

Museums and Visitors Centers

Essley-Nobel Museum, 1406 Southeast 2nd Avenue, Aledo. (309) 582-2280. mcmuseum@frontier.com. Preserving Mercer County history with one-room schoolhouse and Native American artifacts.

City of New Boston, Mercer County's oldest community, was once surveyed by Abraham Lincoln. Features the New Boston Museum. (309) 587-8181.

Keithsburg Museum, 302 S. 14th Street. (309) 374-2311. The Greenmound Cemetery is also in Keithsburg, and 136 Civil War veterans are buried there.

Aledo's Main Street, 201 West Main Street. (309) 582-2751. <http://www.aledomainstreet.com>. Historic downtown business district with antique stores, specialty shops, and cafés.

Aledo Opera House, 102 SE 2nd Street. (309) 582-7210. Opened in 1904 and still in operation today.

Aledo Band Shell, Central Park. Home to weekly concerts, April through September.



River Recreation

Riverside Campground, Keithsburg, (309) 224-6554. Open April 1-November 1, with 80 campsites on the banks of the Mississippi River.

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

Boat Landings available in New Boston and Keithsburg.

Golf Courses

Fyre Lake National Golf Course, 1057 Fairway Lane, Sherrard. (309) 644-4575. World-class Nicklaus design course offering winding fairways and emerald greens through a hardwood forest in a lakefront setting.

Hawthorne Ridge Golf Club, 621 State Hwy. 94, Aledo. (309) 582-5641. This course features 18-holes along a long winding elevation.



For Additional Information:

Aledo Main Street. (309) 582-2751.
www.aledomainstreet.com.

Genesis Medical Center. Calendar of Events:
www.genesishealth.com/aledo/foundations/events.

Mercer County Tourism. (309) 528-2121 or 2222.

Quad Cities Convention & Visitors Bureau.
(309) 277-0937. Calendar of Events:
www.visitquadcities.com.

Brochure presented by:

- Aledo Main Street
- Bi-State Regional Commission
- City of Aledo
- City of Keithsburg
- City of New Boston
- Genesis Health System
- Knuckle Busters Car Club
- Mercer County Board
- Mercer County Historical Society
- Mercer County Tourism
- New Windsor Fair and Rodeo
- University of Illinois Extension
- Village of Matherville/Preemption Township
- Village of North Henderson
- Village of Sherrard
- Village of Viola

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A Guide to Events and Attractions
in Mercer County, Illinois

2015

2015 Events

Ladies on the Loose – April 25

A ladies' brunch for all ages; entertainment and a dessert bar adds to this fun day of shopping in historic downtown and all throughout Aledo.

Rhubarb Festival, Aledo – June 5-6

Aledo named Rhubarb Capital of Illinois! Held in historic downtown Aledo, this daylong, two-day event treats visitors to the many uses of rhubarb, from traditional pies to rhubarb wine and other yummy delicacies. This unique festival offers over 3,000 homemade rhubarb pies for sale, rhubarb sampling, 12,000 free rhubarb seeds given away, crafts, and live entertainment. <http://www.aledomainstreet.com/>.



The North Henderson National Livestock Show – June 27-28

This exciting livestock showing is held at Allgyer Ball Park. (309) 337-5196 for more information.

Fourth of July Celebrations

Independence Day Fireworks, at dusk Matherville – July 3.

Old Fashioned Fourth of July Parade and Dr. Ford's Annual Frog Race Aledo's Central Park; fireworks at dusk, Mercer County Fairgrounds - July 4.



Mercer County Fair, Aledo – July 5-11

This family fun event is held at the Mercer County Fairgrounds and includes a queen pageant, carnival rides, harness racing, livestock judging, 4H show, and truck/tractor pull.

Viola Days – July 18

Bring the family to Viola for a day of fun with activities, food, and a craft show.

Fish Fries & Good Eats

Summertime is host to hometown, old fashioned fun and good eats. Community fish fries, a fishing derby, and a unique boat-in breakfast are Mercer County staples along the Mississippi River or in the beautiful back country.

Sherrard Fish Fry – July 11

New Boston Fish and Chicken Fry – August

Preemption Township Fishing Derby – August

Boat-in Breakfast, Keithsburg – August 16

Keithsburg 11th Annual Fish Fest – September 5

New Windsor Fair & Rodeo – August 13-15

The community has enjoyed this annual August event held in New Windsor for over 75 years. The festivities kick off with a parade and carnival. The rodeo features seven events including saddle bronco riding, calf team roping, steer wrestling, barrel racing, and bull riding. Of course, the antics of the rodeo clowns and the famous New Windsor drill team are always a crowd pleaser. Exhibits are also on display, such as hobbies, domestic arts, art floriculture, grains, fruits, and vegetables.



Antique Days, Aledo – August 29

Pioneer demonstrations, antique appraisals, antique cars, merchant specials, a fireman's pancake breakfast, a farmer's market, and free entertainment all day make Antique Days a must-visit event in historic downtown Aledo. Children's activities include



a pumpkin painting contest, jumping balloon, and face painting.



Step back in time, too, and view more than 300 vehicles on display from every era during the Knuckle Busters Car event. All makes and models are welcome!

Thresher's Reunion, Viola – September 5-6

Steam and powered engines and tractors take center stage for this annual reunion in Viola in early September. Children enjoy a corn shelling contest, pedal tractor pull, barrel train, and fishing derby, and all ages learn from demonstrations on threshing, wood sawing, sorghum making, and blacksmithing. Antique cars, a flea market, and music make for a fun weekend.

Come Home to Mercer County for the Holidays

Holly Days, Electric Light Parade, and Hot Chocolate Hustle, Aledo – December 4-5

The first weekend of December heralds in Aledo Holly Days. An early Friday evening Electric Parade kicks off the festivities that also include horse-drawn carriages, living windows, holiday market, and bazaar and bake sale. Decorated trees are on display throughout Central Park.

Christmas Walks are hosted in Viola – December 4 and New Windsor – December 11

Adults and children alike enjoy shopping, Santa, holiday cookies and cocoa.

Main Street Farmers Market

Choose Fresh!

Open June through October on Thursday afternoons from 4 to 6 p.m., in Aledo's Central Park.

