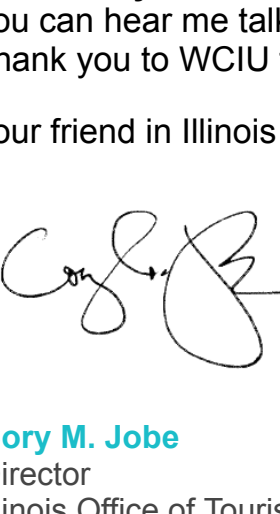
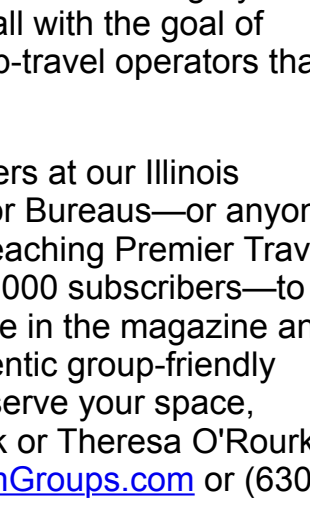


Happy Travel Tuesday

The tourism landscape is always shifting, but one thing that's clearly essential to our continued growth is **group travel**. From bus tours to school trips, groups are an important driver of tourism in our state and beyond. To help drive group travel in Illinois, we'll be releasing the **2018 Illinois Group Tour Planner** in April 2018. **Group** in partnership with **Tour Illinois** and **Premier Travel Media**, our guide will use creative editorial, custom itineraries, and vibrant imagery to showcase destinations throughout Illinois—all with the goal of connecting our many attractions to the group-travel operators that can help them thrive.



I encourage members at our Illinois Convention & Visitor Bureaus—or anyone else interested in reaching Premier Travel Media's base of 20,000 subscribers—to register for ad space in the magazine and highlight your authentic group-friendly experiences. To reserve your space, contact Jeff Gayduk or Theresa O'Rourke at Advertising@PtmGroups.com or (630) 794-0696.

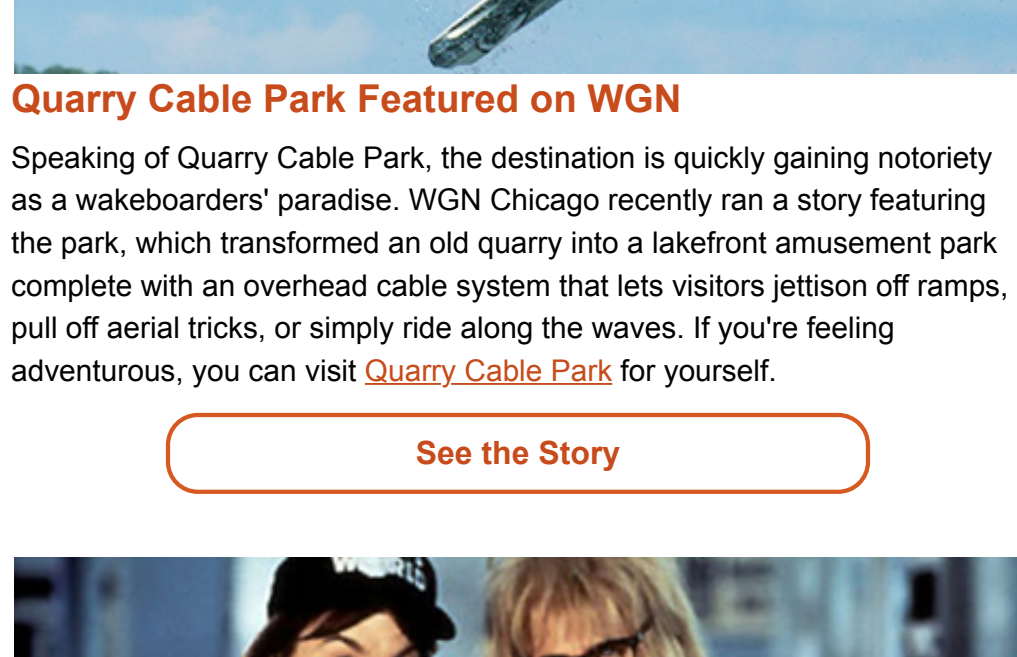
As for what I've been up to, on July 5th I appeared on WCIU's *You & Me* morning talk show in Chicago to talk about all the opportunities for "One Tank Trips"—road trips within Illinois that you can make on a single fill-up of gas. I was happy to talk about all our great destinations, including **Starved Rock State Park**, all the attractions in our capital of **Springfield**, and the **Quarry Cable Park in Crystal Lake**, one of the first of its kind in the Midwest. You can hear me talk all about the attractions for yourself [here](#). Thank you to WCIU for having me on.

Your friend in Illinois tourism,

Cory M. Jobe
Director
Illinois Office of Tourism

ILLINOIS

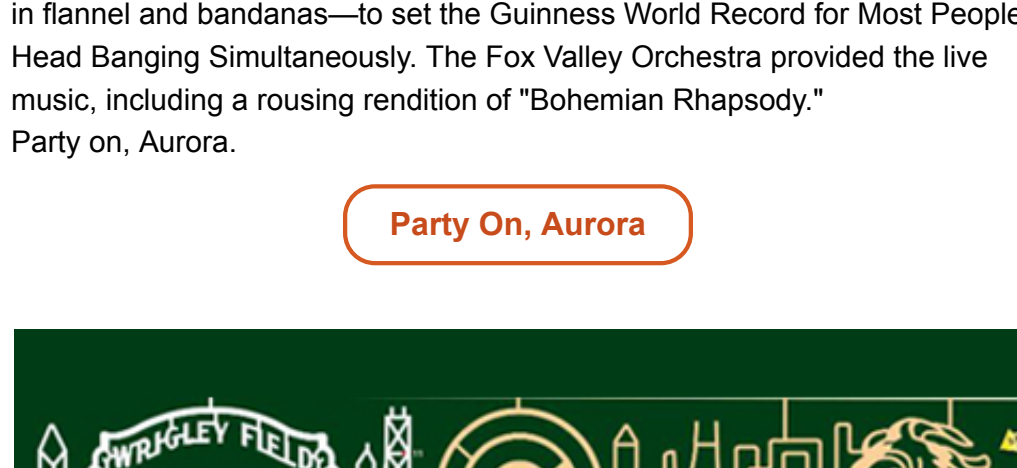
ILLINOIS SPOTLIGHT



Quarry Cable Park Featured on WGN

Speaking of Quarry Cable Park, the destination is quickly gaining notoriety as a wakeboarders' paradise. WGN Chicago recently ran a story featuring the park, which transformed an old quarry into a lakefront amusement park complete with an overhead cable system that lets visitors jettison off ramps, pull off aerial tricks, or simply ride along the waves. If you're feeling adventurous, you can visit [Quarry Cable Park](#) for yourself.

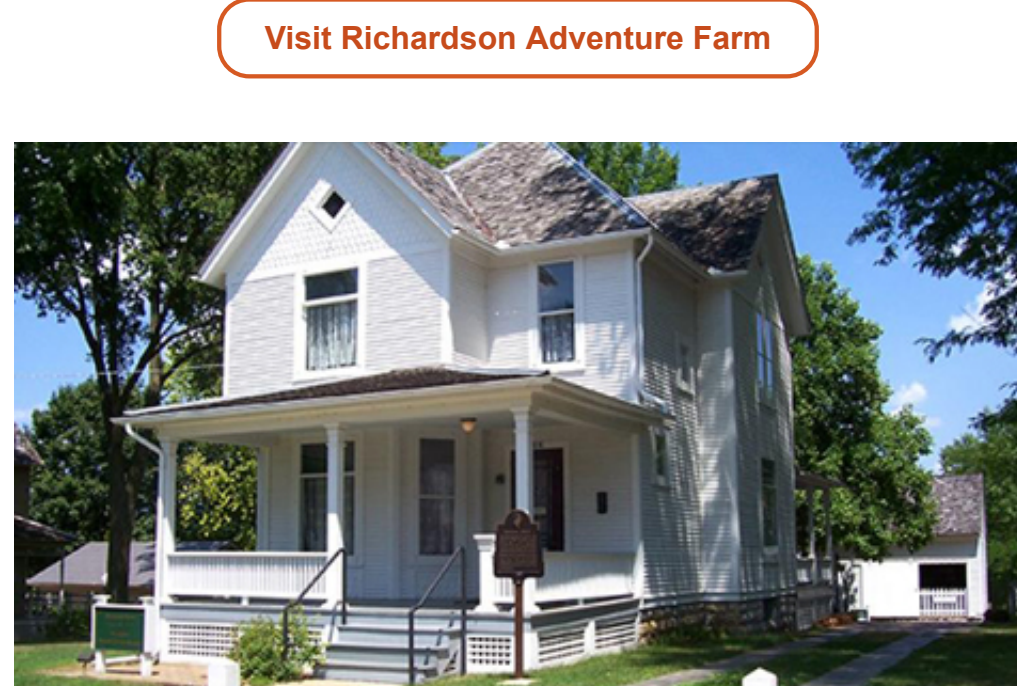
[See the Story](#)



Aurora Sets Record as Head Banging Capital of the World

In honor of the 25th anniversary of *Wayne's World*, the movie based on the *Saturday Night Live* sketches starring Mike Meyers and Dana Carvey, the Illinois town of Aurora threw a unique 4th of July celebration. More than 1,000 residents and visitors showed up—many channeling their inner Garths in flannel and bandanas—to set the Guinness World Record for Most People Head Banging Simultaneously. The Fox Valley Orchestra provided the live music, including a rousing rendition of "Bohemian Rhapsody." Party on, Aurora.

[Party On, Aurora](#)



Field of Dreams

Forget 108 years. The owners of Richardson Adventure Farm planted their first corn maze in 2001, so they only had to wait 16 years—a flash in the pan, considering—for the Cubs to win the World Series. That historic win meant the family (which has owned the farm itself since 1840) could finally craft an intricate design to honor the Cubs in all their glory, cutting paths through the stalks in the likeness of Harry Caray, the Chicago skyline, and the iconic Wrigley Field ivy. Make your way through the field when Richardson's full slate of fall activities open for the season on September 2.

[Visit Richardson Adventure Farm](#)

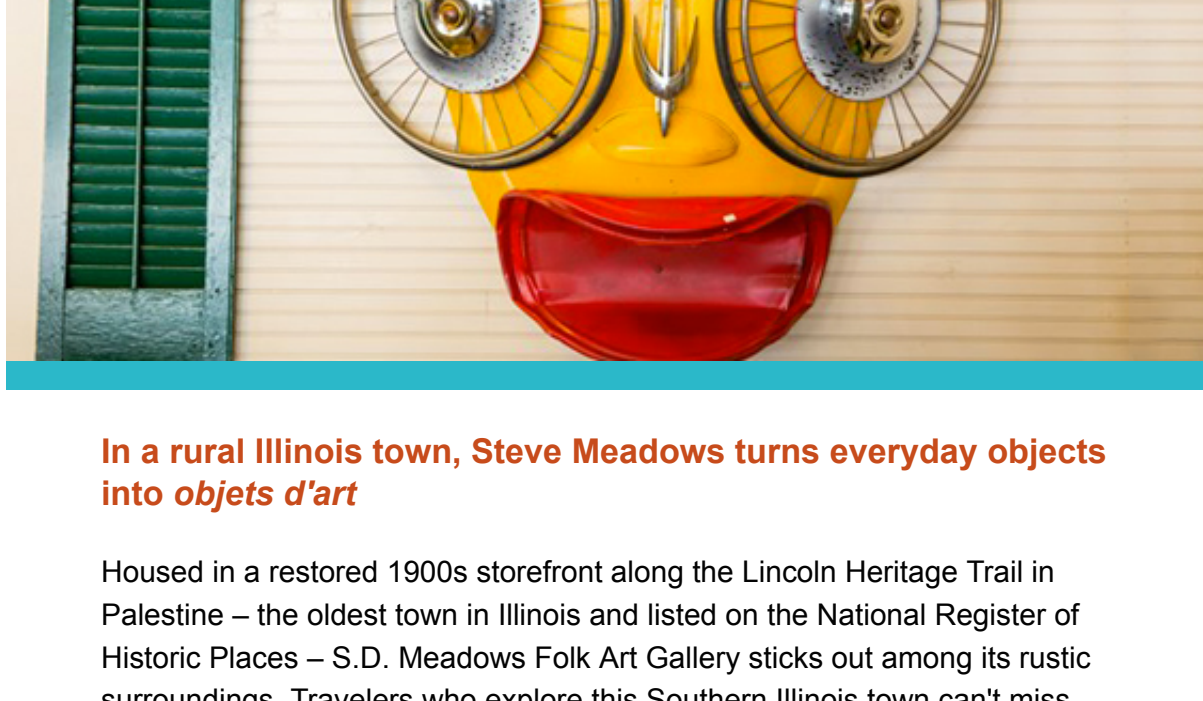


Reagan Boyhood Home Receiving Upgrades

Before he was president, a young Ronald Reagan lived in Dixon, Illinois, from 1920-1924, and renovations [are under way](#) to preserve the historic site. Thanks to recent upgrades, Reagan's Boyhood Home has received fresh paint, new floors – and a virtual tour at the visitor center. "The place is really starting to come together," says executive director Pat Gorman. Some hard work remains to be done – and the foundation could always use more donations – but for now, the home is on its way to looking presidential again.

[Visit the Home](#)

ARE YOU UP FOR REPURPOSED?



In a rural Illinois town, Steve Meadows turns everyday objects into objets d'art

Housed in a restored 1900s storefront along the Lincoln Heritage Trail in Palestine – the oldest town in Illinois and listed on the National Register of Historic Places – S.D. Meadows Folk Art Gallery sticks out among its rustic surroundings. Travelers who explore this Southern Illinois town can't miss the brightly colored, fantastic wood carvings that welcome you into Steve Meadows' functioning workshop.

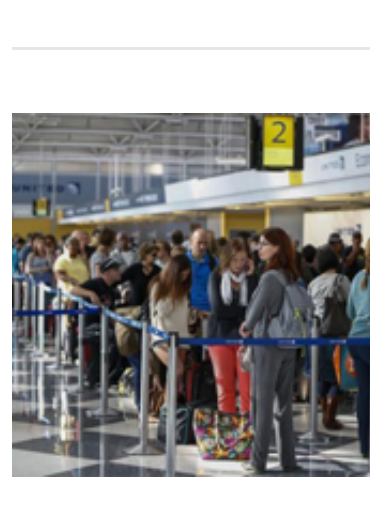
After beginning his journey in 1986 as an architect and carpenter, Steve taught himself sculpture by turning everyday objects into whimsical folk art, earning him a place on the shortlist of America's leading contemporary folk artists.

Steve formed his artistic style in a town built from the pioneering spirit of America. In doing so, he's inspired other artists, including Larry Miller of Coon Hollow Studio, to make Palestine, Illinois his home too. Their stories are just two examples of the many ways Illinois' artisans are helping to keep that pioneering spirit alive.

[Meet your Illinois Made makers](#)

THE LATEST TRAVEL TRENDS

NEWS YOU CAN USE



New Flights from O'Hare via Norwegian Air

Norway-based Norwegian Air [announced](#) the ultra-low-cost carrier will add service to Chicago starting next March, offering four initial flights a week from ORD and London Gatwick. One of a handful of low-cost European airlines that have begun departing from O'Hare, including Iceland's Wow Air, which begins legs to Reykjavik starting July 13. Although the initial offerings are limited, Norwegian Air is expected to add daily flights to London as well as to other European cities in the near future.

[Read More](#)



Domestic Travel Up Among Americans

According to [a report](#) by MMGY Global, U.S. travelers took nearly 14 million more domestic trips than international trips in the year starting in February 2016. That amounts to a 7% increase in domestic vacations by American, and the trend is likely to continue. Domestic travel will continue to be important to the American tourism industry, but there is one market more willing to travel internationally: Millennial families, according to MMGY.

[Read More](#)

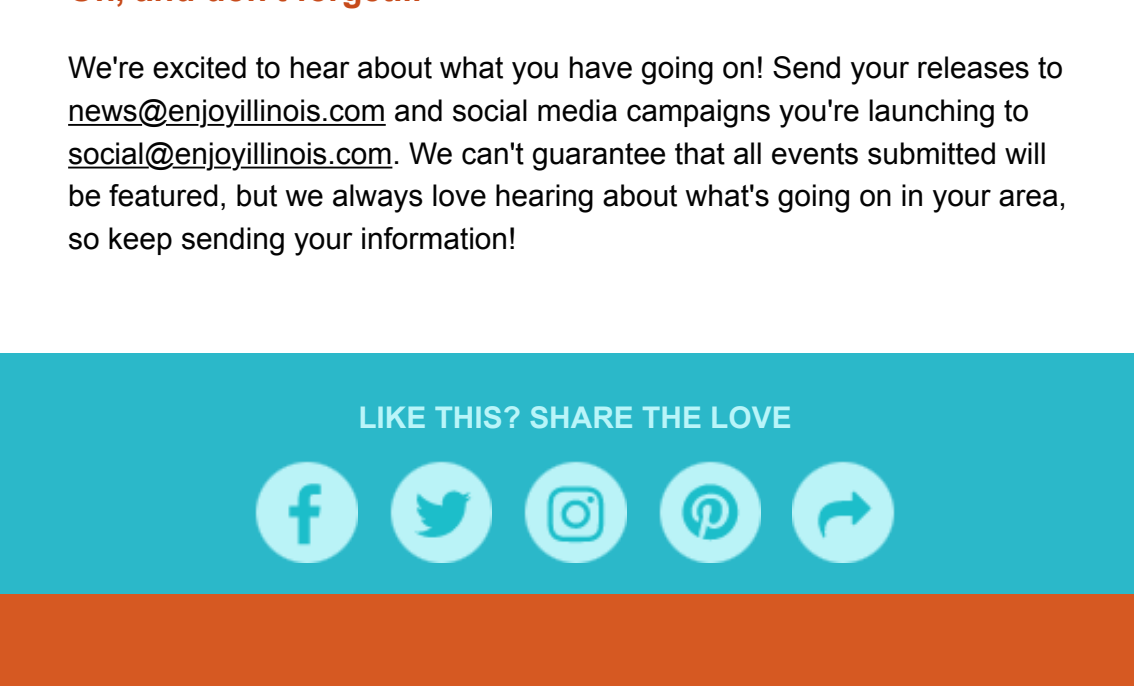
ILLINOIS SHAKESPEARE FESTIVAL



[Illinois Shakespeare Festival](#) is in the midst of its annual six-week run at Illinois State University in Bloomington, and this year is particularly special: the festival celebrates its 40th season this summer. Productions include a family-friendly production of *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, an adaptation called *Shakespeare's Amazing Cymbeline*, and the already sold-out *I Heart Juliet* presented by the Q Brothers Collective. Other shows during the festival feature The Improvised Shakespeare Company—a smash-hit group who performs regularly in Chicago—and free performances of *Sleeping Beauty* for young audiences.

[Attend the Festival](#)

#ENJOYILLINOIS

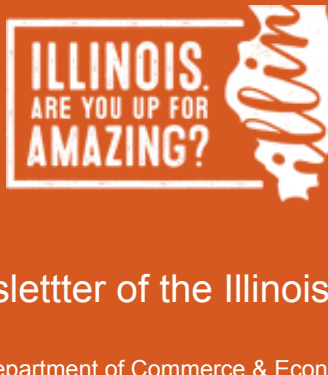
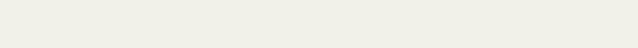


Check out how people from all over the world [#EnjoyIllinois](#) every day on our [Instagram](#).

Oh, and don't forget...

We're excited to hear about what you have going on! Send your releases to news@enjoyillinois.com and social media campaigns you're launching to social@enjoyillinois.com. We can't guarantee that all events submitted will be featured, but we always love hearing about what's going on in your area, so keep sending your information!

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