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opportunities including boating, fishing, hunting, swimming, and fun for the entire family. An abundance of wildlife and fish species makes

Benton County a sportsman's paradise. TWRA (TN wildlife resources agency) maintains a number of WMAs (Wildlife Management Ar-

North America and is located on the 58 acre Resort. You can also visit the historic site where country music stars Patsy Cline, Cowboy Copas, Hawk-



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eas) to help protect and control local wildlife and Benton County lies in the heart of the TN National Wildlife Refuge managed by U.S. Fish and Wildlife managing for migratory birds.

Benton County is home to Birdsong Resort and Marina, which is the State of Tennessee's official site of Freshwater Pearl Culturing. The TN River Freshwater Pearl Museum, Farm and Tour is the only freshwater pearl culturing in

shaw Hawkins, and pilot Randy Hughes tragically lost their lives in a plane crash. Very recently, Benton County invested grant dollars to do a mass overhaul on the Memorial site. The site now boasts an informational kiosk, gazebo, stone entryway, and iron bench seating.

Benton County also boasts a rich history with a heritage that includes river folklore, agriculture, Civil War,





Native American History, and so much more. The Folk Life Museum atop Pilot Knob in Nathan Bedford Forrest State Park tells the story of life on the river and a monument to the Civil War Battle of Johnsonville is located outside of the museum standing guard like an ancient sentinel over the majestic Tennessee River Valley. The Nathan Bedford Forrest State Park also offers a variety of family friendly programs and activities as well as numerous campsites and cabins. Or you can stop by the Eva Beach Day Use Area where you can place your toes in the sand, have a picnic, swim, and enjoy the new renovated playground area.

Like most small communities, Benton County has plenty of opportunity to enjoy community activities. The third Saturday in April you will always find the Old Time Bluegrass and Fiddlers' Jamboree in Holladay. On Memorial

Weekend you can head on down to Big Sandy to visit with everyone at the Spring Festival. Every 4th Saturday of the month from April to October, you can join the Legend Cruisers to enjoy a Cruise In. Or the first weekend in June you can have the opportunity to weave baskets at the annual Weave-In presented by the West TN Basket Guild. The first Saturday in August will be the Waterfowl Festival in Big Sandy. On Labor Day weekend you can shop for trinkets and treasures at Bargain Highway which is a 30 mile yard sale. The third weekend in September will be the Eva Beach Music Festival. Rounding out the year will be the Magic Valley Christmas Parade on the 2nd Saturday in December. Great yearly events that we would love to have you come to visit. Stop by the Benton County/Camden Chamber of Commerce for information about any and all Benton County attractions or activities.

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**FEBRUARY**

- 1 Harry Potter Day at W. G. Rhoads Library - Magic at 4pm
- 4 May 3 Young Artists Showcase at Lee Academy
- 6 Teen Invitational Snowflake Making at W. G. Rhoads Library 4-5pm
- 8 Adult Invitational Snowflake Making at W. G. Rhoads Library 5:30-4:30pm
- 12 LEGO free play at W. G. Rhoads Library 3:30-4:30pm
- 15 Chinese New Year - Fun making craft at W. G. Rhoads Library
- 27 Lion's Club Chili Day, First United Methodist Church 11am-7pm

**MARCH**

- 3 MSU "The Glory of Anne Frank" at KMAC, 7pm
- 3 Wine & Dine with FINE Race event at Paris Winery 6-8:30pm
- 4 April 5 18th Annual Photo Showcase at Lee Academy
- 12 LEGO free play at W. G. Rhoads Library 3:30-4:30pm
- 16 St. Patrick's Day Luncheon at First Christian Church 11am-1pm
- 20 Optional Spaghetti Lunch at First U.M. Methodist Church 11am-2pm, 4-7pm
- 26-30 Holy Week Services
- 30 Teen Glow in the Dark Egg Hunt at W. G. Rhoads Library 7-10pm
- 31 WMOP/WLZX Annual Easter Egg Hunt 11am at Ogden Park

**APRIL**

- 7 FINE Spring Yard Sale in Life Center 7am-12pm
- 8 May 3 12th Annual Artists Showcase at Lee Academy
- 9 LEGO free play at W. G. Rhoads Library 3:30-4:30pm
- 15 Painting Party at FINE Center 2-4pm
- 17 Fish Grubbin' at W. G. Rhoads Library 5-6pm
- 20 DPA April in Paris Fashion Luncheon at The Old Paris S&B 11am-1pm
- 21 Carl Perkins Center Cast & West Fishing/Hunting event at Paris Landing
- 23-24 World's Biggest Fish Fry Week
- 23 Street Dance Downtown, 7pm
- 24 Downtown Cruise-In on Poplar Street on the Court Square 5:30-7pm
- 27 World's Biggest Fish Fry Parade 10am
- 28 Chalk Travel for Kids 10am-12pm
- 28 Small Fry Parade 10am
- 28 Catfish Races 10:30am

**MAY**

- 4 Spring Gathering at First United Methodist Church 11am-1pm
- 8 Mother's Day Gift Craft at W. G. Rhoads Library 6-7pm
- 11 Fancy Nancy at the W. G. Rhoads Library - Registration required
- 14 LEGO free play at W. G. Rhoads Library 3:30-4:30pm
- 22 Downtown Cruise-In on Poplar Street on the Court Square 5:30-7pm

**JUNE**

- 1 First Day to register for Summer Reading at W. G. Rhoads Library
- 3 Downtown Paris Week
- 5 Music on the Square on the Court Square 5:30-7pm
- 6 Heritage Day with Downtown Walking tour 11am and 12pm
- 7 Sweetest Night in Downtown Plaza Park 5:30pm
- 9 Downtown Paris Art Walk in the West Alley 10am-2pm
- 11 First day to check out books for Summer Reading at W. G. Rhoads Library
- 26 Downtown Cruise-In on Poplar Street on the Court Square 5:30-7pm

**JULY**

- 31 Water Fun Run sponsored by the Paris Henry County Chamber of Commerce
- 31 Ice Cream Social & Antique Car & Tractor Show 4-6:30pm

For more information on Downtown Paris, Tennessee:

Website: [www.VisitDowntownParis.com](http://www.VisitDowntownParis.com)  
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# EVERYONE IS IRISH FOR A DAY IN ERIN, TN

by John Wambles

“When I-rish Upon a Shamrock” is the enchanting theme for the 56th Annual Irish Celebration in Erin, Tennessee. For more than half a century the residents of Houston County have been encouraging everyone to wear green and be Irish, even if its only for at one day!

They say a good day starts with a good breakfast – well it seems so does a good celebration! The Irish Day Celebration’s Kick Off Breakfast will be Friday, March 9th, at 9am, held at the Erin City Hall. Besides a hearty breakfast, the Emerald

Awards for community service are announced. Also, the official Master of Ceremonies is named. The title of Lord High Mayor is bestowed upon a resident that has greatly benefited Erin and Houston County with service and dedication.

An event that continues to grow in popularity each year is the Annual 5K. “There’s No Place I’d Rather Be” 5K, sponsored by the Irish Fire-fighter’s Benevolent Association, will begin at 8am, Saturday, March 10th. More information may be

obtained by calling Todd Davis at (931)721-6569 or Donnette Stanley, (931) 627-9841.

The Rotary Golf Tournament is also on Saturday, March 10th, shotgun start at 8am, at the Paris Landing State Park Golf Course. Contact Ray Fussell at (931) 721-6447 for more information. Check in begins at 6am for the 12th Annual Irish Celebration Bass Tournament, at Danville Lake, on Saturday as well. Foul weather date has been set for March 24th. The Bass Tournament is sponsored by R40. For more information call Chuck Latham at (931) 624-1215.

The Houston County High School will present Coffee and a Concert: Folk Tunes With Old Friends as this year’s featured musical event. The concert will be

held at the Houston County High School Forum on Monday, March 12th, at 7pm. Admission will be \$5 per person and includes a drink and dessert. Enjoy time with old friends, make some new ones, listen to soothing folk music and taste the best of Houston County’s baking all in the same evening!

It’s carnival time in Erin, Tennessee!! The Irish Celebration Carnival opens on Tuesday, March 13th, on Front Street in Downtown Erin. The carnival will be open thru Saturday, March 17th. Bring the whole family; there is a little something for everyone! Big scary rides for the dare-devils, kiddie rides for the children, and games and prizes for anyone who wants to give it a try. You can find yummy treats like foot long corn

dogs and ice cold lemon-aide. Look for special discounts on Family Nights – Wednesday and Thursday and on Dollar Night on Friday.

Experience an authentic Irish concert when the Nashville Irish Trio perform traditional ballads and lively tunes on Tuesday evening at 7pm. There is no charge for this concert sponsored by the Houston County Arts Council. The Nashville Irish Trio will perform at the Erin United Methodist Church, located on Spring Street.

No matter how busy a celebration gets, there is always time for some good gospel music. The Irish Celebration has some of the best every year at the Homecoming Jubilee – Gospel Singing. The gospel singing is held at the Yellow Creek

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Baptist Church, on Ellis Mills Rd., in Erin. The music will begin at 6:30pm on Thursday, March 15th.

The eve of St. Patrick's Day has almost as much going on as the big day itself! The Houston County Area Chamber of Commerce sponsors the Irish Banquet and Silent Auction on Friday, March 16th. Tickets are required for this event and are \$30. Social hour begins at 5pm at the Houston County High School Forum. The chef prepared meal begins at 6pm. Throughout the evening there will be a silent auction on numerous unique items. Tickets are available in advance at the Erin City Hall. Contact them at (931) 289-4108. After the banquet the party is just getting started. The Legacy Band will be performing at the Perdue Acoustics Show Grounds, located on Front St., beginning at 7pm. This event, sponsored by the Houston County Fair Board, features live music, Irish food and other refreshments! The cover charge is only \$3 for everyone ages 12 years old and up.

St. Patrick's Day, Saturday, March 17th, is the day to be in Erin! The entire county is

covered in green and everyone is filled with Irish charm. The day gets started with a Pancake Breakfast, 6:30-10am, at the Erin United Methodist Church, located at the corner of Spring St. and Walnut St. in Erin. Enjoy delicious pancakes and the fixin's that come with them for only \$6. The Houston County Archives, located on the lower floor of the Houston County Courthouse, is open to the public from 9am-4pm. Also, the graduating classes from the decade of the 70's are the featured classes this year and will meet at Shamrocks & Shenanigans, on the Court Square, from 9am-4pm. Of course, all classes are welcome to stop by and visit and partake of the fellowship from old friends from the past.

No celebration in the state of Tennessee is complete without some type of parade. The Irish Celebration has two of them! The Leprechaun Parade, a children's version of the Grand Parade, lines up at the Erin Nazarene Church. Be there early and ready, costume and ride judging begins at 10:30am and no last minute entries are permitted. The Leprechaun Parade will begin promptly

at 10:45am. More information may be obtained by contacting Abby Rouse (931) 289-8792. Again think about getting to downtown Erin early for the Grand Parade. Main Street closes at 10am. Line up and all judging begins at 10am and the parade rolls out at 11am. Decorated floats and automobiles, beauty queens, veterans and lots of green will fill the streets with Irish pride. You don't want to miss either spectacular event!

The day literally ends with a bang at the Demolition Derby and Power Wheels Competition. The gates at the Perdue Acoustics Show Grounds on Front St. open at 10am. Register your car up until derby time. The children should bring their own Power Wheels for

their competition. The Power Wheels Competition will begin at 3pm and the Derby will begin immediately at its conclusion. This event is sponsored by the Houston County Fair. Contact Jason Schmidt for more information, (931) 721-3945.

The Irish Celebration always has something going on that is sure to entertain everyone in your family! It might be a long curvy road to get there from any where, but it will definitely be worth the drive! Come and I-rish on a Shamrock in Erin, Tennessee for St. Patrick's Day. It will be a memory you won't soon forget!



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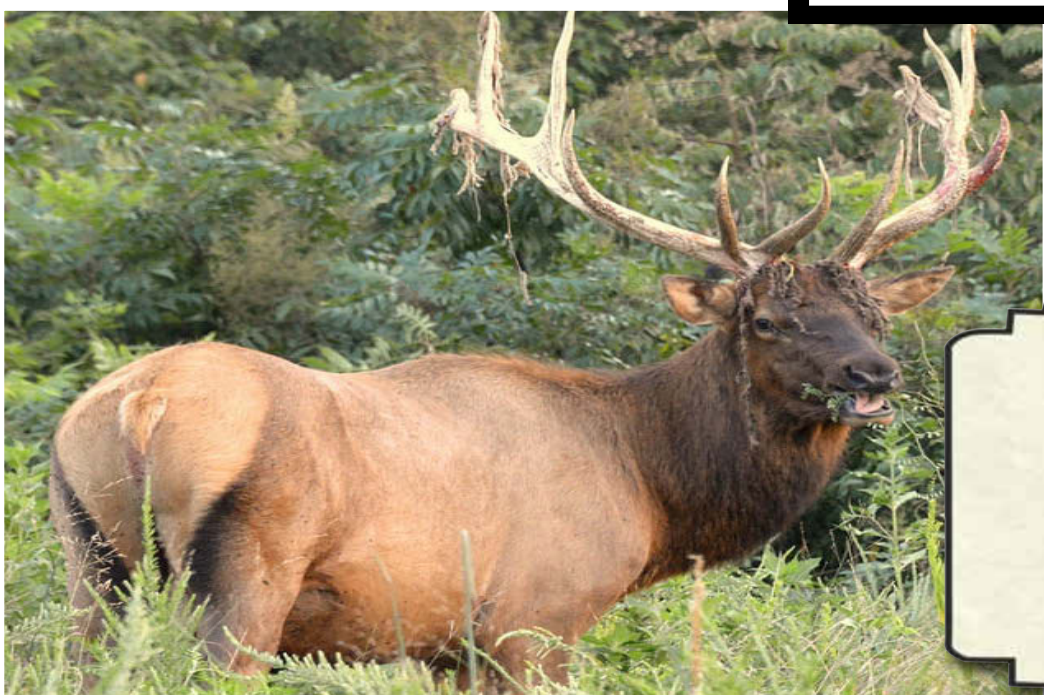


# HAVE YOU SEEN



The 1850s Homeplace Working Farm and Museum is part of Land Between the Lakes National Recreation Area in western Kentucky and Tennessee.

The bobcat is one of the animals featured at the Woodlands Nature Station at Land Between the Lakes National Recreation Area in Kentucky and Tennessee.



The 700 acre Elk and Bison Prairie is a drive through enclosure at Land Between the Lakes National Recreation Area in Kentucky and Tennessee.



# THE LAND BETWEEN THE LAKES?

The bison herd at Land Between the Lakes in Kentucky and Tennessee visible at the Elk and Bison Prairie and the South Bison Range.



Wildlife viewing, a popular activity at Land Between the Lakes, a 170,000 acre National Recreation Area in western Kentucky and Tennessee.

The Golden Pond Visitor Center at Land Between the Lakes includes both a planetarium, which offers educational programming and laser shows, and an observatory. The Friends of Land Between the Lakes is currently fundraising to replace the planetarium projector. Donations may be made by contacting [www.friendsoflbl.org](http://www.friendsoflbl.org).





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Throughout the year Paris, and Henry County plays host to a number of exciting events such as The World's Biggest Fish Fry which includes a carnival, parade, rodeo, and the best catfish

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**Only Paris, TN  
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Biggest Fish Fry**

by John Wambles

The World's Biggest Fish Fry has the distinction of being one of those events that covers every single aspect of what makes a great time in the south. You need good fried food, all

kinds of music and dancing, arts and crafts, a rodeo, a demolition derby, a full-blown carnival, a grand parade and some beauty queens to make it possible. Well the World's Biggest

Fish Fry serves about six tons of fried catfish along with all the fixin's. There is a street dance, a country dance and a Christian concert. You will find an entire building full of arts and crafts to look at and buy. The carnival has almost every ride you can imagine. There's not just one but two parades, a big one and a little one. The IPRA Rodeo is in town and the whole thing gets started with a demolition derby. So basically, the Henry County Jaycees have you totally covered the last full week in April – just like they do every year at the World's Biggest Fish Fry.

The Demolition Derby is a powerful way to start any big event! Each car literally fights to the death to see which is the last one running to take home the top prize. It may truly not be that dramatic but it is that much fun! The collisions begin at 7pm, Saturday, April 21st at the Main Arena at the Henry County Fairgrounds. Admission is \$10 for adults, \$5 for children ages 6 -10, and no charge for children under 5 accompanied by an adult. The entry fee for the derby is \$40 per automobile.


The Henry County Jaycees know that everybody loves to dance! That's why they have scheduled two dances to kick off Fish Fry Week! The first dance is a Street Dance in Downtown Paris around the Court Square. The band will be set up on the lawn and the streets will be closed for line dancing, couples dancing, square dancing or whatever you call your dancing. The Street Dance is free to the public and begins at 7am, Monday, April 23rd. The Country Dance, sponsored

by WMUF Radio, is held at the Enoch Building on the Henry County Fairgrounds. Enjoy classic country music mixed in with some of today's favorite hits. This dance is indoors and seating is provided for those that would rather take it easy and enjoy the cool AC. But, as always, you can't stop the dancing. And who would want to? Fish Fry is all about having fun! The Country Dance is Tuesday, April 24th, beginning at 6pm, admission is only \$5.

The World's Biggest Fish Fry Carnival is one of the largest to come to our area all year long. It is full of traditional rides like the swings, the merry-go-round and Ferris wheel. There are the rides for the more daring like the Scrambler and the Tilt-A-Whirl. And there are plenty of rides for the little ones. There are plenty of games to play and prizes to win. A fun house to try and get through. And if you're not too full from catfish, how about a funnel cake or a freshly squeezed lemonade. The carnival opens at the Henry County Fairgrounds on Tuesday, April 24th at 5pm. It will be open on Wednesday and Thursday, April 25th and 26th at 5pm, Friday and

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Saturday, April 27th and 28th at 11am, and on Sunday, April 29th at 1pm. The Carnival always offers family discounts and bracelet nights. Check out the info in the Fish Fry Book or the Peddler's special Fish Fry Guide when it comes out in April.

The Fish Tents will open at 5pm on Wednesday, April 25th at the Henry County Fairgrounds. Don't worry about the

organizations, civic clubs, churches and city and county officials work as servers each night to make sure your seated and eating ASAP. The Jaycees and their friends keep it cooked up hot and fresh! The Fish Tent hours are Wednesday and Thursday, April 25th and 26th, 5-9pm, Friday and Saturday, April 27th and 28th, 11am-9pm.

The IPRA rodeo is in town for the Fish

day and Saturday evenings, beginning at 7:30pm at the Main Arena at the Henry County Fairgrounds. Admission is \$10 for adults and \$8 for children ages 6 to 10. There's nothing like a good supper followed by a good show. So come on out to the Fish Tents and then head over to the Main Arena for an exciting evening for the whole family.

You better get to Paris early on

up automobiles, lively marching bands, precision dance corps, walking units, local military and police, fire department and rescue units, and lots of youngsters and the young at heart! Everyone shows up for the Grand Parade at the World's Biggest Fish Fry. Remember, get to Paris before 9am and find a good spot! The Grand Parade rolls down East Wood St. at 10am. After the parade, head on over to the Henry County Fairgrounds and spend the rest of the day enjoying good food, good times and good friends!

Fish Fry moves to Downtown Paris on Saturday, April 28th. So many fun things are going on everywhere you turn. This day also gets started with a parade, but this one is a little different. It is the Small Fry Parade and is totally made up of the minnows in Henry County. Little boys and girls get dressed up in costumes and either march around the Court Square with their school or group or ride on home-made floats that are pulled by mom or dad. It is simply the most adorable sight you will see at all of the World's Biggest Fish Fry! The Small Fry Parade gets going at 10:30am, line up is

at the First United Methodist Church on Blythe Street. After the Small Fry Parade it is time for some Fish Tales. Students from area schools write their best tales about the fish that are participating in the Catfish Races. What you have never heard of racing catfish? Exclusive to the World's Biggest Fish Fry are the Catfish Races! Competitive catfish race in specially built clear waterways until there is only one catfish left as the victor. It is

as exciting as it is unique. Something you will always talk about and don't want to miss. Also going on in Downtown Paris the is the Chalk Crawl for Kids. The Downtown Paris Association provides colored chalk and the assistance of local artists for a fun chalk crawl on the Court House sidewalk. When everyone is finished downtown it is definitely time to head back to the fairgrounds for some delicious catfish, go to the

carnival and to see some Arts and Crafts.

There is so much going on and so many things still being planned that it is hard to mention everything. The one thing everyone around here knows for sure is that the Henry County Jaycees always put on a grand event. Visit Paris and Henry County the last week of April and come see everything that is happening at the World's Biggest Fish Fry!



long lines, they move fast and everyone gets all you can eat! \$12 buys you a delicious catfish filet dinner, with hush puppies, french fries, white beans, cole slaw and a cold drink. Stay at the fish tent and you can eat all you can hold. Carry outs are available. Tradition has it that the Hostess Princess tosses the first hush puppy to her daddy and then the feeding frenzy begins. Volunteers from community

Fry and the excitement gets started at 7:30pm on Family Night, Thursday, April 26th. General admission on Family Night is only \$5 per person. Come see the bull riding, the horse bucking and the barrel races! The IPRA Rodeo is a one-of-a-kind competition between amateur and professional rodeo riders. Seasoned pros follow the circuit, as well as, local new-comers. The Rodeo will continue on Fri-

Friday, April 27th, especially if you are wanting a good spot to watch the Grand Parade! People start claiming their spots before the sun comes up along East Wood Street and for good reason, they close the streets by 9am. The Grand Parade is made up of hundreds of volunteers and participants and seen by literally thousands of people. You will see huge decorated floats in all kinds of themes, dressed

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by John Wambles

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Nothing says a good time like a family friendly festival. Northwest Tennessee is known for its fun gatherings and unique events. Get out your family planner and mark these weekends now so you won't miss the opportunity to create lasting family memories.

The small town of Bruceton, Tennessee sure puts on a big time festival! Bruceton In May has it all, good food, fun games, lively music and a golf cart parade!

Don't make plans for the second Saturday in May, unless it's to head to the funnest spot on Highway 70 in Northwest Tennessee. Everything happens at Bruce-ton Memorial Park beginning at 10am with the Opening Ceremony. Everyone is greeted and the competitors for the BBQ contest are put to the task. Immediately following the Opening Ceremony there is a fun Golf Cart Parade. This is an exclusive parade just to Bruceton in May. Decorated

golf carts encircle the park and bring the smiles out of everyone around.

Spend the rest of the day playing games, visiting the petting zoo, participating in the dog show, playing in the Bouncy House, riding the ISTE train and eating lots of yummy food. The BBQ Cookoff Contest concludes at 4pm when the judging begins. Enjoy delicious BBQ styles from all around the region. At the conclusion of the evening, a band takes to the Main Stage and fills the night with music until everyone is ready to head home. People travel from all over to get a taste of some delicious BBQ, hear some great music and have a good time at Bruceton in May. They hope to see you at Memorial Park, Saturday, May 12th! For more info check out their Facebook page at Bruceton in MAY Festival or call City Hall at (731) 586-2401.

The Iris Festival in Dresden, Tennessee started out as an Easter Parade almost 40 years ago. Now it has

grown into one of the premier events in our area. Thousands come from near and far to admire the beautiful Irises and to partake in some good down-home food and fun. The week long event includes a wide variety of activities. A few of the events you will find going on are the citywide yard sale, Art Show, Pet Show, Flower Shows, a 5K, a Grand Parade, a Golf Tournament, a Pancake Supper, a Fashion Show and a Bicycle Rodeo.

The Iris Festival is also famous for its BBQ Cook Off and its Music Festival. It's worth the drive just to come see the glorious Irises, but stick around and let the charm of Dresden, Tennessee and its residents make you feel like you're at home. The Iris Festival runs from April 28th to May 5th and you don't want to miss a second of it. For a full schedule of events check out [www.tennesseeirisfestival.net](http://www.tennesseeirisfestival.net).

Big Sandy, Tennessee is the place to be Memorial Day weekend. They hold their annual Spring Festival on

the Saturday before the holiday. This year's event will be May 26th. The Spring Festival starts the day with a Classic Car Show located in downtown Big Sandy. The Grand Parade starts at the Big Sandy High School and makes its way downtown starting at 10am. The afternoon has a multitude of activities all over Main Street and at the City Park. Bands will be playing country and rock and roll music. There will be games, a petting zoo, face painting and tons of food. The Spring Festival finishes the day with a huge fireworks display over the City Park. Don't let the size of the town fool you – everyone has a big time at the Spring Festival!

The town of Big Sandy is also the host for the Waterfowl Festival and the TWRA Duck Blind Drawing on Saturday, August 4th. Thousands of folks gather at the City Park located on Ballpark Road in Downtown Big Sandy for demonstrations, exhibits, good food and fun! Exhibitors and vendors from

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all over will be on hand selling hunting equipment and accessories. There will also be hunting dog and duck call demonstrations. Come early to register for the TWRA Duck Blind locations in the Kentucky Lake Region. Registration begins just after sunrise and the festival goes on all day. If you enjoy duck hunting, this is the place to be. For more information about the Waterfowl Festival and TWRA Duck Blind Drawing visit [www.tnvacation.com](http://www.tnvacation.com).

The city of Henry, Tennessee proudly celebrates Pioneer Day every third Saturday in September! The Henry Volunteer Fire Department coordinates the event at the Henry Civic Center. Pioneer Day is jam packed with fun activities for everyone in

your family. The day gets started at 10am with a Pioneer Day Parade. Floats, automobiles and walking units gather to show their respect and pride to the community of Henry.

Immediately following the parade will be games and concessions on the Civic Center Lawn. The volunteer fire department holds a big fish fry and an old-fashioned cake walk. The sale of the desserts helps raise money for the fire department in Henry. The rest of the afternoon is filled with demonstrations by the Paris-Henry County Rescue Squad and Air Evac. Come night fall you can choose your entertainment. At past events you could pick professional wrestling or listen to a local band. No matter what you choose

to do, everyone has a good time. Make sure and visit Henry, Tennessee on Saturday, September 15th for this year's Pioneer Day!

The Huntingdon Heritage Festival is a special occasion in Carroll County. The city of Huntingdon stops to take a moment and celebrates its citizens, businesses and agriculture along with having a really good time. The Heritage Festival will be held Saturday, September 22nd, on the Court Square in downtown Huntingdon.

Each year the coordinators of the festival recognize a Pioneer Family and an Outstanding Citizen. Recent families to be celebrated were the Hilliard Family, the Butler Family and the Williams Family. Outstanding

Citizens that have been recognized have included Ray Smith, Dr. Jerry Atkins and Ethel Louise Sparkman. Visit this year's festival to find out who will be the current recipients. The themes also play a big part in the festival – usually acknowledging a different industry or professional group in Carroll County. Past themes have included School Days – Our Education Heritage,

Down On The Farm – Our Agriculture Heritage and Honoring Our Civil War Heritage.

All around the Court Square you will find many events going on. There is plenty of arts and crafts, story telling, a petting zoo, delicious food and live entertainment. The Huntingdon Heritage Festival is always on the fourth Saturday in September. Make plans to celebrate

their history with them on that day! Visit [www.huntingdon.com](http://www.huntingdon.com) for more information at their annual Heritage Festival.

Despite being basically a rural area, there is always a lot going on! Lots of volunteer time and effort is put into each one of these events. It would be such a waste to not visit them and take full advantage of everything they have to offer! So

fill the car up with gas, load up the family and take a short road trip and visit as many as you can. It won't take you long to get there, the day will come and go, but the memories you create will last a lifetime!





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## Downtown Cruise Ins are Classics

Polish and shine that car because classic and antique cars will fill Poplar Street next to the Court Square the fourth Tuesdays of the months of April, May, June, August and September from 5:30 pm to 7:00 pm. Poplar Street, east of the Courthouse, is for classic cars only! Downtown Cruise Ins are fun even if you don't have a classic car to bring. The Cruise In is a FREE event sponsored by the Downtown Paris Association.

Bring a classic car and register to win prizes donated by members of the

Downtown Paris Association. Prizes are awarded to car owners every 15 minutes during the Cruise In. There is live music at each

Cruise In so bring your lawn chair and your dancing shoes. The music lineup this year is great! April 24th is The Old Spir-

its. May 22nd is Rockin' Randall French sponsored by BPU. June 26th is Olivia Faye and Dirty Don Rachford. August 28th

will feature The Trifekta Reunion with Tabitha and Mark McWherter and Jim Merrell. September 25th will feature The

Chill Tonics. Each Cruise In promises a toe tapping fun time.

Perry's Barbeque is ready to serve hot sandwiches and drinks so bring an appetite and sit under the trees on the Courthouse lawn and enjoy an evening of fun, food, music, and classic cars!

For more information, email [DowntownParis@](mailto:DowntownParis@outlook.com)

[outlook.com](mailto:outlook.com) or call 731-653-PARIS (7274).

*The mission of the Downtown Paris Association is to promote prosperous business activity and community involvement while encouraging preservation of the downtown area.*





# CHAMBER SHOWCASE

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Maybe you are looking for a relaxing afternoon and a picnic - visit the Carroll County Thousand Acre Recreational Lake for your enjoy-



ment. For more information on the Carroll County Thousand Acre Recreational Lake call 731-986-5540. Maybe you want to practice your shooting skills - then visit the Carroll County Shooting Sports Park. For more informa-

tion call 731-234-6759.

The Carroll County Shooting Sports Park and the Thousand Acre Recreational Lake have made Carroll County a destination for families and outdoors enthusiasts.

Maybe you want to be entertained by a play, singing, etc. - then visit the Dixie Carter Performing Arts and Enrichment Center or the Bethel Renaissance venue. For more information on the Dixie, call 731-986-2100. For more information

on Bethel Renaissance, call 731-352-6980.

With Bethel Renaissance and the Dixie Carter Performing Arts Center leading the way, Carroll County has become a leader in the arts in rural America.

The Dixie PAC, Bethel Renaissance, the Carroll County Thousand Acre Recreational Lake, and the Carroll County Shooting Sports Park are rapidly advancing Carroll County as the place to be. Each of the eight towns is very proud of their community and likes to show it with various festivals and activities taking place throughout the year. There is a lot going on in Carroll County, come and see for yourself.

Please call the Carroll County Chamber of Commerce office at 731-986-4664, when we can be of assistance. We look forward to seeing you in Carroll County, Tennessee.

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# America Celebrates the 4th With Lots of Fireworks!

By John Wambles

No matter what direction you turn this summer you will be able to find some kind of big celebration on America's favorite holiday – the Fourth of July! Parades, music, food, games and fireworks will set the tone for the party of the year!

The Cottage Grove Volunteer Fire Department works hard to put on a party that lasts all day and well into the night! Everyone gathers at the old school building on Main Street,

for music, dancing, games, food and a whole lot of fun! The day begins around 9am with a flea market and arts and crafts' tables. You

can also find some delicious home-made baked goods on sale, as well. A Grand Parade takes over Main Street at 10am. You don't want to miss the

motorcycle club as they roar down the street and rev up the crowd! That afternoon is all about the food and fun. BBQ plates and a cake walk are the



highlights of the day. Past activities have included a pet pageant, a greased hog catching contest, hay rides and a dunking booth. Enjoy all kinds of music, from bluegrass to country to gospel to rock and roll! The spotlight of last year's Freedom Fest was the appearance of the Paula Bridges Band on the main stage. The volunteer firefighters know what they are doing when they put on their big show. Come 9:30pm the world can easily

find Cottage Grove, Tennessee by just looking up to the sky. This small town puts on one huge fireworks display. Check out the Peddler Advantage when it gets closer to the big day for a more complete schedule and the latest events.

Murray, Kentucky has become known as the host of one of the largest 4th of July Celebrations in the bluegrass state! Freedom Fest mixes new ideas with traditional events to create

a day you won't soon forget. Some of the past events have included a Street Fair with lots of vendors, sales items and arts and crafts. The Opening Ceremonies, on the Main Stage in Downtown Murray, features great music and a short patriotic program. Central Park is where you will also find a lot of activities going on, too! Tons of games with prizes, more music at the amphitheater, face-painting, a pet show and yummy food can be found



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all over the park! Freedom Fest has a Grand Parade at 9:30am filled with tons of beautiful floats and automobiles, walking units and costumed patriots from our history's past. The main event is the Fireworks Extravaganza at 9:30pm. You can see these pretty lights from almost any place in the city of Murray! So whether you're at the park, sitting in the stadium parking lot or live nearby, you have the best seat in the house! Visit [www.tourmurray.com](http://www.tourmurray.com) for a complete schedule of events.

You can find the Festival of Freedom in McKenzie, Tennessee. The community gathers at the City Park for variety of patriotic events including music, games of all kinds and a smorgasbord of delicious food. It might be hot but they have plenty of ice cold drinks to help cool you down. Spend the day checking out the local shopping and arts and crafts, too.

The city of McKenzie describes their Fireworks Extravaganza as “unparalleled in the local region.” Now that alone seems like a good enough reason to travel to McKenzie and check them out! For more information visit [www.mckenziekn.gov](http://www.mckenziekn.gov).

The Henry County Jaycees put on one of the best fireworks displays in the Southeast United States! Imagine being next to the beautiful Kentucky Lake watching



fireworks fill the night sky and reflect off the surface of the water. Even in the dark it is a spectacular sight to behold. Come by boat and watch the display from the water or visit the park during the day and set up camp. Paris Landing State Park has so much to offer your family. The swimming

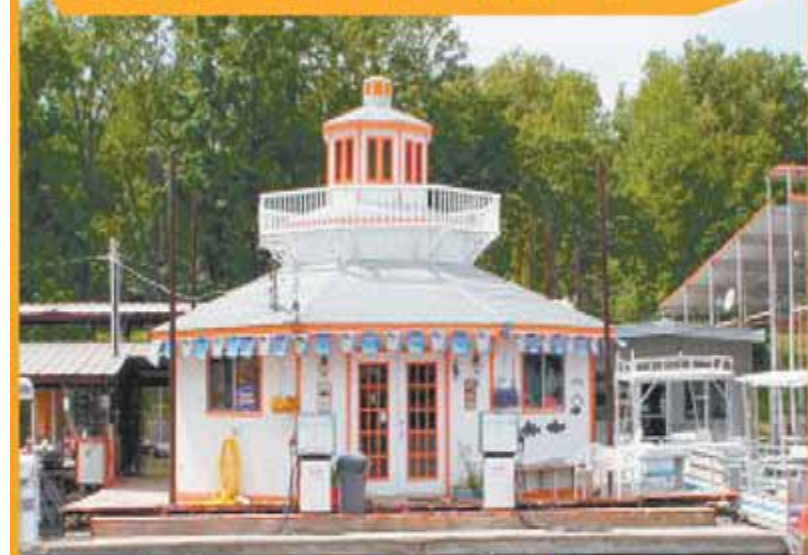
pool will be open so come early and take a dip. There is even a sandy beach next to Kentucky Lake for you to enjoy and relax on. There are plenty of picnic tables, grills and pavilions all over the park on both sides of the Lake Highway. Forget something? Don't worry the Ship Shop will be

open for snacks and beverages. The park fills up quick so get there early and get a good spot. The fireworks get started when its completely dark out. The sky lights up with red, white and blue and can be seen for miles around. Make sure if you are near the area to get out to Kentucky Lake!

Don't let the July heat stop you from having a good time on Independence Day! All of America celebrates and you don't want to be left out! Find the event closest to you or road trip to see something new! Whatever you choose to do – just have a safe and good time celebrating our nation!

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# Downtown Paris Week Celebrates 195 Years

(Paris, TN) How do you celebrate a downtown that is alive and thriving after 195 years? The Downtown Paris Association is throwing a weeklong party that includes delicious food, historic tours, exhibits, live music, great sales, giveaways and more. Downtown Paris Week 2018, is Sunday through Saturday, June 3-9 in Downtown Paris - the "Crown Jewel of West Tennessee." Downtown Paris Week continues to grow with seven exciting days of fun, food, music, history and of course, shopping. The festivities are sponsored by the Downtown Paris Association (DPA).

**Sunday, June 3** – Worship Downtown Day is an opportunity for our community to visit one of six, historic downtown churches for Sunday services. Whether it's First Baptist, First Christian, First Methodist, First Presbyterian, Grace Episcopal or Quinn Chapel AME, the

churches of downtown are welcoming and inspiring. "Many of these historic churches have been in the downtown area since the mid-eighteen hundreds," said Kathy Ray, Executive Director of the DPA. "They are the cornerstones of downtown and are the perfect place to begin Downtown Paris Week."

**Monday, June 4** – Dine Downtown Day celebrates the eateries of downtown Paris. On a day when many local restaurants are closed, the downtown kitchens are hopping places full of excellent cuisine. Enjoy a delicious meal at Take Me Back Café, Perry's BBQ, El Antojo Mexican Grill, Uncle Billy's Downtown Eatery, LL's Bar & Grill, and coffee at Jack's Java, then register to win a prize from the Downtown Paris Association. Top off that meal with a little exercise and culture with the Downtown Art Walk. Throughout the week, a number

of local artists will display their work in various downtown shops.

**Tuesday, June 5** – Music on the Square brings southern rock to the east side of the court house lawn with The Old Spirits. The music flows from 5:30pm – 7:00 pm. And because great music calls for great food, Perry's BBQ will serve BBQ on site. Just bring a chair and enjoy a fun time with an exciting local musical group, and delicious food.

**Wednesday, June 6** – Heritage Day offers the answers to those burning Downtown questions, like "how many times did the court square really catch on fire?" Ray Harding invites locals and visitors alike to find out what's so cool about downtown during his two, free, 30-minute walking tours. Participants should meet on the corner in front of Jack Jones Flowers. The FREE tours depart at 11:00 am and noon. Wear some comfortable

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walking shoes. Visitors will see vintage downtown photos and other historic documents.

**Thursday, June 7** – Songwriters on the Square is sponsored by Paris Fire & Industrial Safety and show-

cases musicians going “round robin” with favorite tunes that they’ve penned themselves. “We have so much talent in our area,” said Kathy Ray. “This is a great way to spotlight it. Our very own local songwriter, Vince

Dodd, will lead the group.” Music lovers can enjoy a variety of talented songsmiths from 5:30 – 8:00 pm in the Downtown Fountain Plaza. Come hungry. Perry’s BBQ will be selling BBQ, sides and drinks. Don’t forget to bring your chair.

**Friday, June 8** – Government Day is a “tip of the hat” to the government workers who serve

our community. Please take a minute to thank a City or County employee for their service to our Community.

**Saturday, June 9** – West Alley Art Walk and Downtown Extra Value Days. The West Alley Art Walk will be in the alley on the west side of the Court Square with artists and their artwork displayed and for sale from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Per-

ry’s BBQ will have food and drinks available. Downtown Extra Value Days will feature special value sales all day in stores downtown.

“This is our Sixth Annual Downtown Paris Week and we feel it encompasses everything that is wonderful about our downtown,” said DPA Executive Director Kathy Ray. “We invite everyone to enjoy the fun of our historical downtown and to become a member of the Downtown Paris Association, where we champion Downtown Paris and our community.”

For more information, stay tuned to the DPA Facebook page, visit www.VisitDowntownParis.com, download the FREE Downtown Paris App, or call (731) 653-7274.

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## Grand Parade

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## Carnival

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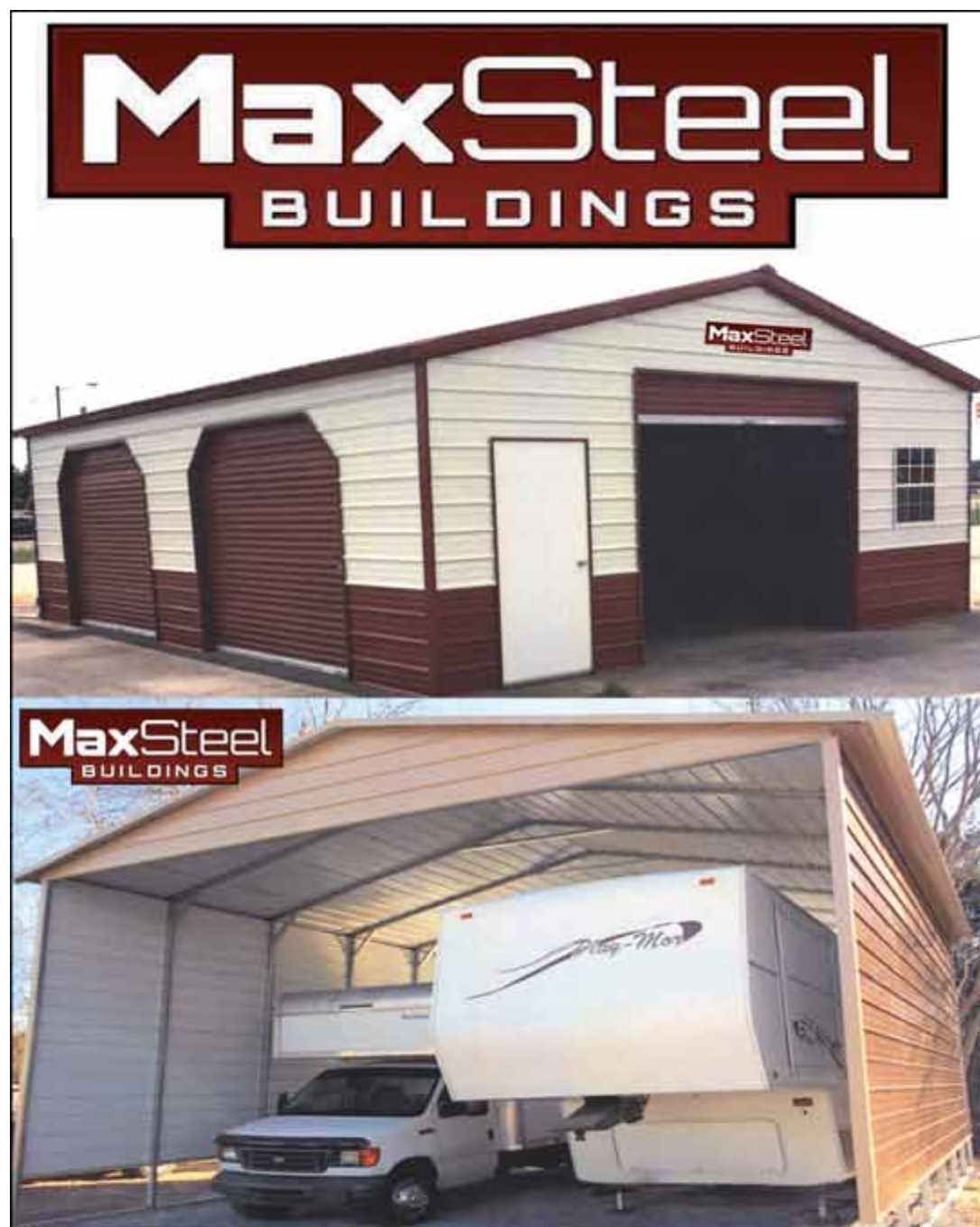
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## CHAMBER SHOWCASE

# Welcome to the Friendliest Small Town in America

Murray, Kentucky, known as the Friendliest Small Town in America, can provide visitors with an experience that they will keep coming back for. Great food, great shopping and great people, makes for a perfect combination. Come see why we are the community that

Cajun from The Keg, Thai and sushi from Jasmine, or plan a really special night at The Alley for high-end favorites like steak and lobster.

Shopping in Murray is unlike any other. Since Murray is home to over 15 local boutiques and shops, you

year. The city is known for Murray State University. Visitors can always plan on an opportunity to enjoy something on campus such as a basketball game, play or music event. In addition to the University, you can be sure to check out the local theatre, Playhouse



even on your first trip, "Feels Like Home."

While you are in Murray, we highly suggest checking out all of our local fare. You can plan an entire trip in Murray around restaurants. Murray Donuts, Martha's, Hih Burger, Sammon's and Rudy's are local favorites for breakfast. For lunch, we suggest H.R.H. Dumplings and Burrito Shack. Both places offer fresh and tasty meals. We hope you have room left for dinner, too. You can enjoy BBQ and

can find clothing, home decor items and jewelry that are incredibly unique and special.

For further shopping finds, check out Hazel, Kentucky, just right up the road in Calhoun County, is home to the greatest selection of antiques in this area. All you will need is your most comfortable pair of shoes so you can go all day long throughout these stores.

Murray, Kentucky, is the host to many exciting events throughout the

in the Park, or events through the Murray Art Guild. Murray Main Street is a host to lots of events in downtown Murray. You can look forward to the Downtown Farmers Market every Saturday starting May 19 through October. Other events downtown include Easter on the Square, Freedom Fest and Ice Cream Festival.

For a full list of restaurants, stores and events, you can visit [tourmurray.com](http://tourmurray.com).



# WATER RUN IS A BIG SPLASH OF FUN!

BY JOHN WAMBLES



The Fourth of July has come and gone and you start thinking that time on Kentucky Lake is over for the summer. No way! That's the right time the Paris-Henry County Chamber of Commerce makes a big splash with their annual Water Fun Run! Get your boat ready for the big day, Saturday, July 21st to hit the lake running and win some big bucks!

For nearly two decades, the Chamber has hosted one of the biggest events of the year to hit Paris Landing. Folks come from all over the Southeast United States to participate in a very unique poker run on the water. No watercraft is turned away! In the past the Fun Run

as had large party boats, jet skis, ski boats and even a kayak participate. It is easy to play the game. Come by the Chamber and pick up your registration package, stamp sheet, instructions and goody bags. (Goody bags are first come first serve, when they are gone there are no more – same for the collector's tee shirts, so get them early). On the day of the

Water Fun Run visit participating resorts located on the shores of Kentucky Lake. Collect stamps on your designated sheet in your registration pack. Return to the designated resort to check-in. There you will be dealt that same number cards corresponding to the number of resorts you visited. From those cards you will choose your best hand out of five

cards. The winners will win cold hard cash!!

Each year the Water Fun Run features a fun theme! Past themes have included the Redneck Yacht Club, Gilligan's Island and Cheeseburgers in Paris-dise. The collector's tee shirt logo is always created around each year's theme. The cost of the registration packets for the Water

Fun Run is \$20 in advance, available at the Chamber and participating resorts. Or you can still join the fun that day for a cost of \$25.

Details for this year's Water Fun Run are still being hashed out but you can bet it will be one of the best ever! Generally, packets go on sale and tee shirts and goody bags are available mid-June. For more information contact the Paris-Henry County Chamber of Commerce at (731) 642-3431. Summer may come and go but the Lake is here all year round. Take time to visit our beautiful Kentucky Lake. Fish, boat, swim, just take a stroll along its shores or enjoy a picnic lunch. It is always there waiting for your visit!

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# ANTIQUE CARS, TRACTORS AND ICE CREAM BOOTHS FILL DOWNTOWN PARIS



Paris, TN - The 9th Annual Ice Cream Social & Antique Car & Tractor Show will fill historic downtown Paris on the last Saturday in July, July 28th, from 4:00 – 6:30 pm. Sponsored by the Downtown Paris Association (DPA), the event benefits the Downtown

Paris Association and the Historic Atkins Porter Neighborhood Association.

“This has become an end-of-summer tradition that folks of all ages look forward to,” said DPA Executive Director Kathy Ray. “Everyone with an event wristband

can enjoy free ice cream from each booth, kids’ bouncers, giant slides, and crazy contests; it’s definitely the coolest fundraiser around, no pun intended.” Wristbands are available for a minimum donation of \$10 for adults or \$5 for children 12 and under. They can be purchased from the DPA, the Historic Atkins Porter Neighborhood Association, ice cream booth partners, and at the event.

even more this year. The Registration process is the same as the Car Show. There will also be a Peoples’ Choice Award Trophy presented based on votes and all proceeds go to the beneficiaries.

Also, for a donation of \$5, you can get in on some fun contests!

- 4:30 PM Kids Ice Cream Eating Contest
- 5:00 PM Adults Ice Cream Eating Contest

- 5:30 PM Kids Frozen T-Shirt Contest

- 6:00 PM Adults Frozen T-Shirt Contest

The Antique Car Show brings vehicles in from four states and there will be 80 to 90 classic cars, according to Chairperson Vicky Muzzall. Registration is a minimum donation of \$10 which includes an event wristband. “Votes (25 cent donations) are tallied throughout the event,” said Muzzall. “At 6:30 pm the car with the most votes will win the Peoples’ Choice Award Trophy. The Antique Tractor Show is relatively new to the event. Last year brought out several tractors and we hope to showcase

The DPA is always looking for sponsors to be a part of this great fund raising event. If you are interested in being a sponsor of the Ice Cream Social, contact the Downtown Paris Association at 653-PARIS (7274), email Kathy Ray at [downtownparis@outlook.com](mailto:downtownparis@outlook.com) or go online at [www.VisitDowntownParis.com](http://www.VisitDowntownParis.com).

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# THE BARGAIN HIGHWAY IS 30 MILES OF FUN

BY JOHN WAMBLES

Attention Bargain Hunters!! Everyone loves a good bargain and there is no better place to find one than on the Bargain Highway - Benton County, Tennessee's Annual 30 Mile Yard Sale. The official dates for the yard sale are Friday, August 31st and Saturday, September 1st of Labor Day weekend. But, some people set up as early as Wednesday and stay open all the way through Labor Day. Saturday is usually the biggest yard sale day. More people are home from work and are

able to set up and participate before enjoying the long weekend.

The official Bargain Highway starts at Exit 126 off of Interstate 40 and runs from Holaday to Camden all the way to Big Sandy, along Highway 69, just follow the signs. All along the yard sale route you will see lots more signs of even more yard sales down the many different side streets and parking lots. Feel free to stop by the Benton County/Camden Chamber of Commerce for

an official map of the Bargain Highway. The Chamber is located at 266 Hwy 641 North in Camden, or contact them at (731) 584-8395.

Besides taking home some fantastic bargains - how would you like to leave with an extra \$1,000? All along the Bargain Highway different yard sales are "official stops" to register for the cash give away sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce. Another big reason you want to stop by and pick up a map!

While you are in Benton County, stop by and visit the Patsy Cline Memorial, Nathan Bedford Forrest State Park or head up to Eva and see the River Folk Life Museum. There are plenty of places to eat in Benton County, as well. You can find your favorite fast food restaurants like Burger King, McDonald's, Pizza Hut and Wendy's and delicious local eateries like the Cowboy Steak House, Country & Western, The Shack or Goodwing's in Camden

and Kelly's and Melton's in Big Sandy. You can even find international cuisine like Mexican and Chinese. And if you want to mix good down home cooking with a funky fun atmosphere visit Smarder's on Hwy 641 North. If you are thinking about an extended

stay, there are several motels located in Camden or cabins are available near the State Park.

Make it a weekend of fun, food and shopping! Visit Holladay, Camden and Big Sandy in Benton County, Tennessee and travel the Bargain Highway. You

never knew Labor Day Weekend could be so much fun until you have been to the 30 Mile Yard Sale.

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