

discover

ANDERSON/MADISON COUNTY

SPRING 2021

Great OUTDOORS

- Mounds State Park blazes a new path
- Park, local eateries are perfect pairs



BUCKLE UP



WALK THE TRAIL



AIM FOR THE TARGET



SAVOR THE FLAVOR



KAYAK THE WHITE RIVER



SOAR THE SKY



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The **FUN!**
Starts Here



discover

spring 2021



6

ALL ACCESS

A new path leading to the Great Mound expands access at Mounds State Park.

12

LAKESIDE BEAUTY

Shadyside Park offers a place for relaxation and recreation ... and a great spot to eat at Bobber's Cafe.

16

FALLS IN LOVE

For more than a century, families have spent their leisure time at Falls Park in downtown Pendleton.

20

HEAD TO THE FAIR

Beulah Park in Alexandria hosts the 4-H Fair, complete with animal shows, a midway and delicious fair food.

DEPARTMENTS

Letter from the Editor	4
5 Things I Love	4
Visitor Information	5
Directory	28-30

OUR COVER



Mounds State Park
Photographed by
Dale Pickett
Designed by
Heather Bremer

spring forward



Bert Happel | Killbuck Photo Guild

Life has seemingly been at a standstill since the coronavirus pandemic began in March 2020. To protect others and our communities, we've been staying home and traveling only when it was essential.

But the arrival of spring 2021 brings reason for hope ... and excitement for getting out and exploring not only new places but those familiar stomping grounds that we've missed during the past year.

This issue of Discover celebrates the great outdoors, featuring parks around Madison County where you can stretch your legs and reconnect with nature. Inside you'll find a story on the increased accessibility at Mounds State Park. You'll also see our "Perfect Pairs" feature, which offers a park to visit for some much-needed recreation and an eatery to grab a snack or meal after your visit.

Best wishes on your travels ... and may this be a spring when life moves forward!

Heather Bremer

CONTENT & CREATIVE DIRECTOR

discover
ANDERSON MADISON COUNTY

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5 THINGS I LOVE



PART OF YOUR WORLD

Take a trip under the sea as Anderson Young Ballet Theatre Academy presents "The Little Mermaid" on May 7 and 9 at the Historic Paramount Theatre.

NEW DIGS, SAME FUN

Pulp & Pine has opened a new location in downtown Anderson. There's more space to let your creativity shine and meet fellow crafters.

GRAB A COLD ONE

It isn't officially spring until you've had that first mug of cold, frothy root beer from Gene's Root Beer.

IN FULL BLOOM

The blooms of the red bud trees brighten even the dreariest day.

GET LINKED UP

It's time for a round or two at one of the great golf courses in Madison County.

TRAVEL INFO

The FUN Starts Here!

For more information, visit the Anderson Madison County Visitors Bureau website at VisitAndersonMadisonCounty.com, call toll-free 1-800-533-6569 or stop by the bureau, located just off Interstate 69 at Exit 226. Visitors Center address is 6335 S. Scatterfield Road, Anderson, IN 46013.

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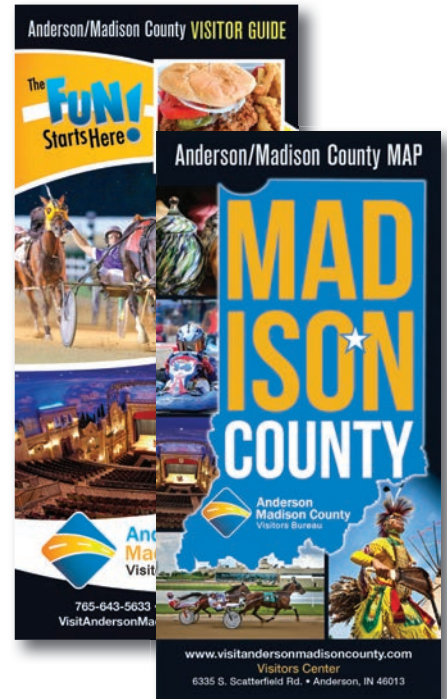
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FUN IDEAS



Pick up a FUN map and the Anderson Madison County Visitor Guide at the Visitors Center!

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FOR *all* TO SEE

Mounds State Park creates trail making Great Mound accessible to all visitors

Mounds State Park is famous for its 10 unique earthworks made and used by the Adena and the Hopewell cultures.

Archeologists believe the mounds, dating back more than 100 years before the birth of Christ, were used as gathering places for ceremonies and for viewing celestial bodies.

The centerpiece of the earthworks, known as the Great Mound, is the largest of its kind at an impressive 300 feet across and a must-see site in Madison County.

But, until recently, not everyone could see it.

The earthwork hasn't been accessible for those with disabilities, as the uneven terrain surrounding the mound is difficult for wheelchair and walking aid users to navigate.

That's something the Friends of Mounds, a community-based organization focused on supporting, protecting and preserving Mounds State Park, wanted to change.

Thanks to their efforts, a completely accessible trail has been built around the mound so that it can be experienced by all the state park's visitors.

This new trail is made up of a paved section of pathway that connects to a special type of non-penetrating boardwalk. According to Scott Crossley, the property manager of the park, the trail was made this way to preserve the mound and the surrounding area. To avoid having equipment and digging near the mound, the paved part does not go near the earthwork, but the non-penetrating boardwalk leads up to an observation platform near the mound instead.

"This was an alternate route we could take to help preserve the mound," Crossley said. "It's a little more expensive and costly this way, but it was the right way to do it."

STORY BY CAROLINE STATES



The project is the latest effort by Mounds State Park and the Friends of Mounds to make the park accessible to all visitors.

A few years ago, the Friends of Mounds purchased a mobility device that people could check out to get them to the mound.

"We consider folks that have severe disabilities, to folks that just don't walk as well, to parents with strollers, and having this allows everybody access to our greatest feature," Crossley said. "It was a big deal for us to be able to say anyone that comes here now can get access to that mound."

Crossley said that the most exciting thing for him about this new feature is when he sees guests make use of the trail.



Opposite page and above: Construction took place last fall on the new trail to the Great Mound at Mounds State Park. The trail ensures anyone who wants to, including those in wheelchairs, can visit the mound.





Above: Scott Crossley, property manager at Mounds State Park, says the park's beauty often shocks visitors.
Left: Visitors walking the paths at Mounds State Park often marvel at the natural beauty so close to the city.

"When you see somebody pull up that has a disability, or a parent with a stroller, to be able to see them now not to have to look there at the edge of that gravel and decide whether they can do it or not ... I have a son with disabilities as well so it kinda hits home for me. We've taken him on it a few times, so seeing people use something that you are a part of and watching them enjoy it (is exciting)."

In addition to the Great Mound, Mounds State Park has a variety of other unique features guests can experience. Mounds is home to the Bronnenberg Home, a two-story house built in the 19th century out of materials from the surrounding forest. Mounds has a nature center that

is open year-round, which has a wild-life viewing room, animal displays and interactive games. Mounds also has a campground and multiple playgrounds for kids to enjoy.

"I've worked at a lot of state parks — this is my eighth DNR property I've worked at — and Mounds has as nice a trail right here in the middle of Anderson," Crossley said. "I think it shocks a lot of people that this close to the city you have a trail that has hills and beauty like you would see in Southern Indiana. It's not quite as big, but you can get kind of lost in that when you're hiking that trail down by the river and you look up at that hillside. It's pretty amazing, it kind of takes you back to a different time."

Alana Weber has been a regular visitor of Mounds since her family moved to Anderson in 2008. Now an adult, she often visits Mounds when she walks her dog, but as a kid, she loved attending Mounds summer programming and camps. She has a fond memory of digging through buckets of sand to find arrowheads one summer, and she was fascinated thinking about how prehistoric cultures would have used the tools. She thinks people should visit Mounds because it's such a beautiful park.

"The history behind (the mounds) is extremely important, especially for people who don't know about the history of Anderson. (Mounds) is a key spot," Weber said.



She also mentioned that Mounds is worth a visit for its interactive nature center, good summer programming for kids and nice campground.

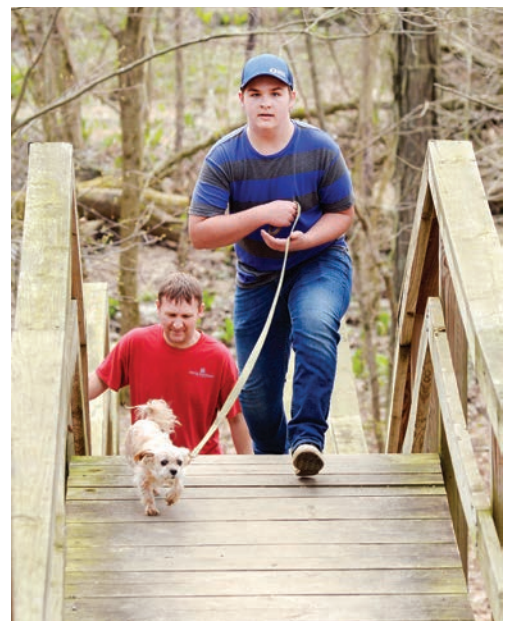
Indianapolis resident Jane Canada has fond memories of exploring nature in Mounds State Park with her friends when she was growing up in Anderson. She loves the spiritual nature of Mounds and how visitors to the park can feel connected to the past.

"It's a historic site, I feel like there are not enough sites, especially in Indiana, that are actually related to Native Americans and learning about the people who were here before us," Canada said.

The implementation of the new

trail — and many other projects around the park — would not be possible without the hard work of the Friends of Mounds Group. To learn more about the group and how to get involved, visit the Friends of Mounds website or Facebook page.

Exciting programming and events are always happening at Mounds during the summer months. The Bronnenberg Home is open for tours from 1 to 4 p.m. every weekend, and the nature center is open 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily. There are interpretive programs and hikes scheduled every weekend throughout the year. Visit Mounds State Park's Facebook page to stay up to date on all of the park's events.





Perfect PAIRS

Plan a spectacular outing
with a visit to one of
Madison County's pretty
parks, followed by a stop at
a nearby eatery





PARK | ANDERSON

BACK *to* NATURE

Reconnect with the outdoors at Shadyside Park

Relaxation, recreation and natural beauty meet in one incredible place near downtown Anderson.

Shadyside Park's beautiful atmosphere makes it a place people can make memories, get some exercise or just reconnect with nature. There are plenty of activities for kids including fishing, kayaking and walking.

According to the City of Anderson Parks superintendent Jama Donovan, the park is expected to receive some new renovations.

"We will be putting sidewalks around the playground, so it provides a way for parents to stay more active while their kids are playing," Donovan said.

Another project in the works is the addition of a better walking area around the playground to allow more stability. The restoration of the park will also include six full courts for pickleball.

Shadyside offers plenty of activities to keep families busy. On June 19 at 2:30 p.m., the park will host Kids Derby Day. The first few kids to register will get free fishing gear.

A Miss Liz the Science Wiz event is planned for July 12. Crappie Kids also will sponsor



an event to learn about spiders, allowing kids to get back into nature.

There will be a Symphony in the Park with Anderson Symphony Orchestra, and the park is working on getting a food truck for picnic events. The performance will be on July 17 at 7 p.m. There also will be a Theatre in the Park event on July 23 from 7:30 p.m. to 10 p.m.

Three fishing days sponsored by the Department of Reservoir Nature Reserve

Center are free for anyone 17 and younger to fish.

Retired firefighter J.R. Rosebahn comes to fish at Shadyside often. He absolutely loves it.

"The park used to be a huge gravel pit and now it has turned into a community place for everyone," Rosebahn said. "I've taken my grandson fishing with me and we have a good time."

The Anderson Roadrunners running group frequents the park. On Thursday evenings, they get together and race one lap. The walkers go at 5:30 p.m., and the runners go at 6 p.m.

A Day of Bee Cycle will take place April 30 to help kids not be afraid of and learn the importance of bees. The park has had a scavenger hunt, arts and crafts for kids, and fishing competitions.

STORY BY KARA MARTIN

EATERY | ANDERSON

ON THE WATER

Bobber's Cafe offers lakeside seating, delicious eats

Location, location, location.

It's as important in the restaurant business as it is in real estate.

And Bobber's Cafe hit the jackpot with its location on Shadyside Lake.

The cafe's cheerful atmosphere, beautiful benches and a nice scenery of the lake lure people in. The mouthwatering pork tenderloin sandwiches and homemade biscuits and gravy keep them coming back.

Staci Cowgill, the owner of Bobber's Cafe, brings years of cooking experience to the kitchen. Everything is homemade. Customers adore the BLTs and tenderloins.

Cowgill strives to bring the community together. She cares about the people and the city and wants to share her food and love with everyone.

Cowgill is taking part in a best chef contest, and if she wins, she will

be featured in a two-page spread in Bon Appetit and get \$50,000. She would love to use the money to build more outdoor dining for families to enjoy.

"I care so much about the people in this community and I have lived here my whole life, and this would be a huge deal to be able to add more outdoor dining," Cowgill said.

Bobber's serves breakfast all day, including carryout options. The cafe has ice cream in the summer, and you can even stop in and buy worms for fishing.

Cowgill's boyfriend, Mark Findlay, helps run the business. He said he and Cowgill sweat every day to run the cafe, then get about four hours of sleep a night.

Cowgill said she "has the oven scars to prove how hard she works" at making her recipes.

STORY BY KARA MARTIN



On the menu

Food items available at the cafe include:

- Pork Tenderloins
- Fried Bologna
- BLT
- Philly Cheesesteak & Fries
- Grilled Cheese
- Reuben



Above: Bobber's Cafe is positioned on Shadyside Lake, offering amazing views and a relaxed atmosphere.

Left: Zayli Mills, 2, enjoys her dish of ice cream at Bobber's Cafe while her family visited Shadyside Park for the afternoon.



PHOTO BY JULIE CAMPBELL

EXPLORE THE FALLS

Falls Park a favorite destination for more than a century

Ask anyone in Pendleton to name their top five favorite places in town, and odds are that Falls Park will be at the top of the list.

It's not difficult to see why the park, which has been the gem of Pendleton's downtown area since 1920, is a favorite. From the large playground area and scenic falls of Fall Creek to the iconic lighthouse and picturesque trails, the park offers countless outdoor activities for the whole family.

On a recent sunny afternoon, Martha Dellavalle brought her three grandchildren from Indianapolis to enjoy the park.

"This is only the second time we've been here. We have a couple of little parks near us, but we wanted to see the falls and the history," she explained. "So we came, we hiked and we've been over at the playground. We love this park — it's so beautiful here."

Since its transformation in 1920 from city dump to public park, Falls Park has seen a century of progress and change. In 2018, the park added Falls Bark Dog Park, a place for visitors to bring their furry friends for play dates.

According to Park Director Aaron Burris, the 175 x 175 foot fenced-in space features waste stations, benches, a water station and a large green area for dogs to run, play and socialize. It's open from dawn to dusk, seven days a week, for any dog accompanied by handlers 16 years of age and older.

"The dog park has been very well-received," he said. "There are tons of people that use it, especially in the evenings."

In addition to the well-loved playground area, hiking on the 3½ mile trail system is another popular activity for families at the park. The trails incorporate a segment of the historic "Bee-Line" railway line into the landscape. You might even spot a white-



Above: The falls are worth seeing no matter the season. **Left:** Tulips bloom at Falls Park during the spring. **Far left:** The Friends Lending Library, created from a tree destroyed in a 2019 tornado, welcomes visitors to the playground.

STORY BY JULIE CAMPBELL

tailed deer or pileated woodpecker near the trail.

"Falls Park has so much to offer kids of any age! I love that they have play sets for my 7-, 5- and 4-year-old. There are so many things to do, families could spend hours," said Pendleton resident Kendra Crabtree. "The new bathrooms they put in right by the park are so convenient for families with young kids and are always kept cleaned up."

If you're visiting the park from May to October, be sure to stop in at the Pendleton Historical Museum located in the park. It's open from 1 to 5 p.m. on Saturdays and Sundays only, and you'll find plenty of artifacts, photo-

graphs, and historic memorabilia within the walls of this historic building, which once served as the bathhouse at the park.

The Alvin D. Brown Memorial Swimming Pool will open on Memorial Day this year, and Burris says there are no residency requirements in order to use the pool. Season passes or daily entry passes are available.

On Saturday mornings from May to October each year, you'll also find The Pendleton Farmer's Market around the falls, with vendors carrying everything from maple syrup to fresh produce and flowers.

For more information about Falls Park, visit www.fallspark.org.

EATERY | PENDLETON



Fresh blackened salmon with caper butter, seasonal vegetables and herb roasted red potatoes is a popular choice for diners.

FINE *(and friendly)* DINING

Madison's St8 Street Bistro offers fine dining with family-friendly vibe

After a stroll in Falls Park or an afternoon browsing Pendleton's charming shops,

a dinner at Madison's St8 Street Bistro is the perfect way to end to a memorable day.

The restaurant, owned by Summer Hellis, has been a favorite on Pendleton's State Street for over six years.

Executive chef Dan Stackpoole has more than two decades of experience in the restaurant business, and his entrees definitely showcase that experience

STORY & PHOTOS BY JULIE CAMPBELL

with every bite.

"Our blackened salmon is probably one of the most popular things on the menu. We go through tons of fish here because people just can't get fresh fish anywhere," he said, adding that he has fresh fish shipped in almost daily.

If you're looking for a more casual entrée on the menu, Stackpoole's individual deep-dish specialty pizzas became

wildly popular during the height of the pandemic and are now a staple on the menu.

"I know how to make a good pizza because I've owned pizzerias in the past," Stackpoole explained.

Kendra Crabtree, whose husband, Brent, is the owner and veterinarian at nearby Pendleton Veterinary Clinic, enjoys the restaurant's fresh food and friendly atmosphere.



Exposed brick walls in the historic building create a unique ambiance in Madison's St8 Street Bistro.

"We've eaten at St8 Street Bistro many times when we are running kids to sports, or I just don't feel like cooking," she said. "The staff is always so friendly and goes above and beyond for our kids, whether it's telling funny jokes or serving us from the secret kids menu! Our family loves going in to eat and knowing we are supporting another small business in our little town."

Behind the family friendly dining area is the restaurant's adults-only lounge, which features the same classic exposed brick walls and a bar-back from the 1920s.

"We have one of the best whiskey collections in the state," said Stackpoole. "Summer and I are both whiskey ambassadors, so we do whiskey tastings and whiskey education classes. We had to stop because of COVID, but we plan on bringing it back soon."

A garden patio also offers diners the option of an outdoor experience for hungry guests looking to soak up some sunshine.

Madison's St8 Street Bistro is open from 4-9 p.m. Monday through Thursday, 4-10 p.m. Friday and Saturday, and closed on Sundays. Reservations are recommended. Call 765-221-9390 for reservations or more information.

SIDE TRIP | PENDLETON

A PLACE OF JOY

Crabby Apple Orchard salsa and new mini petting zoo aim to make you smile

Andrew Christiansen had an idea. And now he has big plans for that idea.

Last April, Christiansen purchased the Crabby Apple Orchard and has been giving the property a facelift.

"In the last few years, the facilities hadn't been maintained, and the orchard needed a lot of work," Christiansen said. "When I bought it, we had to rebuild all the buildings, and we built the Orchard House. The new Big Barn was built out back, and we've been gearing up the market building for the farmers market."

The Crabby Apple, open on Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., offers a variety of food wares and all the items are made in-house. Salsas, applesauces and pickles are among the items available.

"We have people coming from everywhere for our salsa and our most popular apple cider slushie," Christiansen said. "Who doesn't like an apple cider slushie and some good salsa? Everybody's always happy here at the Orchard."

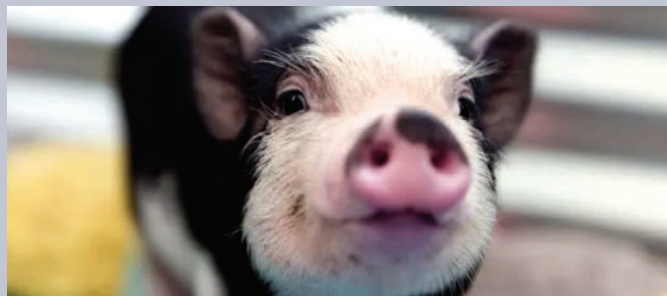
On May 1, The Crabby Apple will open a new mini petting zoo.

"We've been trying to figure out some decent attractions to have when kids come," Christiansen said. "We started doing research, and we found some people in different parts of the country that raised zoo animals, and they raised miniature versions of farm animals."

The Crabby Apple is making sure to follow all the proper steps to ensure the animals and visitors stay safe. Baby chickens have hatched and are residing in their new coupe. The rest of the animals, still very young and being weaned from their mothers, will be placed outside with the utmost care to keep them healthy.

Christiansen believes the Crabby Apple is here to create happiness and joy for everyone. He said seeing people smile is the best part of owning the orchard.

"It's pretty stressful out there right now," Christiansen said. "If people come here and not think about negative things for an hour, that's awesome. So, the atmosphere here is a huge highlight for everyone."



STORY BY AARON DIAZ



FUN AT THE FAIR

**Beulah Park home to
annual 4-H Fair and
community pool**

In 1929, members of the Alexandria community would have never imagined the impact that Beulah Park would bring. Now, the park is the center of their entire community. This Madison County park not only boasts the Alexandria swimming pool, which is a crowd-pleaser during the summer, but it is also the site of the Madison County 4-H Fair.

Every third week of July, Alexandria Kiwanis hosts their county fair. The Madison County Fair attracts 35,000-40,000 people each year to the city of Alexandria. In 2021, the fair will be hosted July 18-24. It is packed with family fun adventures. According to Rick Davison, a member of the Alexandria Kiwanis, the Madison County 4-H Fair is a wholesome family event that has been created with families in mind.

The Alexandria Kiwanis work with outside businesses and vendors to bring in more than 60 vendors under their pavilion and 75 food vendors spread throughout the park. Some of the real crowd-pleasers are the Ousley corn on the Cob, Deve Deep-Fried Foods and Glacier Shaved Ice.

The food isn't even the best part. They also offer carnival rides. This year, a brand new company called Kissel Family Entertainment, will be setting up its carnival rides. Monday through Saturday, the rides will begin at 5 p.m. and end at 10 p.m. One night



STORIES BY REBEKAH CORWIN

of the week is bracelet night; everyone can buy a \$15 bracelet and ride every ride as many times as they choose.

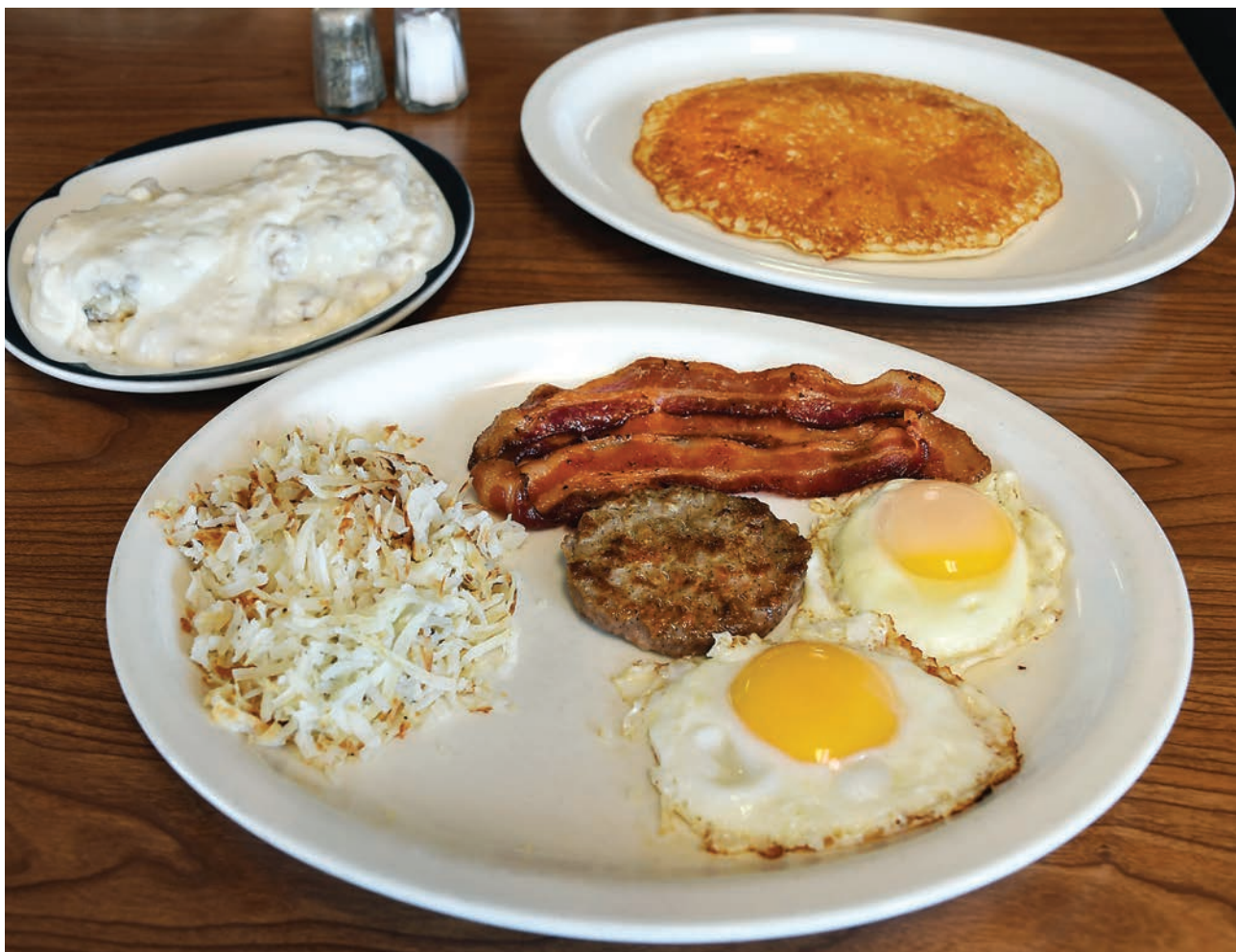
Alexandria Kiwanis' small team of 18 handles the logistics of planning the Madison County 4-H fair every year. They bring in all the business, vendors, food and entertainment. Their members work in conjunction with 4-H to ensure an organized and

fun experience for everyone.

Davidson says that planning the fair is a lot of work, but it is worth it to see the smiling faces of all the families..

All Madison County vendors or businesses can participate by promoting their business. For \$200, they can secure a pavilion booth for the entire week for more information, contact the Alexandria Kiwanis.

EATERY | ALEXANDRIA



COZY HIDEAWAY

Rachel's Hi-Way Café strives to preserve classic diner feel, food

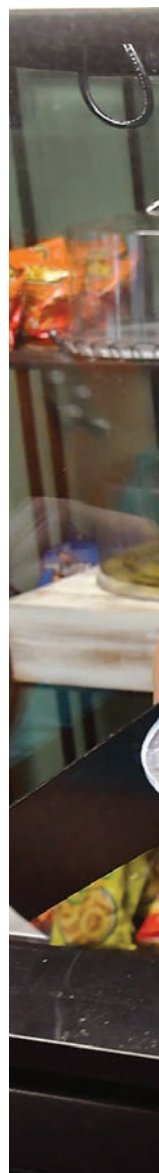
Rachel's Hi-Way Cafe is a hidden gem in Madison County, located off Indiana 9 in Alexandria. This family-owned restaurant, among the finalists for Homestyle Cooking in the Best of Madison County surveys in 2020 and 2021, serves classic dishes to suit any taste. While COVID-19 precautions are a necessity, Rachel's is only offering a carry-out option for dining, including family dinner combos, which feed a family of three to four people. Rachel's Hi-Way Cafe serves lunch, dinner and a large variety of breakfast options.



THE POWER OF FLOUR

Flour Power Bakery makes cakes for every occasion

Flour Power Bakery creates beautiful cakes or cupcakes for weddings, birthdays and anniversaries. Customized for your event, their creations come as cupcakes or single-, double- or triple-layer cakes. Some of the most popular cakes are for children's birthdays in all shapes, sizes and themes. Every cake is homemade with homemade icing.





LIKE GRANDMA MAKES

**Sunshine & Cinnamon Café offers
made-from-scratch treats**

Sunshine & Cinnamon Café, on Cleveland Street in Alexandria, held its grand opening amid the coronavirus pandemic on Oct. 10, 2020. And yet, the bakery continues to thrive, making all of their baked goods from scratch, including pies, cookies and cinnamon rolls. The goal is to make baked goods that taste just as good as what your grandma makes. Sunshine & Cinnamon Café puts the needs of its customers first, with a selection of gluten-free and sugar-free desserts. Their delicious flavors don't stop at the bakery. Sunshine & Cinnamon Café also offers a variety of lunch items, with sandwiches and hot soups.



The Concerts in the Park series is a popular event during the summer.

MEMORIES MADE

Callaway Park offers families a spot to relax and bond

In its century long history, Elwood's Callaway Park has hosted some famous residents like Republican presidential nominee Wendell Willkie and Olympic swimmer Mary Beth Dunnichay.

But to the everyday people who call Elwood home, Callaway Park's greatest claim to fame is its welcoming atmosphere for making family memories.

"I remember riding my bike to the park and playing with my sister on the swings and the slides," said Jennifer Hoover Neff, who grew up in Elwood. "We have had so many family reunions there as well. My kids have had the chance to play on the same swings and slides as we have. I remember we took my son's Cub Scout troop there to do a leaf collection. We all had so much fun! There is so much history and fun there!"

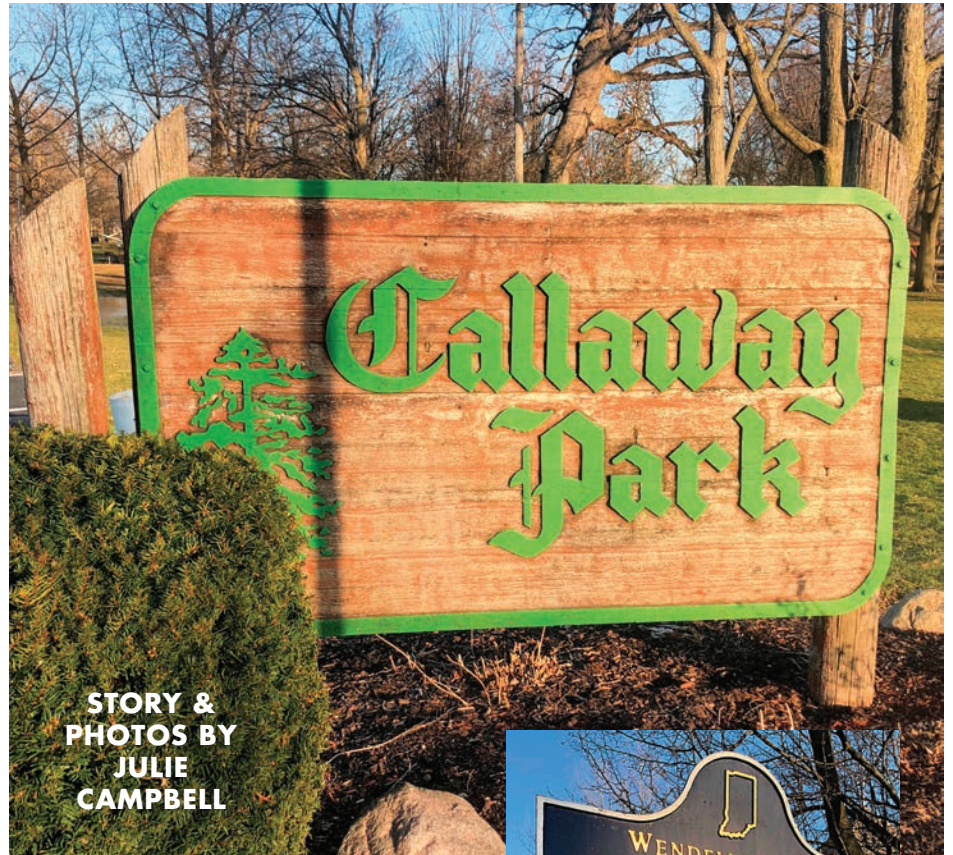
One popular summer event at the 40-acre park is its family-friendly Concerts in the Park series, which is set to open with The Bulldogs band on June 13.

"We have a stage set up and seats available," said Elwood Parks Department employee Thomas Plake. "Everybody really enjoys the concerts in the park."

A list of the eight concerts planned for this summer from June through September can be found on the Elwood Concerts in the Park Facebook page.

Besides the concert series, the park's basketball courts, playground, and shelterhouses are always a favorite with families.

"We have one main shelterhouse

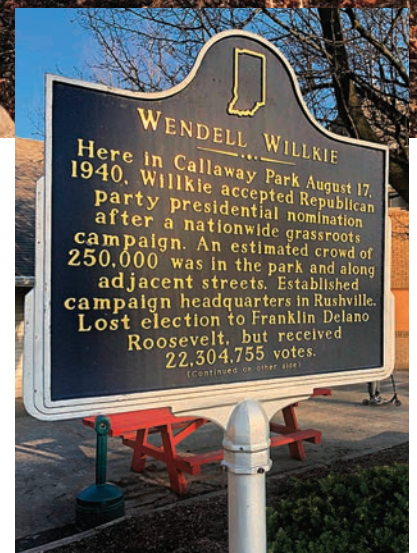


STORY &
PHOTOS BY
JULIE
CAMPBELL

and two smaller ones," said Plake. "The shelterhouses are always popular for reunions, and we have grills throughout the park and picnic tables. Just bring your own charcoal."

A plaque in front of the main shelterhouse gives some history on Elwood native and 1940 Republican presidential nominee Wendell Willkie.

In 1940, Willkie gave his acceptance speech in Callaway Park to an estimated crowd of 250,000 people. Although he lost the election to Franklin Delano Roosevelt, the city of Elwood has made sure he has not been forgotten, and even named another smaller park in town after its favorite son.



A sign commemorating 1940 Republican presidential nominee Wendell Willkie's acceptance speech can be found in Callaway Park.

EATERY | ELWOOD



FILL YOUR PLATE

Down-home goodness served in friendly confines of The Tin Plate

If ribbon fries and tenderloins are calling your name, there's no need to wait until the county fair. Just head over to The Tin Plate on South J Street in Elwood.

Featuring a friendly, casual atmosphere, The Tin Plate serves down-home food, like pulled pork sandwiches, Beef Manhattans made with Elwood's own Red Gold premium tomato products, fried pickle chips, onion rings, and of course, the star of the show — a tenderloin as big as a dinner plate.

Thomas Plake of the Elwood Parks Department said when he goes to The Tin Plate for lunch, he usually gets the tenderloin.

"It's one of the best ones I've had," he said, giving his stamp of approval.

Owner Patrick Rice dreamed of opening a family restaurant, and after his job at Comcast was eliminated, the Elwood native seized the opportunity.

"I cashed in my retirement and bought this place in February of

IF YOU GO ...

The Tin Plate, 2233 S. J Street in Elwood, is open from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday through Thursday, 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. Friday and Saturday, and closed on Sundays.

2015," he said.

The site was the former night club/bar located adjacent to the old American Sheet and Tin Plate mill.

Patrick decided to name the restaurant The Tin Plate as a nod to the tin mill workers who used to drink, dine and live upstairs of the establishment.

After being in business for just a few years, the COVID-19 pandemic hit, and Patrick had to find new ways to do business.

"We went from doing about 8% of our business in carry-out to 40%," he explained. "But the people of Elwood rallied around us. One gentleman bought \$600 worth of gift cards and

gave them out as Christmas gifts."

Now, with the pandemic easing up, Patrick and his wife, Amber Young-Rice, have hope for a bright future for the restaurant. Patrick's daughter, Morgan, and his father, Patrick E. Rice, are also very involved in and supportive of the business.

"This place is important to the town because we're a very unique, friendly place, and we cherish the relationships we've built with the people of Elwood."

As the restaurant gains popularity, customers are traveling from other cities across the state to dine at The Tin Plate.

"We have people come from Anderson, Marion, Muncie, Fishers, Noblesville and Indianapolis," said Patrick. "It's very humbling to know they probably drove past 40 different establishments to come here. It's a credit to the town of Elwood, and ultimately to the people who work here and the food we serve."



Above: The Tin Plate is known for its big-as-your-plate tenderloins.
Right: Crispy ribbon fries are another Tin Plate favorite.

STORY & PHOTOS BY JULIE CAMPBELL

AMAZING *eats*



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Anderson Museum of Art

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