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Welcome to Jim Edgar Panther Creek!

Since I accepted the official position of Site Superintendent here at JEPC it has been a busy but rewarding year. The year started great with a successful pheasant season that led into a great field trial season. Then COVID-19 hit and our site was closed. During the absence of visitors, we were able to take the opportunity to attack the site’s unfinished projects.

After intense strategic planning by the Governor’s office and our Administration, our site was reopened with very safe guidelines and with this, the site attendance grew. As the visitors inundated the site, we realized that a lot of them were first time users. Even with the seriousness of the pandemic, people wanted to get out and enjoy nature and their families – and there is no better place than the great outdoors. So, I hope these first-time users find great joy in these activities and continue visiting our great site.

During this past year, we have continued to maintain the site and make many improvements with the new equipment we purchased. We have completed the new field trial barn and continued to make improvements to the equestrian and hiking trails. In addition, we have been able to clear invasive species both manually and chemically from our Pheasant hunting fields and our field trial loops.

We have an outstanding staff and with everyone’s efforts including volunteers, our programs and activities are still on the increase. These activities include hunting programs, fishing programs, school outings, scouting events, family reunions and weddings.

I hope the public will continue to take advantage of the many opportunities offered here at the site. We are well-known for hunting, fishing, camping, hiking and horseback riding but we provide so much more. The site offers opportunities to kayak, canoe, picnic, archery shooting, trap shooting, dog training, and snowmobiling.

We have an exceptional site which attracts many visitors each year. Our goal is to offer a great place for the public to enjoy the outdoors. We are a multi-use site and offer multiple opportunities. Whatever your outdoor interest is, please contact us. We are honored to continue to accommodate the many different user groups and to help enhance your visit to this beautiful site.

Hope to see you soon,

Nate Goetten
Site Superintendent

Photos taken at Jim Edgar Panther Creek Site
Courtesy of Brian DeLoche: front cover, pages 2, 4, 6, 13 (cabin), 14 (winter tree), 19, 20
Courtesy of JEPC Site: pages 5, 13, 14, 15, 16
Editorial Coordinator: Sandy Haschemeyer
Graphic Design: Ashley Strong
**Hunting Safety**

**Illinois hunters reminded to put safety first**

SPRINGFIELD, Ill. – Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) reminds hunters to make safety their first priority when they head to the field for the state’s firearm deer, upland game, waterfowl and other busy hunting seasons.

“We want hunters to enjoy all the opportunities available here in Illinois, with hopes for a safe and successful hunting season,” said Illinois Department of Natural Resources Director Colleen Callahan. “While we enjoy and celebrate Illinois’ hunting heritage, we want everyone – from experienced, veteran hunters to those who may be new to hunting – to always think safety first.”

Safety educators and IDNR Conservation Police remind everyone hunting with a firearm to:

- Treat every firearm as if it is loaded, and never assume a firearm is unloaded;
- Always point a firearm in a safe direction;
- Be sure of the target, and make sure there are no other hunters, vehicles or other animals beyond the target; and
- Keep their finger out of the trigger guard and off the trigger until they are ready to shoot.

For more details on Illinois deer, waterfowl, upland game, furbearer and other hunting seasons, check the Illinois Digest of Hunting and Trapping Regulations at [https://www.dnr.illinois.gov/hunting/Documents/HuntTrapDigest.pdf](https://www.dnr.illinois.gov/hunting/Documents/HuntTrapDigest.pdf)

**Weather and gear**

The right attire can protect hunters from Mother Nature and their fellow sportsmen. Weather can be unpredictable during hunting season. Hunters should always check the forecast before leaving home, making sure to dress for the weather. Even if the forecast calls for agreeable weather, hunters could be at the mercy of Mother Nature should the weather unexpectedly change.

As a result, it behooves hunters to prepare for cold, wet weather, which could put them at risk of hypothermia if they are not dressed properly. A water-repelling outer layer can protect hunters in wet conditions, and it’s also ideal to dress in layers.
The Sportsman's Digest is provided to ensure that regulations governing the use of our wildlife resources are available and understood. In addition, it is useful in acquainting visitors with common species and habitats in this area. Please check the specific regulations for species and program information.

Hunting General

JEPC offers a wide variety of hunting programs, all requiring a site windshield card, while some require additional permits and/or fees and some with restricted areas. Please check the specific regulation for species and programs. At JEPC, sportsmen have an opportunity to hunt squirrel, dove, pheasant, rabbit, quail, woodcock, snipe, coyote, raccoon, opossum, striped skunk, red fox, gray fox, wild turkey, and deer as described. Site issued hunting permits are available online at dnr.illinois.gov; go to hunting Jim Edgar Panther Creek. Each hunter is required to have a permit. Non-toxic shot shells are required of hunters.


Squirrel hunting is by statewide season and hours. The use of either shotgun, .17 and .22 rimfire firearms, or muzzle-loading rifles is allowed. Hunters are required to obtain a free Windshield card online. The Quail Management Unit is closed to squirrel hunting beginning Nov. 1 until the end of the rabbit season. The Control Pheasant Unit is open to rabbit hunting only after the CPHP ends without a special permit. Please check reporting requirements for the site permit.

Dove hunting is Sept. 1-10. The number of dove hunters is restricted. The first five days’ permits are issued from Springfield by completing a Dove Hunting application online. Days 6-10 - all spot allocations will be determined by a daily site drawing. Permit holders are required to check in by 10 a.m. the day of the hunt.

Dove fields will be allocated by a daily drawing. Any remaining open spots will be filled by a daily lottery at 11 a.m. to fill the daily hunter quota. Hunting hours are from noon to 5 p.m. for days 1-5 and run noon to 6 p.m. for days 6-10.

All hunters are required to wear a back patch provided at the time of check-in, and may hunt only the dove field assigned. Shooting must occur within 10 feet of a stake in the field. All hunters must check out after each day’s hunt.

Beginning Sept. 11 through the end of the statewide season and hours, hunters are required to obtain a free windshield card online before hunting. While hunting in the sunflower fields, hunting is restricted to the field borders. Non-toxic shot size is restricted for all dove hunting to 6 steel or a ballistic equivalent size or smaller. From Nov. 1 until the end of the dove season the Quail Management Unit and the Controlled Hunting Management Units are closed to dove hunting, with the exception that hunters with “special permits” can harvest doves in season. Please check reporting requirements for site-issued permit.

Upland game hunting: Hunttable species are pheasant, rabbit, quail, and woodcock. JEPC has been divided into four management units for the hunting of upland game. These units are the West Open Unit, Quail Management Unit, Control Management Unit, and the East Open Hunting Unit. The regulations for each unit are different and hunters must comply with specific unit regulations and be aware of the unit boundaries to ensure compliance with site regulations. All upland game hunters are required to wear a Blaze Orange Hat and Vest while hunting in all four management units.

The Quail Management Unit is managed to optimize local population of quail, pheasant, and rabbit. To accomplish this goal it is important to reduce the hunting pressure on these local populations to avoid over-harvesting or pushing the game from habitat. Hunter quotas are limited to five parties of four (20 hunters total) each open hunting day. To regulate the number of hunters permitted to hunt in the unit, a special permit must be obtained. This permit may be obtained by completing a free Upland Game Hunters permit application. Permits will be issued for every Tuesday and

Controlled Program is closed on Mondays, Tuesdays and Christmas Day. The program is not offered on Nov. 20-22, 2020, and Dec. 3-6, 2020.

A daily fee of $30 is charged for hunting in the controlled unit. Pheasants are released daily (Wednesday-Sunday) throughout the season to supplement wild populations.

Reservations must be made to participate in the controlled pheasant area. The Department will begin accepting controlled pheasant hunt applications on Aug. 5 via the internet. Go to DNR.illinois.gov and click on the hunting icon. Then look for pheasant hunting application forms.

There will be a drawing for standby hunters at 8:45 a.m. to fill the hunter quota for the day. All hunters will be issued a controlled area back patch which must be worn while hunting. All hunters must remain in their designated field until 10 a.m.

There will be one Youth Pheasant Hunt day Nov. 15, 2020. See Hunter Fact Sheet for details. Each youth participates with a supervising adult (there is no fee for this date). All youths need to be between the ages of 10 and 15 and must have completed the Hunter Safety Course.

The West Open and the East Open Hunting units will follow state-wide seasons and hours for upland hunting.

Hunters are required to obtain a free Wind Shield Card on the IDNR website: www. dnr.state.il.us/lands/landmgmt/programs/ windshielcard/ before hunting. Hunting is allowed only in the area designated on the map as Open Unit. Please check reporting requirements for site issued permit.

Deer archery hunting: All statewide seasons and hours will be enforced. Hunters are required to obtain a free Windshield card online at the IDNR website: www.dnr. state.il.us/lands/landmgmt/programs/windshieldcard/ before hunting. A Quality Deer Management Program is in effect for the archery hunt. This requires that only antlerless deer or deer with a minimum of four points on one side may be taken during the archery season. Archery hunting is allowed in all four management units, except during Youth Firearm Deer season (Oct.10-12, 2020) both Open units are closed to Archery hunting. Please check reporting requirements for site issued permit.
Non-resident-archery deer hunters will be limited during portions of the 2020-2021 season at JEPC. IDNR will permit a limited number of non-resident archery hunters to hunt at JEPC during the following periods:

- First season: Oct. 23 through Oct. 29
- Second season: Oct. 30 through Nov. 5
- Third season: Nov. 6 through Nov. 12
- Fourth season: Nov. 13 through Nov. 19.

**Deer firearm hunting:** All statewide seasons and hours will be enforced. JEPC is designated as a Special Hunt Area on the deer firearm permit application form and a JEPC permit (issued from IDNR/Springfield) is required to hunt. A Quality Deer Management Program is in effect for the deer firearm hunt. This requires that only antlerless deer or deer with a minimum of four points on one side may be taken during the firearm season.

Hunting is allowed in all four management units. Hunters receiving a JEPC Special Hunt Permit will be sent a Site Permit. Hunters must also go online and get a windshield card. Hunters are required to obtain a free windshield card online at www.dnr.state.il.us/lands/landmgt/programs/windshieldcard/ in addition to the Fall Archery Permit.

**Muzzle Loader Deer:** Allowed only in the two Open Units with a JEPC muzzle loader permit Dec. 11-13, 2020. Archery hunters are also allowed at this time. All hunters must wear blaze orange.

**Wild Turkey hunting - spring shotgun:** JEPC is designated as a Special Hunt Area on the Spring Wild Turkey Application form and a JEPC permit (issued from IDNR/Springfield) is required to hunt. State-wide seasons and hours will apply.

Hunting is allowed in all four management units. Hunters receiving a JEPC Special Hunt permit will be sent a Site Permit. Participants must go online to get a windshield card. Mushrooms hunting will be allowed after 1 p.m.

**Wild Turkey hunting - fall shotgun:** JEPC is designated as a Special Hunt Area on the Fall Wild Turkey application form and a JEPC permit (issued from IDNR/Springfield) is required to hunt in all units.

Hunters receiving a JEPC Special Hunt Permit must go online and get a windshield card. Please check the reporting requirements for the site issued permit.

**Wild Turkey hunting - Fall Archery:** Hunters are required to obtain a free windshield card online at www.dnr.state.il.us/lands/landmgt/programs/windshieldcard/ in addition to the Fall Archery Permit. State-wide season and hours apply. Hunting is allowed in all four management units. Please check reporting requirements for site issued permit.

**Furbearer hunting:** Huntable species are raccoon, opossum, striped skunk, red fox, and coyote by statewide seasons and hours. Hunters are required to obtain a free windshield card online before hunting. The use of .17 and .22 rimfire firearms is permitted from sunset to sunrise only during fox and raccoon season. Hunting is allowed in all four management units. Coyotes can only be hunted with dogs from Jan. 16 to April 1. Please check reporting requirements for site-issued Windshield card. Furbearer trapping is allowed by special permit. The trapping drawing is held in October. Six trapper permits are drawn per year.

**Reporting requirements for site issued Windshield Card:** windshield cards must be displayed in the windshield of vehicle while hunting. Also, the hunter must cut the bottom portion of the windshield card and carry on his person while afield. All hunters are required to record hunting and harvest data on the back side of the free site Windshield card as well as online.

Failure to report the site Windshield card will result in forfeiture of next season’s hunting rights at JEPC. Windshield card permits may be obtained at: www.dnr.state.il.us/lands/landmgt/programs/windshieldcard/.

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**Cass Veterinary Services**

Dan Bergerud, DVM
Josh Castaneda, DVM
Nikki Pfeiffer, DVM
R.L. Zeller, DVM

**Virginia Clinic**
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217-452-7171

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—Scott Lummis, Sager Funeral Home

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- Trail Length: 26.0 miles.
  - Red: 9.0 miles.
  - Yellow: 11 miles.
  - Orange: 6 miles.
- Difficulty: Moderate–Difficult.
- Scenic Overlooks: 14.

KEY:
- YOU ARE HERE
- forest
- grassland
- cropland
- Governor's Trail
- trail shortcut
- trail mile markers
- scenic overlook
- bike trail
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- intermittent stream
- pond
- toilet
- water
- shelter
- bridge
- low water crossing
- parking lot

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- For additional information contact site office: 10149 County Highway 11, Chandlerville, IL 62627, or phone 217/452-7741.

Rules:
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- One responsible adult must accompany each group of 15 minors.
- All pets must be leashed.

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When thunder roars, go indoors

SPRINGFIELD – The Illinois Emergency Management Agency (IEMA) encourages everyone to stay aware of local forecasts and be prepared for severe weather. The National Weather Service says heat and humidity during the summer months can fuel afternoon and evening thunderstorms, producing strong and dangerous winds. The forecast serves as a good reminder: when thunder roars, go indoors. If you hear thunder, lightning is close enough to strike you.

Some tips include:

IDENTIFY A SAFE PLACE: Before a storm strikes, it is important to be aware of your surroundings and identify a safe place to ride out a storm. Preferably, somewhere indoors, and away from windows.

If there is no safe shelter, seek lower elevation areas, never use a tree for shelter, move away from lakes and bodies of water, and stay away from all metallic objects (fences, power lines etc.).

STAY INFORMED: People should always have ways to receive notifications and updated information about severe weather warnings, such as through a NOAA weather alert radio, Wireless Emergency Alerts (WEA), weather alert apps, TV and radio broadcasts, the Internet and more.

PREPARE YOUR FAMILY: Your family may not be together if a disaster strikes, so it is important to know which types of disasters could affect your area, and know how you will contact one another and reconnect if separated.

IEMA offers severe weather preparedness information on the Ready Illinois website (www.Ready.Illinois.gov), a resource for detailed information about what to do before, during and after disasters. To help Illinois residents prepare for severe weather season, IEMA and the NWS developed a Severe Weather Preparedness Guide that covers flooding, severe weather terms and tips for staying safe. The guide is available on the Ready Illinois website.
Camping

There are a variety of camping opportunities at JEPC. Prairie Lake Campground has 84 sites, 19 of which are full hookup sites with sewer drops and water. The other sites all have electricity. There are also nine cabins located in the campground. The cabins are located on the shore of Prairie Lake. The cabins have two rooms with the back room containing two bunk beds. The front room has a double bed, drop down table and a couple of chairs. All beds are equipped with mattresses but you must bring your own bedding (no cooking, pets or smoking inside the cabins). A concrete patio outside each cabin has a grill/fire pit and table. All cabins have electricity, ceiling fans, and a 1000-watt heater. The site also has an equestrian campground, Questing Hills, with 51 electric sites.

Prairie Lake campground has 18 AA sites that have sewer drops and water hookups at the sites and an additional 64 class A sites. A shower building is available. Group campsites are also available with shelters. A primitive camping area at Jim Edgar Panther Creek has seven three-sided shelters to camp near or in for a fee of $6 per night. Campers must travel approximately a quarter mile from the nearest parking lot to access the shelters. Reservations for campsites, cabins, and picnic shelters may be made at www.reserveamerica.com.

Picnicking

Sheltered picnic areas and restrooms are located at Prairie Lake (with fireplace), Gridley Lake, Drake Lake, Painter Pond, Geiss Pond, and the Prairie Lake day use area. Shelters can be reserved for a fee of $25 or, if not reserved, they can be used on a first-come, first-serve basis. These areas may be reserved for a non-refundable fee through www.reserveamerica.com.

Archery and Trapshooting Ranges

The Chuck Farmer Memorial Archery Range is conveniently located along Prairie Lake with the trapshooting range just down the road. The archery range has been updated this year with 6 new targets. Both ranges are open from dawn to dusk year round except during firearm deer season.

Biking

JEPC offers a 17-mile off-road biking trail, as well as a 9-mile paved biking trail. The off-road biking trail is located around Prairie Lake. Trails are open 1:00 p.m. to dusk April 16 - May 15 and sunrise until sunset May 16 - October 31. From November 1 - April 15 trails are closed to mountain bikes but are available for hikers. The rolling scenic trail traverses forests and grasslands and has many overlooks along the lake.

Horseback Riding

A 22-car/trailer parking lot, along with a 26-mile trail, are located in the northwest corner of JEPC on Questing Hills Road just off County Highway 2. The site has an equestrian campground at Questing Hills, with 51 electric sites. A south access to the equestrian trail is found at Q-4 parking lot situated between the 9-mile north loop trail and the southern 11- and 6-mile loops. The trail is open 1:00 p.m. to dusk April 16 - May 15, and open sunrise to sunset May 16 - October 31. November 1 through November 15, horse trails are closed on Tuesdays and Saturdays but are open otherwise from dawn to dusk. Trails are closed November 16 - April 15 each year. Call the park office before arrival to check for weather related closures.

Hiking

Off-trail hiking is available from parking areas positioned off public roads throughout the site. Because unmarked, open wells may exist in the area, caution must be used by individuals visiting JEPC.

In addition to off-trail hiking, JEPC offers a 3-mile hiking trail around Gridley Lake and a 7-mile hiking trail around Drake Lake. A 17-mile hiking and mountain bike trail is around Prairie Lake. Twenty-six miles of equestrian trails in 3 loops are available to hikers and bikers with a reminder to yield to horseback riders. These trails have a lot of elevation changes.
**Fishing, Boating, Canoeing**

Sport fishing opportunities are available at Gridley Lake (25 acres), Prairie Lake (210 acres) and Drake Lake (35 acres). Several ponds within the site also have been renovated. Fish include largemouth bass, bluegill and green sunfish. In addition, Prairie Lake is stocked with muskie. Trolling motors are limited to Gridley and Drake Lakes. Prairie Lake has unlimited horsepower with a no-wake zone for the entire lake. Sailboats are allowed on Prairie Lake. Canoes/kayaks are allowed at all 3 lakes.

**Hunting**

JEPC features hunting for white-tailed deer, wild turkey and mourning dove, as well as upland species (pheasant, quail, woodcock, snipe and rabbit), fur bearers (raccoon, opossum, red fox, gray fox, striped skunk and coyote) and squirrels. Season dates and hours, permit requirements and other regulations are published in the Illinois Digest of Hunting and Trapping Regulations, available through the Department of Natural Resources.

One notable aspect of JEPC’s hunting opportunities is its participation in the Department of Natural Resources Quality Deer Management Program. At JEPC and other IDNR sites designated as a Quality Deer Management Area, only antler-less deer or deer with a minimum of four points on one side may be taken during the archery and firearm deer seasons.

Six sunflower areas are situated throughout JEPC to accommodate dove hunting. Wheat fields in these areas are burned to attract doves. Dove hunting for the first 10 days is by special drawing. The first five days the drawing is by permit from Springfield. Unfilled hunter quotas are filled by site drawing days 1-5 and the entire hunting quota on days 6-10. The site drawing occurs at 10 a.m. daily.

The hunter check station, located in a former farmhouse on County Highway 11, handles all hunting administrative functions. All hunters should check Online for hunter registration and obtain a windshield card.

A lottery drawing is held at the JEPC site office to distribute non-resident archery deer permits for one-week seasons starting the last week of October through the third week of November. Applications must be received by March 31. The specific season dates are listed on the application. For more information on hunting, please review the Hunter Fact Sheet.

**History**

Between 1968-1974 Commonwealth Edison Electric Company purchased thousands of acres of Cass County land with the intent to build a nuclear-powered electricity generating plant. Soon after the acquisition, it was discovered that nuclear power was cost prohibitive and not a viable option. Plans shifted to a coal-fired plant for the location which would require a 5,000 acre cooling lake.

Since coal would be needed to power the plant, Edison Coal Company purchased additional acreage of nearly 13,000 acres to be mined for that purpose. The tract then became known as “Site M,” for Menard County, which is where that land was located.

Further complications arose when the soft high-sulfur Illinois coal would not pass EPA standards. With the plan scrapped, the nearly 13,000 acres of Menard County land was sold by the Edison Coal Company in 1988.

It was 1993 when Commonwealth Edison sold its entire property to the state of Illinois for $8.75 million. With grounds already owned, comprised of the Panther Creek Conservation Area, the state now owned a 16,650-acre tract of land.

In 1996 Illinois Governor James Edgar approved $6.4 million to fund development of the site and an unparalleled opportunity for the IDNR to address critical conservation needs and meet outdoor recreation demands. Funds were specifically designated for conservation purposes. Surveys have identified 87 species of breeding birds and several rare plant species.

About 4,200 acres of the land is leased for farming while other areas are used for upland and forest game hunting. It was the largest tract of land ever acquired by the IDNR at that time.

In 2000 the site was renamed the Jim Edgar Panther Creek State Fish and Wildlife Area.

**Directions**

Located:
- ~25 miles northwest of Springfield off Illinois State Route 125
- ~10 miles northeast of Virginia
- ~10 miles west of Petersburg and New Salem State Historic Site
- ~10 miles northwest of Ashland
Summer Programs

Children's and family summer programs are held in June and July at the site and feature fun activities for the family.

- **Tot Time** is held from 10-11 a.m. every Tuesday for children under 5 with an adult. It's a time to learn, play, and explore in nature. The activity is free.

- **Fridays feature** *Fitness, Fishing, and Fun* beginning at 9 a.m. and is perfect for anyone. Take a guided hike around a lake, provide a fishing experience for kids with equipment included, “stroll”ercise with a guide or ride a bike on a hard surface bike trail with a guide. The activity is free.

- **Family Nature Club** is held on Saturdays starting at 1 p.m. Bring the family out for at least an hour of nature fun. Each week there will be a different topic; a hike, and something to take home. The activity is free.

  **Nature-Themed Birthday Parties:** All parties include a one-hour long staff-led activity with additional time on your own.

  Themes include: Bug Bash: ages 4 and up; Alphabet Hike: ages 4 and up; Fur, Feathers, & Friends: ages 5 and up; Flower Frenzy: ages 5 and up; Treasure Hunt: ages 6 and up; Tree Detectives: ages 6 and up; Go Fish: ages 6 and up; and Escape the Wild: ages 8 and up.

  The only cost is to rent the shelter.

  **Lunch with Nature:** Take a break from air conditioning and have lunch in nature along with a free program about JEPC and a topic of your choice. Any size group is welcome! Nature hikes are optional.

  **For more information, call the site office at (217)-452-7741 and ask for the conservation education representative. Activities subject to change.**

JEPC has much to offer in the winter, too! Ice fishing, ice skating and hiking are some of the winter season activities available at the park.

---

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SPRINGFIELD, IL – Illinois Conservation Police officers (CPOs) remind boaters to wear life jackets, and for boat operators to stay sober whenever they take to their favorite lake or waterway.

The Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) places a much-needed focus on boating safety, according to IDNR director Colleen Callahan.

CPOs conduct boat safety inspections to ensure watercraft have all required safety gear onboard, that boaters know how to use it, and that boaters know the rules and regulations that govern boating in Illinois.

“Two of the most important reminders regarding boating safety cannot be mentioned enough,” Callahan said. “First, boat operators must be sober. Impaired boat operators put themselves, their passengers and other boaters in danger.

“Second, wear a life jacket while boating. Life jackets save lives! They are required equipment on your boat but won’t do you any good if they’re stowed away. Kids under 13 must wear a life jacket, and everyone on a Jet Ski must also wear a life jacket. Make it a must for everyone on your boat.

“Whether you’re putting in a canoe or kayak on an area stream or backing a trailer down the ramp at a state park boat access area, review your safety checklist, check any site-specific boating regulations, and enjoy a fun and safe day on the water.”

Boaters are also reminded to keep trash on the vessel. Do not discard any items over the side of the boat. Even seemingly harmless items can impact the environment. Store garbage in a bag and dispose of it properly when you return to the land. Secure items onboard so they will not blow off and end up in the water.

Keep boats in proper working order. Poorly maintained boats may harm the environment. Inefficiently working engines can produce more exhaust and contaminate the air and water. Oil and other mechanical fluids can leak into the water and affect the marine environment. Proper maintenance helps keep boats safe and minimizes their impact on the environment.
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Daily Specials • Over 20 Appetizers
Cold Beer • Free WiFi • Gaming Machines

216 S. Main • Chandlerville • 217-458-2821

Top 10 Favorites
Apple Brats • English Bangers
Chicken Bacon Ranch
Smoked Mozzarella & Garlic
Pork & Pear • Sweet Italian • Smoked Cheddar
Root Beer • Ham & Pineapple • Horseradish

“Fresh” Handcut Steaks
Deli Meats & Cheeses

Also Available:
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Seasoned Steak Burger • Breakfast Sausage

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Find us at your local Farmers Markets this Season!

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216 S. Main • Chandlerville • 217-458-2821
Daugherty's Pub

Kitchen Hours:
Sunday-Thursday
10am-10pm
Friday-Saturday
10am-Midnight

*Sunday Funday with Family Friendly Volleyball & Bag Tournaments*

*LIVE Music Every Saturday Night!*
Beginner Kayaking Tips

Kayaking is a water sport that can be beneficial to the mind and body. Just about anyone willing to spend a day on the water can benefit from learning about kayaking and how to get started with this rewarding activity.

The history of kayaking is interesting. The word “kayak” means “hunter’s boat,” and the Inuit used to rely on these small vessels to catch food by sneaking up on their prey from the water’s edge. Some people still hunt and fish from their kayaks, but many are happy to use them for sightseeing and exercising.

Learning how to kayak does not involve a significant initial financial investment. Outdoor experts say there’s a good chance a novice kayaker will not go out and buy a boat immediately. It’s important to first get a feel for the sport and then go from there. You can borrow a kayak from a friend or rent one. Although it’s not absolutely necessary, it’s recommended that novices take paddling lessons to hone their kayaking skills. Learning the proper technique can help people avoid strain on their neck and back and safeguard their arms from fatigue.

Novices should practice on calm waters until their technique is honed. Lakes are a great place to learn, as waterways with mild currents can overwhelm those new to the sport. One of the easiest ways to get introduced to kayaking is to go with an experienced paddler or tour company. Tours may include travel down...
several miles of a relatively calm waterway, allowing novice kayakers to get a feel for paddling and take in the scenery.

Getting in and out of a kayak can be challenging for beginners. The resource Kayakpaddling.net offers helpful illustrations and animated tutorials about entering and exiting kayaks as well as paddling techniques and safety.

Kayakers should bring some essentials along. A dry pack can keep electronics, food and equipment dry. Remember to wear sunscreen and a hat to keep safe from the sun. A life vest also is essential.

Also bring:
• Plenty of water
• Snacks for energy
• Lip balm and sunglasses (with a retainer)
• First-aid kit
• Signaling whistle
• Watch (so you can give yourself plenty of time to get back)
• Headlamp (in case you’re too slow getting back)

Novice kayakers should stay close to shorelines until they get more comfortable in their kayaks. That way they have quick and simple access to land should they struggle to get acclimated to the water and being in a kayak.

Adjusting Your Kayak
A well-adjusted kayak will be more stable and comfortable to paddle. Do your adjusting while the boat is sitting on dry land, and focus on three points of contact:
• Snug your butt firmly against the seatback. If your boat lets you fine-tune the angle of the seat or seatback, do whatever feels most comfortable. For balance and power, though, you want to sit more upright.
• Place the balls of your feet on the footpegs; then check to see if you have a slight bend in your knees. Most footpegs adjust by tilting them and sliding them along a track to preset stopping points. It’s often easier to get out of the boat to slide the pegs.
• Make sure your bent knees are in firm contact with each side of the cockpit. This helps you control the side-to-side motion of the boat as you paddle. Your fit should be snug but not so jammed-in that you can’t get out if you capsize.

Kayaking is a popular activity that even novices can enjoy. Exercise, fresh air and enjoying the open water are just some of the many draws of kayaking.
Beardstown welcomes you to our shops and businesses

Restaurants:
- Benny’s Pizza
  102 West 15th Street
  217-323-5222
- Dairy Queen
  817 East 4th Street
  217-323-1843
- Little Mexico
  405 E 4th Street
  217-909-4497
- McDonald’s
  #1 Plaza Drive
  217-323-5955
- River Port
  218 West Main Street
  217-323-4533
- Sally’s 4th Street Bistro
  117 East 4th Street
  217-909-4533
- The Star Café
  9986 US 67
  217-323-9777
- Tyson’s Diner
  701 East 4th Street
  217-323-1964

Bars:
- The Nook
  111 East 2nd Street
  217-323-9986
- Convenience/Gas Stores:
  Andrew’s Mart
  1705 Grand Avenue
  217-323-1800
  Casey’s General Store
  1200 Grand Avenue
  217-323-3650
  Jay & Jack
  9379 Illinois Route 125
  217-323-5157

Lodging:
- Illinois Forest Products
  8699 Arenzville Road
  217-323-4540

Retail:
- 4 All Seasons
  801 ½ Grand Avenue
  217-323-5125
- Antique Treasures, Simple Pleasures
  119 State Street
- Beardstown Antique Mall
  2104 Wall Street
  217-323-4569
- Billy’s Furniture/Beardstown
  15 Plaza Drive
  217-909-4444
- Lemonade Boutique and Clothing
  207 State Street
  The Shoppe
  209 State Street
  217-323-2534
- The 220 Salon and Boutique
  220 Washington Street
  217-323-4505

Pharmacy:
- Moreland and Devitt Pharmacy
  201 South State Street
  217-909-4333

Bars:
- The Nook
  111 East 2nd Street
  217-323-9986

Convenience/Gas Stores:
- Andrew’s Mart
  1705 Grand Avenue
  217-323-1800
- Casey’s General Store
  1200 Grand Avenue
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  220 Washington Street
  217-323-4505

Pharmacy:
- Moreland and Devitt Pharmacy
  201 South State Street
  217-909-4333

Retail Hardware:
- R & H Farm and Home
  1351 Grand Avenue
  217-323-9000
- S & R Marine & Equipment
  815 East 15th Street
  217-323-2730
- True Value Hardware
  25 Plaza Drive
  217-323-3554
- Vredenburg Lumber
  814 East 4th Street
  217-323-2207
- Retail Grocery:
  Save A Lot
  412 East 4th Street
  217-323-2717
- Walmart
  100 Lincoln Avenue
  217-323-1340

Real Estate:
- Buffy Tillitt
  10060 US-67
  217-323-2100
- DeSollar Agency, Inc.
  111 W Main Street
  217-323-2623

For information, please contact:
Katie Vitale
Beardstown Chamber of Commerce
101 West 3rd Street
Beardstown, IL 62618
217-323-3271
Cell: 217-440-8774
www.beardstownil.org
info@beardstownil.org
btwnms2008@gmail.com
The Yellow Door
Ladies’ Apparel, Accessories & Decor
208 Oakford St., Oakford
217-494-1645

Hill Prairie Winery
East of Rt. 97
23753 Lounsberry Rd., Oakford
217-635-9900
www.hillprairiewinery.com

R&H Farm & Home
18434 State Highway 97, Petersburg
217-632-2238

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Menard County has over 40 festivals and special events each year. While the virus disrupted the schedule during the first part of 2020, we encourage visitors and area residents to frequently check the Menard County Tourism Council’s website for current information. It is hoped that the year-long calendar of many exciting events will resume in the near future.

- **Menard County** is home to the popular Theatre in the Park, host to some great festivals throughout the year.
- **Jim Edgar State Park** is just outside the county but is only 15 minutes from Petersburg with its great fishing lakes, kayaking, hiking, biking, hunting, bird watching and more.
- **Hill Prairie Winery, West of Wise Winery and Hand of Fate Brewery** provide a selection of great locally produced wines and beer, often with food and music.
- **Shambolee Golf Course and Country Hills Golf Course** provide beautiful and challenging golf to the area.
- **Indian Creek Farmstead** is a year-round destination for special events and, of course, pumpkin season. There are tours, food, festivals and a gift shop.
- History fans will enjoy the restored village at Lincoln’s New Salem and free tours at Long Nine Museum in Athens. Area cemeteries are the final resting place of some of the most famous people in history. Also, check out the Historic Marbold Farmstead in Greenview.
- The Sangamon River flows through the county and Petersburg, with fishing, parks, boating and nature.
- Area towns are famous for antiques, the latest fashions at the boutiques and unique gift shops, along with great businesses, in Petersburg, Athens, Greenview, Oakford and Tallula.
- Enjoy all types of delicious cuisine at the wineries, breweries and area restaurants.
- Choose from American and authentic Mexican and Chinese dishes, smoked meats, diners on the square and down-home cooking.
- Fantastic accommodations are found throughout Petersburg, from RiverBank Lodge, with 24 rooms along with a restaurant and bar open 7 days a week, beautiful Air B&Bs like The Flat Air B&B on the square within walking distance of top spots, The Loft on the Square, Three Pines in a restored mansion overlooking town, The Loft at the Farm in a rural setting, New Salem Inn and local campgrounds.
- Check out fantastic and friendly local merchants and plan to spend a weekend. We can help plan a tour or a special package to meet your interests.

Relax. Get Away, Enjoy the Fresh Air and Visit Menard County!
For more information, check out the website at www.VisitMenardCounty.com or our Facebook page.
Welcome to the City of Beardstown

Home of the Lincoln Courtroom

Site of the famous Almanac Trial

List of Events for 2020-2021

Family Friday
Please call for dates

Night Time Christmas Parade
November 28th

New Year's Eve Ball
December 31st

River Rat Golf Classic
February 27th

Alumni Weekend
May 28th-30th

Brown Bag Lunch in the Park
June 2nd, 9th, 16th, 23rd, 30th

Blues, Brews, & BBQ
June 5th

4th of July Celebration
at Roy Roberts Park
July 4th

Color Dash 5k Run
August 21st

Fall Fun Festival
September 24th, 25th, 26th

(events tentative due to COVID-19 regulations)

Old Lincoln Courtroom & Museum
101 W. 3rd St.
Apr thru Nov; Mon thru Sat: 10 am - 4 pm
217.323.3225 or 217.248.6053
www.lincolninbeardstown.org

City Hall
105 W. 3rd St.
217.323.3110
www.cityofbeardstown.org

Less than 23 miles from Jim Edgar Panther Creek Park • Watermelon Capitol of the U.S.

For information on hotels, restaurants and services
call 217.323.3271 or go to www.beardstownil.org

Leslie A. Harris, Mayor • Brian “Petie” Ruch, City Clerk • Karen Whitlow, Treasurer
Aldermen: Bob Burget, Ron Culves, Mary Davis, Tim Harris, Sally Lael, Missy Meyer, Keith Schramm, Gabe Seward