

YOUR GUIDE TO WHAT'S *Real*

History • Arts & Culture • Shopping • Dining
Outdoor Adventure • Events • Living



Real WOODSTOCK

REAL Historic

In Woodstock, the county seat of McHenry County, we've always had a taste for uncommon goodness. Take for example one of our first industries: pickles. Easily packaged and shipped to Chicago along the railroads, we gave the world a real taste of our way of life. That heritage lives on today through **Claussen Pickles**, still made right here in Real Woodstock. Wherever you enjoy a Claussen Pickle, you enjoy the unparalleled flavor of our city.

But there's more to our heritage. Did you know in our early years we were also known as "The Typewriter City," birthplace of more than half of the world's typewriters? Both the **Emerson Typewriter Company** and **Oliver Typewriter Company** set up shop right here.



Oliver Typewriter Band
JULY 4, 1910

No wonder **Orson Welles** and **Chester Gould** called Woodstock home! Welles spent time here pursuing theater and radio, launching one of the most legendary film careers of all time. Gould penned his famous "**Dick Tracy**" comic strip here. Legends like **Paul Newman**, **Tom Bosley**, **Shelley Berman**, **Geraldine Page**, **Lois Nettleton**, and **Betsy Palmer** also found their beginnings at the **Woodstock Opera House**.



HOME OF
Claussen Pickles



Of course, **Bill Murray** spent day after day after day here making his toasts to world peace in the 1993 film ***Groundhog Day***, an event we celebrate every year.

On the surface, Woodstock may seem ordinary — a regular ol' mid-size, Midwestern city. But take a closer look and you'll see a community overflowing with ingenuity, entrepreneurship, and comfortable living. In Woodstock, we're **True to Our Past and Confident of Our Future**.

We invite you to explore the history of the city we love. Stay a while. Get to know us. You may just want to wake up here again and again.



**WOODSTOCK
TYPEWRITER
FACTORY**



ORSON WELLES



**WOODSTOCK
Opera House**



Want to experience the arts? Woodstock has what you need to tantalize and enrich your cultural senses.

In summer, stop in and see the stars of tomorrow shine with the annual musical production from **Woodstock Children's Summer Theatre**.

Let's start with the heart of our arts scene: the **Woodstock Opera House**. Situated on the south side of Woodstock's Historic Square, a step inside the Opera House makes you wish you had arrived by horse and buggy, which by the way, you can during the Holiday Season each year. Built in 1889, the Opera House has helped launch the careers of some of the biggest stars of the 20th century. But its contribution to the arts goes far beyond its history. Today, you can take in its nostalgic beauty with **live theatre and dance performances** from local community groups, regional performers, and national acts.

Situated just steps from the Opera House are some of the best **local artists and artisans** in the Midwest. Stop in our local artisans' markets and peruse through breathtaking glass and ceramic works of art — our shops on the Square provide outlets for local makers to share their work with the community. You can also find pottery, handwoven crafts, and plenty of culinary arts at our **Woodstock Farmer's Market**, and be sure to check out the **Clayworkers' Guild of Illinois pop-up shows** for a showcase of gorgeously crafted ceramic masterpieces.

For film enthusiasts, **Classic Cinemas Woodstock Theatre** on Main Street offers a movie-going experience unlike any other. Boasting all the modern amenities of a multiplex, the 1927 theater includes a recently restored domed ceiling in one of the auditoriums. The Woodstock Theatre shows the latest releases on eight screens.



Is **live music** more your scene? Summer music on the Square is a can't-miss. Music lovers gather each Wednesday night on the Square with picnic baskets and blankets for our free summer concert series by the **Woodstock City Band**, which has performed in Woodstock for more than 130 years. Did we mention the summer concert series also includes an ice cream social? Live music and ice cream on a warm summer night — there's nothing better! If banjos and mandolins are more your taste, the daylong **Woodstock Folk Festival** hosts a celebration of that

classic, Americana sound every July. The **Woodstock Mozart Festival** celebrates one of the greatest composers of all time every August, while the more contemporary **Woodstock Jazz Festival** celebrates one of America's great contributions to the world of music. For a more plugged-in sound, **Rockstock** takes over every summer, a rocking destination for fans of country and rock music. Of course, you'll want to plan a weekend around **Gaver's Barndance**, which offers one of the most electrifying parties of the summer with over \$8.3 million raised and donated to local cancer charities. Or mellow out with the dulcet tones at **Harvest Fest** and **Music at the Market**. Want to try your hand at performing too? No problem. Sign up for one of the open mic nights hosted by **Off Square Music** at **Stage Left Cafe** throughout the year.

NIKO'S
Red Mill Tavern



For a complete schedule of events at the Woodstock Opera House or for tickets, visit woodstockoperahouse.com.



For a full list of
local shops and
restaurants, visit
our website
realwoodstock.com

REAL Hospitality

Antiques, bookstores, apothecaries, jewelers, gift shops, artisan shops, music shops, and other niche hobby shops provide a fresh, original shopping experience exclusive to Woodstock.



Fuel your imagination for great literature at our **independent bookstore**. Treat yourself to a bit of pampering and luxury or search for men's, women's, and children's apparel and more at our **salons, boutiques, and jewelers**. Find modern treasures, home décor, or just the perfect gift at our **local artisans markets and gift shops**. Fine-tune your instrument — or learn a new skill — at our **local music shops**. Peruse pop culture collectibles at our **local hobby shops**. We also have a **skate shop** and **bike shop** to keep you rolling.

But our commercial footprint extends far beyond the Square. Step outside

our historic district and you'll find a mix of both locally owned businesses and national chain retailers providing ample opportunities to track down a real treasure or restock your cabinets.

And the food? Delectable. Grab a cup of **pour-over coffee** and a few **bean-to-bar chocolate treats** or grab a **gourmet cupcake** at our local dessert shops. Need something a little less sweet? How about a **falafel wrap** or **blackened Cajun chicken**? We have **family diners**, **delis**, **barbecue**, **pizzerias**, **gourmet burger shops**, **sushi**, and **charcuterie**. We have some of the most amazing **authentic taquerias** around. We are also home to not one, not two, but **three craft breweries**, providing unparalleled tastes of Northern Illinois every day. Find the perfect brew to pair with a **burger**, a **rack of ribs**, or a **tavern-style pizza**. In Woodstock, you'll find big city options in a small-town package!



We value our local businesses owners for their dedication to the community and the unique ideas they bring to our city. They're our next-door neighbor, our kids' little league coach, or a member at our place of worship. They do more than run a business. They get to know you and invite you to be a part of the community. So, grab a bite. Raise a glass. Find what sparks your joy and come be a part of the Woodstock community.



Join us!

What better place to bring your new business vision to life than Woodstock? From charming, historic storefronts on the Square to an ever-expanding business corridor along the more highly trafficked routes in town, we're positive you'll find the space you need. Whatever your dream is, it can happen here.

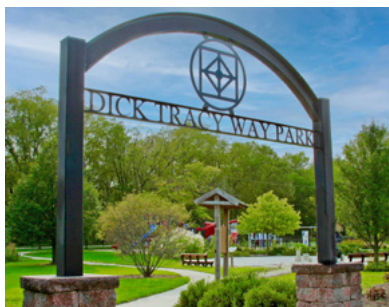
Visit realwoodstock.com for more information about relocating or opening a new location in Woodstock.



HOLZLAGER
Brewing

REAL *Adventure*

Peaceful, relaxing and refreshing, Woodstock is home to nearly 5,000 acres of parks and outdoor recreation areas. Whether you prefer to relax with a line in the water and reel in the Big One at one of the **McHenry County Conservation District** sites in Woodstock, pedal for miles on our trails and country roads, or hike across restored prairie lands, we have lots of ways to get in a little nature therapy.



Emricson Park, home to many events, offers miles of paved biking and walking trails and plenty of space to toss a football with your buddies or play catch with your kids. You can even reserve one of the picnic shelters for your next family reunion.

A breath of fresh air is always within reach for residents here. With 24 parks and 16 playgrounds scattered throughout the city, outdoor time is always within walking distance. If you're ready to get your game on, so are we. With numerous fields and courts for baseball, softball, soccer, tennis, basketball, and football, there's no shortage of competitive recreation for young and young-at-heart athletes in Woodstock. Of course, we can't forget **Woodstock Water Works**, the best place in town to beat the summer heat with a zero-depth entry pool and two water slides. There's even a baby pool for the little ones and a separate lap pool for those looking to improve their backstroke.

Ready to hit the links? **Bull Valley Golf Club** and **Woodstock Country Club** both offer members exciting challenges for all skill levels, whether you're just starting out or gunning for that green jacket. If the weather is a bit gloomy,

Woodstock
WATER WORKS



take your adventure indoors at the **Woodstock Rec Center** and enjoy their indoor pool, racquetball courts, indoor track, full-sized gymnasium, and exercise equipment.

Up for a little friendly competition? **Kingston Lanes** and **Wayne's Lanes** are classic go-to options if you're in the mood to bowl a few frames. You can also

gather some buddies for a friendly game of sand volleyball or bags at the Kingston Lanes outdoor patio.

Bike it, hike it, fish it

— Woodstock is your Northern Illinois destination for outdoor recreation. For a full list of outdoor recreation areas, visit realwoodstock.com/fun/



GROUNDHOG DAY THE FILM,

A Real Cult Classic

"It's so beautiful... Let's live here!"

— Bill Murray, *Groundhog Day*

Relive one of the most beloved comedies of the 1990s — over and over and over — filmed right in our backyard.

The hit 1993 film **Groundhog Day** has drawn visitors from around the world to Woodstock to see and celebrate this iconic movie.

All year long, fans flock to Woodstock to take a few selfies at Ned Ryerson's corner and other sites — each marked with its own plaque — featured in the movie. A self-guided walking tour takes you around the city from Gobbler's Knob to that puddle that caused Phil Connors so much anguish. Many of the sites — yes, even the famous puddle — are commemorated with an engraved metal plaque.

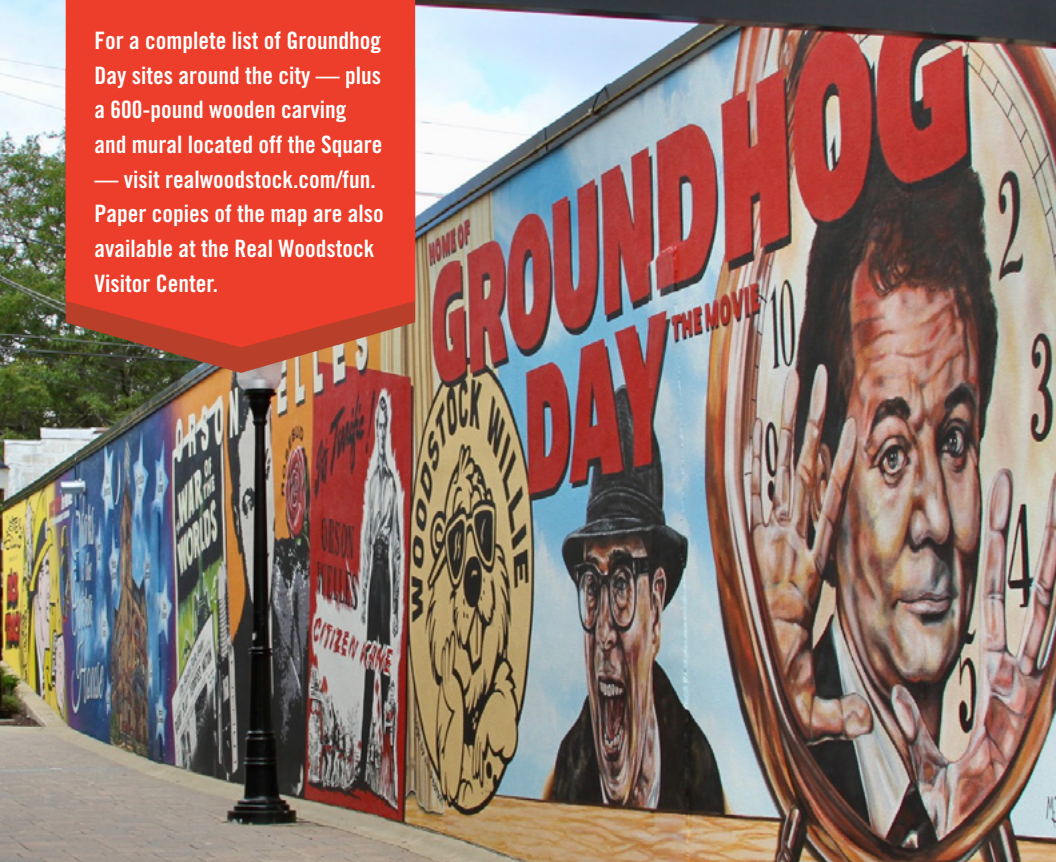
Walking Tour
CODE 



Groundhog Days draws thousands of visitors from around the world to Woodstock to relive the 1993 cult classic — we'd love for you to join us too! Visit realwoodstock.com/events for a complete schedule of events.



For a complete list of Groundhog Day sites around the city — plus a 600-pound wooden carving and mural located off the Square — visit realwoodstock.com/fun. Paper copies of the map are also available at the Real Woodstock Visitor Center.



Groundhog Day fever reaches its peak during **Woodstock Groundhog Days** which takes place annually in early February and features events such as the chili cook-off, free Groundhog Day movie screenings at the historic Classic Cinemas Woodstock Theatre, free walking tours of the filming locations, pub crawl, and more. You can even book your stay at the Cherry Tree Inn Bed & Breakfast, the same B&B where Bill Murray's character woke up every morning! And of course, you can't miss the ever-popular **Prognostication** when the city's official mascot, **Woodstock Willie**, makes his annual prediction!



Woodstock
WILLIE

REAL Festive

There's always something happening here. Mark your calendar for these special events happening throughout the year.

Kick off the year with Woodstock's annual **Groundhog Days**, an early-February celebration of the 1993 film *Groundhog Day*.

Spring to life and celebrate the luck o' the Irish with the **Shamrocked Street Festival** in March and see the Square transform into a marketplace of 300-plus vendors during the **Fair Diddley Craft Show** each May. Sample the local grub at the annual **Woodstock Food Truck Festival**.

Of course, you're going to want to check out our renowned **Woodstock Farmer's Market**, where you can talk with the farmers who grow your food and meet many talented craftspeople. The city heats up in the summer with live music from the **Cass Street Music Series**, **Woodstock City Band Concerts**, the **Woodstock Folk Festival**,

Rockstock, and **Gavers Barndance**. Live bands perform year-round at **Kingston Lanes**, **D.C. Cobb's**, **Offsides Sports Bar & Grill**, and **Niko's Red Mill Tavern**. Celebrate love in all its forms during the **Woodstock Pride Fest**.



You gearheads won't want to miss the parade of classic cars that roll into town for the **Annual Woodstock Car Show**. And don't forget the **McHenry County Fair**, hosted the first week in August at the fairgrounds here in Woodstock.

Fall into autumn with locally made arts with the **Woodstock Professional & Business Women Autumn Art Tour**. Honor Mexican heritage during our **Mexican Independence Day Celebration**.

Enjoy farm goods, artisans and more at **Harvest Fest**. Raise a glass to local brews during the **Woodstock Ale Fest**, enjoy intricately designed models at the **Woodstock Rail Fest**, and sample local wines at the **Woodstock Wine Walk**. Enjoy **Autumn Drive** each October as local farms open their doors to visitors. Ever wanted to see a pumpkin fly? Then you won't want to miss the annual **Pumpkin Chuckin' Festival** at Niko's Red Mill Tavern. Finally, celebrate a world of magic and fantasy — and yes, even quidditch — during **Witches and Wizards of Woodstock**.

Finally, there's no place like Woodstock for the holidays. Visit the most festive Christmas town in Illinois to bask in the warm holiday spirit in the center of the Square on the Friday evening after Thanksgiving as the **Woodstock Community Choir** sings traditional carols in a scene straight from a Charles Dickens novel. Then, watch as thousands of white lights twinkle and illuminate the heart of the city during the **Lighting of the Square**. And be sure to grab cookies and churros with Santa after our **Annual Woodstock Christmas Parade**. Ladies, enjoy a festive evening on the Square during the annual **Ladies Night Out**, and be sure to bring your little ones to visit Santa Claus himself during Visit Santa events through December.

Parades: They're one of the things we've done so well in Woodstock for more than 150 years. That tradition lives on today, from our annual Memorial Day Parade, celebration of love and inclusiveness, to our holiday festivities — no matter what the occasion, our many parades on the Square are something you can't afford to miss. Check out our calendar of events at realwoodstock.com.



MEXICAN
INDEPENDENCE DAY
Celebration

REAL Life



So, you've fallen in love with Woodstock? It happened to us, too. How can anyone resist the charm and beauty of cobblestone streets and grand old Victorian houses? But dig a little deeper into Woodstock and you'll find a comfortable, modern city with an identity unlike any other. Diverse, friendly faces are everywhere welcoming you with a smile whether you're stopping in for the afternoon or planning to make Woodstock your home for years to come. Woodstock is the place "where people wave back" and the neighbors you meet will be the friends you'll have for a lifetime. Woodstock is where people put down roots.

And why shouldn't they? Whether you're looking for an **historic home** near the Square, prefer **golf course communities**, or dream of a **farm or farmette** all your own, you're sure to find a place to call home here. Imagine living in a place where your kids can safely ride their bikes to one of the **best school districts in the state**. Perhaps they'll enroll in the Spanish-English dual language program in elementary school or choose the dual degree program in high school that will allow them to earn both a high school diploma and an Associate of Arts degree from **McHenry County College**. Maybe you would like to go back to school too.

Aurora University's Woodstock Center offers undergraduate and graduate programs to help you achieve your learning goals and advance your career at any age.

Why not make home here? With a number of global manufacturers, technology, and industrial companies such as **Charter Dura-Bar, Berry Global Consumer Packaging, OWC, MATRIX4, Woodstock Sterile Solutions, MBI, MAC Automation, and Associated Electric** operating right in our backyard — plus opportunities in education, healthcare, and government — you'll find a variety of job opportunities that are sure to meet your interests and skill set even if you're working from home.



If your career interests take you closer to Chicago, **Metra** stops right in Woodstock and will have you downtown in just over an hour. Milwaukee, Madison, Lake Geneva, and Rockford are all within an easy drive too. Woodstock is even a destination for small planes with nearby Galt Airport just a 10-minute drive away. We're far enough away from the big cities to avoid the frantic pace and noise of urban life, but distinct enough to be more than just another suburb. Here, you can bask in the natural beauty of McHenry County, from the **Chain O'Lakes** and **Fox River** to **Rush Creek Conservation Area**, yet have the comforts and amenities of city living.



WOODSTOCK
High School



Ready to move here? From apartments to townhomes, classic Victorians to modern ranches, we can help you find the home of your dreams. For a list of real estate services, visit realwoodstock.com/service/real-estate-property-management/



127 E. Calhoun St., Woodstock, IL 60098 • 815 338-2436 • RealWoodstock.com