinkers,” he said. At home, he feels more pressure to fit in.

Wong said that the kitchen in Vinny’s is “calm” compared to many kitchens he’s worked in, where yelling is a norm. “You get tougher, but it’s not good for mental sanity,” he said of previous kitchens where he’s worked in Ecuador. “People shouldn’t be treated like that, and that’s something that I appreciate in this kitchen. When I mess things up, instead of repressing me, they encourage me to be better. They try to explain things once, twice, even three times.”

Because it’s a small kitchen, though, he sometimes has to figure things out for himself. “When things get tough, you learn a lot of resilience,” Wong continued. “You learn to stay calmer. . . It’s a good way to not only grow as a cook or in your job field but as a human being.”

Coulter sees this growth in many of the international interns who come to Galena. “They arrive young, passionate, nervous and eager to learn and they leave with new lifelong friends, fond memories and skills that equip them for their onward journey,” he said. “We are all so fortunate to live and work in this unique destination.”

Galena Kids Toy Store & Learning Center & New Earth Animals



As the energetic owners of Galena Kids Toy Store and Learning Center, New Earth Animals, and a dog grooming and boarding facility, Gail and David Bauer “tried not to talk shop on our wedding day, but I think we did a little,” Gail admits.

When they tied the knot this spring, they officially brought together the many talents that have contributed to their Galena businesses, which center on kids’ education and their love of animals.

David and Gail have a daughter, Camdyn, 18, and son, Cainan, 13. They also have four dogs: Willow, Beans, Tony and Stimpy.

As a fourth-generation jeweler, Gail made her first retail sale at age 11, but she studied veterinary medicine until developing a cat allergy. She persisted as a vet tech, eventually owning a veterinary hospital in Marshfield, Wis., before moving to Marco Island, Fla. “I missed the Midwest a ton,” she admitted.

In Florida, Gail worked as a Montessori teacher. She also created a blueprint of the

businesses she developed after moving to Galena: a children’s fun & educational toy store, a dog resort & spa and an animal specialty store & bakery.

Back home in the Midwest, Galena Kids Toy Store and Learning Center was the last piece to fall into place, about two years ago. “Galena really needed a kids’ store and learning center,” Gail said. “It’s focused on education.”

“Our focus is always on animals, too,” she continued. Not only are animals an instant hit with many children, but they can teach concepts like responsibility and empathy, as well as the science of the natural world.

David grew up on a Galena-area farm “so I’ve been around animals my whole life,” he said. He spends much of his energy at the dog grooming and boarding facility—formerly Doggie Do’s and now Wiggle Butt Inn & Day Spa. His favorite part of the businesses is “being around the animals,” he said.

Gail added that clients often send videos of

their dogs getting excited when they realize “it’s time to go see David.”

David is the quieter half of the couple, but he brings complementary skills to their various businesses. Besides his skill in caring for animals, he has the creativity and know-how to build almost anything.

David learned many of his construction skills while working as a foreman at Hulscher Fencing. “I like being busy,”





he said.

He learned more skills while landscaping and setting up greenhouses with his grandfather and tending the family's 35-year-old, four-acre patch of asparagus, which he sells locally.

"Working together is so much fun, and he's so creative with the things he comes up with," Gail said.

"You come up with them, and I put them together," David responds.

"Well, it's a combination," she said. "We throw ideas out, and then he easily builds whatever is needed."

"Pretty much," David agrees.

David's carpentry and creativity are on display in the jungle framing at Galena Kids

Toy Store and Learning Center. "We want to make it more of an experience instead of just a store," David said.

The business advertises itself prominently with its bright yellow awning, which casts a warm glow inside the front of the store. "The first time we walked in, the gold hue was stunning," David recalls.

Inside, the store includes walls of carefully organized family games, retro plastic dinosaurs, custom screen-printed designs, high-quality art supplies, outdoor equipment like folding trikes, baby dolls—"and astronauts, too," and toys using the skills of S.T.E.A.M. (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Math).

Gail seeks out award-winning toys and unique brands, including Hearthsong, Folkmanis Puppets, Tonies, Magna-Tiles, Think Baby, Fat Brain Toys and many more. Galena Kids is an official destination for Djeco, a French company that designs toys and crafts for kids using the work of more than 100 artists.

Her training in Montessori education informs what she carries in the store. "Montessori is hands-on and all about kids, with guidance from their teachers, figuring out tasks and projects that best suits their individual learning styles. I've spent hundreds of hours researching which products to carry in our toy store that mirrors this style of teaching. If a child enjoys playing with a game, puzzle or STEAM toy then many times they will learn at an accelerated rate and not even realize they are playing with an educational toy. This inspires them to become self-motivated, creative, teenagers & adults," Gail said.

The couple has lots of plans for programming in the near future—creative classes, kids' yoga, a Galena Kids Club. On "the animal side," they're planning to expand their doggy bakery with bagged bakery goods next winter and hope to offer agility classes in the future.

Gail and David give a large amount of credit to their good friend and store manager, Kristin Beusse, for helping tremendously, in every aspect at both of their retail stores. Gail stated, "She keeps things running smoothly and brightens everyone's day with her wonderful sense of humor. The customers and pups just love her!"

They are excited to welcome their newest employee and assistant manager, Eric Carlson, to their team. He is a Navy veteran, has been educated in many fields and also brings a teacher's knowledge and creativity to Galena Kids.

David stated, "We are also so thankful and lucky to have such expert groomers, Courtney

Parker and Melanie Godlove, work with us at our New Earth Animal's Wiggle Butt Inn and Day Spa. They are so kind and gentle with the dogs that they groom and take whatever time they need with them to make them feel safe and comfortable."

They are thrilled to have their daughter, Camdyn, start at their retail stores in December.

Their wonderful team of employees also includes Kim, Angela and Sue. Gail said, "Even the little ones of Courtney and Melanie want to help us, so we find fun little tasks for them, which they do great at!"

Gail turned to David. "You were just talking about it yesterday, in the car," she said. "How thankful we are every day, to get to do what we love."



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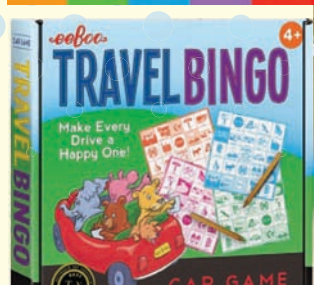


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Fitting in

What should you do to look like a local?

by Sara Millhouse

What should tourists to Galena do if they're interested in "fitting in" with the locals?

"Local" can be loaded, but for our purposes, if you live here, you're a local. If you've spent enough time here to have a deep connection to this place, you're local, too.

However, if you're just popping in for the weekend and want to pretend you live here, follow this advice:

Learn local history. We're proud of it.

For an introduction, Jan Alderman suggests stopping at the DeSoto House Hotel, where a free video on Galena history runs on a continuous loop in a quiet spot. "It's a cozy little room where you can relax a little and learn more about this great little town," Alderman said.

If you want to learn more, stop by the Galena and U.S. Grant Museum, which is run by the Galena-Jo Daviess County Historical Society. Visit the state historic sites, including the U.S. Grant Home, Elihu Washburne House and Old Market House. If you're doing historical research, stop by the Galena Public

"Learn cool old place names like Scadden's Curve, Galena Junction and Gear's Ferry."

Phil Millhouse

Library's historical room.

Visitors can also learn about history by meandering into residential neighborhoods like Cabbage Town or East Side. "Walk around town off of Main Street, enjoy looking at the houses and talk to people about the history of their homes," suggests Susan Imler-Thoren.

Don't be afraid to ask questions that will help you learn local geography. "Learn cool old place names like Scadden's Curve, Galena Junction and Gear's Ferry," said Phil Millhouse.

Stop in a drinking establishment for a beer or a pop. We're not going to play favorites here, so let's simply give a hearty "cheers to that!"

Be a courteous driver. In Galena, being polite includes driving at a reasonable speed, especially in

Famous local U.S. Grant lived in Galena only a year before the start of the Civil War. Even he knew that the DeSoto House was the place to go in downtown Galena. Nowadays, you can visit the DeSoto House library and view a video of Galena's early history.

our congested downtown area.

Local English teacher, writer, and longtime member of the Galena Center for the Arts Jay Dickerson recommends a visit to the Center. "Where else can you see a radio show, performed live, right in front of you, right after viewing some of the best in local artwork on the first floor?"

Most people who have spent time in Galena have gotten stuck behind a five-mile-per-hour motorist on Main or Bench streets. Dayna Lapidus suggests an alternative. "You can always take a trolley tour or park your vehicle and walk to look at the historic buildings," she said.

Pay attention to parking signs. Parking can be a frustration in Galena, but many "no parking" areas are posted for safety reasons. On narrow alleys like Magazine Street, emergency vehicles can't access the area if people ignore the parking signs.

Be a courteous pedestrian. Walk on the sidewalks downtown, and cross in the crosswalks. Please don't stop traffic so that you can take a selfie in the middle of Main Street.

Even though you're feeling carefree, please look both ways when you're crossing the street, just like you would tell a kid to do.

Get out of town. "Go to towns outside of Galena, like Scales Mound, New Diggings, and Elizabeth," said Meghan Davis. The area around Galena is full of gems: panoramic views, unique businesses and unusual attractions. Adventures await.

Word to the wise: the town name is pronounced "New Diggins" (drop the "g") consistently enough around here that it's often spelled that way. It's also known as "the Digs."

Learn the 'country road salute.' If you're driving

"Where else can you see a radio show, performed live, right in front of you, right after viewing some of the best in local artwork on the first floor?"

Jay Dickerson

on a country road, lift at least the first two fingers of your hand (not just the index finger, and bonus points for adding a thumb) off the steering wheel as you approach a car traveling in the opposite direction. It doesn't matter if you know the person in the oncoming car. This is how you say "hello."

Finally, Scott Guthrie offers up a thoughtful way to get to know Galena better. "Volunteer," he said. "You meet the best kind of people that way, and you get to know the needs of the community."

If you're staying longer than a weekend, Susette Einsweiler suggested joining a local social or service club, such as the Elks, Eagles, Lions, Kiwanis or Rotary.

Whatever your interests, Galena has a something for everyone. "There are so many transplants, second-home owners and tourists on the daily, why worry about fitting in?" said Catherine "Miss Kitty" Kouzmanoff. "Join a local group page and ask about what you like. You will find your people. We got 'em all here!"

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Abbigale Porter directs Stonedrift Spa at Eagle Ridge. Mark Van Osdol photos

Sit back and relax at Stonedrift

by Sara Millhouse

When you walk in the door at Stonedrift Spa, every detail encourages you to relax, from the music to the plants, the scent to the color of the decor.

Eagle Ridge opened its wellness destination in the previous location of the General Store following a total renovation and a 6,000-square-foot addition. The spa added numerous services, including hair care, a bridal suite, many more rooms for spa treatments, relaxation rooms and a dedicated space for yoga and wellness offerings.

The previous spa had nine treatment

rooms, and services had “outgrown” that space, said spa director Abbigale Porter. “We were booked all the time. . . and obviously we wanted to elevate our guest experience.”

Porter came to Stonedrift after years in spa in the Kansas City area, first as a licensed aesthetician, then in management at The Elms Hotel & Spa, Excelsior Springs.

She started as spa director at Eagle Ridge just as the project got off the ground, so she’s been involved in the details that help create the atmosphere at Stonedrift. For interior decorating, Stonedrift partnered with Simply Elegant Boutique in Dubuque.

“It’s been exciting to see things come to life, everything from the tile to the hardware,” Porter said. “It’s kind of been my baby, my passion project.”

Stonedrift includes tranquil locker rooms, relaxation rooms and treatment rooms. The bridal suite is a spacious area with warm wood—more modern than rustic—where a bridal party or a small group of friends or colleagues can relax and kick their feet up. Eagle Ridge is a top destination for weddings, but stylists previously had to take their equipment to the rooms or homes of a bridal party to provide services.

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cascade water over a client during a treatment such as a body scrub or a body wrap. “If you’re a spa goer, . . . get this, because it’s so much better than your traditional massage,” Porter explained. “It’s just more of an experience, and not a lot of spas offer it in the vicinity.”

Another new treatment is the breathe and detox suite, which includes an infrared sauna and halotherapy, which involves the circulation of tiny, aerial salt particles. It’s a favorite as a breathing therapy and treatment for skin conditions, and the taste of salt in the air evokes the feeling of being at the beach.

Stonedrift also features a hydrafacial machine, similar to a microdermabrasion, but using liquid.

Other treatments available include traditional spa treatments such as facials, massages, couples massages, manicures, pedicures, body treatments and steam rooms. A sauna is free with any service. “You can stay all day,” Porter said. “We’re not kicking you out. You can lounge as long as you like.”

With the spa renovation, Eagle Ridge now has a dedicated space for wellness offerings. “We’ll be doing all of our wellness offerings out of here, so guided meditation, sound healing, any Reiki services, as well as yoga,” Porter said, as she walked in a bright, open room. Having a dedicated space will help regulars develop the consistency to build a community around these wellness offerings, she added.

At the beginning of 2023, Stonedrift had 27 providers, along with a handful of front-desk staff. Porter was still seeking additional massage therapists, especially since many massage schools couldn’t train new therapists during the pandemic. “Massage will always be your number-one requested service in spa,” Porter said.

Though the pandemic limited the number of providers joining the industry, Porter said that “the spa industry as a whole boomed” after the 2020 shutdown, when people with unexpected time at home “took a step back” and re-examined their priorities. Many people decided to invest in self-care.

Eagle Ridge has started a tuition reimbursement program, but Porter said the new spa is probably their best recruitment tool. “The new spa is a wow factor in itself,” she said.

Overall, the goal at Stonedrift is to create a “memorable experience,” one that Porter said is all too rare in the industry. “There are very few spas where I have a memory of going, from the smell they have in their diffusers to the treatment that I get, to the check-in, checkout experience, where everything is just so fluid that there’s nothing bad that you can say.”

Stonedrift opened on Halloween weekend, 2022. Porter is especially proud that many guests didn’t even realize that it was their opening weekend.

Stonedrift Spa is open to the public, but Porter suggests booking well in advance, especially on the weekend.

Porter credited the experience of the staff at Stonedrift in building client rapport. “I have not met the passion and dedication like this team,” she said, emphatically. One massage therapist has worked at Eagle Ridge for 35 years, starting out by taking a table from room to room before a spa existed on-site.

Porter admitted with a smile that sometimes wellness careers attract “underdogs, the kind of unique personalities.”

“To have this team,” she said, pausing for a moment, “it’s a privilege to be part of.”





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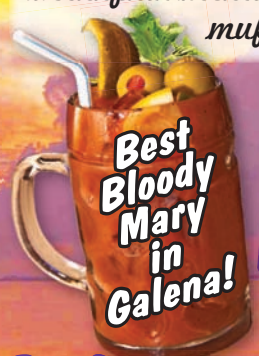


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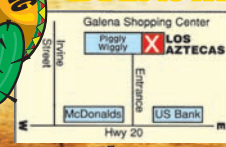
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DeSoto House Hotel, 230 S Main St, Galena, 815-777-9129. Join General Grant, portrayed by Bob Buman, for a one-hour walk down Galena's historic Main Street. Tours are conducted every Saturday at 10 am and noon, May through October. Pet friendly and runs rain or shine.

Haunted Galena Tour Co.

304 S Main St, Galena, 815-990-7203, hauntedgalenatourcompany.com. The Haunted Galena Tour Company offers participants a glimpse into the past. The tour covers most of Main Street,



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starting at Haunted Galena's companion store, A Darkness Lovely, and wrapping up at the DeSoto House Hotel, with many haunted spots along the way. The old jail, the Dowling House and the Old Market House are just some of the stops.

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616 S Devil's Ladder Road, Galena, 563-663-6944, hoofit-galena.com. It's all about the fun, the laughter and pure joy of walking with goats through native prairies and forest. Lace up your shoes and get ready to hoof it! All guides, a.k.a. trekkers, have an inherent knowledge of the land and the animals. They have grown up on the property, raised their families there and are excited to share it with you. Join a wine trek, book a bonfire trek or enjoy live music around the fire after hoofing it.

Jo Daviess Conservation Foundation

Jo Daviess Conservation Foundation offers many different relaxing places to visit. From hiking at Rutherford Refuge to taking in the views at Horseshoe Mound, there are many places to have a minute to yourself.

All About a Ghost Tour

230 S Main St, Galena, 815-777-9252. By day, Steve Repp works at the Galena Public Library, combing through historical documents and newspaper clippings. But by night, he prowls the streets of downtown Galena—giving ghost tours. Enjoy the perfect mix of "History and Mystery" on Repp's All About a Ghost Tour.

Scent Workshop

307 S Main St, Galena, 309-530-9786, scentworkshop.com. The Scent Workshop is a fragrance studio where guests experience the art of French perfumery to make custom scented candles, perfumes, colognes, diffusers and more.

Eagle Ridge Resort & Spa

444 Eagle Ridge Dr, Galena, 815-777-5000, eagleridge.com. Eagle Ridge Resort & Spa offers fun in the warmer months with golf and other activities. There are 22 miles of hiking and biking trails to explore. Go cross-country skiing, ice skating, and explore the winter outdoors. Those ready for more adventure can check out the Shenandoah Riding Center.

Shenandoah Riding Center

200 N Brodrecht Rd, Galena, 815-777-9550, thegalenaterritory.com. A little bit of everything for horse lovers. There are trail rides, pony parties, riding lessons, wagon rides, lead lines and more at this facility. The location in The Galena Territory makes it the perfect spot to take in the beauty of the area on scenic trail rides. Fun for all ages.

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Scott McKinsey: The New Elizabethan

by Sara Millhouse

Galena Shakespeare Festival's Scott McKinsey aims for visceral, electrifying. On "Dead Bawdy" show nights, Scott McKinsey sweeps into the Irish Cottage, wrapped in a cloak and an air of mystery. McKinsey brushes past attendees and opens the door to the Dubliner Room, issuing an invitation to a night of belly laughs and outrageous humor.

McKinsey picks out members of the audience to play important roles, with plenty of naughty jokes to go around. Expect balloon body parts and a theatre experience that's humorous, fun and interac-

tive—emphasis on the interactive.

These are shows for mature audiences, and attendees should self-select for this experience. Don't bring the grandkids under 12, and if you get a bit queasy at dirty jokes, you should probably find a different way to entertain yourself for the evening.

Scott uses "they" pronouns. They serve as artistic director of Galena Shakespeare Festival, which includes large-scale productions and historical tours, as well as McKinsey's "Dead Bawdy" shows, which change in theme but will always "skew mature."

In these shows, McKinsey wants to capture a populist, sensational—and yes, bawdy—experience akin to what theatergoers would have experienced in Shakespeare's time. "We're not going to show you



“We’re not going to show you what Elizabethan theater looked like. We’re going to show you what it felt like.”

Scott McKinsey

what Elizabethan theater looked like,” they said. “We’re going to show you what it felt like.”

The 2023 “Dead Bawdy” show is “Uncensored Witchcraft,” focusing on the Salem and other witch trials of the 1600s and including modern-day notions of witchcraft, as in the movie “Hocus Pocus.”

The interactive quality of the shows makes each experience unrepeatable. “A lot of it is a little bawdy, but it’s also very giving,” McKinsey said. “It’s joyful. It’s meant to just make people laugh, make people feel invigorated and part of it.”

Other productions planned this year under the Galena Shakespeare Festival banner include “The Tempest” in the spring and “Macbeth” in the fall.

McKinsey, their partner Caitriona Terry and other ensemble members are going “full Victoriana” with their staging of “The Tempest.”

“Let’s try to make you feel like you’re in Galena’s 19th-century glory days, and you’re seeing this great Victorian stage spectacle with the dresses and the cool stagecraft from the time,” they said.

The goal is to create a production as lush as Shakespeare’s text, “filled with magic and monsters and witches and princesses and comical drunks.”

The Halloween show will be “Macbeth,” sometimes called “the Scottish play” by superstitious thespians. “I think for some reason people get spooked by it, and they don’t make the decisions that are necessary to make it feel real,” McKinsey said.

With “Macbeth,” Galena Shakespeare Festival is planning a “folk horror” staging with “a lot of wood and wool, things that hopefully make you feel like you’re watching a very ancient Scottish folk tale or myth.”

McKinsey also wants to rescue “Macbeth” from Victorian notions of the title character as a hen-pecked husband. “Except for the murder, they’re a very healthy couple,” they joked.

With all Galena Shakespeare Festival productions, McKinsey’s goal is to take William Shakespeare’s work from the “sterile, ivory tower.” They’re especially interested in engaging people who haven’t seen much live theatre.

“It’s not for the elite,” McKinsey said. “It’s for everybody, and you don’t need to know anything to show up and have a wonderful time.”

McKinsey grew up in nearby Dubuque, Iowa, returning to Galena for holidays and family gatherings. McKinsey attended the American Academy for Dramatic Arts,

then worked as an actor around the country. They also have a creative background in illustrating and cartooning.

Eventually, they started directing shows in Chicago. About six years ago, McKinsey returned to his family’s home and started performing one-person shows in Galena. They fell in love with Galena audiences.

“It started out a lot more serious,” they said of their first Galena shows. “The more I interacted in that one-person setting, the more I was, like, this is where it’s at, connecting with people, getting them involved, making them laugh and making them feel part of it.”

McKinsey has ambitious plans for the Galena Shakespeare Festival. Eventually, they hope to expand its productions to support a full company, with everything from ushers to merchandising. They envision a future Galena Shakespeare Festival that will serve as a significant economic driver as well as a cultural force in the community.

Whether the production is large or small, McKinsey seeks spontaneous, surprising moments in theater. “I want it to be visceral and alive and give you an exciting experience that you’re going to go away going, ‘Oh my gosh. I’ve never experienced anything like this.’”

McKinsey said they are dedicated to remaining in Galena. “My life’s career is to create this in this community,” they continued. “This is where my work will be and where my roots are, and hopefully where I will leave a legacy.”

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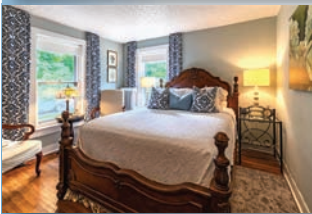


For more on Scott McKinsey's performances at The Irish Cottage in Galena, visit deadbawdy.com, witches.com.



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New to paddling? No problem!

by Sara Millhouse

If you've never paddled a canoe or kayak, the Galena River is a great place to start. The river doesn't have a strong current or wild rapids, so it's almost like paddling on a strong lake. If you're an experienced paddler, you'll have fun on the Galena River, too, but it probably won't qualify as a "challenge."

Kayaking can be scary for first-timers, even on an easy river like the Galena. To ease your fears of snakes, tipping and more, we talked to two local outfitters, Silas Pepple of Nuts Outdoors and Chris Carter of Galena River Outfitters. Each business offers a variety of self-powered

boats for rent, as well as other services and equipment.

Consider this article "paddling for dummies" or "the idiot's guide to paddling"—but only if such notions don't offend you. Seriously, no one should feel foolish about their trepidations over a new activity. As a Scout might say, "Be prepared"—then relax.

Introductions to the river

Both Carter and Pepple have been river rats since childhood. Carter grew up in Galena in a Scouting family that helped raise money for the Galena River Trail. A young Pepple did a biological survey that convinced the Illinois Department of Natural Resources to stock smallmouth

bass in Carroll Creek (the Wakarusa), in neighboring Carroll County.

Galena was built here because its port was a convenient gateway into the rich lead mining district of the 1800s. Today, it can be hard to imagine that large steamboats once navigated the Galena River, because the Galena River is much smaller today.

Sedimentation due to mining and agriculture has been a problem since the early days of the community. The river silted up more after the lock and dam system raised water levels on the Mississippi, depositing mud near the mouth of the Galena.

If you're map-checking, be aware that the Galena River in Wisconsin carries its most common historic name, the Fever

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(or Fevre) River, probably a derivation of a Native American reference to smallpox.

Prep time

"The biggest thing that people forget is that they're going to be in a boat for a couple hours," Carter said. "They're either overdressed or in nice clothes, and they don't realize they'll be in mud or nature."

"Mud" is right. The Galena River is mud-bottomed, and if you plan on getting in or out of your boat, expect to meet some genuine Galena muck and mire. It may make you dirty, but it's not going to hurt you. The same goes for water weeds, though you should watch out for "leaves of three," poison ivy, if you're exploring on-shore.

Dress in comfortable clothing that you don't mind getting wet or dirty. A bathing suit is a great first layer in case you want to take a dip. In the summer, athletic shorts and a t-shirt are ideal.

Take a bathroom break beforehand, especially if you don't want to climb ashore to commune with nature. "Bring a positive attitude, and be prepared for weather," Carter said.

Wear sunscreen (always!) and bug spray (depending on conditions). Don't hesitate to ask your outfitters if you need supplies, as they'll likely have some on hand for purchase.

Local outfitters have floating dry bags for supplies if needed, and life jackets and paddles come with boat rental. Outfitters will talk you into your kayak and will have staff available as needed.

Different strokes

Now, let's learn how to move. If you want to go straight, paddle alternately on either side of your boat.

To turn, paddle on the opposite side of the boat from the direction in which you want to turn. If you want to go right, paddle on the left. If you want to turn left, paddle on the right.

How quickly a boat turns depends on its dimensions and other variables, but in general, kayaks turn quickly, especially in areas without current. If there is a current or waves, you might have to adjust your strokes, but your body will probably do so without your brain getting in the way. Play around a bit before you go too far away from the input, so that you understand how your boat moves before you get into a situation in which you need to use your skills.

If you want to stop or even go backwards, paddle backward on alternate sides.

Scared of tipping?

"Loose hips save ships," Carter said, adding that he and other staff members will, with permission, "rock the boat" of first-time paddlers to help them understand how to maintain their stability. Keep your butt in the bottom of the boat. Think of it like hula dancing.

If you do tip over, please don't panic. Most parts of the Galena River are shallow enough to stand up in. The river moves about half a mile to a mile per hour. The shore is never far away.

"Watch out for obstacles," Pepple explained. When people do tip, it's usually be-

cause they hit something, which also means that the river probably isn't very deep. "If you were in 10 feet of water, you wouldn't have hit anything and you wouldn't have flipped it," he said.

Carter said staff offer to tip a person's boat if they want, though they don't have many takers besides adventurous kids. "If people who are older tip (accidentally), they usually have a bad experience," he said. "If kids tip, it's a blast."

He still remembers his first time hopping into a boat. "I went right over the other side, and that's a lesson that stuck with me my entire life." Now, he's a paddler who



There's always time for a selfie when paddling along the Galena River. Susan Barg is with her husband, Steve, right, and her daughter, Hannah and boyfriend, Mike Ripley.



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loves navigating turbulent rapids, though he can't find too many of those in northwest Illinois.

Depending on what trip you select, you may encounter small riffles (technically "Class 1" rapids) on the Galena River.

Critters

Another common fear is close encounters of the wildlife kind. "The most common fear is snapping turtles, but I've had people tell they've seen sharks and alligators," Carter said.

(No, there are not sharks or alligators in the Galena River.)

There are poisonous snakes in Jo Daviess County, but any snakes you encounter—and pretty much any water critter—is more scared of you than you are of it.

If you do see a snapping turtle or a water snake, count yourself lucky. That hook-mouthed snapping turtle could be 40 years old and few people will forget the glistening motion of a water snake as it zigzags away from their kayak.

Keep an eye out for muskrats and

beavers. Beavers are bigger and have wide tails with which they slap the water when startled. Muskrats are smaller and have skinny tails. You can typically see a muskrat's entire body when it's swimming, while only a beaver's head will poke out of the water.

Large birds along the Galena River include great blue herons and bald eagles, both of which can be seen closely by a quiet kayaker. When startled, they are likely to follow the river as they fly away, giving you more opportunities for observation.

Not all the critters along the river are wildlife. Northwestern Illinois and southwest Wisconsin are agricultural areas, and you might find cows cooling themselves in the river. "Just stay on the water and float past them gently," Pepple said. "They're not on the water looking to eat kayakers."

Because you're in farm country, you could encounter an electric cattle fence crossing the Galena River. "They're something to be aware of, but they're low voltage, so just lift them up with your paddle and slide



under," Pepple said. "Don't tear out anybody's property."

Final notes (pulling into port)

When you get out of your boat, just like when you get in, keep your center of gravity low. Standing up will raise your center of gravity and throw off your balance.

Don't hesitate to ask questions—even the silly ones. An outfitter wants you to have a good experience and that means having realistic expectations.

"Does the Galena River go in a circle like a lazy river?"

No, it doesn't.

And one more thing—in Galena, the fire whistle goes off at noon. It happens every day. Keep your cool. It's not a tornado siren.



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Chestnut's Farside Bike Path is one Happy trail

by Sara Millhouse

“Sick,” “awesome” and “fast.” That’s how reviewers describe the trails at Chestnut Mountain’s new Farside Bike Park, which includes two adrenaline-fueled gravity trails and a skills park for newcomers to mountain biking.



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“A lot of people gravitate from snowboarding to mountain biking.
It’s a lot of the same DNA.”

Mike Bergles

Farside is the only lift-access bike park in Illinois. “There’s nothing around here like it,” said Chestnut general manager Mike Bergles. “The major difference is the chairlift. It’s a gravity mountain bike park.”

Mountain biking is a pastime that can fly under the radar for those who haven’t tried it yet, but enthusiasts travel long distances and spend significant cash on their thrilling hobby. About 8.5 million people spend time mountain biking each year in the U.S., with about a third of these participating in downhill mountain biking.

Each of the trails at Farside Bike Park is more than a mile long, with steep drops from the bluffs to the banks of the Mississippi River. “It was great, exhilarating, adrenaline-driven,” said Bergles of his first rides down the mountain. “If you like that kind of stuff, it’s for you.”

Mountain biking complements skiing and snowboarding in the summer because all three sports attract adrenaline-junkie enthusiasts and benefit from the steep downhill of the Mississippi River bluffs. “A lot of people gravitate from snowboarding to mountain biking,” Bergles said. “It’s a lot of the same DNA.”

After their ride, bikers can

take the chairlift back up to the top, thanks to bike racks newly installed on the lift. “The kingpin of the whole idea is being able to take people back up on the lift,” said Chestnut Mountain co-owner Bernie Paul. Passes are sold by the day, allowing unlimited runs down the mountain.

The park opened last year on a trial basis and will be going full tilt this year. Chestnut plans to build at least one more trail this year and build more in the future. “We will not run out of space to build trails,” said Paul. Next on deck is a novice downhill trail, and Chestnut hopes to later build an advanced “black diamond” trail.

The trails are located on Chestnut’s property to the north of the lodge and are designed by Pathfinder Trail Building of Eagan, Minn.

You don’t want to get distracted by the scenery on the way down. “It’s clifty stuff,” Bergles said. “This is the Driftless Area, so we go through a lot of the cliffs and the rocks.”

At the top of the property, a skills park starts out with a winding boardwalk where riders can gain confidence and grow their skills in preparation for the jumps, switchbacks, tabletops and tight features of the trails. New moun-



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tain bikers should start at the skills park.

On the downhill, the green trail is the easier option and may still require some peddling. The blue trail is classified as an intermediate trail. It's pell-mell down the mountain, with significant jumps and tabletops.

A recent GoPro videographer clocked in at 30 miles per hour.

Experienced mountain bikers have already reviewed Farside, and their videos on YouTube and elsewhere give an immediate sense of the sport's excitement, as well as the details of the trail. Paul said they've received a lot of positive feedback from bikers who have already come from as far away as Kentucky, Tennessee and Minnesota to try out the new park.

Riders should ride to their skill level. "It's pretty steep mountainside, and you traverse back and forth with a bunch of switchbacks," Paul said. "You don't want to go over the side, or you're not going to stop for a while."

Bring your own bike, and check beforehand to make sure it meets specifications. As the 2023 season

continues, you may also call ahead to see if bike rentals are available. Full facial helmets are required for rider safety on the downhill trails.



Bergles hopes that Farside will draw mountain biking aficionados from the Chicago area and beyond, tying in with the Proving Grounds trails across the Mississippi River in Dubuque, Iowa. "We're trying to make a mountain biking community," he said.

Farside Bike Park is also part of a growing bike infrastructure in Galena country. The road at the bottom of Chestnut Mountain connects all the way into Galena by trail and quiet roadway.

"We hope it grows and becomes a big part of the community and Chestnut for sure," Bergles said. "We want people to come out and go mountain biking just like they go skiing."

Besides the unique features of Farside, Bergles pointed to the resort's amenities as a draw for mountain biking enthusiasts. "We sell fun," he said. "That's what we sell out here."

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Elizabeth: A place for the Arts to call home



Ray Thraen has found Elizabeth nourishes his craftsmanship. *Mark Van Osdol photos*

by Sara Millhouse

A small group of committed artists—each with a singular, focused vision—has made their home in the small community of Elizabeth, Illinois.

Sculptor David Seagraves, luthier Ray Thraen and potters Paul and Laurel Eshelman have all found the village east of Galena to be a place that nourishes their craftsmanship in surprising ways.

Elizabeth is a good fit for artists and artisans who appreciate a self-employed culture with plenty of practical craftspeople and a low cost of living. Artists in Elizabeth also benefit from being close to Galena, a larger community that supports artistic



Paul Eshelman

endeavors and sees thousands of visitors each year.

If artists are tempted to move to a town like Elizabeth, Paul Eshelman has some words of advice. "It's a small town, so they're going to have to think about more

than just serving this town, but it's also a town that's willing to embrace new people and happy to see something start up," he said. "They're willing to embrace new ideas and new businesses, for sure, and are very happy that you chose Elizabeth to be your base."

"And also, the prices are lower," Laurel said.

"The prices are definitely lower," Paul said. "Oh, my goodness. That made it possible for us."

For Seagraves and Thraen, Elizabeth is home, in part, because it was a good place to raise a family. The Eshelmans and Seagraves said that they appreciated the community's strong school system.

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Above: Ray Thraen. Right: Laurel and Paul Eshelman.



community. "It was a really solid education without a lot of frills," Paul said of their children's education. "The central core was really good, so they did well in college."

Laurel appreciates the cooperative attitude and enthusiasm of local business promotions, especially in recent years. "One thing that I enjoy is that our community has always worked together," Laurel said.

Each artist came home to Elizabeth via a different route. "A lot of nice things fell into place, that's for sure," Thraen said.

Thraen grew up around Elizabeth and went to college at Southern Illinois University with plans to major in math and a minor in physics. He thought he'd become a math teacher.

Instead, he caught the music bug. He hitchhiked to Montana to live with fellow musicians and work for the U.S. Forest Service. When he came home, he thought the visit would be temporary.

Instead, he met his wife Judy, and the two settled in. When he started making instruments, Thraen was living in rural Schapville, north of Elizabeth.

He started learning his craft by buying instruments cheap at auction and fixing them up, learning from journals, books and trial and error.

Next thing he knew, he was buying specialized tools to make and restore top-quality guitars, mandolins, banjos, fiddles and hammered dulcimers.

In Thraen's studio, restored mandolins and banjos feature intricate wood inlays and mother-of-pearl. Thraen picks up a fiddle. "This one doesn't look like much,

but it ended up with a pretty good sound," he said.

The fiddle started life as a cheap, imported instrument. "I took a razor saw and cut the back off," Thraen said. He re-graduated the thicknesses of the wood throughout the instrument. Finally, it sings.

Thraen pulls a book off the shelf, "Antonio Stradivari, His Life and Work," flipping to a page with a long list of fractions detailing the relationships of wood thicknesses in different parts of the instrument body. "They're always thicker in the middle, because that's where you have the most energy, but the energy is strongest at the beginning of the note," he said. "Then, as the energy dies out, you have to thin the wood to keep that sound going."

"The longer you can make that energy sustain, the more it's going to resonate sound and sound great," he added.

Thraen worked for years with a Dubuque music store, as well as creating high-end instruments for musicians all over the country, from Juneau, Alaska, to Corpus Christi, Texas, to New York City.

He's especially proud to have repaired and made instruments for young, local musicians who went on to forge successful music careers. Another point of pride is a banjo signed by John Hartford, the bluegrass musician, steamboat captain, folk hero and songwriter of "Gentle on My Mind."

Thraen and Seagraves met not long after they each moved to the area. They worked together in carpentry while they developed their artistic careers and skills.

Thraen said he was "hanging pretty

loose" when he ran into Seagraves. "He says, 'Come over here to the hardware store,' right here in Elizabeth, and he took me over to the hardware store and said, 'You need to buy this hammer,'" Thraen recalls. "He wouldn't let me buy one that didn't have a wooden handle, because it's easier on your hands."

Seagraves had grown up in Ferguson, Mo., before attending art school and getting his master's in two-dimensional art in San Francisco.

Even in the early 1970s, it was hard to find space and make enough money to afford the cost of living in the Bay Area. "It's not a relaxing atmosphere," Seagraves said.

His girlfriend's parents had a home that needed caretaking in the Hanover area. "It was going to be sort of an interim thing," he said of his Midwestern move. "I wanted to go to Kathmandu or somewhere, but I didn't make it that far."

This year marks his 50th year living in Jo Daviess County.

Seagraves wasn't yet a sculptor when he moved to the area. He started learning about carpentry, craftsmanship in old homes and fine woodworking in Jo Daviess County.

Woodworking led to larger sculptures in wood, stone and bronze. "I had a certain knack for it," he said with a shrug.

Now, many of his commissions are large public art pieces. He's registered with Illinois' Art-in-Architecture program, which sets aside a small percentage of state building project funds for art at public building sites.

His process starts with a small-scale model. After design is finalized, he

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David Seagraves sculpts in Elizabeth.

sculpts the piece in clay, then sends it to a foundry for casting.

Most of Seagraves' commissions are from outside the immediate area, but in the last five years or so, his figurative art is increasingly in demand in neighboring Galena. Seagraves has sculpted Civil War general Ely Parker and Galena Rep. Elihu Washburne. He recently sculpted a bronze statue of Ulysses S. Grant that sits on a bench in Washington Park on Main Street.

Seagraves is now working on a bust of Galena's only Medal of Honor recipient, Henry Taylor. He plans to eventually sculpt busts of all nine Galena Civil War generals.

Other recent work includes an eight-foot bronze of a firefighter, dedicated last fall in Elgin, Ill. He is now working on a large sculpture to accompany a renovation of a state fair building.

The Eshelmans found the Elizabeth community while they were living in the greater Chicago area. After visiting Jo Daviess County, they first considered a move to Galena but found that the rural community of Elizabeth was a better fit.

Their first studio was in a former feed and fuel store on a side street. "For a potter, it was luxurious, but I have even more space now," Paul said.

Now, they occupy the former home of the Elizabeth Weekly News, on Main Street. Affordable rent allowed them to eventually buy the building.

It's a highly visible spot on a conspicuous turn. "And the fact that there's an ice cream store next door, that has brought people," Paul said.

Still, walk-ins are not the majority of the Eshelmans' customers. People find their brightly colored, geometric pottery on the internet, as well as through publications and promotions such as the Twenty Dirty Hands tour in October.

"Staying in one place for a long time helps," Laurel said.

Laurel has a degree in biology, while Paul studied art and designs the pottery. Their work is definitely a partnership, with Laurel doing much of the business and promotional work, as well as parts of the production.

"Laurel is more technical and detail-oriented and careful than I am, so she's really good at reducing glazes,"



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Ray Thraen plays mandolin and fiddle at a jam on the second and fourth Sundays of each month at Small Town Saloon and can often be found watching Jeopardy with his crew on weekday afternoons.

Paul said. "She knows how to use a gram scale, and she gets it right."

"I write it down," Laurel said with a smile.

For artists just starting out, working in a rural community can help keep expenses low. For years, Seagraves' studio was also on Main Street in Elizabeth. "I bought the building in Elizabeth super cheap," Seagraves said.

It was \$8,000 in 1977. "It needed work," he admitted.

Now, Seagraves' studio is a spacious building just on the outskirts of town, with a high ceiling and natural light that plays on the features of the clay models he sculpts.

For Seagraves, another benefit of living and working in the Elizabeth community has been the proximity of the local craftspeople. "Something I really appreciate is all the skilled people you can turn to," he said.

Maybe you can find skilled craftspeople anywhere, but farm communities may be especially rich in physical know-how and ingenuity. "If I were an

art teacher, I would try to point this out," Seagraves said of the importance of having neighbors who know trades.

For years, he worked with a foundry in nearby Mt. Morris. Recently, his foundry partner retired, so he's had to move casting to Colorado, a long, inconvenient haul from northwest Illinois.

Workers from Hoskins Lumber helped him move his models, and Hahn Quarry Products has been generous in installation and assistance.

"In some ways, people relate to a small business in a farm community," Laurel said. "We don't make a lot of money. We have to buy our own health insurance, that sort of thing. For our kids, it was a good place to grow up."

When they lived in the Chicago suburbs, the Eshelmans recall one of their children's friends asking why Paul "didn't go to work." Paul was making pottery in his studio at the time, but in Elizabeth, the concept of self-employment is better understood.

Thraen, meanwhile, appreciates that

people aren't terribly concerned about his business. "You can go into your cave and not be bothered," he said.

While we're talking, though, someone calls from the school, asking about a busted \$100 guitar. He stops to show Thraen the guitar. It's worth fixing so Thraen suggests another person who is learning to repair instruments and might be interested in tinkering with it.

Thraen plays mandolin and fiddle at a jam on the second and fourth Sundays of each month at Small Town Saloon and can often be found watching Jeopardy with his crew on weekday afternoons.

He's clearly found his niche, as have the Eshelmans and Seagraves. "It's been a gift to live in this community," Laurel said. "I treasure it. It's a great place to raise our kids and have a quieter life. I mean, we're super busy, but we can walk to the studio. We can ride our bikes, and in a few minutes, we're out of town, in the countryside."

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History

Native American heritage sites in Jo Daviess County

by Sara Millhouse

Here in Jo Daviess County, we talk a lot about history, and usually that means history in the 1800s, when Galena boomed, grew and played a vital national role in the Civil War. However, people have been living, working and playing in Galena for thousands and thousands of years before the 1800s, and we are also proud to share this history with visitors.

If you're interested in learning about Native American history in Jo Daviess County, you have plenty of places to go, including beautiful landscapes open to the public and informative interpretive spaces. Here's a tour of a few Native American heritage sites in Jo Daviess County.

There are no large Native American communities in the immediate vicinity of Galena today. The closest are the Meskwaki Nation in Tama, Iowa (Sac and Fox Tribe of the Mississippi in Iowa) and the Ho-Chunk

Nation in Black River Falls, Wis.

Both communities exist today because of tribal members who resisted U.S. government removals, hid out or fled home to the Midwest. Members of many other Native American nations also trace their ancestry to Jo Daviess County.

Places where you can learn about Native American history in Jo Daviess County are open to the public largely because of the work of dedicated volunteers and non-profit organizations. These groups have focused first on preservation of important places, then on land restoration and helping people understand the history under their feet. Now, they hope to increase access and interpretation at important Native American heritage sites.

If you're just getting into town, start at the Galena & U.S. Grant Museum on Bench Street, run by the Galena-Jo Daviess County Historical Society. While the museum focuses on Galena's Civil War-era history, it includes an exhibit on Galena's earliest residents, giving you an overview of some of the cultures of the



The 170-acre Wapello Land and Water Reserve is an important, historical place that tells the story of the impact the lives of indigenous people had on the evolution of human culture. The site is maintained by the Jo Daviess Conservation Foundation (JDCF).



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people who hunted, told stories, fell in love and raised children here thousands of years ago.

Archaeologists classify periods of time according to the physical stuff that people left behind. Doing so allows us to trace changes over time as people developed new technologies and fashions. It's much harder to determine what language people spoke, who's descended from whom, and what motivated people.

Many of the physical reminders of Native American presence in Jo Daviess County are mounds of raised earth. Some of these are round or shaped like a stretched-out oval. Others are shaped like birds, bears or other animals. They are usually only a few feet high but can be more than 100 feet long. Thousands of these effigy mounds are found in Wisconsin.

We can never know exactly why people in the past did something unless they left records to tell us themselves. However, many Native American mounds contain burials. The mounds may have served to mark territories and as the site of important rituals and get-togethers. Common shapes of effigy mounds align with Ho-Chunk and other Native American clans.

It took a lot of work to create these earthworks, some of which feature intricate layers of different types of soil, laboriously carried from riverbanks to bluffs.

By the time Euro-Americans



Casper Bluff Land and Water Reserve is located at 870 S. Pilot Knob Rd, Galena. The site is maintained by the Jo Daviess Conservation Foundation (JDCF). For more JDCF properties, visit jdcf.org or look at the story to the right.

arrived in Jo Daviess County, mound-building had gone out of fashion, and Native American tribes were being pushed west by Euro-Americans hungry for land and resources.

In the years heading up to the Black Hawk War, Meskwaki people were living and mining in the Galena area. Some Meskwaki people fought alongside Black Hawk, as did members of other tribes.

One of the Black Hawk War skirmishes took place in Elizabeth, where residents fought for about 45 minutes behind a quickly-built fort against members of Black Hawk's band.

Casper Bluff Land and Water Reserve; 870 S Pilot Knob Rd, Galena

Casper Bluff Land and Water Reserve offers rich Native American history on its 100-acre site of prairies, savannas and effigy mounds. Breathtaking views of the Mississippi River, Iowa and Illinois can be seen from dawn until dusk at Casper Bluff. There are 51 burial mounds indicating that the area served as ceremonial grounds for the Late Woodland Indians. On the property, visitors will also find the last known intact Thunderbird Effigy Mound in the state.

Galena Gateway Park
9300 W Powder House Hill Rd, Galena

Visit one of Illinois' most scenic views, overlooking downtown Galena and surrounding mounds. Galena Gateway Park includes natural prairies with an always-changing population of wild flowers and woodlands. There are mowed and gravel paths for hiking, running, mountain biking, bird watching and picnicking.

Horseshoe Mound Preserve
1679 N Blackjack Rd, Galena

Located at the eastern gateway to the historic city of Galena, the 40-acre Horseshoe Mound features a central gathering area with a stone compass, viewing scopes, hiking trails and scenic outlooks with a 40-mile view including parts of Illinois, Iowa, Wisconsin and the Mississippi River, making Horseshoe the perfect place to watch the sunset.

Wapello Land & Water Reserve; 8642 Illinois 84 South, Hanover
Named after the original name of Hanover and the chief of the Fox Indians, Wapello is located just south of Hanover. Referred

to as the "John Chapman Archaeological Site" by the National Register of Historic Places, Wapello was the meeting point of two Native American cultures, the northern Woodland and southern Mississippian Native American tribes. Walking trails, featuring effigy mounds and barred villages, are equipped with interpretive signage.

Valley of Eden Bird Sanctuary; 5559 E Rush Creek Rd, Stockton

Explore 109 acres of prairie, forest and grassland at the only bird sanctuary in the county, which offers a peaceful environment to watch the sun set. It features six miles of walking trails and two observation decks for bird watching. So far, over 120 species of birds have been identified on site.

Buehler Preserve
102 Jefferson St, Galena

The eastern portion of Buehler Preserve contains a hilly woodland; the western portion, a flood plain that offers water filtration, a prairie restoration and open space values in close proximity to the city of Galena. The Galena River Trail, open for bikers, dog walkers and hikers, extends from the Meeker Street footbridge.

Schurmeier Teaching Forest
147 E Reusch Rd, Elizabeth

In memory of their parents, Jerry and Jon Schurmeier donated 52 acres of land to JDCF in 1994. With the help of the Northwest Illinois Forestry Association and a grant from the Illinois Council on Forestry Development, the Schurmeier Teaching Forest was created on the 11 westernmost acres of the property. This is the only teaching forest in Illinois. The site consists of rugged hillside that is entirely wooded.

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The Apple River Fort State Historic Site was the site of a battle during the 1832 Black Hawk War. For more information, visit applesriverfort.org.

You can learn more about this conflict at the Apple River Fort Historic Site in Elizabeth. Visitors can see exhibits, watch a short video and tour a replica of the fort. The replica was built in 1997 adjacent to the original fort, following archaeological investigations that discovered its exact location.

West of Galena, in a small park called Gramercy in East Dubuque, you can see earthen mounds built by Native Americans more than 1,000 years ago. Because many of these mounds contain burials, it's appropriate to act as you would at a cemetery.

The park is set high on the bluffs above the Mississippi River, with stunning views across the river to Dubuque, Iowa. The mounds themselves are about 10 feet high on the downhill side. The mounds at Gramercy Park were built by a culture that archaeologists often refer to as Middle Woodland. The size of the mounds and the physical materials found at Gramercy indicate that these people were participating in trade networks (known as Hopewell) that extended as far as the Great Lakes, Yellowstone National Park and the Gulf of Mexico.

Items found at Gramercy Park include obsidian artifacts, drilled bear teeth and a large, cut conch shell.

The southern part of Gramercy Park features a playground, interpretive signage and large mounds. The park is one of the most accessible places to see Native American mounds in the area, as they can be viewed from the parking lot without taking a hike. It's a great place for a picnic or to let the kids stretch their legs.

Jeff Trannel, president of the Gramercy Park Foundation, encourages visitors to explore the park, "whether it's just a half-hour trail walk, or opportunities to have some bluff-top views and pictures, or if you're interested in archaeology."

Trannel has spent decades as a volunteer and advocate for the park, even when it was overgrown and largely overlooked. "You don't have to spend much time to get a good feel for it," he said. "Forty-five minutes to an hour is plenty of time to view interpretive signage and a couple of viewpoints."

In the future, Gramercy Park Foundation hopes that visitors will be spending more time at the park. They have their fingers crossed that they'll get a \$2-million grant from the state of Illinois that would help build a pedestrian bridge across a street and a deep valley, linking the southern and northern sections of the park. Meanwhile, volunteers are working to prepare the northern part of the park for future visitors.

The next two places to visit are owned and managed by the non-profit Jo Daviess Conservation Foundation. "Jo Daviess Conservation Foundation has been actively preserving natural areas and areas that contain Native American heritage for the better part of 15 years," said Steve Barg, executive director of the organization. "What we find often in this landscape in northwest Illinois is that high-quality natural areas and indigenous heritage are often found on the same land."

Just south of Galena on Pilot Knob Road, Casper Bluff Land & Water Reserve features the only known thunderbird effigy in Illinois. Over time, the piled-up earth has eroded, but the outline of the bird is still visible, especially when seen from higher ground. Look for informational brochures in the kiosk near the parking lot.

Casper Bluff features views of the rural Mississippi River backwaters and Iowa bluffs. The restored savanna is especially beautiful in midsummer, when prairie flowers cover the landscape. The reserve is also accessible by biking or hiking the Galena

River Trail for about five miles, to the base of the bluff, then climbing a trail to the top. On the same property is Casper Creek, a modern natural cemetery.

The final spot to hike and learn about Native American history is at Wapello Land & Water Reserve, just south of the village of Hanover, Ill., and about half an hour from Galena.

Archaeological studies here indicate that, about 1,000 years ago, members of two different cultural groups lived here. Those in the Woodland cultural group may have built effigy mounds and typically lived in smaller groups. The other cultural group was Mississippian people from further south, best known for building Cahokia, the largest pre-Columbian Native American city north of Mexico.

Cahokia is located across the river from present-day St. Louis. It looks like people from these two cultural traditions were living together at Wapello, not in conflict but creating new cultural practices together.

In the future, Jo Daviess Conservation Foundation hopes to create "interpretive experiences centered in indigenous voices," Barg said. "We've been working to establish relationships with tribal representatives and learn about the heritage of this area from descended communities."

Many American Indian nations have ancestral ties to Jo Daviess County, including Ho-Chunk, Sac and Fox, Iowa, Ponca, Osage, Potawatomi and others.

As local organizations learn more from American Indian communities, their hope is to share richer and more complex stories about Native American heritage here in Jo Daviess County. History may be in the past, but there are always opportunities to learn more about the people who walked here before us.

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to know who we are and where we came from.*

Alex Haley

Blood's thicker than mud.
Sly and the Family Stone

Genealogy

And the Galena Public Library



Dale Glick sits on a bench that marks the grave of Horace H. Houghton, an early resident of Galena and publisher/owner of *The Galena Gazette*. Houghton died without resources to purchase a proper gravestone. Glick arranged in 2020 to have the bench serve as Houghton's gravestone. Glick uses *The Galena Gazette* for much of his historical research. Photo by P. Carter Newton, publisher, *The Galena Gazette*

by Michael Jones

Galena doesn't have an origin story. It has stories. Plural. Our roots are tangled.

People have been making their home here or visiting this area for thousands of years: Ho-Chunk, Meskwaki, Menominee. Miners, traders, enslaved and formerly enslaved persons; farmers, laborers, merchants; riverboat captains, stevedores, laborers. French, Germans, Swiss; Irish, Cornish, Scots, Welsh; English, Greeks, Mexicans. Our origin stories aren't even past. They continue as people from other nations and ethnicities sink their roots here.

Galena was the boom town of the Old Northwest Territory. At one time, we were bigger than Chicago. The leading supplier of lead ore; a major steamboat port along the Mississippi.

People were pulled and pushed to come to the Federal Mining District and its bustling boom town. There were fortunes to be made. A person could start—or start afresh—here.

Many stayed. Galena is replete today with old settler surnames. But for thousands, Galena was a stop-over for a few years, a pass-through on the way to somewhere else. People moved on, the familiar boom-and-bust pattern of communities built on mineral extraction. Some

were lured elsewhere by new opportunities. Some failed their way westward. Some left when Galena was in a bust cycle. A few returned to their former homes and lives.

For many, this was their final stop. Multitudes died here of fevers and plagues; childbirth and childhood illnesses; hard work and accidents.

This is where genealogy comes in. Who were these people? Where did they come from? Why were they here? Why this place at that particular time? Where did they go next? By learning about them, we learn more about ourselves.

Genealogy is the second-most popular hobby in America. Millions of people have had their DNA analyzed. DNA testing has opened up information previously inaccessible to us by research alone. But to supplement our genetic trail, we still need history and context.

A wonderful place to learn more about one's Galena and Jo Daviess County ancestors is the Galena Public Library. If you don't have paid subscriptions to genealogy sites like [ancestry.com](https://www.ancestry.com) and newspapers.com, you can access them for free at the Library. Federal, state and territorial censuses are available on microfilm in the Alfred Mueller Historical Room.

Galena and Jo Daviess County newspapers can be gold mines for researchers. The *Galena Gazette*, still proudly publishing, began in 1834. Copies are available from 1848-1864 (*Gazette & Advertiser*) and the



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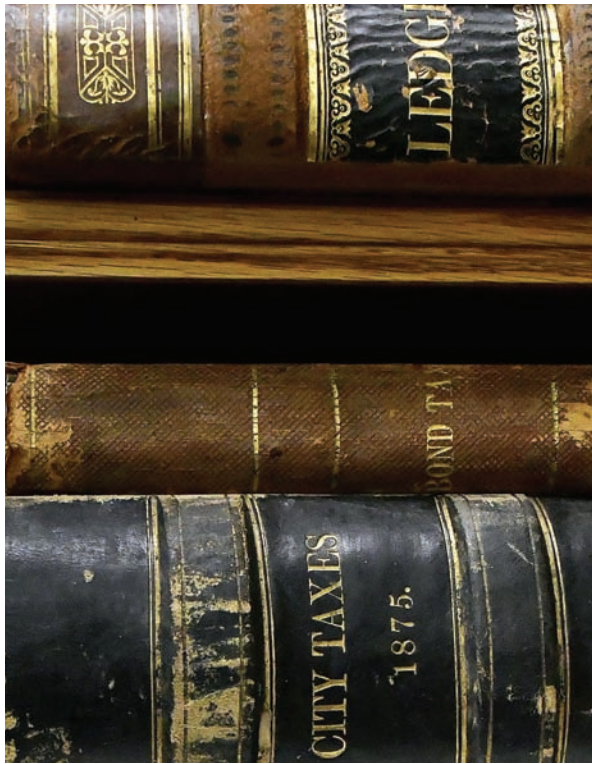
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Galena Daily Gazette (1864-1953). The oldest newspaper on file is the Miners' Journal (1829-1830).

Tombstone readings from throughout Jo Daviess County cemeteries are another excellent resource.

County indexes include marriages (1828-1904), deaths (1877-1985), and births (1878-1985).

Church records for St. Michael's Catholic, St. Matthew's Lutheran, Galena Methodist and First Presbyterian are available on microfilm. There are tax collectors' books, plat maps, county and family histories.

But what if you don't have roots here? A popular pastime—for many, a quest—is “houseology:” researching the history of our historic homes. The Library's historical librarians, Steve Repp and Dale Glick, are eager to help. They're knowledgeable not only about genealogy, but Galena's built environment. Houses, workplaces and churches add texture to lives.

Paraphrasing Winston Churchill, “We build our buildings, then they build us.”

Each of us, no matter where we come from, has plural origin stories: maternal and paternal, individual and family, heredity and environment, time and place. Our roots are marvelously tangled.

If your ancestors ever made their home in Galena or the tri-state Driftless Area, the Galena Public Library staff invites you to find out more at the Library. Come learn the story of you.



Or, if you've fallen in love with a historic house—developed an edifice complex, as it were—the Library is glad to help with that too. The Galena Public Library is located at 601 South Bench Street, 815-777-0200, info@galenalibrary.org.

At the archives room at the Galena Public Library, historian Steve Repp opens the Galena Daily Gazette to the story on President Lincoln's assassination.

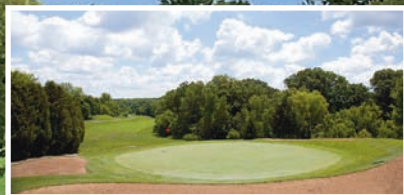


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Horse with carriage waits patiently in front of the Galena Public Library. *Photo courtesy of Alfred Mueller photo collection*

Only one building has the
most stories in Galena:

The library

*by Steve Repp, historical librarian
Galena Public Library*

Due to the generous efforts of Benjamin Felt of Galena and his family, the Galena Public Library was first located on the second floor of the Galena Post Office Building on Commerce Street in 1895. The Felt family and many other people donated books, their time and money to make it all happen. One interesting recollection of the original location of the library back then was that

the “book shelves were not open.” Books were chosen from a catalogue and the patron waited for the librarian to get the book desired.

The present location of the library on Bench Street was first opened in July of 1908. There are a number of interesting things to view when visiting the library.

There are two beautiful fireplace mantles which were the gifts of Emma Robb, a friend of the Felts. The mantle facings are of glass mosaic. The design on the main reading room level is a



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Quartoscope from 1897 donated to the library in 1922 by the Sheean family. The quartoscope allows one to view stereoview photographs. It still works. *Photo courtesy of Alfred Mueller photo collection*

wisteria pattern and the mantle on the lower level is woodbine or American Ivy in natural colors. The background for each mantle front is a gold or bronze which produces a most artistic effect.

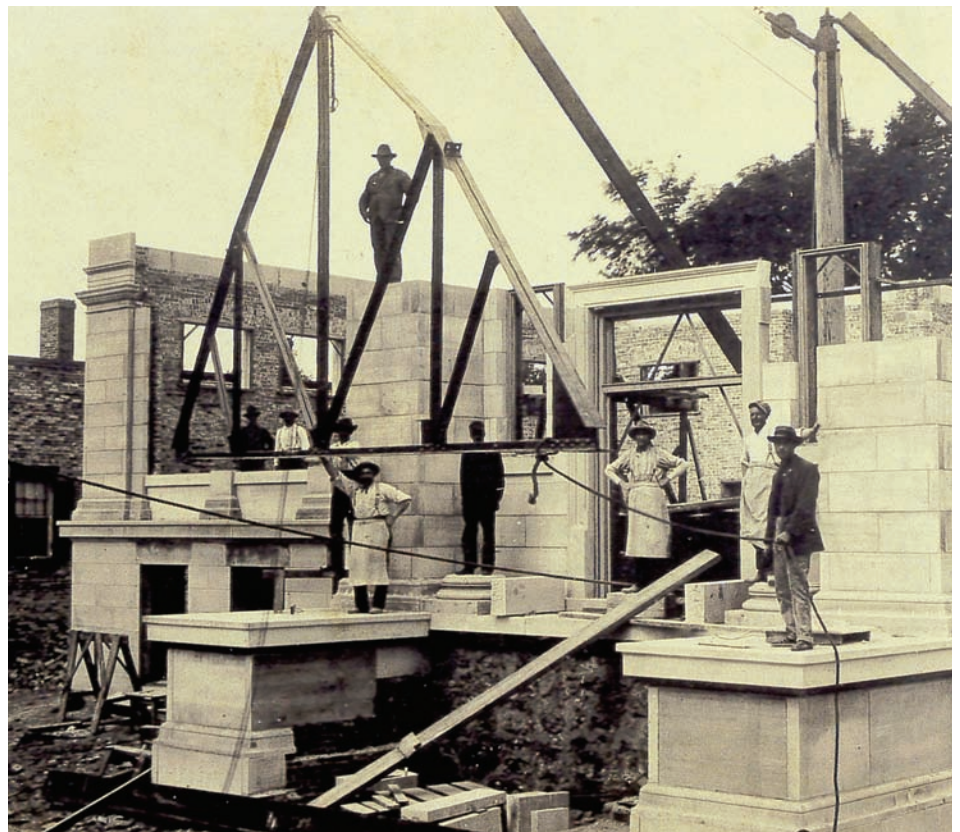
They were designed by Giaunini and Hilgart of Chicago. There are a number of marble statues throughout the library-gifts from Anna Felt from her travels through Europe. The Quartoscope, dated 1897, allows a person to view stereoview photographs. Give the handle a pull and take a look.

The lower level of the library has a wonderful children's library, and nearby can be found a display of dolls from the collection of Eloise Logan Wasson. She recalled that she was a frequent visitor to the library and "considered it the greatest place in Galena." Also located on the lower level is the Alfred Mueller Historical Collections Room.

Some people visit the room because they had family members who lived in Galena long ago, or they had bought a house and



A 1940s view of the Galena Public Library. *Postcard by E.W. Kempter*



The year is 1907 and the Galena Public Library is under construction. *Photos courtesy of Alfred Mueller photo collection*

would like to know how old it is. And some people just want to see what the room is all about and have a look around, and we are glad to have them visit.

There are many old books and ledgers. The old Galena newspapers are a real treasure. To read some of the original newspapers from long ago is really a special treat. Borrowing from a story that appeared in the Atlantic Monthly of November 1865, "If



souls are allowed to return to their earthly haunts, a library would surely be the place to meet them."

Reading through these old books and newspapers "we are introduced to charming people" from long ago. They become our companions as we search into the past. Take some time today and visit our library. You will be glad that you did.



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“Art To Wear”



Casper Bluff has the last known, intact Thunderbird effigy in Illinois. It's located at 870 S. Pilot Knob Road. For more on Jo Daviess Conservation Foundation sites, see page 66.

Firsts & Onlies

by Michael Jones



Stockton has many community-friendly events in a year. It also has an unexpected claim to fame!

Jo Daviess County is unique

Flora, Fauna, Topography

- Jo Daviess County is the only county in Illinois featuring predominately Driftless area topography: unglaciated, rugged land not scoured flat during the last Ice Age.

- The last known, intact Thunderbird effigy in Illinois is at Casper Bluff Land & Water Reserve, 870 S. Pilot Knob Road, Galena.

- Jo Daviess County is the only place east of the Mississippi River where the Iowa Pleistocene snail can be found.



Since 1955, scientists have documented a total of 31 Iowa Pleistocene snail populations – 30 groups in Iowa; 1 in Illinois.

- Charles Mound, 11 miles from Galena, 1,235 feet above sea level, is the highest natural point in Illinois.

- The only remaining Bear effigy in Illinois is at Keough Effigy Mounds Land & Water Reserve, 1683 N. Cross Road, Galena

- Casper Creek Natural Cemetery, 870 S Pilot Knob Road, Galena, is the only certified conservation burial ground in Illinois.

- Jo Daviess County has nine known algific (cold-producing) talus (broken surface rocks) slopes. The rocky slopes emit cold air throughout the summer. The largest is 100 feet in diameter.

- Jo Daviess County is the only place in Illinois where a rare habitat type—a dolomite hill prairie—can be found.

- Stockton is located at the highest elevation of any city in Illinois.

- Jo Daviess County is the only place in Illinois where the small enchanter's nightshade can be found.

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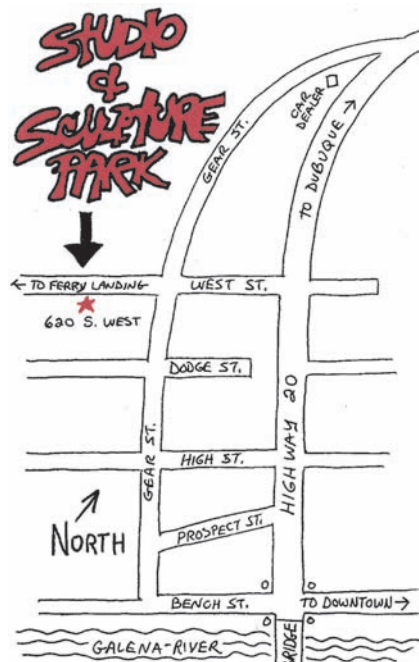
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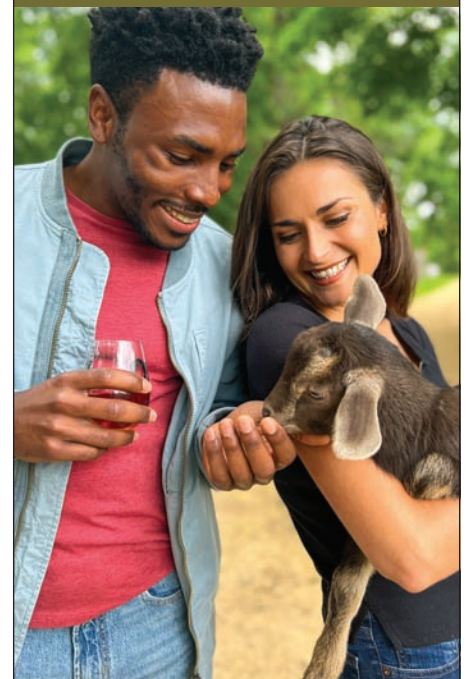
- "Out-of-the ordinary and fascinating."
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Old Galena High School

Walking Tour

Grace Episcopal Church « 107 S. Prospect St.

Grace Episcopal Church was built partly from stone quarried at the site. The original 1837 Henry Erben organ has been restored, making it the oldest organ still in use in Illinois.



Felt Manor « 125 S. Prospect St.

This house was originally built in the 1850s for dry goods merchant Lucius Felt. What you see today, however, is a “new” version,



as the house went under major remodeling in 1874. The “new” house was done in the Second Empire style and sports a large dance hall under the mansard roof. The outside double stairway cost thousands of dollars and was for many years known as “Felt’s Folly.”

Old Galena High School « 411 S. Prospect St.

This massive structure dominates Galena’s skyline. Built after the previous school burned, the new building features a square tower with four circular openings, each nearly seven feet in diameter. In 1980, the school was sold and converted to condominiums.

Old High School Steps « 106 N. Bench St.

This stairway, originally wooden, has been in this location since the 1850s. In addition to hilltop residents, these stairs serviced hundreds of students who attended the Old Galena High School, which overlooks Galena on the top of the hill.



Dr. Newhall House « 235 S. Bench St.

This building served as the home of Galena’s foremost physician, Dr. Horatio Newhall. Its use as a funeral home goes back over 80 years.



St. Michael’s Catholic Church « 227 N. Bench St.

The current church was built after the previous building burned down. The building was designed and the parish was established by Father Samuel Mazzuchelli. St. Michael’s Parish was made up largely of Irish working-class families.

History Museum « 211 S. Bench St.

Designed by architect William Dennison, who also designed U.S. Grant’s home, this residence was home to Daniel A. Barrows and his family. Barrows was a prominent businessman, owning a confectionery store,

distillery and lumber yard. Barrows was also a Republican and Lincoln supporter, which led to his front window being smashed by rocks during a Democratic rally on Bench Street in 1864. In 1938, the city purchased the building and used the front two rooms as city hall until 1967. Today, the building houses the Galena-Jo Daviess County Historical Society & U.S. Grant Museum.





Galena Public Library « 601 S. Bench St

The Galena Public Library's story starts in 1892. Galenian Benjamin Felt's goal was to establish a free public library in the city, and that goal became reality with the dedication and opening of the South Bench Street building on July 4, 1908. Felt donated \$28,500 of the funds, while Andrew Carnegie gave \$12,500 for the neoclassical revival building. The cornerstone of the building is dated April 27, 1907.

Today the mission of the Galena Public Library is to "inspire lifelong learning, advance knowledge, provide cultural and recreational opportunities, and strengthen our community."

The library is open six days a week and closed on Sundays. The library features a historical collections room as well.

To learn more about the Galena Public Library, visit galenalibrary.org or call 815-777-0200.

Galena United Methodist Church « 125 S. Bench St.

The original structure, built in 1832, burned in January 1838. The present church building was dedicated in 1857. General U.S. Grant attended church here with his family. The Grant pew is marked with a U.S. flag.



Turner Hall « 105 S. Bench St.

Constructed by the local Turner Society, Turner Hall was to serve as a public hall for lectures, theater, rallies and events. In 1926, the hall was gutted by fire but then rebuilt. Many famous visitors have been to Turner Hall including William McKinley and Theodore Roosevelt.

First Presbyterian Church « 106 N. Bench St.

The architectural style of this church comes from the East Coast, specifically the New England area. The steeple is said to be copied from the Old South Church of Boston.

St. Rose Academy « 228 N. Bench St.

Designed and built by Father Samuel Mazzuchelli, the St. Rose Academy was an all girls Catholic school also known as "the Academy." From 1868 to 1875, the building was used by the German Lutheran Church as a part of Wartburg College.

Jo Daviess County Courthouse « 330 N. Bench St.

The construction of the Jo Daviess County Courthouse began in 1839 and took five years to complete due to shortages of materials, labor and finances.





U.S. Customs House/Post Office « Green & Commerce

The U.S. Post Office and Customs House is still the second oldest continuously owned and operated post office in the United States. The Renaissance Revival style used by architect Ammi B. Young was the first standardized style to be used throughout the country by the U.S. government.

The superintendent of construction was engineer Ely S. Parker, a Native American with the Seneca nation who was raised on a reservation in western New York State. The post office sits at the corner of Green and Commerce streets in Galena. Parker would go on to become a brigadier general in 1867 and then be appointed U.S. commissioner of Indian affairs in 1869 by President Grant.

Walking Tour

considered some of the best of that period. The addresses are now home to Outside the Lines Gallery and Strawberry Lane.

Barrows & Coatsworth Stores « 120-126 S. Main St.

This section of buildings housed the leather goods shop of Jesse Grant (U.S. Grant's father). Located at 120 S Main St., you can shop in the same store where U.S. Grant worked from 1860 to 1861.

Schmohl Building « 215-217 S. Main St.

Lena Schmohl's millinery store in the 1850s. In 1886, after her husband died, Lena built and installed Galena's first hydraulic elevator. She was a highly respected business leader long before most women had the opportunity.

Davis Block « 304-310 S. Main St.

This was the very first all-brick block in Galena. Consisting of five stores, the block housed a jewelry store owned by Civil War Gen. John E. Smith, and office to controversial lawyer M.Y. Johnson.



DeSoto House Hotel « 230S. Main St.

Named after the discoverer of the Mississippi River, the DeSoto House Hotel opened in 1855 at Galena's economic peak. The hotel was billed as the "Largest Hotel in the West," and was built to service the many people arriving in Galena. Abraham Lincoln and Stephen A. Douglas spoke on

Flat Iron Building « 222 N. Main St.

The original building housed Bradley/Taylor House hotels and was three stories until it was destroyed by fire in 1876. The new Italianate structure is only two floors and has housed many different businesses from the People's Bank (original safe still there) to a Justice of the Peace.

J.A. Meusel Cigar Factory « 208-210 N. Main St.

This building was home to the Standard Cigar Factory, one of the many cigar manufacturers in Galena. Tobacco was a cash crop for some county farmers, particularly in the Stockton area. Several businesses now welcome customers here.

Perry Street

The stone laid on this street was originally as a deterrent to erosion, not a paving stone. However, maintaining control of horses and wagons on steep hills was a constant concern in the early days of Galena.

Old Stockade « 208 Perry St.

Originally home to trader Amos Farrar, during the Black Hawk War this homestead was transformed into a refuge for women and children. It never had to be used. The home has been remodeled since its days as a stockade.



Hempstead Store « 100 N. Main St.

The second floor of this building was home to the law office of John A. Rawlins, one of Galena's nine Civil War generals. He later served as Grant's chief of staff. Today it's the Galena Kandy Kitchen.

Newhall Drug Store « 101-103 S. Main St.

The Newhall Drug Store was built in 1843 by Galena physician and pharmacist, Horatio Newhall, a Yale graduate, who also published Galena's first newspaper, the "Miners Journal." His most notable work was treating cholera victims in the 1832 and 1848 outbreaks. The observations he made about the disease and its spread were

the hotel's balcony on separate occasions. The hotel also served as the venue of Ulysses S. Grant's reception ball and celebration after his homecoming from the Civil War. His presidential campaign headquarters were also housed in the DeSoto in rooms 209 and 211.

The historic DeSoto House Hotel now offers 55 guest rooms with private baths, three dining areas, a ballroom, conference and banquet rooms, specialty shops and a private parking garage.

Dowling House « 220 Diagonal St.

Galena's oldest house, Dowling House, was built of limestone by John Dowling in 1826. At one time, the house was the only trading post in the city and was equipped with primitive living quarters and hosted many fur traders.

Now open for tours, guides offer visitors a complete history of the house and the city.



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A short stretch of River Road offers some exquisite views of the Mississippi River backwaters. It's easy to bike there. Just turn right onto River Road at the Aiken Trailhead of the Galena River Trail, go over the railroad tracks and you're almost there. From there, it's an easy ride to the base of Chestnut Mountain Resort where there are additional Mississippi River views.

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Take in the majesty of the Mississippi River Valley from Chestnut Mountain Resort. The view is exquisite every season of the year.



by Sara Millhouse

Want to see beautiful views of the Mississippi River? Want to get out on the river? Check out these gorgeous spots to access the Mississippi or ponder its magnificence from above.

Places to get your feet wet

Ferry Landing, at the end of Ferry Landing Road, is managed by the Galena Boat Club. Members have slips and the boat ramp opens out onto the backwater sloughs of the Mississippi.

Blanding Landing Recreation Area, run by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, has 30 campsites, a playground, picnic area and a boat ramp, with plenty of tall trees and access to fishing in the backwaters. It's a great spot for secluded camping and outdoor recreation.

East Dubuque Boat Landing is located just north of the Julien Dubuque Bridge and can be accessed from Boat Ramp Road.

You can launch directly into the main channel of the Mississippi, and there is a small beach. There are also three marinas with river access in East Dubuque.

Places to look out over the water and say, "Ah!"

For a truly unique and out-of-the-way adventure, take South River Road south of the bottom of Chestnut Mountain and keep going until you get to the dead end. From here, you can walk up a cleared De-



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On the other side of River Road from the base of Chestnut Mountain Resort is a dock utilized by the resort for eco-tours of the Mississippi River. Pleasure boaters also use the dock and take the chair lift up the slope for dinner and drinks. From the dock, you can take in the beauty of the Mississippi River backwaters.

partment of Natural Resources easement to the top of the hill. This easement used to be open as a road, and you'll connect again with South River Road at the top.

Chestnut Mountain Resort has stunning views of the Mississippi River. The inn and resort has indoor and outdoor dining available, as well as river cruises and other recreational opportunities.

Casper Bluff Land & Water Reserve, off Pilot Knob Road a few miles south of Galena, features beautiful views of the backwaters, as well as a bird effigy mound built by Native Americans. If you're a cyclist or an ambitious hiker, you can access Casper by taking the Galena River Trail for five miles, then hiking up to the top of the bluff.

Gramercy Park in East Dubuque includes large Native American earthen mounds, up to 10 feet high on the downhill side. The views are across the Mighty Mississippi to Dubuque. There's also a picnic area and playground.

The Galena River Trail offers views of the Galena River for the first 3.4 miles from the Galena trail-



head, then to Aiken one can see Mississippi River backwaters.

Another picturesque view of the backwaters can be seen along River Road after turning right from the Aiken trailhead as well as from the base of Chestnut Mountain Resort.

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Galena's Neighbors

Gramercy Park in East Dubuque offers some great views of the Mississippi River including the U.S. 20 bridge. Native American mounds are also located there. *Contributed photo*

East Dubuque, Illinois

(10 miles W) population 1,505, is a small, picturesque community with breathtaking views. The city is connected to Dubuque by the Julien Dubuque Bridge. Gramercy Park, a 10-acre city park, is an Illinois Natural Heritage Landmark, and is home to 26 ceremonial and burial mounds from the Middle Woodlands Native American culture.

The Galena Territory, Illinois

(nine miles E) The Galena Territory, which encompasses 6,800 acres, is home to Eagle Ridge Resort & Spa and numerous outdoor activities including Shenandoah Riding Center, Thunder Bay Falls and Lake Galena and Marina. thegalenaterritory.com

Dubuque, Iowa

(16 miles NW) population 58,000, Dubuque is Iowa's oldest city and is among the oldest settlements west of the Mississippi River. The first permanent Euro-American settler to the area was French-Canadian fur trader Julien Dubuque in 1785. Today Dubuque is known for its casinos, the Mississippi Riverwalk and the National Mississippi River Museum and Aquarium. Eagle Point Park provides a panoramic view of Lock and Dam 11 and the Mississippi River Valley. traveldubuque.com

Cuba City, Wisconsin

(22 miles N) is known as the City of Presidents. Drive through this community of 2,012 and you can't help but see shields lining its Main Street honoring each of our presidents. Also lining the Main Street are a number of local businesses. The first name of the community was Yuba, but was later changed to Cuba and then Cuba City. cubacity.org

Hazel Green, Wisconsin

(13 miles NE) population 1,200, was the first permanent settlement in Wisconsin in 1825 and is part of the region's mining heritage. In 1831, Lucius Lyon began surveying two miles south of Hazel Green. This "Point of Beginning" is the basis for all descriptions on all property deeds in Wisconsin. villageofhazलगreen.org

Sinsinawa, Wisconsin

(12 miles NW) Sinsinawa is an unincorporated community one mile north of the border with Illinois, just north of Menominee. The town is known for being the mother house of the Sinsinawa Dominican Sisters, founded by Father Samuel Mazzuchelli. Sinsinawa Mound hosts numerous events throughout the year and runs a bookstore and art gallery which is open to the public. sinsinawa.org

New Diggings, Wisconsin

(12 miles N) provides a look back at another day and age. St. Augustine Church was founded by Father Samuel Mazzuchelli in 1835 and built in 1844.

Prairie du Chien, Wisconsin

(77 miles NW) population 5,911, is located along the Mississippi River, and has a wide array of natural beauty, a history dating back many centuries, events all year around, and businesses, shops and attractions. Referred to as Wisconsin's second-oldest city, Prairie du Chien was established by French voyageurs in the late 17th century. prairieduchien.org

Platteville, Wisconsin

(25 miles N) population 11,244, surrounded by rolling topography, the area around Platteville hosts some of the most breathtaking sights in the state. Besides being home to a University of Wisconsin campus, Platteville also offers recreational opportunities like fly fishing the Platte and Grant rivers. On the side of Platte Mound stands a large letter "M" that symbolizes the university's mining history. platteville.com

Shullsburg, Wisconsin

(19 miles NE) population 1,200, home of Shullsburg Creamery, is the third-oldest

community in Wisconsin with roots in the mining and trapping industries. The last mines were closed in the 1970s, but the Badger Mine & Museum keeps the history alive. A visit to Gravity Hill is a must. experienceshullsburg.com

Apple Canyon Lake, Illinois

(18 miles E) was developed in 1969 by the Branigar Organization. Activities include water sports, camping and golfing. applecanyonlake.org


Apple River, Illinois

(21 miles NE) population 366, Apple River grew along with the Illinois Central

Railroad in 1854. Three churches built in the 1870s—Methodist, Catholic and Presbyterian—still stand.

Elizabeth, Illinois

(12 miles E) population 694, has something for everyone. The town gets its name from the three women, all named Elizabeth, who defended Apple River Fort during the 1832 Black Hawk War. Antique collectors will find a haven of treasures as they explore northwestern Illinois' largest antique mall, the Elizabeth Grand Antique Co. Set in an old school building, each room is full of special finds and gems.



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 [allaboutaghostfourgalena](https://www.facebook.com/allaboutaghostfourgalena)

ALL ABOUT A GHOST TOUR-61156_3

Hanover, Illinois

(18 miles S) population 784, is home to Wapello Land & Water Reserve, a park with premiere prairie restoration. The Apple River runs through the center of the town. Hanover is the Mallard Duck Capital of the World, home to Whistling Wings duck hatchery. In September they celebrate their title with Mallardfest.

Savanna, Illinois

(32 miles S) population 3,000, is best known for the Army Depot. It is now the Lost Mound Unit of the Upper Mississippi River Wildlife Refuge. savanna-il.us



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& Shrines

seasonal gift shop and tours

305 W Main St Dickeyville, WI 53808
608-568-3119

dickeyvillegrotto.com

Dickeyville-11739_1

Scales Mound, Illinois

(12 miles NE) population 378, Scales Mound was founded in 1853. Just west of town on Stagecoach Trail is the famous "Jesus Saves" rock. Ninety percent of the town is on the National Register of Historic Places. scalesmound.com

Stockton, Illinois

(28 miles E) population 1,728, was established after the Minnesota Northwestern Railway, which later became the Chicago Great Western Railway, built a station in Stockton Township in 1886. Stockton's industry grew with the newly-added transportation. In 1914, the Kraft brothers opened their first cheese plant in Stockton. Spend a day at the Memorial Park, where you can hit up three playgrounds and a pool all in one, or Kidstown, a wooden playground. Stop by Valley of Eden for rolling hills brimming with a wide variety of birds. Head downtown to enjoy some shopping, local history and mural paintings. Visit the 18-hole golf course, Woodbine Bend, just outside Stockton.

Warren, Illinois

(27 miles NE) population 1,600, grew with the arrival of the railroad. Alexander Burnett and Freeman Tisdell founded Warren in 1853. Pumpkin Festival is the last full weekend of September. villageofwarren.com




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Kalona-4622_2



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dubuquearboretum.net

3800 Arboretum Drive

Dubuque, IA 52001

Dubuque Arboretum-4505_2

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Travel Dubuque-6641_2



The Mississippi River Valley. Photo courtesy of Henry Matthiessen III, Stoned Art

Looped in

Scenic Arts Loop promotes thriving arts scene

The Driftless Region is a unique area located in the Midwestern United States, covering parts of Illinois, Wisconsin, Iowa and Minnesota. It is a place of rolling hills, winding rivers, and stunning bluffs. It is also home to a thriving arts scene that showcases the natural beauty of the region. For those looking to escape, explore, and experience art, the Driftless Region has a lot to offer.

It's also a place fostering the creative spirit with artists and artisans interpreting the landscape and people around them or creating beautiful art.

A group of artists and artisans in northwest Illinois, northeast Iowa and southwest Wisconsin have created something else: the Scenic Art Loop. The Scenic Art Loop promotes galleries, wineries, breweries, festivals, theater and even magic.

The group's website scenicartloop.com provides information on organizations participating in the art loop. Information and maps on the website make it possible to plan a day trip out into the Driftless Region.

In addition, there is a monthly art drive the first full weekend of the month. A map of participating businesses is updated each month.

In addition to galleries and museums there are seemingly countless festivals and community activities throughout the year. This information is updated on the website, as well.

The Scenic Art Loop can be a valuable guide for anyone interested in visual art, music, literature, or outdoor installations. There's something for everyone to enjoy in this beautiful part of the country. So pack your bags, grab your camera, and head to the Driftless Region for an unforgettable artistic adventure.

Prairie du Chien

WISCONSIN



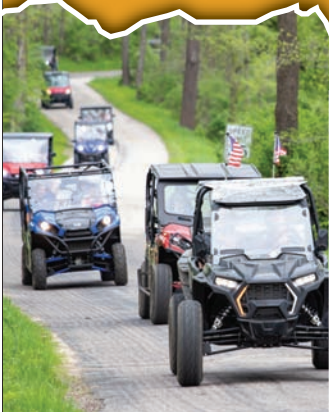
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adventure

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Elizabeth, IL 61028
815-858-2265

Safe Haven Humane Society is a small nonprofit animal shelter in rural Jo Daviess County that works to save as many cats and dogs as possible, provide them exceptional care, and keep them safe until they are adopted into a forever home.
www.safehavenforpets.org



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Located in the heart of Jo Daviess County, Elizabeth is known for its rolling hills, beautiful scenery and friendly people. The recipient of the Illinois 2010 Governor's Home Town award, Elizabeth is an exceptional village in which to live, conduct business or stay a spell and visit.

Elizabeth was incorporated in 1868 and provides a glimpse of the past as well as maintaining an up-to-date infrastructure.

Elizabeth captures all of the benefits of rural America, while maintaining the advantages of being a 21st century Main Street community.

Home to more than 700 friendly residents, Elizabeth is one of Illinois' most unique small towns. Located directly on Ulysses S. Grant U.S. Highway 20, the village of Elizabeth is a convenient spot to operate a business. Residents are proud of their Midwestern lifestyle and great work ethic.



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Elizabeth, IL 61028
(815) 858-6026
info@lolas-deli.com
http://www.lolas-deli.com/

Lola's
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Village Treasures

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(815) 858-3749



St. Paul Ev. Lutheran Church (LCMS)

Join us on Sunday at 9 a.m. as we celebrate The Lord! All are welcome!

We are located in Elizabeth on Route 20 across the street from Terrapin Park and the Community Building. For more information, please call us at (815) 858-3334, or visit us at stpaulnelizabeth.org or facebook.com/stpaulnelizabeth.

Reelin' in the year

Come back for fun!



SEPTEMBER

The **Cemetery Walk** is one of the Galena-Jo Daviess County Historical Society's major fundraising events. A team of researchers, actors and supporters puts countless hours of preparation into each year's Walk to create a remarkable experience.

The Walk takes place over two weekends in September, with an outdoor performance, this year at Old City Cemetery; and an indoor performance, this year at the Galena Center for the Arts. Call 815-777-9129 or visit galenahistory.org. Tickets are available at the gate only on the day of the performances.

OCTOBER

Country Fair has been giving back to area charitable causes for more than 40 years! The annual event is set for Columbus Day weekend at Grant Park, and brings more than 100 hand-selected art, craft and fine art vendors selling high-quality, original, handmade items. Want to get a jump start on your holiday gift shopping? There's home decor, seasonal, clothing, toys, jewelry, photography, gifts and more.

At the end of October, keep an eye on Main Street in Galena. You just might see an Imperial Walker from "The Empire

Strikes Back." Or you might see AMA ATV MX world champion Chad Wiene ride by. Or you might see a flash mob, dancing in full costume to Michael Jackson's "Thriller." All of these things, and more, were on full display during Galena's **Halloween Parade**, usually held the last Saturday in October. Visit galenachamber.org.

NOVEMBER

The **Nouveau Wine Festival** is always held the third Thursday of November and showcases the annual release of Le Beaujolais Nouveau, the practice of bottling the first wine of the harvest just a few weeks

Galena Plus SW Wisconsin Day Trips!

Two Rivers Tour

- Cuba City**
 - Weber's Meat Locker
 - Parade of Presidents
 - Antique Avenue
 - Gile Cheese
- Platteville**
 - Main Street Mural
 - Badger Bar
 - Steve's Pizza Palace
 - Mining & Rollo Jamison Museums
 - The World's Largest "M"
- Montfort**
 - Rural Route 1 Popcorn
- Lancaster**
 - Grant County Courthouse
 - Cunningham Museum

Wine & Cheese Tour

- Cassville**
 - Cassville Car Ferry
 - Nelson Dewey State Park view of the Mississippi River
 - Stonefield Historic Site and State Agricultural Museum
- Potosi**
 - Potosi Brewery
 - ABA National Brewery Museum
 - Whispering Bluffs Winery
 - Potosi Point on the Mississippi River
- Wyalusing State Park**
 - View of the convergence of the Wisconsin and Mississippi Rivers
- Fennimore**
 - Carr Valley Cheese
 - Fennimore Butcher Shop
 - Doll & Toy Museum
 - Fennimore Railroad Historical Society Museum

For further information go to the *Travel Wisconsin Visitor Center* in Platteville or visit www.grantcounty.org/tourism/

98 galenian.com



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Celebration



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Games ★ Fireworks and more!
HOMETOWN THROWDOWN
Shullsburg4thofJuly.com
Shullsburg 4th of July-4512_3

after fermentation.

Family-friendly fun is readily available Thanksgiving weekend, which is when the community usually welcomes Santa Claus to town with a parade. Visit the Galena Downtown Business Association's Facebook page for more information.

DECEMBER

December offers plenty to do in Galena. Fireworks rock Grant Park during the annual **Holiday Diamonds in the Sky**.

The second weekend of December brings with it one of the most beautiful and romantic visions of the year with **Living Windows** and the **Night of the Luminaria**. More than 5,000 candlelit luminaries line the streets, steps, and sidewalks, and store windows come alive! From Main Street



to the hills overlooking Grant Park, all of Galena will be glowing. From 4-7 p.m., store windows on Main Street come alive with holiday-inspired animation in Living Windows. Local businesses offer extended hours, so take advantage and do some holiday shopping!




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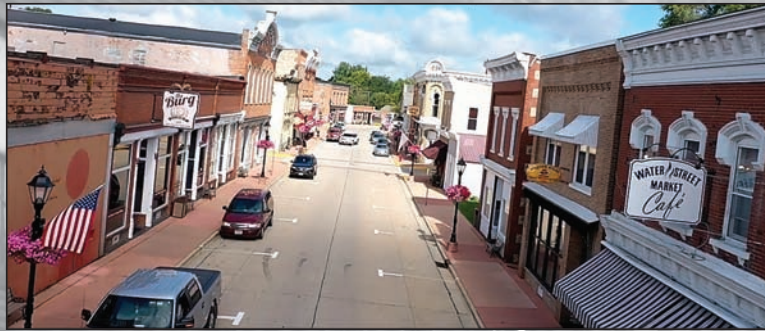
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Media



Experience Shullsburg-4133_3

Nestled in the Southwest corner of Wisconsin is the city of Shullsburg, the state's third oldest city after Green Bay and Prairie du Chien.

Founded in 1827 by a fur trader by the name of Jesse Shull who came to find mining more lucrative than buying furs, the town came to life once he married and established his first home, creating a destination for migrating miners in search of a good living mining the precious lead and zinc ore the area hid beneath its ground. Today, Shullsburg is on the National Register of Historic Places.



September 18th
8am-Noon
Downtown on West Water Street
Shullsburg, Wisconsin



Copeland Guest House
123 E. Water St., Shullsburg, WI 53586
Copelandguesthouse.com • FB: CopelandGuestHouse
Phone: 636-248-2393

Copeland Guest House is a family-owned and operated Guest House, located in the heart of Shullsburg, walking distance to restaurants, shopping and an amazing park. This home is ideal for a get-together with family or friends—4 bedrooms, 4 baths with all the amenities of home and large outdoor gathering areas to enjoy social time.



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608-965-3144

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Free Park and Ride to Downtown Galena
June - October

TRANSIT SERVICE FROM:

 **Depot Park remote parking to downtown
Meeker Street remote parking to downtown.**

Saturdays: 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Sundays: 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

(Loading every 20 minutes)

 **Hotel Route: Stops at Ramada, Country Inn
and Suites, Stoney Creek Inn, Best Western,
Irish Cottage, and Grant Hills.**

Saturdays: 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.

(Loading every hour)










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-  VISITOR CENTER
-  PUBLIC RESTROOM
-  PARKING LOT
-  PEDESTRIAN PATHS
-  FREE RIDE ROUTE
-  MAIN STREET




RIDE & GALENA

OPERATING JUNE-OCT:

DOWNTOWN ROUTE

-  • 101 Bouthillier Street
- 101 Green Street
- 114 Meeker Street
- Saturdays, 11a-7p
- Sundays, 11a-4p

HOTEL ROUTE

-  Stops at Ramada, Country Inn and Suites, Stoney Creek Inn, Best Western, Irish Cottage, and Grant Hills.
- Saturdays, 11a-7p



This City of Galena map brochure

GALENA POINTS OF INTEREST

- 1** General Grant's Home
- 2** Old Market House
- 3** Galena & U.S. Grant Museum
- 4** Courthouse
- 5** Blacksmith Shop
- 6** Galena Public Library
- 7** Washburne House
- 8** City Hall
- 9** Galena Center for the Arts
- 10** Galena ARC
- 11** Historic Galena Post Office
- 12** Grant's Pre-Civil War Home
- 13** Gateway Park
- 14** Buehler Preserve
- 15** Pathway on the Levee
- 16** Old City Cemetery & Park
- 17** Recreation Park
baseball diamond, skate park,
playground, water park
- 18** Wiene Park
soccer and baseball fields
- 19** Grant Park
gazebo, picnic areas, fountain,
cannons, playground, U.S. Grant statue
- 20** Muchow Park
- 21** Depot Park
- 22** Boat/Kayak/Canoe Launch
- 23** Kayak/Canoe Launch

P Parking

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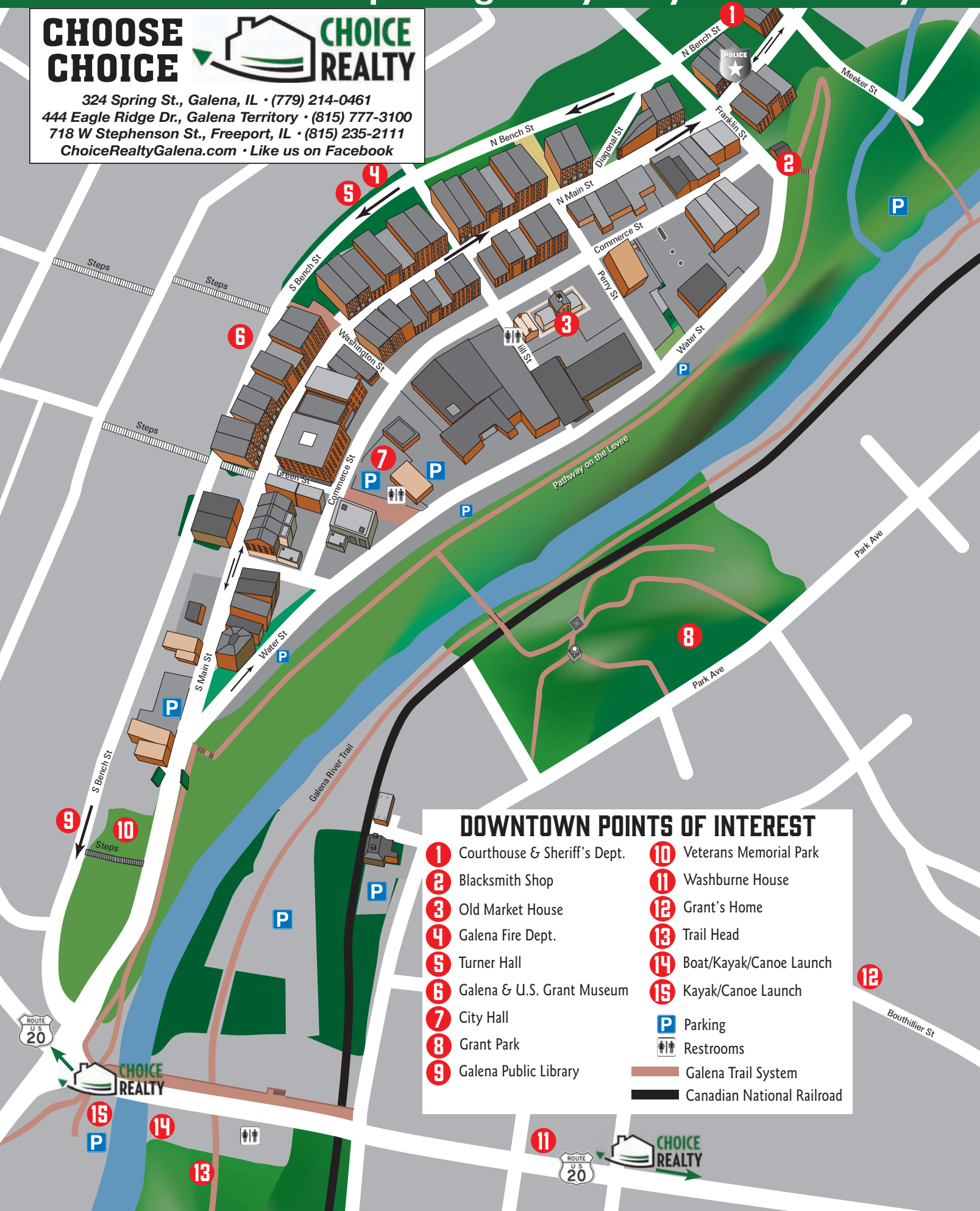
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DOWNTOWN POINTS OF INTEREST

- | | |
|--------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1 Courthouse & Sheriff's Dept. | 10 Veterans Memorial Park |
| 2 Blacksmith Shop | 11 Washburne House |
| 3 Old Market House | 12 Grant's Home |
| 4 Galena Fire Dept. | 13 Trail Head |
| 5 Turner Hall | 14 Boat/Kayak/Canoe Launch |
| 6 Galena & U.S. Grant Museum | 15 Kayak/Canoe Launch |
| 7 City Hall | |
| 8 Grant Park | |
| 9 Galena Public Library | |



Galena Trail System

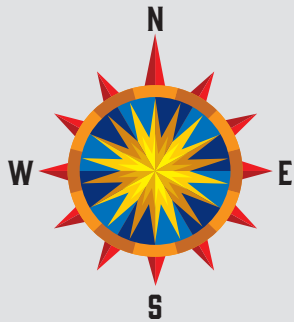
Canadian National Railroad



Galena Trail System

Canadian National Railroad

GALENA RIVER TRAIL



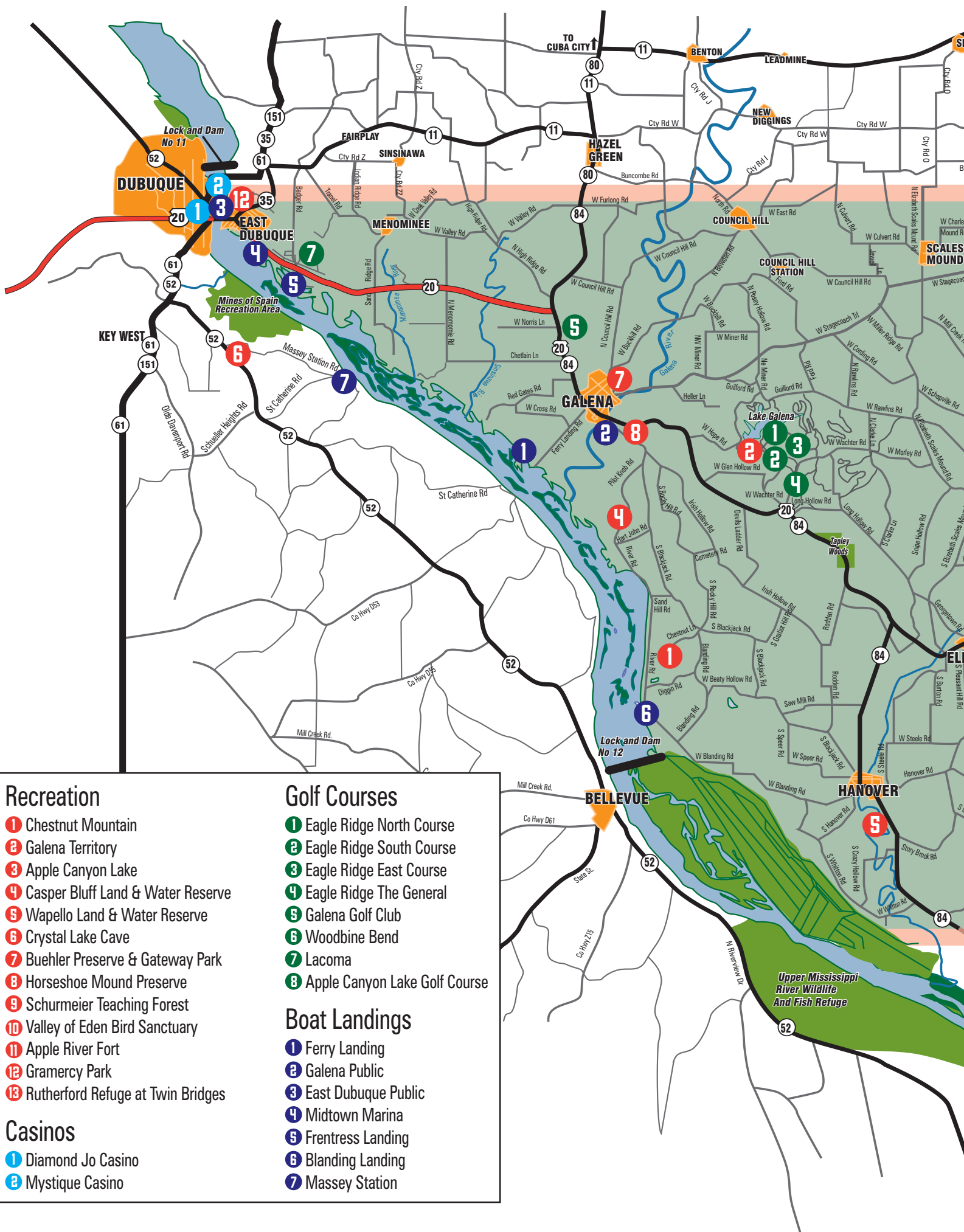
MILEAGE

Trailhead to Galena Junction—3.4 miles
Trailhead to Aiken—5.5 miles
Trailhead to Meeker Street bridge—0.5 miles
Trailhead to Buehler Preserve—1.4 miles
Trailhead to Recreation Park—1.0 mile
Trailhead to Chestnut Mountain—8.1 miles

LEGEND

- Trailhead**
- Parking**
- Public Restrooms**
- Drinking Water**

There are numerous benches and interpretive signs along the trail



Recreation

- 1 Chestnut Mountain
- 2 Galena Territory
- 3 Apple Canyon Lake
- 4 Casper Bluff Land & Water Reserve
- 5 Wapello Land & Water Reserve
- 6 Crystal Lake Cave
- 7 Buehler Preserve & Gateway Park
- 8 Horseshoe Mound Preserve
- 9 Schurmeier Teaching Forest
- 10 Valley of Eden Bird Sanctuary
- 11 Apple River Fort
- 12 Gramercy Park
- 13 Rutherford Refuge at Twin Bridges

Casinos

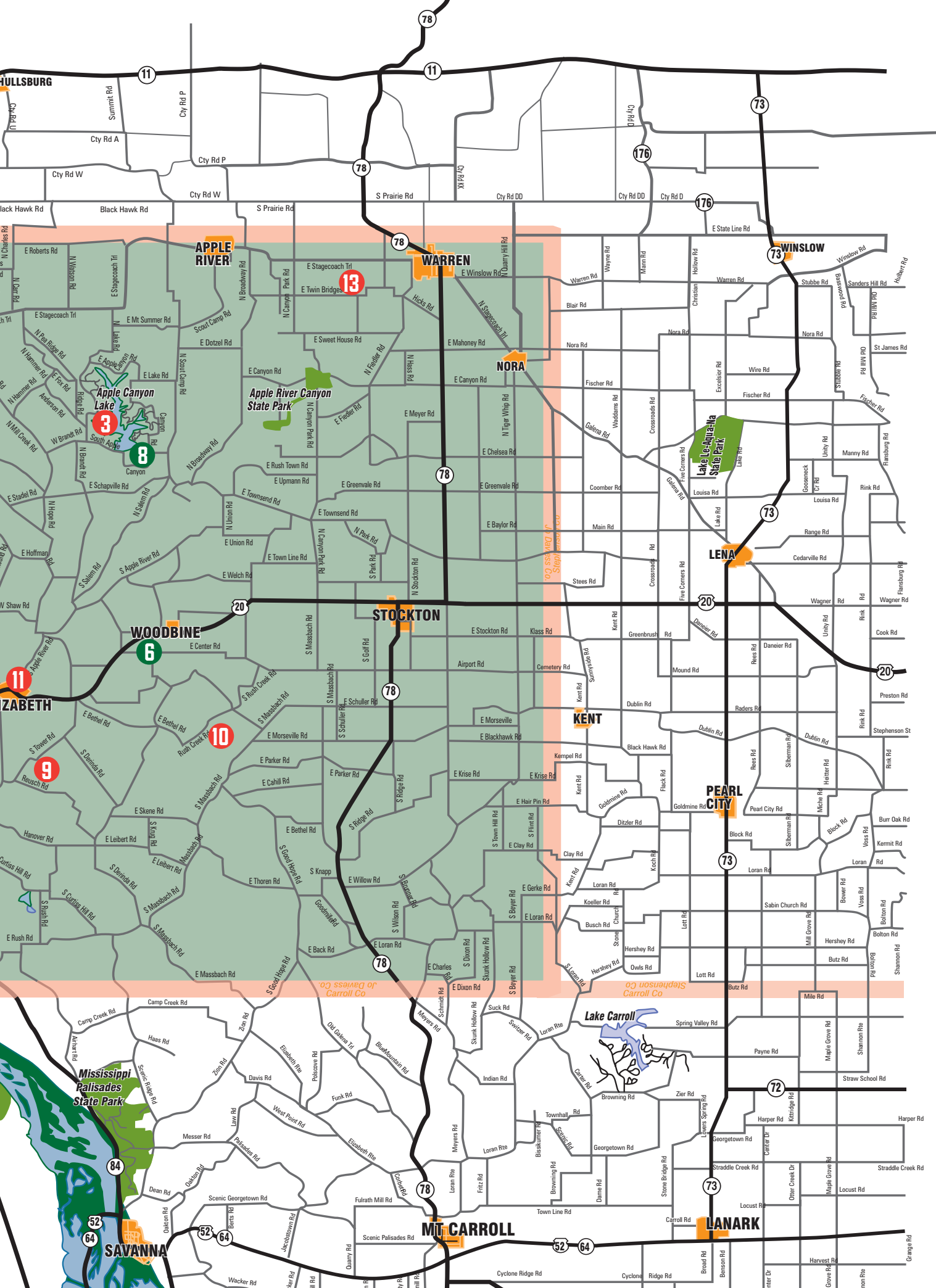
- 1 Diamond Jo Casino
- 2 Mystique Casino

Golf Courses

- 1 Eagle Ridge North Course
- 2 Eagle Ridge South Course
- 3 Eagle Ridge East Course
- 4 Eagle Ridge The General
- 5 Galena Golf Club
- 6 Woodbine Bend
- 7 Lacoma
- 8 Apple Canyon Lake Golf Course

Boat Landings

- 1 Ferry Landing
- 2 Galena Public
- 3 East Dubuque Public
- 4 Midtown Marina
- 5 Frentress Landing
- 6 Blanding Landing
- 7 Massey Station





Historic sites in the county

Old Blacksmith Shop

245 Commerce St, Galena,
815-777-1893, May through
October. Old Blacksmith Shop
is a museum, but there are forges
that operate and blacksmiths
are on duty during the season.

Check out the well-stocked gift
shop filled with things made
by blacksmiths and also the
local foundry. They do beauti-
ful custom work as well. Open
10 am to 4 pm Friday through
Monday.

U.S. Grant Home State Historic Site

500 Bouthillier St, Galena, 815-777-
3310, granthome.org. The U.S. Grant Home
was built in 1859-60. When Gen. Ulysses S.
Grant returned to the city in 1865 as a Civil
War hero, he was presented with the house.
Grant used the home as his official political
and voting address, living there with his fam-
ily during his 1868 presidential campaign,
and then for a few brief periods during his
presidency (1869-1877) and retirement.

Old Market House State Historic Site

123 N Commerce St, Galena, 815-776-
9200, granthome.org. The Old Market House,
erected by the city of Galena in 1845-1846,
served for 65 years as the city market during
the decades of Galena's greatest prosperity as a
river port, lead-mining center and commercial
hub. It also served as the seat of Galena gov-
ernment and for years had two jail cells.

Stockton Heritage Museum

107 W Front Ave, Stockton, 815-947-
2220. Learn more about the history and
heritage of Stockton by paying a visit to the
Stockton Heritage Museum.

Galena & U.S. Grant Museum

211 S. Bench St, Galena, 815-777-9129,
Galenahistory.org. Step inside the Galena &
U.S. Grant Museum in Galena to discover
the history behind the area's lead mining,
steamboating and commercial success during
the Civil War era. Meet the spirit of Ulysses
Grant in a hologram that welcomes guests
into the museum. There are also true national
treasures, like the "Peace in Union" and
"General Grant on the Battlefield" paint-
ings and the flag from the Vicksburg Siege.
It features over 6,000 square feet of exhibit
space and presentations on lead mining in the
northwest region, the Driftless Area, Grant's
leather store and the Port of Galena.

Hanover Historical Society

500 Fillmore St, Hanover, 815-591-3623,
hanoverhistoricalsociety.com. The Hanover
Historical Society provides an in-depth look
at the history of Hanover. A recently added
exhibit is the Larry Bell, Jr. Collection,
featuring 1,000 Native American artifacts
collected over 45 years with 70 percent found
at the Wapello Site.

Apple River Fort State Historic Site

311 E Myrtle St, Elizabeth, 815-858-
2028, Appleriverfort.org. The Apple River
Fort was the site of an important battle dur-
ing the Black Hawk War. On June 24, 1832,
the settlers of the fort turned back an attack
by 200 Sauk and Fox warriors led by Black
Hawk himself. The war ceased the threat of
Sauk and Fox Native American attacks in the
area and opened the region to further settle-
ment. Today, the fort has been reconstructed
for visitors to take a step back in time.

Chicago Great Western Railroad Museum

111 E Myrtle St, Elizabeth, 815-858-
2343, elizabethhistoricalsociety.com. Located
in a former Chicago Great Western Railway
station, the Chicago Great Western Railway
Museum in Elizabeth focuses on the railroads
of northwest Illinois. The museum houses
thousands of railroad artifacts, and also gives
visitors the opportunity to step into a full-size
Milwaukee Road caboose.

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125 S. Bench Street, Galena, IL 61036
www.galenaumc.org • gumc0192@gmail.com
10:30 am Sunday Worship (10 am Memorial Day thru Labor Day)
815-777-0192

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- Listen to our beautiful 1880s pipe organ
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& Lenten Services

- First Sunday of the month communion
- All are welcome. All means all!

Galena
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



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Schapville Zion Presbyterian Church



Schapville Zion-7333 1

Come worship with us.

635 E. Schapville Rd. Elizabeth, IL 61028
815-845-2272 Worship Sunday 10am



grace church

the episcopal church in galena

107 S. Prospect St. | 815-777-2590



*This inviting, inclusive church on the hill is OPEN
 for in-person and online worship.*



Current information may be found at gracegalena.org.

Grace Episcopal-4493 4



**Sunday: 10:30 am | Tuesday, Compline: 8:30 pm
 Wednesday: 7:30 am | Friday: Centering Prayer 9 am**

St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church (LCMS)



Join us on Sunday at 9 a.m. as we
 celebrate The Lord! All are welcome!

We are located in Elizabeth on
 Route 20 across the street from
 Terrapin Park and the Community
 Building. For more information,
 please call us at (815) 858-3334,
 or visit us at stpauzelizabeth.org or
facebook.com/stpauzelizabeth.

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