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Summer 2019

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Along the River

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Background photo of Point Pleasant Riverfront Park along the Ohio River by Beth Sergent.
Cover photos by Mark Morgan, Beth Sergent, Erin Perkins, Scott Jones.
Historic, downtown Gallipolis, with its French influence and revamped riverfront access area, offers plenty of shopping, entertainment and dining opportunities along the Ohio River.

The center of Gallipolis is City Park, home to the community’s festivals with its newly restored bandstand, Kerr Fountain and Doughboy Monument. Also, every first Friday of the month from May-October, downtown Gallipolis and its business community offer special events and entertainment, while the city’s small town cultural scene features some big-name entertainment performing at The Ariel-Ann Carson Dater Performing Arts Centre. Meanwhile, the French Art Colony provides a venue for artists to sing, paint, sculpt and perform with a mission to promote “art for all.”

The Gallia County Convention and Visitors Bureau’s summer programs, the Passport Challenges, now underway, is a great way to discover not only Gallipolis but Gallia County. Free and open to the public, this program is a fun way for folks of all ages to learn about Gallia County’s history and popular destinations and win prizes. The program is open now and runs through Aug. 2.

There are two challenges, the “City Challenge,” exploring downtown Gallipolis and the “County Challenge,” finding locations throughout Gallia County. Visit the Gallia County CVB to get your copy of the challenges or download them at visitgallia.com or on the CVB’s Facebook page. For more information on the challenges or other events in Gallia County, contact the CVB at 740-446-6882.

In the heart of Appalachia, Scioto County celebrates the summer months by hosting a variety of festivals and events for visitors to enjoy. From Trade Days to the Dreamland Music Festival, to the dozens of events in the scenic Shawnee State Forest, there is truly something for everyone to enjoy!

Two of the most popular events in Scioto County in the summer is the Scioto County Fair held in Lucasville and the Portsmouth River Days Festival held in Portsmouth by the Ohio River.

The Scioto County Fair runs the first full week in August the 5th - 10th, 2019. This fair is known for its massive 4H animals and shows. There are chickens, rabbits, horses, cattle, alpacas, pigs, goats, lambs and other animals set up all week and at least one show per day for the individual varieties of animals. There are also rides for all ages and a wonderful line-up of artists performing at the grandstand, from Sawyer Brown, Ashley McBryde, and Shane Runion. Not to be forgotten is the ever popular Demolition Derby on the final night of the fair.

The River Days Festival runs Thursday, August 29th through Monday, September 2nd. River Days is held on the riverfront at the Court Street Landing near the historic Boneyfiddle district of Portsmouth. There is free nightly entertainment on the riverfront stage, arts and crafts, midway rides, lots of great food and more. Concerts begin at 6:00 p.m. nightly. The Grand Parade begins at 11:00 a.m. on Saturday morning and that evening is the Queen’s Pageant at the Vern Riffe Center at Shawnee State University at 6:00 p.m. The annual Antique and Collector Car Show wraps up things on Monday. Returning to the Festival this year will be the boat racing which is said to start on Sunday morning and end on Monday afternoon.
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**The ‘port’ of Point Pleasant, W. Va**

Located in “Almost Heaven, West Virginia,” Point Pleasant is where history and mystery literally collide.

At the “point” where the Kanawha and Ohio rivers merge, the City of Point Pleasant has many stories to tell. From the Battle of Point Pleasant and those who argue it was the first battle of the American Revolution, to its charming downtown full of unique shops, places to eat and a place to sleep at the historic Lowe Hotel. Point Pleasant offers an experience unlike any other. Where else can you find a 12-foot tall metallic statue of the Mothman, the city’s most famous resident which is celebrated every September during the festival bearing his name?

Follow the city’s early history along its river walk of flood wall murals located within the stunning Riverfront Park, the latter of which is also home to countless concerts and festivals along the Ohio River. Find out why visitors from around the world flock to this small river town to find out what makes it so special.

**The ‘port’ of Pomeroy, Ohio**

Known as Ohio’s “southern coast,” Meigs County, Ohio, has roughly 56 miles of Ohio River frontage, making it a unique destination that is literally “along the river,” with the Village of Pomeroy at the heart of it all.

With its revitalized shopping district, downtown Pomeroy in Meigs County offers stores selling that personalized and eclectic gift found nowhere else. Pomeroy is also home to charming, and tasty places to eat - from custom burgers to gourmet coffee and memorable craft beers.

In the summer, Pomeroy’s famous levee hosts free festivals and concerts along the Ohio River, including the Big Bend Blues & Brews Bash, an annual event featuring two days of blues and local craft beers along the Ohio River. The Blues Bash is preceded by a month of free concerts called “Rhythm on the River” which take place at the Pomeroy Amphitheater, drawing in bands and performers from across the country. Then, in September, sternwheelers from near and far dock at the Pomeroy Riverfront for food, music and fireworks.

Discover the small town at the heart of Ohio’s “southern coast.”

**The ‘ports’ of Ashland and Greenbo Lake, Kentucky**

Ashland, Ky., located along the Ohio River, is part of the “metro triangle” that includes Ironton, Ohio and Huntington, W.Va. It offers visitors amenities found in much larger cities, with unique shopping and dining opportunities and even its own Central Park. Along with nationally known acts performing at its famous Paramount Arts Center, and at the annual Summer Motion festival, visitors to Ashland can take in its beautiful riverfront for concerts and sunsets along the water.

Greenbo Lake Resort’s fieldstone lodge is named in honor of Jesse Hilton Stuart (1906-1984), a poet laureate and native of Greenup County. Stuart’s works and personal mementos are on display in the lodge reading room. Accommodations are available for many interests, most rooms include private patios and balconies overlooking Greenbo Lake and arrangements can be made for your pets in room or cottages. If your interests keep you in nature it offers dozens of campsites whether you prefer primitive or on site hookups. The resort offers fishing, boating, scuba, on site restaurant, amphitheater, swimming and much more.
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Good things are happening here
Powerboat racing returns to shores of Portsmouth

There is some debate about how long it has been since high-speed powerboats raced along the shores of Portsmouth on the Ohio River.

According to Brandy Hitchcock, spokesperson for the Breakwater Powerboat Association, races were last held in Portsmouth about seven years ago. As most know by now, they will return to the river during the upcoming Labor Day weekend, Aug. 31 to Sept. 2, part of the city’s annual River Days festivities.

“We could not be more excited to have the opportunity to bring tunnel boat racing back to Portsmouth,” says John Hitchcock, race director and president of Breakwater Powerboat Association (BPA) “This is a huge event for us as well as Portsmouth.”

In speaking with the Daily Times, Brandy Hitchcock said the races will feature a couple of different kinds of boats, most notably what are known as tunnel boats. The boats feature what she called “sponson tips,” which at high speeds, kind of allow the boats to fly across the water. Hitchcock said at top velocities only the propeller of the boat is actually in the water.

The upcoming races will feature several classes of tunnel boats. The fastest boats are the SST 120s, featuring 200 horsepower motors that can propel boat to speeds of about 120 mph. Hitchcock said drivers can feel between three to five G’s pulling at them when turning. And Hitchcock claims tunnel boats are the fastest cornering vehicles ever built. Drivers must wear oxygen masks and harnesses in order to handle the speed and G forces.

A second SST class, the SST 60, features 80 horsepower motors. Thundercat inflatable boats also are considered tunnel boats though they are made from rubber. They feature the same power motors as the SST 60 class boats. The inflatables feature a two-person crew. One sits in the front of the boat and steers by shifting his or her weight. The second sits in the back controlling the throttle. The inflatables have one major advantage over other boat classes in that they can run on choppy water while others simply can’t, Hitchcock said.

Brandy Hitchcock said both her
Arnold Grate was a loving husband, a caring father, a loyal Christian, and a savvy businessman. He was also an 8th grade dropout from a poor family. Still, Arnold founded what would become Rutland Bottle Gas by starting from the ground up. This meant hard work, dedication, taking risks, and treating folks right. Over sixty years later, these same principles are still applied in the company he created. Since his passing, Rutland Bottle Gas has continued to expand and improve. But no matter how things change, Rutland Bottle Gas is, and will always be, Arnold Grate’s contribution to the needs of our area. It is the top priority of Rutland Bottle Gas to continue to meet these needs in the best way possible.

Psalm 118:27 “The Lord is God, and he has made His Light shine upon us.”

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father and uncle both are powerboat drivers. She and her husband are members of her father’s crew, with John Hitchcock talking to his father-in-law via radio during races. Brandy Hitchcock said she does whatever needs to be done. All races begin with boats sitting on a beach or at a dock. Hitchcock said that means someone has to hold the boat in place until the race begins.

The 2019 Portsmouth Race on the River launches Aug. 31 with four hours of testing for all boat classes. Opening ceremonies are set for 11:30 a.m. Sept. 1 with qualifying laps following the national anthem. Racing begins again 11 a.m. Sept. 2. According to the Friends of Portsmouth, the community group which helped bring races back to town, boats will compete close to the shore, while floating spectator fleets will allow for optimal viewing. Each racing team consists of a minimum of four people, including the solitary driver.

Article by Tom Corrigan.

Arts, music and festivals

Scioto County also celebrates a history rich in art and music. The Southern Ohio Museum and Cultural Center, 825 Gallia Street, Portsmouth, houses three permanent collections and frequently rotates exhibits from all over in their main gallery. The museum is free and open to the public. For more information about current exhibits and hours of operation, please call 740-354-5629 or visit www.somacc.com.

In addition to the museum, the Vern Riffe Center for the Arts, 940 2nd Street in Portsmouth hosts musicians and performers at all levels. From local high schools and children’s theaters, to national acts like Landau Eugene Murphy and the Oak Ridge Boys. For a current schedule of events, ticket information and more, please visit www.vrcafa.com or call the McKinley Box Office at 740-351-2600.

Port City Café and Pub, 424 Chillicothe Street in Portsmouth hosts live music each and every weekend throughout the year. Grab a friend, a drink and a delicious meal all while enjoying local talent. For a list of performances, you can go online to www.theportcitypub.com/events.

Each month at the Scioto County Welcome Center, 342 2nd Street in Portsmouth, the Boneyfiddle Project hosts a “Final Friday,” concert on the third Friday of every month. The event is free and open to the public, the only request is that you bring a lawn chair
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or a blanket since the event will be held outside. The acts range from local artists, school groups and well known performers in the Tri-State. The event runs May through September. For updates, you can follow “Final Friday in Boneyfiddle,” on Facebook.

For the visual artists, Main Street Portsmouth hosts “Street Art Saturday,” on the first Saturday of the month along 2nd Street in Portsmouth. Each month, artists are invited to set up outside of a business and paint, draw, and sell their items. Performing artists are also invited to set up. The event runs from 2 until 5 p.m. For more information, please email director@mspohio.com.

Scioto County also features two community theaters, the Portsmouth Area Art Council Children’s Theatre and the Portsmouth Little Theatre. Each of these non-profits hosts shows for children, families and adults throughout the year. For more information and show schedules, you can visit www.pltlive.com and www.paac4kids.org.

There are so many things to do, places to go and people to see in Scioto County. While this list offers a glimpse of the diversity of Scioto County, it just skims the surface.

River front fun
One of the most notable attractions in Scioto County are the Floodwall Murals. Spanning over 2,000 feet, the murals in Portsmouth have become a popular attraction for visitors and tourists. Progress on the murals continues to be made, with new additions and touch-ups being added frequently. Located along Front Street, these murals portray the history of Portsmouth from the mound building Indians to the present day, and use a 20-foot high, 2,000 foot-long flood wall as a canvas. The project runs the length of the historic district and includes over 55 different scenes. In 1992, the planning stages of the Flood wall Mural Project began with the formation of an ad hoc committee, which later registered as a nonprofit organization – Portsmouth
Murals Inc. (PMI). Robert Dafford, an internationally known muralist from Lafayette, Louisiana, was contracted for the project. The first mural was completed in 1993. The murals are arranged chronologically from east to west, starting with the depiction of the Mound Builders.

If you’d like to see the murals for yourself, follow the green mural signs posted in the city on Washington Street (Rt. 23 South) leading to the murals on Front Street. For an audio tour of the murals, you can dial 740-621-8031. After the introduction, each mural is a “stop.” For more information about the murals, you can visit the Scioto County Visitors Bureau at 342 Second Street in Portsmouth.

After you’ve visited the murals, there are a variety of businesses nearby throughout the Boneyfiddle Historic Arts district, located along Second Street. With several restaurants, from the Boneyfiddle Pie Factory, serving both pizza and desert pies, to the Portsmouth Brewing Company, Ohio’s oldest brewery – specializing in craft beers and a delicious menu of wings, sandwiches and pizzas. To beat the heat of summer, you can always swing by Brain Freeze for frozen yogurt or visit the Second Street Dairy Bar for a sweet treat. The district also boasts a variety of unique antique stores, like Ghost in the Attic, Rustic Charm, and PackRats.

Outdoor adventures

If you’re looking to get out of the city, there are plenty of woodland escapes for camping, hiking, fishing, kayaking, canoeing or just relaxing. Below are just a few of the places you can visit and their amenities

- **Brush Creek State Forest**, Park size: 13,502 acres, Total trail length: 3 miles + 15 miles bridle trail. Brush Creek offers fishing, seasonal hunting with license, mushroom hunting and more. For more information, please visit forestry.ohiodnr.org.
- **Shawnee State Forest**, 13291 U.S. 52 West Portsmouth, Ohio, Park size: 63,747 acres, Total trail length: 60 miles + 60 miles bridle trails. Shawnee State Forest is dog friendly and offers fishing, hunting, camp sites, restrooms and horse camps. For more information, please contact 740-858-6652.
- **Shawnee State Park**, 4404 State Route 125, Portsmouth, Ohio 45663-9003, Park size: 1,095 acres, Total trail length: 13.2 miles. Shawnee State Park offers dog-friendly areas, bridle trails, fishing, an archery range, camp sites and restrooms, swimming, golfing, boating and also has a nature center that offers a variety of activities for all ages. Shawnee State Park is also an area favorite for bird-watching. In addition, the site also features a large lodge and conference center with indoor swimming.

For more information find the Portsmouth-Scioto County Visitor’s Bureau on Facebook or visit at 342 2nd Street, Portsmouth, Ohio, 740-353-1116.
Discovering ‘The Serpent’s Bones’

Fans of Southeast Ohio backroads touring on two, three, or even four wheels know what they like in a road - well-paved, scenic, twisting, and reliable miles of adventure.

Many know the Triple Nickel, they have ridden Route 78 across southeast Ohio, they’ve climbed and yodeled Route 26 and 800 in the Switzerland of Ohio area north of Marietta, and they have wound around the Windy 9, and back again.

But most have not yet ridden Southeast Ohio’s newest touring routes – The Serpent’s Bones.

In partnership with Vinton and Gallia County Convention and Visitors Bureaus, a local rider, writer, and teacher has crafted hundreds of miles of tours with natural beauty, history, and a story to tell. From the Serpent’s Horns to its Belly, the area rolls and rocks with adventure.

“Over the last five years, I’ve put 13,000-plus miles on my 1989 Honda TransAlp - all in Southeast Ohio. I wanted to share some of what I’ve found with people passionate about touring and riding. There are hardly any vehicles on these roads. Many were built for the coal mining, which is gone, but the roads, and the countryside remain,” said Sarah Guthrie, creator of the Serpent’s Bones Touring Routes.

Book a stay in the historic river town of Gallipolis to tour the southern routes, or visit Lake Hope State Park camping, cabins, and lodge to access the northern routes. See the railroad tunnels, cemeteries, covered bridges, old mines, and former Iron Furnaces. Enjoy the natural beauty, often in complete isolation. When you return to civilization, grab a bite to eat or explore the host community’s local shops and attractions.

“I had actually been working on a motorcycle route system when she (Guthrie) stopped into the Gallia Visitors Bureau to discuss this project. As a non-rider, I was thrilled to have someone to work with. Sarah has taken us on this project and we are very happy to help her create the southern routes through Gallia County by providing resources and suggestions,” said Kaitlynn Halley assistant director of the Gallia County Convention and Visitors Bureau.

The Serpent’s Bones currently offers nine routes and is still growing. Each route has its own story and is waiting for you to add the next chapter. We invite you to visit www.serpentbones.com and discover Southeast Ohio.

Article submitted by Gallia County Convention and Visitors Bureau.
Summer festival fun in Gallia

Gallia County kicks off summer festival season by celebrating the nation’s independence with the annual Gallipolis River Recreation Festival, July 3-4 at City Park. Headlining this year’s festival is actor and musician John Schneider on July 4 on the main stage. Festival includes musical acts, Little Miss and Mister Firecracker Contest, talent show, Baby Tot Sparkler Contest, Fourth of July Parade, fireworks, inflatables, circus and concessions. Admission is free.

Gallia’s three-on-three basketball tournament, The Hoop Project, will be returning July 20 and 21 with age brackets for children and on into adulthood. This is becoming one of the largest events hosted in downtown Gallipolis during the summer.

Gallipolis City Park is also host to the annual Gallia County BBQ Festival, Sept. 14. Teams cook on First Avenue in Downtown Gallipolis overlooking the Ohio River. Not only do visitors have a chance to taste some good BBQ, there are numerous activities going on at the BBQ Festival for the entire family. Free admission, entertainment and activities as well as mouth-watering food for sale.

The 13th annual Harvest Moon Pow Wow, returns to Gallipolis City Park Labor Day Weekend, when members of many tribes get together to celebrate Native American culture by practicing rituals and practices that reach back to their heritage and then share that with the public. All three days featured dancing, drumming, and singing in the traditional way. More details TBA.

The Emancipation Proclamation has been celebrated and observed in Gallia County, Ohio continuously since 1863. 2019 will welcome the 156th Emancipation Celebration observed Sept. 20-22, with events at the Ariel Opera House and Gallia County Junior Fairgrounds at 189 Jackson Pike, Gallipolis.

Hot Summer Nights, a summer concert series which ends in September, happens every Thursday at the French Art Colony in Gallipolis in the outdoor pavilion. A complete schedule appears in the Calendar of Events in this guide.

Farmers and artisan market

Raised Around Rio, a farmers and artisan market in Rio Grande, opens for its season in late April and closes Sept. 7. Typically, the market begins when the weather begins to warm up and is held every Wednesday on North College Avenue in Rio Grande from 4 to 7 p.m. This year, the market will also be held every Saturday from 9 a.m. to noon. The Saturday market will be located a little east of the intersection of Ohio 588 and Ohio 325, right beside Twisted Specialty Supply. The market anticipates a little less than 40 vendors joining this year.

Outdoor adventures

Go take a hike, literally, in Gallia County. From walking trails to the perfect kayaking spots, Gallia County has a destination, and activity, for every nature lover.

Elizabeth Evans Waterfowl and Bird Sanctuary is over 60 acres set
Raised Around Rio farmers and artisan market.

aside for wetland bird and wildlife species while serving as a living, learning laboratory for students. The sanctuary is open year round for walk-in use during daylight hours.

The **Gallia County Hike and Bike Trail**, open to those on foot and on bicycles, is set on an old railroad track going from Haskins Park in Gallipolis to beyond Bidwell. The trail is not contiguous and is broken in several places, including at the Ohio 160 and US 35 intersection. The main portion of the trail, which has free parking at both ends, runs between Bob McCormick Road and Haskins Park and features a smooth and level paved surface almost four miles long.

The **O.O. McIntyre Park District** operates several outdoor parks across Gallia including Racoon Creek County Park. Located at 518 Dan Jones Road, the park features trails sprawled across 700 acres of natural and recreational land. Several trails start along Dan Jones Road past the main entrance to the park and explore some of the land's more natural side. To learn more, call the park district office at 740-446-4612.

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Raccoon Creek County Park is bordered on the north by Raccoon Creek, the stream formerly called “Etha Petha,” the Shawnee word for raccoon. To the south lie hills and upland fields adjacent to the historic Popular Knob. The park showcases 700 acres of both natural areas and recreation facilities that afford visitors many and varied leisure experiences year round. www.oomcityreparkdistrict.org

The most wild and yet likely the most unused trails in Gallia County are the two trails located in Wayne National Forest. At 15 miles, the Symmes Creek and Morgan Sisters trails do join together in the middle and can be accessed from Symmes Creek Road and Pumpkintown Road, respectively.

For those looking to put their paddles in the water, check out these options:

For years the canoe livery on Bob Evans Farm in Rio Grande offered an aquatic view of Gallia County from Raccoon Creek, but was closed some years ago. Then, in 2018, Raccoon Creek Paddles and Oars emerged, with the owners purchasing a small portion of land along Raccoon Creek. Offered for those wanting to paddle along Ohio’s longest creek are canoes and kayaks, as well as guided tours and shelter house rentals.

In Gallia County Raccoon Creek is the main destination for those wanting to get out and paddle a kayak, however there is other locations. Tycoon Lake east of Rio Grande provides a large area for paddlers not wanting to go downstream and provides easy access in and out of the water.

If paddling downstream is still your aim, but you want an alternative to Raccoon Creek, Symmes Creek also provides excellent views and paddling while the water is high, as do other small creeks in Gallia. Symmes Creek is about 75 miles long and runs through the western portion of Gallia, giving prime views of countryside farms and some of Wayne National Forest.

Swan Creek, which runs near Swan Creek Road in the southern portion of Gallia also provides kayak enthusiasts a chance to get their oars in the water.

For more information on any of these events or attractions, contact the Gallia County Convention and Visitors Bureau at (800) 765-6482 or info@visitgallia.com. Visit the GCCVB’s website at www.visitgallia.com.
Celebrating 20 years of ‘Rhythm on the River’

Back for the 20th year, the Rhythm on the River music series brings free live music to the Pomeroy Riverfront, leading up to the Big Bend Blues Bash. Performances will take place at 8 p.m. on Friday, July 5, 12 and 19.

On July 5, Funky MoJo Daddy from Chicago will perform. According to their bio, the members of MojoDaddy are all top-shelf musicians who have achieved considerable success with their respective groups. Throughout their careers, these guys have taken the message of Chicago blues and traveled the world to spread it with artists such as Buddy Guy, The Kinsey Report, Steepwater Band and Green Room Rockers.

The group consists of Kenny Kinsey (bass/vocals), Jerry Porter (drums/vocals), Jeff Massey (Slide guitar/vocals) and Ryan Frahm (guitar/vocals). On July 12, Bill Dutcher, who plays modern acoustic guitar, will perform. According to his biography, “When Bill Dutcher picks up an acoustic guitar, the music that fills the room cannot be branded with a simple sentence. When you see him play live you’re experiencing an event that shatters the preconceived notion of what a solo acoustic can do. You’re witnessing the fusion of six strings, ten fingers, unorthodox instruments and various electronics that blend into a unique cocktail of rock, blues, classical, middle-eastern and Celtic flavors. Born and raised in Dublin, Ohio, He played electric lead guitar in various successful bands throughout the Midwest before making the journey towards performing as a solo artist.”

On July 19 The Carpenter Ants from Charleston, West Virginia will perform.
Described in their bio as West Virginia’s premier rhythm & blues group, the Ants — guitarist Michael Lipton, drummer Jupiter Little, bassist Ted Harrison and vocalist/saxophonist Charlie Tee — have quietly amassed a resume that rivals many national groups. The group’s trademark country-soul sound — rich, soulful harmonies, stinging solos and a rock-solid rhythm section — captures that rare, loose-but-tight feel, and has won the band international as well as regional fans. The Ants have twice traveled to Moscow. In the U.S., they’ve played all manners of venues — from church services and rallies for presidential candidates, to a biker festival.

Article by Sarah Hawley.

Festivals along the river

Meigs County is known for its festivals celebrating everything from the county’s heritage, to the Blues, to river life. In July, visitors can take in the Big Bend Blues & Brews Bash in Pomeroy, an annual event featuring two days of blues and local craft beers along the Ohio River. Also in July, Chester will host the Meigs Heritage Festival presented by the Chester Shade Historical Association (CHSA), held on “the green” below the first Meigs County Courthouse and the Chester Academy. This event attracts vintage car enthusiasts with a car show and musicians participating in the Ohio State Harmonica Festival. Ohio's Best Pie contest and auction is a crowd favorite. August is all about the Meigs County Fair with an appearance by Phil Dirt and the Dozers, as well a carnival rides, games, livestock shows, demolition derby and more. September welcomes the 11th annual Party in the Park in Racine, featuring live music, activities and the Cruisin’ Saturday Night Car Show. Includes inflatables for the kids, the 9/11 Memorial Ceremony, parade, kiddie tractor pull, queen contest and the car show. Summer festival season then officially comes to a close with the Sternwheel Festival in Pomeroy also in September. More information on these festivals in the Calendar of Events in this guide.

Music in the foothills

Meigs County is home to a rich musical tradition from the foothills, literally, to the river banks. Pomeroy’s Court Street Grill has offered a stage to nationally-known touring acts and local talent for years - along with tasty bar food. Charlie’s Red Star Blues Barn on 32700 Cotterill Road, Pomeroy, hosts a unique music series in an even more unique barn venue with shows presented by the Foothills Music Foundation. Meigs County is also home to the Fur Peace Ranch. Known around the world, the ranch combines live music with guitar workshops, cabins, a music library, a museum,
Outdoor adventures

From a sprawling state park to a unique plant sanctuary, Meigs County offers outdoor adventures beyond its picturesque river frontage. **Forked Run State Park**'s 791 acres includes a 400-foot sand beach. Enjoy swimming, sunbathing, boating, fishing and hunting. The lake is known for crappie, largemouth bass, bluegill or catfish. If you can’t catch anything in the lake, use the boat dock to try fishing in the Ohio River. Hunters can look for squirrel, deer, grouse, or wild turkeys. Picnic areas, tables, grills and shelter houses. Forked Run also has a disc golf course, or frisbee golf. Other activities include, volleyball, horseshoe pits, tetherball, and a nature center. The park has several hiking trails, which range from .6 miles to 2.6 miles. Camping sites available. For more information, call 740-378-6202 or go to [http://parks.ohiodnr.gov/forkedrun](http://parks.ohiodnr.gov/forkedrun).

Located in Rutland Township, the **Goldenseal Botanical Sanctuary** is a 360-acre plant sanctuary dedicated not only to growing medicinal plants, but also educating the public about them. Guests are encouraged to visit the “Talking Forest” Medicinal Trail, a 10-mile trail which uses handcrafted signs to tell stories about the hundreds of healing plant species that live along the trail, as well as the history of the forest itself. Hikers can see the largest manifestations of wild goldenseal plants in the world. The Goldenseal Sanctuary is currently open to the public by appointment only. If you...
are interested in visiting the Sanctuary or renting the facilities for an event or retreat please contact the organization at office@unitedplantsavers.org and visit www.goldensealsanctuary.org for more information.

The **Meigs County Golf Course** in Pomeroy, Ohio opened in 1960. This nine-hole, executive style course measures 2,394 yards from the longest tees for a par of 34 making it a perfect set up for senior and junior golfers. Greens and fairways are bent grass. Owned by the Meigs County Commission, it is currently leased by Tom and Amy Cremeans who have made several improvements. Children can play for free.

**Following the trail of history**

Home to Ohio’s only significant land battle during the Civil War, Meigs County has a unique history reflected in lives lived along the river. The **Meigs County Museum** in Pomeroy (opening soon at its new location in Middleport) houses thousands of artifacts ranging from the prehistoric period to the present that give life and deeper meaning to local, regional and even national history. Rotating exhibits tell the story of city and rural life; the founding of the county; political history; natural disasters; Meigs County’s place in the nation, world and even outer space, plus much more. Go to www.meigschs.org for more information.

**Buffington Island**, located in Portland, is the site of the only Civil War battle fought in Ohio. Re-enactments and ceremonies commemorated the Battle of Buffington Island are observed here.

**John Downing Jr. House** is located in downtown Middleport. It was the home of a prominent riverboat captain, “Major” Downing. He worked with Samuel Clemens, or Mark Twain, who stayed at the current day bed and breakfast.

**William H. Grant House** is also in Middleport. William Grant pioneered concrete architecture in Meigs County. This house is one of his concrete creations. Another noteworthy fact about the house is that many years later, Johnny Appleseed visited the house and converted the Grants to Swedenborgianism.

**Meigs County Fairgrounds Grandstand and Racetrack** is just off the State Route 7. The grandstand was finished in 1889 or earlier and is the only curved grandstand at an Ohio county fairgrounds.

**Meigs County Public Library** was build in the early twentieth century and is a Carnegie library. Andrew Carnegie donated money to build over 2,500 throughout the world and Middleport was not only lucky enough to get one but also have it still functioning today.

**Mound Cemetery Mound** lies north of Chester and is a Native American mound. It has never been excavated. Due to its location, many people believe the Adena people created it.

**Old Meigs County Courthouse and Chester Academy** was built in the early nineteenth century. The courthouse is Ohio’s oldest courthouse and is one of two surviving first generation Federal courthouse in Ohio.

Located near Alfred, **Reeves Mound** is another Native American mound. The archaeological site is believed to have been built by the Adena people.

For more information contact Meigs County Visitor & Convention Bureau, 238 West Main, Pomeroy, Ohio 45769, 1-740-992-2239.
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Wild, Wonderful 
Krodel Park

Though Memorial Day Weekend is typically busy at Krodel Park, this year attendance was amplified. One might say, something was definitely in the water and not just the 22-acre lake.

Point Pleasant’s new splash pad opened that weekend and since then, has been a hit, according to city officials. With free admission for residents of Mason County with identification, and only $1 per person for everyone else, it’s affordable fun on anyone’s budget. Summer hours are Monday-Friday, 11 a.m.-6 p.m.; Saturday, 10 a.m.-6 p.m.; and Sunday, noon-6 p.m.

However, the splash pad isn’t the only new addition in recent years. The playground, which sits next to the splash pad, was totally revamped two years ago, including pieces of equipment for children of all abilities. The walking trail around the park, which had suffered from erosion is now completely repaved and a newly erected gazebo has become a favorite place to sit in the shade near the water.

There’s also new life brewing in the old concession stand on the end of the park which used to house the beach. The newly opened Yak Shak provides kayak and paddleboat rentals for those wishing to take a paddle around the lake. Rentals include hourly and daily rates, as well as single and tandem kayak choices. Life vests are included. The Yak Shak also sells light refreshments, and is open Sunday - Friday, noon – 7 p.m., Saturday 11 a.m. – 7 p.m. Hours will be extended starting July 1.

The playground upgrade was estimated to cost over $160,000, the walking trail upgrade at $359,000 and the splash pad, when the project began, was projected to cost around $70,000. For just those three projects, that’s well over a half-million dollars of investment in the last few years in the park.

“So much has changed in just a short time with the support of individuals, businesses and organizations,” Point Pleasant Mayor Brian Billings said of upgrades to the park. “Our city staff has worked diligently to make Krodel Park a showplace not for just our own but for visitors outside of our borders.”

Billings continued: “Our walking trail, playground, splash pad, Yak Shak, campground and new gazebo have brought back the pride of the past here in our hometown. But there is more to do and we hope to bring more to Krodel Park for the enjoyment of all.”

The park is still a favorite camping and fishing spot, with trout stocked twice a year by the West Virginia Division of Natural Resources. The park, with its picnic shelters and club house is also home to Fort Randolph with its many events throughout the season.

Article by Beth Sergent.
Point Pleasant
River Walk
With its 800-seat amphitheater, historic flood wall murals and 900-foot dock for vessels of any size, Riverfront Park in Point Pleasant is a “must see” when visiting the historic city along the Ohio River. The park includes a Riverfront pavilion for events and picnics and plays host to events like the Point Pleasant Sternwheel Regatta, Mayor’s Night Out Concert Series, Mothman Festival and more.

The River Walk Flood Wall Murals, painted by well-known artist, Robert Dafford, can be viewed at Riverfront Park, allowing visitors to witness the history of Point Pleasant, including a large sequence depicting The Battle of Point Pleasant on Oct. 10, 1774. The murals portray the lives of the area’s earliest residents, the Shawnee, as well as lives of those Europeans who settled in what was then Western Virginia. The murals, a project which began in 2005, was completed over five subsequent summers, costing around $800,000. The paint, which at the time cost $200 a gallon, came from Germany and had a 50-year guarantee though it was proven to last 150 years.

The Mothman Statue is located just outside Riverfront Park in Gunn Park at www.baumlumber.com

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the intersection of Fourth Street and Main Street in Point Pleasant. A 12-foot-tall metallic statue created by artist and sculptor, the late Bob Roach, was unveiled in 2003. No trip to Point Pleasant is complete without visiting the famous Mothman Statue which is a focal point for the Mothman Festival in September.

Fairs and festivals
Home to several summer festivals and fun, Mason County offers Liberty Fest in Point Pleasant as well as celebrations in New Haven and Mason on the Fourth of July. Peck Fest

The ‘Must See’ Museums
The West Virginia State Farm Museum north of Point Pleasant allows visitors to experience a simpler way of life. Buildings of historical value have been moved and rebuilt on the grounds, including log cabins and an early farmhouse, an operational 19th century blacksmith shop, turn-of-the-century doctor’s and newspaper offices, the first Lutheran Church west of the Allegheny Mountains, some farm animals and more. A newer edition to the grounds is the Christopher H. Bauer Memorial Museum. A country store and kitchen are available to visitors. The farm museum is home to an annual tractor parade in July, Country Fall Festival in October and antique tractor pulls. Visit wvfarmmuseum.org

The World’s Only Mothman Museum allows visitors to not only grab some paranormal merchandise but sift through archives explaining the mysterious sightings of Point Pleasant’s most famous resident. Memorabilia from the “Mothman Prophecies” film also on display and historical press releases and photographs about the Silver Bridge Disaster. The museum is open seven days a week and welcomes visitors from all over the world. The truth is out there and it may just be at the Mothman Museum. For more information go to www.mothmanmuseum.com

The Point Pleasant River Museum and Learning Center is the only river museum in the state. NOTE: The museum, having suffered a fire in 2018, has an office temporarily located in the 200 block of Main Street. Call 304-674-0144.

Take a walk in the park(s)
Tu-Endie-Wei State Park sits at the confluence of the Ohio and Kanawha rivers, commemorating those that fought and died at The Battle of Point Pleasant. Includes the battle monument, “the magazine” and tours of the historic Mansion House in season. The name “Tu-Endie-Wei” is a Wyandotte word meaning “point between two waters.” Visit tu-endie-weistatepark.com for more information. The park is home to the Battle Days Festival in October.

Fort Randolph is located at Krodel Park in Point Pleasant, approximately 1 mile from the sites of the original two forts
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that shared its name. The fort hosts the annual Siege of Fort Randolph each May and hosts several events throughout the summer, allowing visitors to connect with re-enactors and experience life on the early frontier. Regular Fort hours for this year are Friday - Sunday, 11 a.m. - 5 p.m. Admission to the Fort is free. The Fort will be open to the public on weekends from May 17 - Labor Day weekend. For more info, visit fortrandolph.org

**Letart Nature Park** is a hidden gem for nature lovers, and those who would rather hike in the woods than be on social media. Located outside Point Pleasant behind the Letart Community Building, the Letart Nature Park sits on about 200 acres of public land. The park currently has two major trails on the property with many others that branch off from the beaten path. There’s a trail head behind the community center. Find the Letart Nature Park Development Organization on Facebook for more information. The nature trail is free and open to the public to explore.

**Krodel Park** is home to a newly paved walking trail over a mile long which circles a picturesque 22-acre lake. Picnic shelters, club house, gazebo, fishing, playground, camping, kayak rentals and splash pad.

**Outdoor adventures**

The West Virginia Division of Natural Resources operates Chief Cornstalk Lake in Southside and McClintic Ponds north of Point Pleasant. Chief Cornstalk Lake is a 5-acre impoundment located on Chief Cornstalk Wildlife Management Area (10,120 acres) in Mason County, 9 miles south of Henderson and 5 miles west of US Route 35. This lake was built in 1964 with a maximum depth of 9 feet with an average depth of 5 feet, open to fishing. The McClintic ponds are located on McClintic Wildlife Management Area in Mason County, 6 miles north of Point Pleasant and 8 miles south of Mason. Since 1951, 34 ponds have been constructed. All ponds have maximum depth of about 10 feet with average depths of 5 feet. Thirty-two of the ponds are open year-round to fishing, with exception of the two-week controlled waterfowl hunt.


Contact the Mason County Convention and Visitors Bureau at 304-675-6788 or visit [http://www.masoncountytourism.org/](http://www.masoncountytourism.org/) for more information.

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Historic homes and more

One of the most notable attractions in Greenup County is the historic McConnell House. Built by master craftsmen and slaves during the pre-Civil War era, this is one of the oldest standing homes in the region. The McConnell House is located just off of US 23 in Wurtland, and was completed in 1834. The original owner passed away just weeks after completion. The house was built as a four room farm house with several buildings sitting adjacent on the property including a coal house and a one room brick law office. The house has switched hands several times through out the years and is now owned and operated by the Heritage Arts, Science and Tourism Center. The property is now being restored and is available to tour as well as being available to rent for private functions. For more information, you can visit www.mcconnellhouse-ky.com, email mcconnellhouseky@gmail.com or call 606-833-9098.

You can also visit the Bennett's Mill Covered Bridge which was built in 1855, located north of Kentucky 10. For more information call, 606-473-6514. Other historic sites include, the Greenup County War Memorial located along US 23 in Wurtland and the Jesse Stuart State Nature Preserve along KY 1, call 606-326-1667 to learn more.

Outdoor adventures

There’s no excuse to stay inside when visiting Boyd and Greenup counties, with ample opportunities to connect with nature and even a golf club.

Greenbo Lake State Resort Park located at 965 Lodge Road in Greenup features a 36-room lodge, primitive/electric camping sites of which nine are reserved specifically for equestrian camping. It also features its own restaurant, Angler’s Cove, which is open daily for breakfast, lunch and dinner. The new 10-acre scuba refuge will allow divers to use the lake April through October and other designated times from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Divers are required to present their open water certification or have an instructor with them that has an approved certification. Other types of accepted certifications would include Advanced and Rescue Diver. Divers are also required to have a dive buddy and display his or her Certification.

The River Bend Golf Course, located at 6333 KY-1, this course features 18 holes of golf. Call 606-473-6773 for more information.

The Lakes Golf Club & Pro Shop, is located at 5549 State Route 7 and is a nine hole course and has new equipment. Call 606-932-4266 for more information.

The Oaks Golf Club is an 18 hole course located at 1000 Oaks Drive in Flatwoods. To learn more, please call 606-833-5565.

Arts and entertainment

The Paramount Arts Center hosts a variety of summer camps for kids in June and July to teach kids important skills and allow them to learn the art of performance. Some of the classes planned for the summer are Arts Academy, Paramount Arts Center Resident Artist Workshops, Private Voice Lessons, Professional Development for Teachers. For more information: Prices of all Paramount classes and workshops vary. For additional information, current schedules, pricing or to schedule a program, contact Melanie Cornelison-Jannotta, Director of Education and Outreach at by email at Melanie@paramountartscenter.com.

Shopping opportunities

Boyd County boasts with a variety of antique shops. Local favorites include: Reggie's Attic located 3001 Greenup Ave., Rivertown Antiques & Collectibles 406 Main Street in Greenup, Salisbury Farm Antiques 9220 Cambell's Branch, Catlettsburg. You can also check out White Eagle Collector's Mall at 509511 Bellefonte Street, Russell, Ky.

For more information on local events and places to visit while in the area go to www.tourgreenupcounty.org and www.visitashlandky.com.
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Where to stay Along the River

Scioto County

HOTELS
Shawnee Lodge & Conference Center
2404 OH-125
West Portsmouth, Ohio 45663
740-858-6621

Holiday Inn Downtown Portsmouth
711 2nd Street
Portsmouth, Ohio 45662
740-354-7711

Quality Inn & Suites
500 Scio Trail
Portsmouth, Ohio 45662
740-353-3232

Ameristay Inn & Suites
3762 US-23
Portsmouth, Ohio 45662
740-354-2851

Super 8 by Wyndham
4266 US-23
Portsmouth, Ohio 45662
740-354-8880

Comfort Inn
8226 Ohio River Road
Wheelersburg, Ohio 45694
520-441-6162

Red Roof Inn
8340 Ohio River Road
Wheelersburg, Ohio 45694
740-574-8431

Quality Inn
577 State Route 7 N
Gallipolis, Ohio 45631
740-446-0900 or 888-465-4329

Regency Inn
151 Upper River Road
Gallipolis, Ohio 45631
740-446-0241

MOTELS
Riverside Motel
1066 First Avenue
Gallipolis, Ohio 45631
740-446-2702

College Hill Motel
10987 State Route 588
Rio Grande, Ohio 45674
740-245-5326

Super 8 Motel
321 Upper River Road
Gallipolis, Ohio 45631
740-446-8080 or 800-800-8000
www.super8.com

William Ann Motel
918 Second Avenue
Gallipolis, Ohio 45631
740-446-3373

BED & BREAKFASTS
Briarhorne Farm
4219 Hannan Trace Road
Pomeroy, Ohio 45769
740-256-1505

Cabins
Common Grounds
53 Main Street
Vinton, Ohio 45686
740-645-8536

Raccoon Creek Side Cottage
292 Main Street
Vinton, Ohio 45686
740-388-8327

Raccoon Falls Guest Cottage
1094 Lincoln Pike
Gallipolis, Ohio 45631
740-446-7417

Whispering Pines
1669 State Route 233
Patio, Ohio 45658
740-446-7300

CAMPING
Bob Evans Farm State Route 588
Rio Grande, Ohio 45674
740-645-9762

Gallia County Jr. Fairgrounds
189 Jackson Pike
Gallipolis, Ohio 45631
740-446-4120

Meigs County

HOTEL
Brickhouse Apothecary
105 Butternut Avenue
Pomeroy, Ohio 45769
740-594-5522

Holly Hill Inn
114 Butternut Avenue
Pomeroy, Ohio 45769
304-991-3237

Carpenter Inn & Conference Center
39655 Carpenter Dyesville Road
Pomeroy, Ohio 45769
740-698-2450

BED & BREAKFASTS
Chicory Inn & Orchards
39811 State Route 684
Pomeroy, Ohio 45769
740-742-8421

Downing House Bed & Breakfast
232 N Second Avenue
Middleport, Ohio 45760
740-992-9115

Goldenseal Sanctuary
35703 Loop Road
Rutland, Ohio 45775
740-742-3455

High View Bed & Breakfast
106 High Street
Pomeroy, Ohio 45769
740-992-2815 or 740-992-5319

Morgan’s Rest Bed & Breakfast
200 Lincoln Hill
Pomeroy, Ohio 45769
740-992-5319 or 740-992-2815

Redwing Retreat
37606 Vance Road
Pomeroy, Ohio 45769
614-733-9464

Riverview Guest House
2462 Water Street
Syracuse, Ohio 45771
740-992-2311

CAMPING
Forked Run State Park
63300 State Route 124
Reedsville, Ohio 45772
740-378-6206

Kountry Resort Campground
44705 Resort Road
Racine, Ohio 45771
740-992-8488

Let’s Dock Campground
2411 3rd Street
Syracuse, Ohio 45771
740-416-8382

Maplewood Christian Campground
45860 State Route 124
Racine, Ohio 45771
740-949-2734

Lock 24 RV Park
46909 State Route 124
Racine, Ohio 45771
304-916-2115

CABINS
Sweet Peace Cabin
Pomeroy, Ohio 45769
740-541-1326

Little Cabin in the Woods
Langsville, Ohio
www.airbnb.com/
rooms/24624025

Beautiful Wiima’s Place
Racine, Ohio
www.airbnb.com/
rooms/27279276

Wisteria
39617 State Route 684
Pomeroy, Ohio 740-742-4302

Gathering Waters Campground
51179 State Route 124
Racine, Ohio 740-707-4465

Mason County

HOTEL
The Historic Lowe Hotel
401 Main Street
Point Pleasant, West Virginia 25550
304-675-2260

Greenup/Boyd counties

HOTEL
Greenbo Lake State Resort Park
965 Lodge Rd., Greenup, Ky. 41144
606-473-7324

Budget Inn Motel
505 US-23, Greenup, Ky. 41144
606-473-7782

Fairfield Inn & Suites by Marriott Ashland
10945 Route 60, Ashland, Ky. 41102
606-928-1222

Days Inn by Wyndham Ashland
12700 KY-180, Ashland, Ky. 41102
606-547-4537

Holiday Inn Express & Suites Ashland
13131 Slone Court, Ashland, Ky. 41102
606-929-1720
Summer Calendar of Events

Scioto County

July

The Portsmouth Wind Symphony’s Annual 4th of July Concert at Tracy Park. The concert is free and begins at 7 pm. For more information, find the Portsmouth Wind Symphony on Facebook or visit their website at http://portsmouthwindsymphony.com.

Main Street Portsmouth’s Street Art Saturday, July 6, for more information call the MSP office at 740-464-0203.

Blues & Brews Barbecue, July 13, event will take place at the Spartan Municipal Stadium from noon until 8 pm. Find the event on Facebook for more information.

Lucasville’s Historic Home and Garden Tour, July 13, part of the Lucasville Bicentennial Celebration. Find complete event details at http://www.lucasvilleohio1819.com or call 740-352-0202.

Belle of Cincinnati 9th Annual Riverboat Cruise, July 25 and July 26, dinner cruise boards at 6:30 pm and cruises from 7:30 to 9:30 pm. Adults & seniors are $52 each, children 4 – 12 years old are $37. Riders only/no dinner adults and seniors are $23 and children 4 – 12 years old are $17 each. Call 1-800-261-8586 to make reservations and for more information.

Main Street Portsmouth’s Street Art Saturday, July 6, for more information call the MSP office at 740-464-0203.

August

The 36th Annual Roy Rogers Festival, Aug. 1-3 in downtown Portsmouth at the Holiday Inn, 711 2nd Street. Festival features vendors, banquet, live auction, look-alike contest and entertainment. Guest stars include Little House on the Prairie stars Rachel Lindsay Greenbush and Alison Arngrim, along with Paul Petersen from the Donna Reed Show. Celebrity interview “History meets Hollywood” with Julie and Bob Ream, and Zachariah Malachi and Jon Patterson will be performing. Contact Eva Robbins at 740-285-6311 or Julie Ann Ream at 661-478-1101 for more information, or by email at info@OfficialRoyRogersFestival.org. Find the group on facebook and check out their webpage at www.OfficialRoyRogersFestival.org.

Main Street Portsmouth’s Street Art Saturday, Aug. 3, for more information call the MSP office at 740-464-0203.

Annual Dreamland Music Fest, Aug. 3, featuring Rick Ferrell and more!
Summer Calendar of Events Continued...

Demolition Derby on Saturday, Aug. 10. More acts will be announced soon! For more information visit their website at http://www.sciotocountyfair.org/

**Lucasville’s Founder’s Day at the Fair**, Aug. 7, event from 4 – 8 p.m. at the Scioto County Fairgrounds in Lucasville. Located in the new building north of the Antique Building. There will be proclamations and entertainment with the Poverty String Band and 200th birthday cake for everyone! Part of the Lucasville Bicentennial Celebration. Find complete event details at http://www.lucasvilleohio1819.com or call 740-352-0202.

**Cut-Throat Karaoke at the Portsmouth Brewing Co.**, Aug. 17, Second Street in downtown Portsmouth. Event is presented by Main Street Portsmouth and begins at 5 pm. Featuring locals who are out of tune and out of character. Admission charge is $5. For more information call MSP at 740-464-0203.

**Ohio River Valley T1D Day Camp at Shawnee State Park Lodge**, Aug. 24, – REGISTER BY August 10th. An opportunity for kids with Type 1 Diabetes (T1D) in the tri-state to connect with other kids with T1D, learn how to take better care of themselves, and have loads of fun in a carefree summer day camp environment. For more information call 740-370-9416.


**Annual Rotary Fish Fry** on the Roy Rogers Esplanade, Aug. 30, don’t miss this annual Labor Day weekend tradition. See any local Rotarian for tickets.

**September**

**Main Street Portsmouth’s Street Art Saturday**, Sept. 7, for more information call the MSP office at 740-464-0203.

**The St. Mary’s International Festival**, Sept. 13-15, annual festival (5th & Market Streets) featuring food from around the world, fine live music and a great car show! Family friendly! Inflatables! Drawings! A must attend event! For more information call 740-354-4552.

**The 5th Annual Shine a Light on Suicide Awareness** in Portsmouth, Sept. 14, save the date! For more information call Janie Haas at Shawnee Family Health Center at 740-355-8687.

**Portsmouth TODAY** – brought to you by Main Street Portsmouth and the Portsmouth Area Chamber of Commerce, Sept. 25. Join these two organizations in a forum to promote events happening in the Portsmouth area. Also hear what different organizations are doing. Portsmouth TODAY starts at 9 am at the Scioto County Welcome Center. Call MSP at 740-464-0203 or the Chamber at 740-353-7647 for more details.

**Noble Family Farms Autumn Vendor and Craft Fair**, Sept. 28-29. For more information about the event, email noblefamilyfarms15@gmail.com.

**The 5th Annual Shine A Light on Suicide Awareness 5K**, Sept. 14. For more information contact Janie Haas at Shawnee Family Health Center at 740-355-8687.
Meigs County

July

Racine Independence Day Celebration, July 4, 10 a.m. parade, 11 a.m. BBQ & homemade ice cream at Racine Fire Department, 10 p.m. Fireworks at Star Mill Park. Additional events to begin at 4 p.m. in Star Mill Park.

Middleport Fourth of July Celebration, July 4, 6 p.m. parade. More events and information to be finalized. Visit the Middleport Business Association on Facebook for updates.

Rhythm on the River, July 5, free annual summer music series in the heart of downtown Pomeroy. Celebrating 20 years! 8 p.m. Riverside Amphitheater, Pomeroy, Ohio.

Forked Run State Park Hog Roast, July 5-6, 63300 State Route 124, Reedsville, Ohio 45772. For more info call the main office at Burr Oak State Park, 740-767-3570.

Rutland Fire Dept 4th of July Celebration, July 6, 11 a.m., parade, food, activities, and entertainment all day at Fireman’s Park. 11 p.m. Fireworks.

Rhythm on the River, July 12, free annual summer music series in the heart of downtown Pomeroy. 8 p.m. Riverside Amphitheater, Pomeroy, Ohio.

Charlie’s Red Star Blues Barn Concert, July 13, doors open 5 p.m.; music 6 p.m., 32700 Cotterill Road, Pomeroy, Ohio 45769, www.redstarbarn.com

Bicentennial Township Marker Ceremony, July 17, each month this year, the Bicentennial Committee is unveiling an historical marker in one of the county’s 12 townships to mark an historic place, person, or event. The public is invited and encouraged to attend. For location and more info, please check for updates on the Meigs County Bicentennial Facebook page.

Food Truck Thursday, July 18, sponsored by Middleport Development Group, visit with your neighbors, listen to live music, and enjoy dinner from area food truck vendors, 6 p.m. Dave Diles Park, Middleport, Ohio.

Rhythm on the River, July 19, free annual summer music series in the heart of downtown Pomeroy, 8 p.m. Riverside Amphitheater, Pomeroy, Ohio.

Big Bend Farm Antiques Club Regular Competition Pull, July 20, 6 p.m., Meigs County Fairgrounds, 41850 Fairgrounds Lane, Pomeroy, Ohio.

Meigs Heritage Festival, July 20, sponsored by Chester Shade Historical Association, free event featuring classic car show, Ohio State Championship Harmonica Contest, music, food, pie contest, artisans, old-time activities and exhibits. 9 a.m.-5 p.m., Chester Commons, Chester, Ohio.

Historical Society Reenactment, July 20, 10 a.m., Portland Community Center, 56896 State Route 124, Portland, Ohio.

Arts and Minds Festival, July 20, free one day event with music, art, crafts, Food and informational expositions. Jorma Kaukonen performs at 2 p.m., Fur Peace Ranch, 39495 St. Clair Road, Pomeroy, Ohio.

Big Bend Blues & Brews Bash, July 26-27, two days of live Blues, Roots and rock music as well as local and regional craft beers, wines, spirits and ciders, 4 p.m. Friday; noon Saturday, Riverside Amphitheater, Pomeroy, Ohio.

Big Bend Blues Dash 5K Race, July 27, sponsored by River City Runners, 8:30 a.m. Maple Lawn Brewery, 110 Mulberry Avenue, Pomeroy, Ohio.

August

Fur Peace Ranch Concert, Aug. 10, Richie Furay
Summer Calendar of Events Continued...

Big Bend Blues & Brews Bash.

File photos | OVP

St. Jude Trail Ride on the Dill Farm.

File photos | OVP

Band, doors open 7 p.m., concert 8 p.m., 39495 St. Clair Road, Pomeroy, Ohio. ^

Meigs County Fair, Aug. 12-17, gates open daily from 7 a.m.-11 p.m., Meigs County Fairgrounds, 41850 Fairgrounds Lane, Pomeroy, Ohio.

Noah’s Ark Outdoor Drama, starts Aug. 16, free outdoor drama that runs multiple weekend, bring lawn chair, Hillside Baptist Church, 39728 State Route 143, Pomeroy, Ohio.

Bicentennial Township Marker Ceremony, Aug. 21. Each month this year, the Bicentennial Committee is unveiling an historical marker in one of the county’s twelve townships to mark an historic place, person, or event. For location and more info, please check for updates on the Meigs County Bicentennial Facebook page.

Food Truck Thursday, Aug. 22, sponsored by Middleport Development Group, visit with your neighbors, listen to live music, and enjoy dinner from area food truck vendors, 6 p.m., Dave Diles Park, Middleport, Ohio.

Fur Peace Ranch Concert, Aug. 24, George Porter Trio w/ Steve Kimock, doors open 7 p.m., concert 8 p.m., 39495 St. Clair Road, Pomeroy, Ohio.

Bashan Volunteer Fire Dept Homemade Ice Cream Social, Aug. 31, 10 different flavors, 11 a.m., 33478 Bashan Road, Long Bottom, Ohio.

September

Chester VFD Labor Day BBQ, Sept. 2, chicken, ribs, & homemade ice cream, 11 a.m., 46480 State Route 248, Chester, Ohio.

Charlie’s Red Star Barn Concert, Sept. 7, doors open 5 p.m., music 6 p.m., 32700 Cotterill Road, Pomeroy, Ohio, www.redstARBarn.com

Fur Peace Ranch Concert, Sept. 7, Sierra Hull and Chris Smither, doors open 7 p.m., concert 8 p.m., 39495 St. Clair Road, Pomeroy, Ohio.

Community Appreciation Dinner Olive Township VFD Chicken BBQ, Sept. 8, Belleville Locks & Dam, Reedsville, Ohio.

Civil War Reenactment, Sept 10-15, Portland Community Center, 56896 State Route 124, Portland, Ohio.

Racine’s Party in the Park, Sept. 12-14, big party, little town, great entertainment. Inflatables, games, video arcade, kiddie tractor pull, arts & crafts vendors, car show, live music, food, and more. Free admission, parking, & entertainment, Star Mill Park, 716 5th Street, Racine, Ohio.

Big Bend Farm Antiques Club Show & Games at Racine’s Party in the Park, Sept. 14, 10 a.m., Star Mill Park, 716 5th Street, Racine, Ohio.

Chester Shade Historical Association Genealogy Fair, Sept. 14, food available, 9:30 a.m.- 4 p.m., Chester Academy, 46454 State Route 248, Chester, Ohio.

Bicentennial Township Marker Ceremony, Sept. 18, each month this year, the Bicentennial Committee is unveiling an historical marker in one of the county’s twelve townships to mark an historic place, person, or event. For location and more info, please check for updates on the Meigs County Bicentennial Facebook page.

Pomeroy Sternwheel Regatta, Sept. 19-21, activities all weekend long meant to celebrate river life, see Pomeroy Sternwheel Regatta Facebook page for updates and information.

24th Annual St Jude Trail Ride, Sept. 21, 10-mile trail ride to benefit St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital. Camping available during the week before the ride and that weekend. Drawings, door prizes, hog roast. Trail ride available on Sunday as well. Dill Farm, 34015 Beech Grove Road, Rutland, Ohio, contact Isabel Dill, 740-742-2849.

Email: isabeldill@hotmail.com

River Rat Race 5K, Sept. 21, Sponsored by River City Runners, 9 a.m., Pomeroy Parking Lot, Pomeroy, Ohio, contact Mike Kennedy, 740-357-3723.

Big Bend Farm Antiques Club, Regular Competition Pull, Sept. 21, annual potluck, wiener roast after pull at the track, 6 p.m., Meigs County Fairgrounds, 41850 Fairgrounds Lane, Pomeroy, Ohio.

Fur Peace Ranch Concert, Sept 21, Jorma w/ Trey Hensley & Rob Ickes, doors open 7 p.m., concert 8 p.m., 39495 St. Clair Road, Pomeroy, Ohio.

Ohio River Open Disc Golf Tournament, Sept. 21-22, time TBD, Forked Run State Park, 63300 State Route 124, Reedsville, Ohio. For more info call the main office at Burr Oak State Park, 740-767-3570
Gallia County

July

**Gallipolis River Recreation Festival**, July 3-4, Gallipolis City Park. Celebrate America's Independence at Gallipolis City Park with inflatables, games, concessions, a parade, circus side-show, free entertainment and fireworks. Admission is free.

**Fourth of July Parade**, noon, July 4, downtown Gallipolis. A staple of the Gallipolis River Recreation Festival. One of the largest parades in the area.

**5K Run/Ruck Walk**, July 6. The Ohio Valley Bank sponsors this event in support of local veterans and those in the surrounding areas. The walk will start and end at the Haskins Park Veterans Memorial on Mill Creek Road in Gallipolis. Check-In will begin at 7 a.m. and the group will step-off promptly at 8 a.m.

**The Hoop Project**, July 20-21, First Avenue at Gallipolis City Park, Gallia’s three-on-three full court basketball tournament offers age brackets for children and on into adulthood, including divisions for boys, girls, men and women of all skill levels.

**Hot Summer Nights**, concert series at the French Art Colony Pavilion, gates open at 6 p.m., music begins at 6:30 p.m. on Thursdays, with July’s lineup as follows: July 11, Stringbenders; July 18, Ben Davis, Jr.; July 25, Devin Henry.

**Gallia County Junior Fair**, July 29 - Aug. 3 at the fairgrounds located at 189 Jackson Pike in Gallipolis. Carnival, amusement rides, musical entertainment, track events, concessions and more offered.

August

**Annual Vinton Civil War Bean Dinner**, Aug. 3, Vinton. American Legion Post 161 and Auxiliary will once again be hosting with a parade, bingo, live music, children’s activities and more.

**Gallipolis Car Club Car Show**, Aug. 10, 9 a.m. - noon, Gallipolis City Park. Classic and custom cars.

**Annual Radio Control Fly-In**, Rio Grande at the Bob Evans Farm, more details TBA.

**Holzer Hospice Car Show**, Aug. 17, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m., Thaler Building, 2881 State Route 160, Gallipolis.

**Hot Summer Nights**, concert series at the French Art Colony Pavilion, gates open at 6 p.m., music begins at 6:30 p.m. on Thursdays, with August’s lineup as follows: Aug. 8, Matt Metheney; Aug. 15, Daniel Josephi; Aug. 22, TBA; Aug. 29, Brent Patterson.

September

The 13th annual Harvest Moon Pow Wow, returns to Gallipolis City Park Labor Day Weekend, when members of many tribes get together to celebrate Native American culture by practic-
Seasonal events

 Raised Around Rio, farmers and artisan market, late April to Sept. 7, every Wednesday on North College Avenue in Rio Grande from 4 to 7 p.m.; Saturday from 9 a.m. to noon. The Saturday market will be located a little east of the intersection of Ohio 588 and Ohio 325, right beside Twisted Specialty Supply.

 Gospel In the Park, May-August, Friday’s in Gallipolis City Park 6 p.m. Free Admission; Bring Lawn Chairs. Subject to change.

 French 500 Flea Market, Gallia County Junior Fairgrounds, 8 a.m. - 5 p.m., free admission and parking. July 12-14; August (none); September 13-15; Oct. 11-13; Nov. 1-3.

 First Fridays, Takes place the first Friday of May, June, July, August, September and October in downtown Gallipolis. Special events, shopping, entertainment.
Mason County

July

**Inaugural Point Pleasant Liberty Fest Parade**, July 4, Main Street Point Pleasant, 5:30 p.m., lineup is 5 p.m. at 1100 Main Street.

**Inaugural Point Pleasant Liberty Fest**, July 4, Main Street and Riverfront Park, 6-10 p.m., live music, vendors, fireworks and more. Admission is free.

**Independence Day at Fort Randolph**, July 4, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., take a trip back in time to explore the fort and learn about life on the frontier. Visit this reproduction of the fort where history was made near where the great Ohio and Kanawha Rivers meet, and where the legends of the American Colonial frontier walked. In 1973, Fort Randolph was rebuilt in Krodel Park in Point Pleasant, a mile from its original site.

**Mason/New Haven Fourth of July Parade**, 11 a.m., lineup at Community Center in New Haven.

**Antique Tractor Pull**, July 6, 5 p.m., West Virginia State Farm Museum. Located at 1458 Fairground Road, directly across from the Mason County Fairgrounds north of Point Pleasant. Free admission.

**Peck Fest**, July 5-6, Kanawha River Campground 10758 Charleston Road, outside Point Pleasant. On Friday, July 5, 7:30 p.m., Buckcherry, then at 9:30 p.m., Brett Michaels. July 6, 9 p.m., Hank Williams, Jr. Tickets required. Go to www.peckfest.com for more information.

**Mayor’s Night Out**, July 12, 8 p.m., Cee Cee Miller performs a night of country, rock, and blue. Free concert at Riverfront Park in Point Pleasant.

**Docking of the American Duchess**, July 19, Riverfront Park in Point Pleasant. Described by her owners, the American Steamboat Company, as the most elegant paddlewheeler on U.S. rivers, the vessel can carry up to 166 guests through America’s heartland. The paddlewheeler, created from a 1995 hull, was completely reconstructed to become one of the most luxurious river cruising vessels in the country, featuring single-seating main dining and entertainment venues, soaring ceilings, and all of the features guests have come to expect on other American Queen Steamboat Company cruises.

**Mayor’s Night Out**, July 19, 8 p.m., Devin Henry takes the stage offering a variety of country and rock tunes. Free concert.
at Riverfront Park in Point Pleasant.

**Mayor’s Night Out**, July 26, 8 p.m., Blue Moves will be performing some oldies such as musical styling of Elton John and the Beatles. Free concert at Riverfront Park in Point Pleasant.

**Tractor Parade & Show**, West Virginia State Farm Museum, 9 a.m., July 27. Parade travels from farm museum to Point Pleasant and back, contact John Ohlinger, 304-882-2422 / Farm Museum, 304-675-5737. Located at 1458 Fairground Road, directly across from the Mason County Fairgrounds north of Point Pleasant. Free admission.

**Belle of Cincinnati Dinner Cruise**, July 29, Riverfront Park in Point Pleasant, 6:30-9:30 p.m. Fundraiser for the Point Pleasant River Museum and Learning Center includes a night of dinner and entertainment along the Ohio River. The Belle of Cincinnati is known as the flagship of BB Riverboats and is described as being a “majestic and ornate beauty,” by her owners. According to BB Riverboats, the Belle is also known for allowing visitors to “cruise in ultimate comfort and luxury surrounded by a lavish Victorian decor, appointed with sumptuous details.” Call the river museum for tickets at 1-304-674-0144.

**August**

**Mayor’s Night Out**, Aug. 2, 8 p.m., local singer/songwriter Paul Doeffinger to the stage performing his original songs and classic hits. Free concert at Riverfront Park in Point Pleasant.

**Mason County Fair Parade**, Aug. 3, noon, Main Street Point Pleasant. Line up is at 10 a.m. on Second Street.

**Mason County Fair**, Aug. 5-10, 9 a.m. - 11 p.m., daily, Mason County Fairgrounds. Carnival, musical entertainment, food, games, livestock shows and more.

**Mayor’s Night Out**, Aug. 16, 8 p.m., Covered by Love will perform Aug. 16, offering a night of gospel tunes. Free concert at Riverfront Park in Point Pleasant.

**Mayor’s Night Out**, Aug. 23, 8 p.m., Scotty Randolph will be performing country, blues, and southern rock. Free concert at Riverfront Park in Point Pleasant.


**Tribute to the River**, Aug. 30-31, Riverfront Park in Point Pleasant. Celebrate life along the river with tours of a working towboat, educational displays, concessions, music, kid games and more. Free admission.

**September**

**Antique Tractor Pull**, Sept. 7, 5 p.m., West Virginia State Farm Museum. Located at 1458 Fairground Road, directly across from the Mason County Fairgrounds north of Point Pleasant. Free admission.

**Mothman Hayrides**, Sept. 21, 7 p.m., West Virginia State Farm Museum. Buy tickets at the Mothman Festival for rides through the TNT area, home of Mothman.

**Fort Randolph** in Point Pleasant at Krodel Park, open for tours during the Mothman Festival, Sept. 21, 11 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Boyd and Greenup counties

July
- **Summer Motion** festival in Ashland, Ky. headlines music acts, Tenth Avenue North and The Marshall Tucker Band. For a full schedule of events, please visit, www.summermotion.com.

- **Greenup County Music Festival**, July 13, at 5:00 p.m. at Greenbo Lake State Resort Park. Emmy Davis & Friends at 7:00, JB & HLL at 8:00, Sean Whiting at 9:00.

- **Greenup County Music Heritage Festival**, July 14, 5-10 p.m. Sponsored by Greenup Extension Arts Council. Event will take place at Greenbo Lake’s Amphitheater. Event free to the public. Schedule of performers TBD.

August
- **Greenbo Lake Red Hot Rock n Blues Festival**, August 10, 5 p.m. - 10 p.m. The second show of the Greenbo Summer Music Series sponsored by Greenup Extension Arts Council. Event will take place at Greenbo Lake’s Amphitheater. Event free to the public. Schedule of performers TBD.

- **Greenbo Grass Bluegrass Festival**, Aug. 11, 5-10 p.m. at Greenbo Lake’s Amphitheater. Event is sponsored by the Greenup Extension Arts Council. Admission is free. Artists TBA. Contact: Phone: (606) 473-7324 or email stephanie.poplin@ky.gov

For even more information, visit the Ashland/Boyd County Convention & Visitors Bureau, 1509 Winchester Ave., Ashland, Ky, 1-800-377-624, or go to www.visitashlandky.com and www.tourgreenupcounty.org.
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