

YOUR FALL CHECKLIST

in the greater Champaign County area

October-December 2022

visit **champaign** county

YOU'RE WELCOME 

yourewelcomeCU.com

MUST-ATTEND EVENTS & ACTIVITIES



PUMPKIN PICKING

Fall means all things pumpkin! Pick your pumpkins and gourds as well as other fall goodies at **Curtis Orchard & Pumpkin Patch**, **The Great Pumpkin Patch** in Arthur, or the **Negangard Pumpkin Patch** in Sidney.

ILLINOIS HOMCOMING

October 9-15 | homecoming.illinois.edu

Get ready for a week full of celebrations like a 5K, Global Talent Show, Homecoming Parade, and of course the Illini Football game vs. Minnesota. Head to downtown Champaign after the game for live music and kids activities to conclude the week.

CU FOLK & ROOTS FESTIVAL

October 20-22 | folkandroots.org

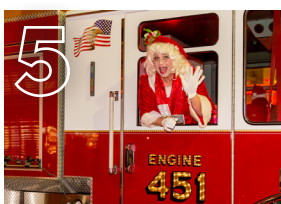
This homegrown festival features dozens of performances from national, regional, and local bands from folk to indie to jazz. Taking over venues across downtown Urbana, you'll catch shows, demonstrations, workshops and more.



CRAFT LEAGUE OF CU FINE ART FAIR

November 12-13 | craftleagueofcu.org

Now in its 39th year, the art fair showcases the best of local artists at the Savoy Recreation Center. From jewelry to pottery to wood turning, you'll find something for yourself or for those on your holiday shopping list.



PARADE OF LIGHTS

November 26 | champaigncenter.com

Holiday cheer is in the air in downtown Champaign for the annual Parade of Lights. Come early for pictures with Santa as well as horse & carriage rides before the parade. Stay after for the lighting of the tree in One Main Plaza!

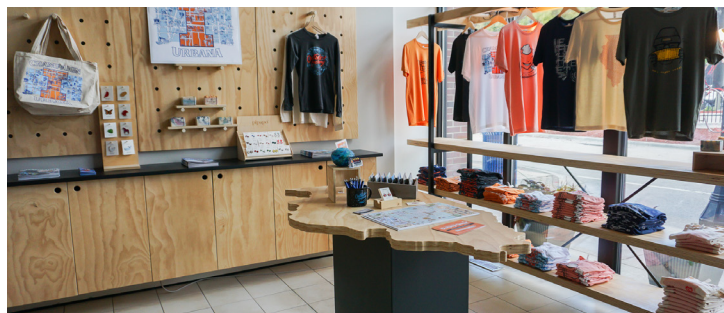
THE NUTCRACKER

December 1-4 | krannertcenter.com

A holiday tradition, The Nutcracker presented by CU Ballet, dazzles audiences with elaborate sets, intricate costumes, and impressive performances. Don't miss this classic at Krannert Center.

SHOP LOCAL

With dozens of boutiques and locally-owned shops around Champaign County, there's no need to shop online for your holiday gifts. Challenge yourself this year to shop local. Stay tuned to Visit Champaign County's website for their annual shop local guide.



Did you know?

- Visit Champaign County opened a retail shop in their Welcome Center in downtown Champaign at 17 E Taylor St.. Pick up locally-designed tees highlighting points of pride in Champaign-Urbana, as well as totes, prints, jewelry from Pipapo, soap from Wright Soapery, and pottery from Piper Pottery. Stay tuned for new items coming soon!
- Did you know that reindeer love graham crackers? At Hardy's Reindeer Ranch in Rantoul, you can take part in their reindeer experience, where over a dozen Alaskan Reindeer wait to give you a kiss in exchange for their favorite treat.
- The bubble tea emoji? You have an Illini to thank for that. The emoji was created by Illinois associate professor Ranjitha Kumar and her colleagues.
- The Rose Bowl Tavern, located in downtown Urbana, offers live music 7 days a week.



COMMUNITY RANKINGS

- University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign ranked as the #13 public university in the nation (2022-2023 U.S. News and World Report)
- Cloud Mountain Kombucha had two flavors, Autumn Mary and Lemon Ginger, take home gold medals from the international Kombucha Kup hosted by the Kombucha Brewers International.
- Urbana was named #1 on 10 Cities Where Outdoor Lovers Can Actually Afford to Buy a Home by Realtor.com

Want more ideas for events & activities?

visitchampaigncounty.org

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

yourewelcomecu.com

TOP IDEAS FOR FOOD & DRINK

Everyday Kitchen

1807 S. Neil St., Champaign | everydaykitchen.com

With a new menu, this spot near the University of Illinois campus highlights modern comfort food that is sure to please any palate. Complimented by the ambience of décor created by local artists, Everyday Kitchen is a treat for all senses.

Suzu's Bakery

114 N. Walnut St., Champaign | suzusbakery.com

This Japanese bakery in downtown Champaign combines East and West flavors in pastries, cakes, cookies, and other treats. Check out their monthly bread specials and weekly roll cake selections.

Les Gourmets Cuisine

401 N. Broadway Ave., Urbana | broadwayfoodhall.com

Located in Broadway Food Hall, this new Congolese restaurant is introducing Champaign-Urbana diners to their cuisine with legume bowls, goat meat, plantains, kwanga, and much more.

Jip Bap

601 S. 6th St., Champaign | jipbapcu.com

Korean flavors take center stage at this campustown joint. Their hearty rice bowls mix in everything from kimchi to veggies to spam. Make it your own with various spice levels and sauce options for a hearty meal.

Selfie Spots

Check out these spots, or any on our fall checklist, and share on Instagram with #outsideofordinary and #yourewelcomecu!



Clockwise from top left

1. The Great Pumpkin Patch
2. Hardy's Reindeer Ranch
3. Boneyard Area Murals
4. Holiday Tree in downtown Champaign



Chophouse on Main

401 E. Main St. Mahomet | chophouseonmain.com

New to Mahomet, Chophouse on Main is already winning over customers with their locally-raised beef and succulent chicken and pork chop dishes. Check out this new spot, stat!

Watson's Shack & Rail

211 N. Neil St., Champaign | watsonschicken.com

Who knew that chicken sandwiches could be crave-worthy? The dishes at Watson's Shack & Rail like their take on a Nashville Hot to their Chicken & Waffles will keep you coming back time and again.

Po'Boys

202 E. University Ave., Urbana | poboysurbana.com

On the scene for over 60 years, Po'Boys has long been known for their barbecue and still uses the original recipe. Adding to their menu is their thin crust pizza and an impressive line-up of daily, homemade pies. Bring home a slice or a whole pie for a tasty treat!.

**THE FALL
NEW TO CU
MIXER** At the Rose Bowl Tavern
sponsored by **CHAMBANA WELCOME CREW**

New to the greater Champaign-Urbana area since 2020? Join us to meet and network with other newcomers for live music and networking at the Rose Bowl Tavern on October 19 from 5:00-7:00pm. The Chambana Welcome Crew will be on hand to answer your community questions, as well as some special guests to help welcome you. *Food is on us!*



REGISTER

STAY ACTIVE

As the leaves turn, there's plenty of opportunities to get outdoors and check out the foliage. Here's our top spots to get some autumn air.

Allerton Park & Retreat Center | allerton.illinois.edu

14 miles of hiking trails await, with sculpture found throughout. Go back before the holidays for their Holiday Glow light trails.

Homer Lake Forest Preserve | ccfpd.org

This scenic preserve features numerous hiking trails with a large lake in the middle of the preserve.

Meadowbrook Park | urbanaparks.org

Three miles of paved trails wind through this natural prairie. Don't miss over two dozen sculptures in the Wandell Sculpture Garden.