### Events, Festivals, and Attractions

**January - September, 2012**

#### Events and Festivals

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>7th Lions Club Annual Pancake and Wienie Hog Sausage Supper - Eliza.</td>
<td>Eliza</td>
<td>4:00 - 7:00 p.m. at the Eliza Community Center.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>28th Mercer County Food Pantry Benefit - Eliza.</td>
<td>Eliza</td>
<td>Sat., 8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. at Chiropractic Arts Center.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>12th Cabin Fever Outing - North Henderson.</td>
<td>North Henderson</td>
<td>Sun., 11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. at Floral Hall Main Street. Soup and dessert to raise funds for the library.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>21st All-You-Can-Eat Taco Supper - Sherrard.</td>
<td>Sherrard</td>
<td>Sat., 4:00 - 7:00 p.m. at the fire station. Proceeds go to the purchase of special equipment.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>25th United Methodist Men’s Pancake and Sausage Supper - Viola.</td>
<td>Viola</td>
<td>Sat., 5:00 - 7:00 p.m. at the Viola United Methodist Church. Fee-will donation.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>24th Mercer County Band and Choral Variety Show - Aledo.</td>
<td>Aledo</td>
<td>Sat., 7:00 p.m. at Mercer County High School Gymnasium.</td>
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<td>28th Kampera Supper - Firemen's Pancake Breakfast - Viola.</td>
<td>Viola</td>
<td>Sat., 4:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. at the Viola United Methodist Church. Fee-will donation.</td>
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<td>31st Easter Egg Hunt - Viola.</td>
<td>Viola</td>
<td>Sat., 10:00 a.m. at Miles Memorial Park. Run dates are Sat., April 21st - 29th. Sponsored by Viola Chamber of Commerce.</td>
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**February**

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<td>12th Cabin Fever Outing - North Henderson.</td>
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<td>Sun., 11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. at Floral Hall Main Street. Soup and dessert to raise funds for the library.</td>
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<td>28th Mercy County Food Pantry Benefit - Eliza.</td>
<td>Eliza</td>
<td>Sat., 8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. at Chiropractic Arts Center.</td>
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**March**

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<td></td>
<td>3rd Community Club Auction - Eliza.</td>
<td>Eliza</td>
<td>Sat., 10:00 a.m. at the Eliza Community Center. Auction items donated by Mercer and Muscatine County businesses.</td>
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<td>24th Mercer County Band and Choral Variety Show - Aledo.</td>
<td>Aledo</td>
<td>Sat., 7:00 p.m. at Mercer County High School Gymnasium.</td>
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<td>28th Ambulance Service Fish Fry - New Boston.</td>
<td>New Boston</td>
<td>Sat., 4:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. at the Fire station.</td>
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<td>31st Easter Egg Hunt - Viola.</td>
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<td>Sat., 10:00 a.m. at Miles Memorial Park. Run dates are Sat., April 21st - 29th. Sponsored by Viola Chamber of Commerce.</td>
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**April**

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<td></td>
<td>1st Pancake Breakfast - Sherrard.</td>
<td>Sherrard</td>
<td>Sun., 7:00 a.m. - 10:00 p.m. at Sherrard Fire Station. Sponsored by Sherrard Volunteer Fire Department. Proceeds go to the purchase of special equipment.</td>
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<td>28th Aledo Main Street's 7th Annual Ladies on the Loose - Aledo.</td>
<td>Aledo</td>
<td>Sat., 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. There will be brunch and great shopping. For more information, visit <a href="http://www.aledomainstreet.com">www.aledomainstreet.com</a>.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>25th Central Park Band Shell Opening Concert - Aledo.</td>
<td>Aledo</td>
<td>Sun., 6:30 p.m. For information, visit <a href="http://www.aledomainstreet.com">www.aledomainstreet.com</a>.</td>
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**May**

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<td>9th Ice Cream Social - Preemption.</td>
<td>Preemption</td>
<td>Fri., 4:30 - 7:00 p.m. at Preemption United Methodist Church. &quot;Methodist burgers&quot; sandwiches served. Homemade ice cream available for purchase.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>9th City Wide Yard Sales - Viola.</td>
<td>Viola</td>
<td>Sat., begins at 8:00 a.m. Sponsored by Viola Chamber of Commerce.</td>
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**June**

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<td>2nd Aledo Main Street’s 6th Annual Alley Art Event - Aledo.</td>
<td>Aledo</td>
<td>Sat., in downtown Aledo. Kids of all ages can purchase a 4’x4’ square to showcase their artistic abilities - $5 entry fee - Enter to win a prize.</td>
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<td>2nd City Wide Yard Sales - Sherrard.</td>
<td>Sherrard</td>
<td>Sat., begins at 8:00 a.m. Sponsored by Sherrard Volunteer Fire Department. Proceeds go to the purchase of special equipment.</td>
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**For Additional Information**

- Aledo Area Chamber of Commerce - Call (309) 582-5373 or visit www.aledochamber.org.
- Aledo Main Street - Call (309) 582-2751 or visit www.aledomainstreet.com.
- University of Illinois Extension - Call (309) 582-5106 or visit http://web.extension.uiuc.edu/merceredp.
- Mercer County Tourism - Call (309) 582-2121 or (309) 582-2222.
- Viola Chamber of Commerce - Call Jim Morrison at Morrison’s Market, (309) 595-2434.

**Farmers Market**

The Main Street Farmers Market is held in Central Park, Aledo every Thursday afternoon from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m. June through October. The market offers a variety of fresh vegetables, fruits, berries, wines, cheeses, flowers, eggs, and meat from local growers and producers. For information, visit www.aledomainstreet.com.
23rd 8th Annual Antique Power Tractor Show - Section, Sat. in the downtown area. Breakfast at the Fire Station.

24th Firemen's Breakfast - North Henderson. Sun., 7:00 a.m. - Noon at the fire station. Free-will donation.

24th Community Worship Service - North Henderson. Sun., 10:00 a.m. in the Village Park. Bring a lawn chair. Rain location: Zion Lutheran Church. For information, call (309) 645-5184 or (309) 662-8223.

June dates to be announced

• AMF Gold Outing - Aledo. 9:00 a.m. shotgun start at Hawthorne Ridge Golf Course. Sponsored by Mercer Foundation for Health.


• Joy Fest - Joy. At the Village park. Sponsored by Joy United Methodist Church.

Firemen’s breakfast, Garden tractor pull • Parade • Crafts & music • Pork chop dinner & homemade ice cream

July 3rd

Independence Day Fireworks - Matherville. Tues., at dusk.

7th Ladies Aid Annual July Breakfast - Eliza. Sat., 6:30 - 9:30 a.m. at the Eliza Community Center. Sponsored by Wabash Church.

4th Old Fashioned 4th of July Celebration & Ice Cream Social• Hot Dog Meal - Aledo. Wed. Fireworks at dusk at Mercer County Fairgrounds.


Registration begins 9:00 a.m. • Race at 10:00 a.m.

14th Fish Fry - Sherrard. Sat., 11:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m. at the Sherrard Fire Station. Sponsored by Sherrard Volunteer Fire Department. Proceeds go to the purchase of special equipment.

21st BUI Jerry Tharp Fallen Heroes Ride - Aledo to Keithsburg. Sat., sign up at 8:00 a.m., leave at 10:00 a.m. Memorial ride honoring wounded veterans/vehicles. Stops at gravesides in Mercer, Knox, and McDonough Counties. Ride ends at 5:00 p.m. at Smithly’s Tea.

10th - 15th Mercer County Fair - Aledo. Tues., Sun., at the Mercer County Fairgrounds. For more information, visit www.mercercountyfair.org.

Activities include: Lutetuck judging • Harness racing • Queen pageant • Derotation • Drift/Tractor Pull • Lots of food, rides & games

26th Free Ice Cream Social • Aledo. Thurs., 5:00-7:00 p.m. at Central Park. Sponsored by Mercer Foundation for Health. For more information, visit www.mercerfoundation.org.

July dates to be announced

• Rudy Green Memorial Tractor Ride - Eliza. Beginning at the Eliza Community Center.

90 plus tractors participate • Any tractor may participate but must travel at least 12 mph

August 10th Steak Supper - Preemption. Fri., 5:00 - 7:00 p.m. at Preemption United Methodist Church.

Chopped steak, mashed potatoes & gravy, vegetables, cole slaw or apple sauce, and dessert • $12 per person • Purchase tickets in advance, call 309-754-8740.


16th - 18th Annual Fair & Rodeo - New Windsor. Thurs. - Sat. For more information, visit www.newwindsorfair.com.

Fair queen & princess contest • Fireworks • Street parade • Kiddy parade Sat. • Horse show • Rodeo/Fun Fair • (IPRA/Sanctioned)

Rodeo Thurs. 5:30 • Fri. & Sat.


25th Aledo Main Street’s 11th Annual Antique Days - Aledo. Sat., 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. For information, visit www.aledomainstreet.com.

Fireman’s Pancake Breakfast 6:00-10:00 a.m. • Antique appraisals • Food • Entertainment • Antique market on the Courthouse Lawn • Downtown mural project • Pioneer demonstrations • Antique tractor & engine show • Huge car show • Great downtown shopping

26th Tractor Pull and Pork Chop Fry - New Boston. Sun., noon - 4:00 p.m.

31st Aledo Main Street’s 7th Annual Blue Grass Kickoff Concert & Luncheon - Aledo. Fri., 11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. at Central Park Pavilion and Band Shell. For information, visit www.aledomainstreet.com.

August dates to be announced

• Ice Cream Social - Sherrard. At Sherrard Public Library.

September 1st 8th Annual Labor Day Fish Fry - Keithsburg. Sat. Catfish Tournament • Fireworks at dusk at campground

8th - 9th 5th Annual Thrashers Reunion - Viola. Sat., 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. • Sun., 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Steam Power, Gas Engine & Tractor Show • Kiddie Fishing Derby Sat.

9th Zion Lutheran Church Rally Day - North Henderson. Sun. For information, call (309) 464-5154.

13th Benefit Dinner and Auction - Aledo. Thurs., 5:30 p.m. Social Hour, 6:30 p.m. Dinner at VFW Hall. Sponsored by Mercer Foundation for Health. For information, visit www.mercerfoundation.org.

October 26th Harvest Hop - Section, Sat., 6:00 p.m. at the Fire Station. 5k walk/run • Hot Dog race

31st Halloween Party and Weiner Roast - New Boston. Wed., 5:00 - 6:00 p.m at Fish Fry Park.

October dates to be announced

• Halloween Party - Sherrard. Sponsored by Friends of the Library.

• Pumpkin Fest Street Dance - Sherrard.

November 10th One Nation Under God Breakfast - Aledo. Sat., 7:00 a.m at Mercer County VFW Hall. Sponsored by Aledo Exchange Club.

Recurring Events

January-September Community Coffee - North Henderson. Wednesdays, 5:00 a.m. at the Post Hall on Main Street. Come meet your neighbors and visit with friends.

January-December Free Community Meals - Preemption. Wednesdays, 5:30-6:00 p.m. at the Preemption United Methodist Church. Served January through December.

June-August Aledo Main Street’s Cinema @ Central - Aledo. A drive at Central Park Band Shell. One movie is shown each month. For more information, visit www.aledomainstreet.com.

June-August Music in the Park - New Windsor: Tuesdays at 7:00 p.m.

June & Sept. City-wide Yard Sales - New Boston. For more information, call (309) 972-8181.

December

7th Holly Days - Aledo. Fri beginning at 5:30 p.m. Sponsored by Aledo Chamber of Commerce.

7th Main Street Electric Parade - Aledo. Fri. beginning at 5:30 p.m. For more information, visit www.aledomainstreet.com.

7th Christmas Walk - Viola. Fri., 4:30 - 7:00 p.m. Sponsored by Viola Chamber of Commerce.

Central Park Band Shell - Aledo. In downtown Aledo’s Central Park. For more information, visit www.aledomainstreet.com.

Aledo Opera House. 100 2nd Street, (309) 582-1912.

Big River State Forest - Keithsburg.


Greenmound Cemetery - Keithsburg. 136 Civil War veterans are buried here.

Hawthorne Ridge Golf Club - Aledo. 621 State Highway 94. (309) 582-5941.

Keithsburg Museum - Keithsburg. Open Mon., 8:00 a.m. - Noon & 1:00 - 5:00 p.m. Tue., Thu. & Fri., 8:00 a.m. - Noon and by appointment. Closed Wed. (309) 374-2311. Will also do genealogy.

Lincoln Military Trail & Pioneer Cemetery - Keithsburg. Located off of Bald Bull Road.


Riverside Campground - Keithsburg. Open April - November. 537-4700. 40 campsites on banks of Mississippi River.

Sturgeon Bay Campground - New Boston. Open April 1 - November 1. Seasonal camping.