



Attendance of Annual Festivals and Special Events St. Charles, Illinois

630,754 total visitors at various festivals & events in 2005

Pride of the Fox Festival

Every June, the annual Pride of the Fox RiverFest **draws 45,000** Valley residents to six event sites in downtown St. Charles over its 3-day run. The free festival offers a wide variety of events and activities for local families including water ski shows, sand sculptures, dragon boat races, theatrical face art, craft show, fine art show, carnival, two entertainment stages plus a children's theater tent and many free children's activities. This festival is coordinated by Joy Meierhans. She can be reached at (630-557-2575). For more information: www.prideofthefox.com

Bloomington Gold Corvettes USA

June 16-18, 2006 (6th Annual) – **25,000 people** attended one of the region's largest corvette conventions. Car lovers converged on the Pheasant Run Resort for the four-day event considered the "Granddaddy of All Corvette Shows". For more information, call the St. Charles Convention and Visitors Bureau at (630) 377-6161 or www.bloomingtongold.com

4th of July Celebration

Best viewed from Pottawatomie & Ferson Creek Park. Held at dark on July 4th. This event **draws 13,000+** spectators each year. Pottawatomie Park offers entertainment for the whole family; have a picnic, cook out, go swimming, play mini-golf, listen to some live music in the evening, and much more. Sponsored by the St. Charles Park District, City of St. Charles, and the St. Charles Breakfast Rotary. For more information: (630) 513-6200 or www.st-charlesparks.org

Scarecrow Festival

St. Charles' most renowned festival is the Scarecrow Festival, held every October. The award-winning three-day festival **attracts upwards of 90,000**. For more information contact the St. Charles Convention and Visitors Bureau at (630) 377-6161 or www.scarecrowfest.com.

Mid-America Canoe Race

Sponsored by the Fox Valley Park District, the race has been held annually for over 60 years on the 1st Sunday of June. With over 600 canoes entered, it begins in St. Charles and ends in Aurora. It is estimated that **10,000 spectators** view the race from the riverbanks. For more information contact the Fox Valley Park District at (630) 897-0516 or www.foxvalleyparkdistrict.org

Kane County Fairgrounds

Fair Manager Chris Unger (630-584-6926) estimates the fairgrounds are visited annually by an **average of 500,000**. Events include hobbies and recreational sporting events that appeal to broad cross-sections of the population. Some of the annual events (and their attendance) include: Kane County Flea Market (see below); Kane County Fair (July); Antique Toy & Doll World Show (**5,000**). Other smaller shows (**more than 2,000 attendees**) held throughout the year include Audrey Willmann's Doll & Bear Fair, Coin Operators Show, Country Folk Art Festival, Prairie Star Quilter's Guild Quiltfest, and Gun Shows. For more information: (630) 584-6926 or www.kanecountyfair.com

Kane County Flea Market

The Flea Market (630-377-2252) is held the first Sunday of every month and preceding Saturday afternoon, every month of the year at the Kane County Fairgrounds. The Fairgrounds are located on Randall Road, between State Routes 64 and 38. It is estimated that **crowds of 10,000 – 15,000 attend** this event, with May attendance **over 14,000**. For more information: (630) 377-2252 or www.kanecountyfleamarket.com.

Kane County Events Center / Kane County Cougars

Advertising opportunities can be found in programs and billboards at the Events Center, home to the Kane County Cougars. This Kane County favorite provides classic American Baseball action in a family-friendly environment including traditional seating and lawn picnic areas. The Cougars are a Class A affiliate of the Oakland Athletics - total attendees for 2004 were **522,042** at 68 openings. 70 games, fireworks dates and 27 entertainer appearances highlighted the 2005 schedule. For general information call (630) 232-8811 or www.kccougars.com.

Pheasant Run Resort, Spa and Convention Center

The 473 room resort and convention center also boasts an 18 hole golf course, 3 swimming pools, 4 outdoor tennis courts, complete health spa and fitness center, dinner theater, Zanies Comedy Club, and the Bourbon Street shops, entertainment, and restaurant complex. Plus, resort ownership has built an additional 120 rooms in a new Hilton Garden Inn north of Pheasant Run. Pheasant Run is the site for 16-18 public trade shows a year and averages 20 private convention/trade shows. **57,000** people attend the various Mega Center events. For more information: (800) 4-Pheasant or www.pheasantrun.com

Farmer's Market

Fridays, beginning in June and running through the first week in October. Stroll through our Downtown Farmer's Market and discover the finest in locally grown fruits, vegetables, potted and fresh cut flowers and so much more. It will make every Friday an anticipated event! Approximately **600 plus** shop each week.

Charlestowne Mall

Charlestowne Mall attracts people from all over the area with unique attractions such as an Italian carousel and soft play area for kids. With almost 100 stores including Carson's, Kohl's, Sears, and Von Maur, Charlestowne Mall caters to every taste. For more information: (630) 513-1120 or www.charlestownemall.com

Art Galleries

St. Charles is home to many fine art galleries who coordinate events throughout the year. Participants in the annual *Celebration of the Arts* March Gallery Walk include: Emily Parson Studio, Fine Line Arts Gallery, Indigo School of Art & Gallery, La Galerie, Michael Angelo Gallery, Orleans Street Gallery, Proud Fox Gallery, The St. Charles Public Library, Tim Judge Studio & Gallery, and Town House Books.

Art Around the Fox - Spring of 2006. Various downtown locations - Opportunities to view fine art in a variety of media hosted by downtown businesses with individual artists in attendance. Refreshments served. This weekend kicks off a month long exhibit at these locations. For more information – Fox Valley Arts Council: www.fvaonline.org.



Events coordinated by the Downtown St. Charles Partnership
www.dtown.org or call (630) 513-5386 for more information

- **St. Patrick's Day Parade** - March 18, 2006 - Celebrate the St. Patrick's Day Parade in historic Downtown St. Charles. Entries to include authentic Irish bands, Irish dancers, marching bands, inflatables and floats. Attendance is approximately **10,000 people** from the local and regional area.
- **Sisters Weekend** – April 21-23, 2006 - Hotel Baker, 100 W Main St, St. Charles, IL. Sisters of all sorts, not limited to sisters by birth, celebrate that significant relationship in their life. They enjoy an indulgent weekend by experiencing creative retail, restaurant and hotel packages, as well as an opening wine and cheese reception along with a fabulous pajama party. Approximately **100 people** attended this event in 2005.
- **Annual Fine Art Show** - Set along the banks of the Fox River in Downtown St. Charles, is to be held May 27-28, 2006. This two-day cultural arts event encompasses all aspects of the visual arts through an art exhibition and sale. It is a forum for the display and sale of the finest quality original art. Approximately **3,500 attend** this event.
- **Concerts in the Park** - Thursday evenings in Lincoln Park/West Main Street at Fourth Street, beginning in June and running through mid-August. Coordinated with the St. Charles Park District. These evening concerts are estimated to bring **800 people** per night / 9 concerts per year & offer a variety of musical entertainment for all ages. For more information: (630) 513-6200 or www.st-charlesparks.org/links/concerts.html.
- **Theatre in the Park/Venetian Boat Parade** – August 5, 2006. Attendees enjoy live outdoor theatre in the park (**500 people** for both nights) followed by (Saturday only) a delightful illuminated boat parade (**300 people** attend) presented by the Fox River Estates subdivision. The event is anticipated to grow similarly to the Concert series.
- **Holiday Homecoming/Electric Christmas Parade** – November 24-25, 2006. Festivities begin with the Lighting of the Lights in Lincoln Park and the arrival of Santa Claus (attendance approximately **700 people** of all ages). Visit Santa House in Lincoln Park, attend a free holiday movie, ride a trolley or a horse drawn sleigh. Spectacular fully illuminated parade steps off at 5:30 p.m. on Saturday with exciting bands, equestrian units, floats, inflatables and more! The parade will begin on 5th Street and ends at 4th Avenue on Main Street. This event attracted some **15,000 spectators** last year! The parade is coordinated by the DSCP in cooperation with the City of St. Charles and the St. Charles Jaycees.