

## DAYS OF

# SUMMER

Summertime, and the livin' is easy—but only if you want it to be. Because we picked 100 fun things for you to see and do every day, including the best festivals, outdoor movies, al fresco dining, lake dips, wine slushies, hammocking spots, art fairs, backyard shenanigans, and utter ice-cream hedonism. Your endless summer starts now.

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## JUNE



### JUNE 1

What sounds like a deceptively lovely summer afternoon spent on the manicured grounds of the Benjamin Harrison Presidential Site is a more Machiavellian exercise than you might think. At **WICKET WORLD OF CROQUET**, the museum's annual fundraiser, players—all wearing crisp whites and smiles—scheme to outdo each other with mallets and colorful balls. That's when you realize the groundwork for this day has been laid for weeks, with the really serious croquet devotees practicing in backyard courts, gearing up for the big tourney. But even if you're not the type who views the game as deadly serious chess on a lawn, there's room here for you, too—just make sure you sign up for the Leisure Tournament, not the Competitive one. [bhpsite.org](#)

### JUNE 2

Get attacked by adorable pink jackhammers at the new **FLAMINGO FEED EXPERIENCE** at the

Indianapolis Zoo. Three times a day, you can buy a cup of bird food and make friends with the flamboyant flock. Another recent addition: MISTery Park, home to furry, two-toed sloths hanging out in a foggy wonderland outfitted with the sounds of a rainforest—and misters to cool you off. If you dare, venture into the revamped Deserts Dome, where the latest resident is an ultra-deadly black-mamba snake. [indianapoliszoo.com](#)

### JUNE 3

Make date night more interesting—or round up the whole family—for **HORSEBACK RIDING** at K-Trails. No experience necessary for the guided rides through lovely Strawtown Koteewi Park, just north of Noblesville. Lasso up nine or more friends, and you can reserve a “chuck wagon” barbecue dinner waiting for you upon your return. [ktrails.com](#)

### JUNE 4

**ICE AGE** kicks off a summerlong film series that will keep your kids happy even on the hottest days of the year: At 10 a.m. every Tuesday,





## JUNE (continued)

the charming Historic Artcraft Theatre in Franklin screens a family flick, from *Kung Fu Panda* to *Bon Voyage*, *Charlie Brown*. A \$5 ticket also gets you a popcorn and soda. [historicartcrafttheatre.org](http://historicartcrafttheatre.org)



Historic Artcraft Theatre

### JUNE 5

In movie drag races, there's always that girl who raises a scarf in one hand, then whips it down dramatically to cue the cars to peel out. The weekly **WILD WEDNESDAY STREET LEGAL DRAG RACES** at Lucas Oil Raceway may lack that bit of theatrics, but dammit if gunning your engine alongside a competitor doesn't make you feel like James Dean in *Rebel Without a Cause*, whether you're in a sweet 1949 Mercury Coupe like his or your own sensible four-door sedan. [lucasoilraceway.com](http://lucasoilraceway.com)

### JUNE 6

All together now: "Five hundred twenty-five thousand six hundred minutes ..." Warble with fellow musical-theater nerds at The Cabaret's **RENT MOVIE SING-ALONG**, a benefit for Indy Men's Chorus. [indianapolismenschorus.org](http://indianapolismenschorus.org)

### JUNE 7

For this month's **FIRST FRIDAY FOOD TRUCK FESTIVAL**, the parking lot at Old National Centre is chockablock with more than 30 mobile kitchens slinging your

favorite tacos, samosas, pizzas, and more. The lineup always changes, but count on stalwarts like Caplinger's Fresh Catch, Ali Baba's, and The Flying Cupcake to be parked there all season. Tickets are \$5, with dogs let in free; expect lots of begging to ensue. [firstfridayfoodtruckfestival.com](http://firstfridayfoodtruckfestival.com)

### JUNE 8

A week of LGBTQ+ celebration crescendos with the **CADILLAC BARBIE INDY PRIDE PARADE**, which rewards early birds who've been nursing Bloody Marys for hours at a prime sidewalk brunch spot along Mass Ave. More than 100 floats will bring the spectacle, drag queens will strut, and bead necklaces will most definitely fly. Follow the rainbow connection to its end at Military Park for the massive Indy Pride Festival, which drew more than 30,000 people last year to peruse some 300 vendor booths. [indypride.org](http://indypride.org)

### JUNE 9

Can you believe? *Queer Eye's* grooming expert, **JONATHAN VAN NESS**, brings his *Road to Beijing* comedy tour to Old National Centre. It's named for his mission to become a figure-skating star in time for the 2022 Winter Olympics. Just like his TV persona, this show is sure to be all about positivity, self-love, and laughs. [jonathanvanness.com](http://jonathanvanness.com)



Strawberry Festival

### JUNE 10

If you were one of the listeners hanging on to every word of *Serial*, the true-crime podcast that launched a thousand imitators, hear all about it straight from the storyteller's mouth when **SARAH KOENIG** stops by Clowes Hall. Host of the world's most listened-to podcast, she'll talk about the challenges, ups, and downs of the genre. [butlerartscenter.org](http://butlerartscenter.org)

### JUNE 11

Just try not to shake your hips to the sounds of **ENDLESS SUMMER BAND**, whose concerts are like the most fun wedding reception you've ever been at, only better. The eight-person ensemble knows how to work an audience, segueing effortlessly from Elvis to "The Girl from Ipanema" to Bruno Mars, and somehow it all works. Catch them at the Nickel Plate District Amphitheater in Fishers. [npdamp.com](http://npdamp.com)

### JUNE 12

Hitch a ride on the touring **SKYSTAR**, guaranteed to make any Ferris wheel you've ridden seem rinky-dink. This one, the world's largest portable observation wheel, is in Cincinnati through June 16. Ablaze in neon lights, it holds 36 climate-controlled gondolas, each with room for up to six people. Enjoy showstopping views as you soar nearly 15 stories over the city's Riverfront Park. [skystarwheel.com](http://skystarwheel.com)

### JUNE 13

**STRAWBERRY FESTIVAL** has come a long way since 1965, when the women of Christ Church Cathedral baked up 100 shortcakes as a fundraiser. By last year, the number of homemade shortcakes had grown to 19,879—and they always sell out before the official 4 p.m. cutoff. Dwellers know to arrive on Monument Circle and queue up well before lunchtime in order to avoid long lines for "The Works," which includes cake, berries, ice cream, and whipped topping. Oh, and bring seven bucks—cash only, please. [cccindy.org](http://cccindy.org)

### JUNE 14

If you saw *Bohemian Rhapsody* and left the theater humming, get on your bike and ride to Conner Prairie for **THE MUSIC OF QUEEN: A ROCK SYMPHONY** with the Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra, plus a full rock band and vocals. New this year at Symphony on the Prairie are three huge LED screens that lend something of a Wembley Stadium vibe, plus a reserved-seating area right in front of the stage if you want to do things up royally. [indianapolis-symphony.org](http://indianapolis-symphony.org)

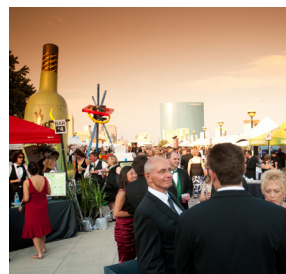
### JUNE 15

Get out your best ratting comb: The original 1988 John Waters version of **HAIRSPRAY** plays at Newfields's Summer Nights series. Ricki Lake still rules as Tracy Turnblad, the "baddest white dancer" in 1960s Baltimore. The movie at Newfields's amphitheater starts at dusk, usually around 9:30 p.m., but hopefully you've snagged a decent spot on the grass well before then (kill time by wandering the museum's lovely grounds). Person with the highest hair wins the night. [discovernewfields.org](http://discovernewfields.org)

# SUMMER'S GREATEST WEEKEND

It happens every summer: A bunch of the season's top events all fall on the same second weekend of June. But you don't have to choose among Zoobilation, the Italian Street Festival, the Talbot Street Art Fair, and the Independent Music + Art Festival (Brew-Ha-Ha, usually in the mix as well, is moving to August this year). Here's a game plan for cramming in the maximum amount of fun in 72 hours.

BY VANESSY CORTES



## FRIDAY, JUNE 14

**7 p.m.:** If you were lucky enough to snag a ticket to **Zoobilation** this year, which sold out as usual, now's the time to make your grand entrance in your best animal-themed attire. Taste lavish cuisine from 70-plus restaurants and specialty cocktails poured at 15 bars at this black-tie bash, which raises funds for animal and environmental conservation. To shut the place down, you'll need to party 'til midnight, which the rock bands make it easy to do. Otherwise, slip out before your stilettos really start killing you, and take a quick jaunt over to the Fletcher Place neighborhood to close out the night. [indianapoliszoo.com/events/zoobilation](http://indianapoliszoo.com/events/zoobilation)

**9:30 p.m.:** At Holy Rosary Catholic Church, the free **Italian Street Festival** has been raging since 5 p.m. The night time is the right time to take a ride on the Ferris wheel, with its twinkling skyline views, and pick up some of the authentic housemade food constantly being rushed upstairs from the church's basement kitchen. Sure, after stuffing yourself at Zoobilation, that fettuccine Alfredo and cannoli may sound like overkill—but take it home by the platter to freeze, and you'll be telling yourself *grazie* later. Duck out before 11 p.m., when things close down and the throngs flood across the street to the free Eli Lilly parking lot. [indyalitalianfest.org](http://indyalitalianfest.org)



**Noon:** Just as the sun is starting to do its worst, duck inside the air-conditioned Harrison Center for the **INDIEana Handicraft Exchange**. Besides enjoying that A/C, the nectar of the gods on midsummer days, you can check out more than 100 vendors selling their DIY wares at this juried affair, where you'll find everything from natural bath-and-body goods to rock 'n' roll poster art to cat coloring books (for you, not your feline). [harrisoncenter.org/programs/imaf](http://harrisoncenter.org/programs/imaf)

**2 p.m.:** Now that you've cooled down a bit, step outside for the rest of the fest—the contemporary craft fair you've been browsing is really just one part of the daylong **Independent Music + Art Festival**. It's in the Harrison Center's courtyard, where bands play on two stages, several food trucks provide sustenance, and Sun King Brewery doles out beer. [harrisoncenter.org/programs/imaf](http://harrisoncenter.org/programs/imaf)

**5 p.m.:** Mosey back down to the **Italian Street Festival** now, and you'll have ample time to park; buy some of the tickets you'll need to exchange for pasta and Peroni; procure some of said pasta and Peroni; take in the 6:45 p.m. procession led by parishioners hoisting high a statue of Mary, lending a small-town village feel; get down on the dance floor when the popular local "rock orchestra" The Woomblies, take the stage at 8 p.m.; buy more food to take home before it disappears (because it will, starting with the cannoli); and squeeze in one last Ferris wheel spin or other carnival ride at the midway before the clock strikes 11.

## SUNDAY, JUNE 16



**10 a.m.:** The **Talbot Street Art Fair** is starting back up at this very minute for Round Two, but you have another busy day ahead. Ease into it by looking for the little red building at 16th and Alabama Streets—that would be Foundry Provisions, where baristas will kindly fortify you with a Tinker Coffee Co. pour-over and a Circle City Sweets croissant. [foundryprovisions.com](http://foundryprovisions.com)

**Noon:** Once sufficiently fed and caffeinated, saunter a couple of blocks over to the art fair to take in everything you didn't get a chance to see yesterday—260-some artists from across the city and the United States means a *lot* of jewelry, photography, paintings, ceramics, and other creativity to absorb.

### JUNE 16

Nobody's going to *make* you read *The Devil in the White City*, Erik Larson's riveting 2003 best-seller about a real-life serial killer in Chicago during the 1893 World's Fair. But if you do, you'll probably be even better equipped to appreciate the details in **WHITE CITY MURDER**, a spoof-y musical take on the story at the new Phoenix Theatre. It's from the kooky minds of Ben Asaykwee and Q Artistry, so you're in for one offbeat matinee. [phoenixtheatre.org](http://phoenixtheatre.org)

### JUNE 17

Quick—who was the Greek "Sun King" of ancient myth? If you blurted out "Helios"—or better yet, if you're quibbling that, well, he was really more of a sun *god*—then you want to be at Sun King Brewery when it hosts **MYTHOLOGY AND FAIRYTALE TRIVIA NIGHT**. Test your knowledge on tales from around the world and myths pertaining to *Circe*, last year's *New York Times* No. 1 best-seller that recasts the infamous femme fatale of *The Odyssey* as a hero in her own right. The victorious team gets four day passes to this year's Gen Con—but since Sun King beer is served all night, isn't everyone really a winner here? [sunkingbrewing.com](http://sunkingbrewing.com)

### JUNE 18

Get your tiki on at **THE INFERNO ROOM**—on a Tuesday night, you might actually stand a chance of landing one of the two-level (but tiny) bar's coveted tables. Because you don't want to be loitering out on the sidewalk getting hot and sweaty waiting for a spot to open up—no, you want to be inside, nestled in one of the cozy alcoves, sipping an icy extra-strength Painkiller. [theinfernoroom.com](http://theinfernoroom.com)





## JUNE (continued)

### JUNE 19

Browse flower bouquets, heirloom tomatoes, zucchini bread, and other locally produced goods at the weekly **ORIGINAL FARMERS' MARKET** on the brick-lined street in front of City Market. If you're lucky, you'll find basil by the generous bunch—perfect for blending into pesto tonight. [indyem.com](#)

### JUNE 20

Float on at **A RISING TIDE**, a promising new arts initiative that's

putting a stage right on the White River from 16th Street to New York Street. The idea from Indy Convergence is for the shores and even the river itself to become a seasonal theater district, with a lineup of acts on and around the water this summer. They launch with a free show from Tony Duncan, a hoop dancer who will perform (on land) and also lead a nature walk. Optional beach party afterward. [indyconvergence.org](#)

### JUNE 21

You have to stop by the Rathskeller's Biergarten at least once this summer. It's a law, or something. Make it this night, when the band **POLKA BOY** rolls out the barrel

of fun. Their repertoire runs the gamut from traditional polka to Tom Jones; it's all likely to lure you to the dance floor, especially after hoisting a stein or two of Kölsch from the outdoor bar. [rathskeller.com](#)

### JUNE 22

Bicycle by starlight at **N.I.T.E. RIDE**, a 20-mile loop that takes you through downtown, Butler University, Newfields, and more, at 11 p.m. Leery of pedaling your way around in the dark? There's safety in numbers—expect some 3,000 other cyclists. If you need a two-wheeler for the occasion, rent one at Bicycle Garage Indy at City Market, where the whole thing gets rolling. [niteride.org](#)

### JUNE 23

A Sunday stroll is the perfect time to interact with **public art on the Cultural Trail**. On Mass Ave alone, you can sniff the "scent vault" near the Metro Nightclub, where an ornate grate hides a perfuming device that sends the scent of roses wafting up into the alley (probably the only time you'll ever want to smell one); hit the "Care/Don't Care" button just east of College Avenue; sway with *Ann Dancing* where the main drag intersects with Vermont and Alabama streets; and take a selfie with you as the "I" in the *NDY* sculpture at Alabama Street. Instagram that last one, please—we all want to see. [indyculturaltrail.org](#)

### JUNE 24

So you had to go back to work today. Beat away the Monday-night blues with a ping-pong paddle at **SMASH SOCIAL**, where \$10 gets you unlimited play—or secure a perch in the loft, curl up with a butterbeer latte or a local craft brew, and watch the games that are afoot. [smashhq.com](#)

### JUNE 25

Indulge in a pineapple-basil, strawberry-rhubarb, or sour-cherry-cola popsicle at **NICEY TREAT**, purveyors of the best ice pops in town. [niceytreat.com](#)

### JUNE 26

"Know how to two-step?" "Yup." "Wanna prove it?" So begins the cinematic romance between Bud

(John Travolta) and Sissy (Debra Winger) in **URBAN COWBOY**, the 1980 country classic that made cowboy boots and mechanical bulls a thing for a while. Standing in for the legendary Texas saloon Gilley's is Duke's, southside Indy's own honky-tonk—it's hosting a screening along with Big Car Collaborative. [bigcar.org](#)

### JUNE 27

Stop No. 1: The Smoking Goose, for Batali sandwiches to go. Stop No. 2: The Indiana History Center, where you can enjoy your spread on the grass at free **CONCERTS ON THE CANAL**. Tonight's band is Groove Essential, who promise dance hits to get you working off that picnic

dinner. The bonus is free admission to the Indiana History Center itself, which is hosting *From Pencils to Pixels: Hoosier Cartoons and Comics*, a special pop-up exhibit. [indianahistory.org](#)

### JUNE 28

Wind down a long, hot week with an evening spent sipping **wine slushies** at Urban Vines. The Westfield winery is known for a fun party vibe on warm nights, and turning their vino into what are essentially sippable Sno-Cones shows they don't take themselves too seriously. The swirly blackberry-and-rosé frozen concoction is almost too pretty to drink, but we trust you'll find a way. [urban-vines.com](#)

### JUNE 29

Chalk artists, living statues, aerialists, fire dancers, caricature artists, magicians, jugglers, mimes, and more flood downtown Fort Wayne for **BUSKERFEST**, a free celebration of the street performer. [downtownfortwayne.com/buskerfest](#)

### JUNE 30

Head off to summer camp and return with a quilt you made yourself. Today begins the four-day **QUILT CAMP** at YMCA Tecumseh Leadership Center, in the woods about a half-hour northeast of Lafayette—a bucolic place to snip and stitch, whether you're a veteran or just bought your first Singer. [camptecumseh.org](#)

# HANG TIME

The art of impromptu hammocking is catching on fast—you can hardly walk through a city park without spotting someone lounging between two trees. Here are our six favorite spots to stake out, post up, and bliss out. —MEGAN STEPHENS

**WHERE** *White River State Park*  
**WHY WE LOVE IT** Here, there are two fab options. On the northern end of the Canal are grassy areas with medium-sized trees that make for perfect people-watching. On the south end, the scenery becomes a series of public-art displays.

## TIPS FOR FIRST-TIMERS

Look for trees about 46 to 68 inches in diameter (bring a tape measure along with your hammock and tree straps).

If you and a pal are stacking more than one hammock above another, start at the highest point to make sure the trunk is thick enough up there to hold you.

Never situate yourself upwind of another hammocker without asking first. Orglom onto a tree that someone else is already hitched up to. Rude!

Your instinct will be to lie in a straight line, like you're in bed, but the netting sides will pinch in and squeeze you. Lying diagonally is more comfortable.

## WHERE Broad Ripple Park

**WHY WE LOVE IT** Meander down by the shoreline, next to the gazebo, and hang your hammock by the river. Watch the action at the dog park, picnic shelters, tennis courts, or swimming pool, or just zone out like you have the place to yourself.

HAMMOCK PHOTOS BY NATALIE GIVAN

## WHERE Highland Park

**WHY WE LOVE IT** This serene urban oasis, one of the highest points in Indy, has a sweet historic vibe. Plus, King Dough is just up the street if you get hungry and want to picnic from your hammock.

## WHERE Fairbanks Park

**WHY WE LOVE IT** Roam through fields of artistic canvas, formerly known as 100 Acres, all free and open daily. Your choice of setting up sculpture-side or with a waterfront view.



# COLD COMFORT

Consider these debaucherous ice-cream creations your reward for making it through summer's most unforgivingly scorching days.

BY SARAH BAHR



## THE SMALLCAKES SMASH

The dessert bar **Smallcakes** packs two scoops of ice cream inside a frosted cupcake "sandwich," then crams the whole thing in a jar and finishes it with caramel or chocolate drizzle, sprinkles, and whipped cream. 930 Broad Ripple Ave., 317-389-5447, [smallcakescupcakery.com](http://smallcakescupcakery.com)



## TEEJAY'S DONUT ICE CREAM SANDWICH

The **TeeJay's Sweet Tooth** ice-cream sandwich on a warm yeast doughnut is like a toasty hug for your tongue, punctuated by the cooling tickle of two scoops of flavors, from cotton candy to chocolate malt. 8660 Purdue Rd., 317-744-9764, [facebook.com/teejayssweettooth](http://facebook.com/teejayssweettooth)

## THE LICK S'MORES ICE CREAM TACO

On special occasions, quirky ice-cream parlor **Lick** packages dessert as dinner in this chocolate-dipped, torched-marshmallow-fluff-filled boss of a taco. Circle City Industrial Complex, 1125 E. Brookside Ave., 317-979-0237, [facebook.com/lickicecreamindy](http://facebook.com/lickicecreamindy)



# JULY

## JULY 1

With humidity really kicking in, it's time to **give your home bar a summer face-lift**.

Stash the bourbon and red wine in the back, then stock up on warm-weather ingredients like limes, mint, pineapple juice, coconut milk, and tiki-drink favorite Faler-num to pair with spirits like rum and tequila. Stashing a few bottles of rosé in the fridge wouldn't hurt, either.

## JULY 2

Treat yo' self to a night of craft beer, books, and battling it out with other fans of Pawnee, Indiana, at **PARKS AND REC TRIVIA NIGHT** at Broad Ripple's Books & Brews. Keep in mind that the used bookstore-and-brewery's 96th Street location recently packed 'em in for a memorial for Li'l Sebastian, so competition could be stiff. Better pull up Netflix or Hulu and cram. [facebook.com/booksnbrewsbroadripple](http://facebook.com/booksnbrewsbroadripple)

## JULY 3

Gear up for Independence Day weekend at **CARMELFEST**, which kicks off today with concerts, a talent show, and a kids' area packed with rides and attractions, all in Carmel Civic Square.

Come back the next day for the parade and fireworks. [carmelfest.net](http://carmelfest.net)

## JULY 4

Sure, you could ascend the downtown bank buildings and vie for a good viewing spot for tonight's **FOURTH OF JULY FIREWORKS**. But we'll be a couple of miles east at Highland Park, a grassy slope in the Holy Cross neighborhood that hosts an unofficial Independence Day party every year, and everyone's invited: retired couples who have lived in the 'hood for decades and are thrilled to watch its recent renaissance, young families who moved in more recently in search of affordable downtown living, hipsters who wandered over from dinner at King Dough, and anyone who knows that the hilly terrain here is prime for watching the skyline come nightfall.

## JULY 5

One of the lesser-known Hoosier sports movies, 2001's *Madison*, put actor Jim Caviezel at the controls of a speedboat at the **MADISON REGATTA**. The real deal, though, is certainly louder and can be more dramatic than anything Hollywood screenwriters could



Fourth of July Fireworks





JULY (continued)

dream up. While this is the 69th year for the Ohio River event, it's the first time in 39 years the Gold Cup Unlimited Hydroplane Race is part of the action. You don't need to know what that means, though, to have a good time. Just indulge your need for speed—and enjoy the Rooster-tail Music Festival going on at the same time. [madisonregatta.com](#)

**JULY 6**  
Liven up your sun salutations by balancing adorable little rabbits on your Lululemon-clad body at **BUNNY YOGA**. It's been a first-Saturday thing for months at Metazoa Brewing Company, but this is the bunnies' swan song, at least for a while—after today, they're taking an indefinite hiatus. For \$15, you get a 75-minute yoga session, pint of beer, and plenty of quality time with fur balls (you decide whether we mean the bunnies or the brewmasters). [metazoa.beer](#)

**JULY 7**  
Swim your way through downtown—or tip your sun hat to those who are—at one of the most unique venues we've heard of: the Canal in White River State Park. Organizers of the **POSEIDON SWIM CHALLENGE**, now in its sixth year, predict a balmy water temperature of 80 degrees for this event, which you can sign up for right up through race day. Cheering on friends, family, and, heck, strangers as they breaststroke from 11th Street down to the front of the JW Marriott makes for a nice stroll alongside the water. [crossroadseventsandtiming.com/poseidon](#)



**JULY 8**  
Few of us will ever have the pleasure (or the maintenance costs) of owning a '57 Chevy complete with racing stripes, a Custom '77 Dodge Van, or a Nissan Fairlady Z. At least, not the full-sized versions. But thanks to Hot Wheels, it's possible to own a wheel-shaped suitcase full of such classic cars. And because of The Children's Museum of Indianapolis and its **HOT WHEELS: RACE TO WIN** interactive exhibit, you can pretend you're doing something for your kids while actually indulging your own nostalgic yearnings. [childrensmuseum.org](#)

**JULY 9**  
Sample the summer flavors at **MACARON BAR**, one of the newer additions to Mass Ave. Mimosa, peach, and Key lime pie are all rotating tastes this season. If you fall deeply in lust as you bite into the watercolor meringue, sign up for a class—these are notoriously tricky treats to make, all the more satisfying to conquer. [macaron-bar.com](#)

**JULY 10**  
Toast yourself for having spruced up your home

bar earlier this month, because now that it's **NATIONAL PIÑA COLADA DAY**, all you need is a few fresh pine-apples to turn your patio into party central. [liquor.com/recipes/pina-colada](#)

**JULY 11**  
Treehouses are for children. Yes, yes. But once you get a load of the three forts perched among the leafy arbors of **FLAT FORK CREEK PARK** in Fishers, you'll be racing your kids to the top. Last one up there is a rotten egg. [trailforks.com/region/flat-fork-creek-park](#)

**JULY 12**  
**BIKEPARTY INDIANAPOLIS** is more "party" than "bike," which is probably why it's one ride that brings everyone together—the serious athletes bent low on their Colnagos, the hipsters on their fixies, the weekend cyclists on cruisers with nice cushy seats. All are welcome at City Market on the second Friday evening of every month to embark on a leisurely route of 10 miles or so. At themed rides like "Dodgeball Night," everybody takes periodic breaks to jump off their two-wheelers and play gym class's

cruelest sport. Dancing is always encouraged at stoplights. Fun for a first date, or for making new friends (ask a fellow rider what she's playing on her bike's speakers, and compliment the guy with the really tricked-out bike, down to a bubble machine). [facebook.com/bikepartyindy](#)

**JULY 13**  
The words "drag queen" conjure up all kinds of images—sky-high hair, sparkly nails, impossibly lush eyelashes—but not, perhaps, childhood literacy. Now, queens are cracking open books at libraries and bookstores all over the country to read to kids as part of **DRAG QUEEN STORY HOUR**. At Indy Reads Books, listen to Miss Mossy Stone share some family-friendly selections, with kids welcome to bring their own favorites. [indyreadsbooks.org](#)

**JULY 14**  
Attend a royal coronation right in Franklin at the **JOHNSON COUNTY FAIR QUEEN'S CONTEST**. The evening-gown parade, the on-the-spot interviews, the halftime show with acts of the offbeat sort (yodeling, anyone?)—

these are all best enjoyed from the metal bleachers of the indoor arena, which might get a little sweaty, with only fans to cool the place down. But it's all part of the thrill of throwing down a \$20 bet on who's going to win, chowing down on fair foods like a beaver tail or a Farm Bureau milkshake (the best kind), and staying up 'til midnight to watch the chosen queen crowned Miss Johnson County in all her royal glory. [johnsoncountyfair.com](#)

**JULY 15**  
You never know when that unbearably hot, humid day is going to strike—last year, the highest temp recorded in Indy was on May 28, when the thermometer soared to 95. But beware the ides of July, statistically the hottest month around here. So may we suggest your lunch spot today? **The nearest poke restaurant**. The Hawaiian raw-fish craze has sufficiently

taken over the city to the point that you probably have a poke purveyor nearby. A light meal of diced ahi tuna topped with cool fruit, plus a seaweed salad, is tasty and refreshing after hours in the sun—and the healthy ingredients will power you through the afternoon.

**JULY 16**  
Make a dog do that goofy smile-pant thing they do when they're really, really happy. Through the new **FREEDOM FOR A DAY** program at Indianapolis Animal Care Services, you can sign out a pooch to spend the day doing, well, anything but sitting in the shelter. It takes only a couple of minutes to register, and then you can go for a hike at a park, go treat-hunting on Mass Ave (lots of business owners set out water and even have snacks in reserve), or just let the dog enjoy some time in the fresh air. They get a break

from their cages, and the program supposedly ups their chances for adoption, too. [facebook.com/indianapolisanimalcare services](#)

**JULY 17**  
If you've never seen a four-poster barreling down a town's Main Street, you probably haven't been to **THREE RIVERS FESTIVAL**, where the Bed Race is one of 80-plus events at a nine-day party. More than half a million visitors flock to Fort Wayne every summer for midway rides, carnival food, fireworks, and wonderfully weird happenings like the Waiter & Waitress Contest, which sends servers racing through an obstacle course in a simulated dining room. We'll spill: It's pure joy. [threerivers festival.org](#)

**JULY 18**  
Indy Film Fest screens **SPLASH** tonight along the north end of the

Canal, and it's free to spread out a blanket and enjoy a picnic on the grassy areas around the Admiral Spruance Basin (11th Street). For 20 clams, adults can watch the 1984 rom-com while floating on the water—you get an inner tube, access to the Canal, and a Sun King beer. [indymifest.org](#)

**JULY 19**  
The Children's Museum continues its popular series of adults-only affairs with **ATHENS AFTER DARK**, a chance to explore two new exhibits. *Treasures of Ancient Greece* brings to glorious life all that history and mythology stuff you studied once upon a time, and *Take Me There: Greece* looks at what the country is like today. It may be a Greek-themed party, but fight the temptation to show up in a bed-sheet toga, *Animal House*-style—these events are typically more business-casual. [childrensmuseum.org](#)

# SUMMER READS

The books three locals are taking to the beach (or backyard).



**Peter Dunn**, aka "Pete the Planner," financial educator and writer

**Wolfpack: How to Come Together, Unleash Our Power, and Change the Game**, by Abby Wambach  
"I've always appreciated the person [retired soccer player and coach] Abby Wambach is and what she's meant to sport and culture at large. I'm looking forward to drinking in her wisdom."

**Notes from a Young Black Chef: A Memoir**, by Kwame Onwuachi  
"My current state of mind has me seeking out unique perspectives. I'm neither young, nor black, nor a chef. I know what it's like to be a middle-aged white guy in Carmel, but seeking out different perspectives is healthy. This chef's story looks incredible."

**Backlash**, by Brad Thor  
"Look, I'm a sucker for spy thrillers. My wife mocks me and asks how my missions are going."



**Sarah Layden**, assistant professor of English at IUPUI, and author of *Trip Through Your Wires*

**Jane Eyre**, by Charlotte Brontë  
"Every summer, I try to read a classic that I haven't read yet, so this year I'm going to try to read *Jane Eyre*. I majored in journalism, so because I now teach English, I want to kind of get caught up."

**Slash**, by Slash and Anthony Bozza  
"I also tend to read rock-star memoirs in the summer because it's fun, and it's different from what I normally read—a nice break. And usually part of the narrative in a rock-star memoir is perseverance—they write about how they came from one point and got to a successful point."

**The Underground Railroad**, by Colson Whitehead  
"Whitehead is somebody that I have read about, but I haven't read much of his work yet, and he won the Pulitzer Prize for this book. This is the type of book that I would like to focus on and spend some time with."



**Jim Walker**, CEO and lead artist at Big Car Collaborative

**The Complete Stories of Leonora Carrington**, by Leonora Carrington  
"Carrington was a key member of the Surrealist movement who lived from 1917 until 2011. This posthumous collection of short fiction is dark, funny, and dreamlike."

**Dream Wilderness Poems**, by Kevin McKelvey  
"This book by a poet and artist born and raised in Indiana is a connected collage of facts and imagination, ideas and images—all evocative and inspired by a love of the beauty and authenticity of this place. It's a book for people who love science and nature, love Indiana, and love to explore."

**Decolonizing Wealth**, by Edgar Villanueva  
"Subtitled *Indigenous Wisdom to Heal Divides and Restore Balance*, this book published last year is from the perspective of a Native American cultural leader. It offers what Villanueva describes as healing medicine for philanthropy—at a time when leaders across the United States are rethinking approaches."



# MAKING WAVES

SEVEN  
HOOSIER  
HOTSPOTS  
FOR GETTING  
ON (OR IN)  
THE WATER

It's another summer scorcher. The asphalt is steaming right through the soles of your sandals, your neck is drenched in sweat, and your ice cream dissolves in a milky puddle before you can get in so much as a lick. Luckily, lazy afternoon lake dips and stunning sunset views are a cool car ride away. —SARAH BAHR



## Drift Down the White River

Why settle for a lazy river when you could tube the real thing? There's no substitute for the gurgling water lapping your ankles as you float beneath a shady canopy of arching sycamores on one of Noblesville-based White River Canoe Company's tubing trips. Herons, ducks, cranes, and foxes are your companions as you glide 3.5 miles from Potter's Bridge to the Livery along the West Fork of the White River. Tubers check in at the River Road Livery, hop a shuttle bus to Potter's Bridge north of Noblesville, then float back to the starting point. Vets know to stash a few sandwiches in a cooler (and rent a cooler tube) and to bring a rope to knot everyone's tubes together. \$20–\$25 per tube; whiterivercanoe.com

TUBE!



## Pilot a Pontoon

If you want a calming cruise through a gleaming, bass-and-blue-gill-filled reservoir, a pontoon-boat rental at Geist Marina is the way to go. For a rowdier outing, northeast Indianapolis partiers flock to Cocktail Cove, a nook that transforms into a pop-up summertime social hub—basically Broad Ripple bar-hopping on the water. Boaters can also admire the beautiful homes that line the grassy, too-green-to-be-real waterfront. Each pontoon in the fleet seats between 10 and 12 people, and morning and evening departures accommodate both early birds and night owls. Make a reservation online in advance—they fill up quickly on weekends and holidays. And don't worry, no boating experience necessary—you'll get a driving lesson before you depart (think short, controlled bursts when backing up—and remember, boats don't have brakes). \$175–\$325 for eight hours (plus fuel charges); geistmarina.com

BOAT!



## Plunge into Indiana's Deepest Natural Lake

The murky muck of some lakes may have scared you away from so much as dipping a toe in, let alone diving into the depths. But they're nothing like the glacier-made, glassy surface of Northern Indiana's Tippecanoe Lake. The winding, 1.4-square-mile "Lake Tippy" isn't just the state's deepest natural lake, at 123 feet; it's also one of the clearest. We're talking Colts-blue waves you can see the creases of your palm through, with a lakefront rimmed with both early-20th-century cottages and modern mansions. The Kosciusko County oasis is publicly accessible from all sides, and Tippecanoe Boat Company (301 EMS T46 Lane, Leesburg) and Patona Bay Marina & Resort (162 EMS T33 Lane, Leesburg) offer boat rentals if you'd rather explore from the middle.

SWIM!

KAYAK!

## Paddle Through a Great Blue Heron Estuary

If you don't see at least one long-legged, dagger-billed bird while drifting along Monroe Lake near Bloomington, you're doing it wrong. The water is separated by a causeway and bridge, and the section east of State Road 446 has two gorgeous waterfowl resting areas; power boats can't exceed idle speed here. To explore Indiana's largest inland lake (16.8 square miles), grab a kayak from Lake Monroe Boat Rental at the Paynetown State Recreation Area campgrounds. \$15 per hour or \$48 per day; lakemonroeboatrental.com



CANOE!

## Glide Down Sugar Creek

Indiana's classic canoeing site is still the champ. Starting at Shades State Park, an hour northwest of downtown, a float down Sugar Creek takes you through Turkey Run State Park and beneath four historic covered bridges. The level of commitment is up to you—Sugar Valley Canoe Trips offers everything from one-hour floats to overnight treks. Don't think you have to canoe the whole creek in a straight shot—there are plenty of sandbars along the way where you can get out, stretch your legs, and hunt for a few of the region's famous Indian Beads (bits of crinoid fossil from a creature that resembled a floppy tulip with spindly legs). Be ready to schlep your own canoe to the loading zone at the end of the trip—the staff doesn't carry equipment up the hill. \$20–\$34 per two-person canoe; sugarvalleycanoes.com



DO  
YOGA!



## Meditate Like a Mermaid

You already knew Eagle Creek Park, Indy's largest, had a thing for the extreme, from zip-lining to Tarzan swings. But that was all on land. For some mindful breath work among the waves, try a stand-up paddleboard yoga class at 6 p.m. Tuesdays through September. Each evening's session launches from Eagle Creek Outfitters and sticks to shallow, 6-foot-deep water for participants' upward-facing-dog and sleeping-swan attempts. Keeping your center of gravity close to the board's handle will help you stay balanced if you're feeling wobbly (though you drop an anchor to keep from drifting). \$28, or \$38 with board rental; \$5 park-entrance fee; peacethroughyoga.com

STAY  
OVER!

## Hang Out on a Houseboat

No one said you had to get in the water. You can have an air-conditioned aquatic adventure two and a half hours south, on Patoka Lake, when you board *The Princess*, *The Queen*, or *The Admiral*. Each sleeps eight to 12 and has a full kitchen, bathroom, and slide (!). Motor around a glistening 13.8-square-mile lake that *USA Today* named the best spot in the state for wildlife-viewing. Just bring your own towels, linens, and pillows before nestling into a cove for the night. Then let the waves gently rock you to sleep. \$1,295–\$2,195 for a three-day weekend rental (plus fuel charges); patokalakemarina.com/houseboats



JULY (continued)

## JULY 20

Get to know fellow fans of Verdi and Puccini while digging into a New England-style seafood bake at **LOBSTER PALOOZA**, the 10th annual fundraiser for Indianapolis Opera at the Basile Opera Center. *Psst:* If you aren't really a huge fan of crustaceans, you can call ahead for a chicken or vegetarian dinner instead. [indyopera.org](http://indyopera.org)

## JULY 21

Don't expect Broadway-level production values at the Red Barn Summer Theatre. Rather, this rural gem is a charming, pastoral spot in Frankfort that combines let's-put-on-a-show community spirit with professional talent, a formula that's kept it going for 50 years. Housed in a converted 1908 barn (yes, it's air-conditioned), its musical offering this season is **A FUNNY THING HAPPENED ON THE WAY TO THE FORUM**, the knockabout Stephen Sondheim/Larry Gelbart collab that merges ancient Roman comedy with vaudeville silliness. [redbarntheatre.net](http://redbarntheatre.net)

## JULY 22

Let the hordes subside from the first weekend of the **NORDSTROM ANNIVERSARY SALE** and make your move on a Monday instead. The bargain bonanza goes on through August 4, so it's just getting started. Play hooky with some friends, have a chic brunch at Rize nearby, and scout the sale on social media together. Then take your time, and don't skip a section—these aren't chump-change discounts on last season's leftovers,

but hefty deals on the newest fall merch. While you're there, apply for the Nordstrom credit card to get early access to next year's event. [nordstrom.com](http://nordstrom.com)

## JULY 23

Remember the simple thrill you got from **catching fireflies** as a kid? Turn it into a game: Stock up on clear glass jars, poke holes in the lids for air, and hand one to each competitor. See who can capture the most—then take the lids off for good and watch the lightning bugs float into the abyss.

## JULY 24

Punctuate your mid-week walk along the trails of Eagle Creek Park with a stop at the Earth Discovery Center. That's the spot where some of the residents of Indy's largest park—including snakes, opossums, turtles, salamanders and more—are the guests of honor for **WEDNESDAY WILD: LIFE ENCOUNTERS**. The up-close program has a preservation focus. While it's free with park admission, donations are welcome. To find out what creature will be on the program during your visit, call 317-327-7148. [eaglecreekpark.org/earth-discovery-center](http://eaglecreekpark.org/earth-discovery-center)

## JULY 25

Exciting news for Shakespeare-in-the-park types: Indy Shakes, more formally known as the Indianapolis Shakespeare Company, is using a \$9.2 million Lilly Endowment grant to build a magnificent new amphitheater at Riverside Park, with Taggart Memorial as a dramatic backdrop and connecting directly to the White River. The curtain is scheduled to go up on all that next year, but in the meantime, the company



# DOG DAYS OF SUMMER

For when even sun-worshippers just want to be near a working air-conditioner.

BY KATIE GRIEZE

## SPORTING CHANCE

Air-conditioned doesn't mean lazy, and we can't promise that you won't sweat a little at **Sky Zone** ([skyzone.com](http://skyzone.com)). At these indoor trampoline parks in Fishers, Plainfield, and southside Indy, jumpers might bounce through a game of ultimate dodgeball or plunge into a pool of foam cubes. On the more extreme side, **Hoosier Heights** ([hoosierheightsindianapolis.com](http://hoosierheightsindianapolis.com)) is made for those who aren't afraid of falling. But on the rock wall or bouldering area, you'll find climbing routes ranging from beginner to advanced.

## NATURE CALLING

At a year-round temp of 53 degrees, **Bluespring Caverns** ([bluespringcaverns.com](http://bluespringcaverns.com)) in Bedford provides a fresh-air adventure without the sunburn. Spelunkers explore the limestone cave on boat tours of the longest navigable underground river in the nation, home to several species that have never even glimpsed daylight (try to spot salamanders in the murky water). It's a (literally) cool place to spend an hour, chuckling at the tour guide's bad jokes, listening to how long your laughter echoes through the twisty 3-mile tunnel.

## HAPPY PAMPER

Positively wilting? Make it a spa day. At **Evan Todd Salon & Spa** ([evan toddsalonspa.com](http://evan toddsalonspa.com)) in the Conrad hotel, you get free valet parking (no hoofing it in the heat), plus access to a small swimming pool with a huge skylight—for taking a dip and enjoying the sunshine while firmly ensconced inside. Try the Rosemary Mint Body Treatment, a 60-minute session with a hot-stone massage and heated blankets. Which may sound like the last thing you want right now, but trust the cooling essences of rosemary and peppermint to do their thing, too.



## JULY (continued)

is staging **HAMLET** elsewhere in that park for a two-weekend run—and it's free. [indyshakes.com](http://indyshakes.com)

## JULY 26

Yes, we are suggesting you drive practically to Chicago for a festival named after a dumpling. When it's **PIEROGI FEST**. This deliciously daffy celebration, 25 years old and counting, pays homage to the Eastern European delicacy with a life-sized Polish pastry walking around (that would be Miss Paczki), a "lawnmower brigade" of dads marching in sandals and socks, and the Pieroguettes, the Whiting, Indiana, version of Radio City Music Hall's high-kickers. Fortify yourself on pierogis ranging from traditional potato-and-cheese to alligator, then hit the beer garden or the arts-and-crafts booths. [pierogifest.net](http://pierogifest.net)

## JULY 27

You've seen him crackling wise on *The Office*. Or in *Hot Tub Time Machine*. Or as Doug Judy, the irresistible "Pontiac Bandit" on *Brooklyn Nine-Nine*. If not, catch **CRAIG ROBINSON** during his four-night run at Helium Comedy Club, and marvel that this gifted comic got his start as a teacher in Chicago's public school system. [indianapolis.heliumcomedy.com](http://indianapolis.heliumcomedy.com)

## JULY 28

For a shopping experience like no other, browse **BLACK CIRCLE MARKET!**, held monthly at Black Circle Brewing Co. The midtown microbrewery

doesn't charge a booth fee, so they get all kinds of vendors. It's kind of like a curated flea market in a taproom setting, meaning you can rifle through odds and ends with a beer in hand. [blackcirclebrewing.com](http://blackcirclebrewing.com)

## JULY 29

Turn your terrain into a pop-up cinema as the sun sets and **host a backyard movie night**. You can rent a projector through local A/V companies, and a screen, too, if you don't feel like following the abundant online tutorials for MacGyvering your own with a white bedsheet. If your group's feeling brave, try streaming this year's horror smash *Us*, or go old-school with *Friday the 13th*. Bonus points for setting up a s'mores station.

## JULY 30

Man's best friend. Our national pastime. Does it get any more all-American than **BARK IN THE PARK** nights at Victory Field? Bring your dog and sprawl out in right field, where you can watch the Indianapolis Indians take on the Columbus Clippers (and socialize with other canine companions and their people). Unless you want to spend the evening avoiding "that look," don't forget extra hot-dog money for your four-legged pal. [milb.com/indianapolis](http://milb.com/indianapolis)

## JULY 31

Pack a picnic and a blanket and head to the top of Strawberry Hill, which is right next to James Whitcomb Riley's tomb at Crown Hill Cemetery. You'll get a 360-degree panoramic view of the city skyline—the perfect place to watch the **sun set** (which, according to *The Old Farmer's Almanac*, should start at precisely 8:58 p.m.). [crownhill.org](http://crownhill.org)

# AUGUST

Gen Con



## AUGUST 1

Discreetly gawk at the superheroes, villains, princesses, and warlocks coming together under one roof for a common purpose: gaming. During "The Best Four Days in Gaming," kicking off today, it's hard not to bump into a half-elf or Ewok while in line at Panera. But to really take in the full panoply of **GEN CON** attire, park yourself near its home base: the Indiana Convention Center. Georgia Street is another good place to enjoy the sight-seeing—honestly, a lot of these costumes, mostly homemade, are mind-bogglingly creative. And if you're one of the people wearing them? We don't need to tell you about the gaming nirvana you're about to enter. [gencon.com](http://gencon.com)

## AUGUST 2

Now that the local First Friday scene has been shaken up with the dissolution of longtime organizer IDADA, the time is ripe to explore

venues like the **TUBE FACTORY**. From the occasional drag show in the basement to putt-putt golf outside, this quirky art space is always ready to surprise. Beyond the staples like live music, vendors, and food trucks, the Tube Factory has a contemporary art museum, interactive audio experimentation station, and—perhaps the best part—plenty of free parking. [facebook.com/tubefactoryartspace](http://facebook.com/tubefactoryartspace)

## AUGUST 3

Start practicing the swish and flick of your wizarding wand before you visit the Indianapolis Art Center-turned-Hogwarts for **HARRY POTTER DAY**. You'll learn all sorts of magical spells, like how to turn wood into a wand that even Ollivander would admire, or predict your future Trelawney-style with glass crystal balls. Gobble down some Harry Potter-themed snacks, too—maybe Cauldron Cakes or

Fizzing Whizzbees? As for the muggles, more familiar entrées will be available, too, plus beer and wine from Sun King and Mallow Run. [indplsartcenter.org](http://indplsartcenter.org)

## AUGUST 4

A Sunday summer evening is the perfect time to get the family and neighbors together for a **photo scavenger hunt**. Make a list of items that can be found outside, like "something red" or "three types of flowers." Whoever snaps shots of the most things on the list wins.

Indiana State Fair



## AUGUST 5

Llamas are definitely the animals du jour—printed on tea towels, embroidered onto throw pillows, and emblazoned on T-shirts with punny slogans. They're sure to grab the spotlight when they grace the grounds of the **INDIANA STATE FAIR**, where a new exhibit, *Animal Town*, has demos on eight different barn beasts. After downing a deliciously greasy funnel cake and taking a head-spinning turn on the Zero Gravity ride (maybe not in that order), head over to *Animal Town* to meet these furry charm-ers up close. [indianastatefair.com](http://indianastatefair.com)

## AUGUST 6

Create your own **coffee tour** of the Monon Trail by hitting up java joints on or near the pathway. Start caffeinating with an iced pour at downtown's Provider, then make your way up to Tiny House Treats in SoBro and see how its creamy cold-brew compares. Keep things chill with a coffee smoothie at Natural Born Juicers in Broad Ripple. Still buzzing? Stop in and choose something at Allegro Coffee Co. inside Whole Foods Market in Nora, then finish up at Carmel City Center's Eggshell Bistro, and reward yourself with our favorite coffee creation of all: the authentically chicory-tinged N'Orleans Iced.

## AUGUST 7

No, it doesn't refer to the time from the first bite of your appetizer to the last forkful of dessert, and has nothing to do with slow waiters. **THE LONGEST DINNER** is a benefit meal for IndyFringe that seats diners at a very long table outside the theater group's building. This year, Chef Brad Gates of Hedge Row American Bistro is dreaming up a three-course meal accented with champagne,

Hoosier Heights







AUGUST (continued)

beer, and wine. Also on the menu: entertainment from Fringe acts. [indyfringe.org](http://indyfringe.org)

AUGUST 8

The summer breeze will make you feel fine when you're perched at the **ROOFTOP GARDEN COCKTAIL LOUNGE** atop the Fountain Square Theatre Building. Share a bottle of wine or order a specialty mule (the Moscow kind is just the beginning here). Pizza and appetizers—including the beloved Gingham Salad from the dearly departed Shelbi Street Café, which once anchored the first floor—provide something to munch on as you take in spectacular skyline views. [fountainsquareindy.com](http://fountainsquareindy.com)

AUGUST 9

Groove to some serious '70s AM gold at The Vogue, where **THE WHITE & GOLD PARTY** is being headlined by Yacht Rock Revue. Part tribute band, part original act, and part comedy troupe, these mustachioed musi-

cians dust off the light-rock classics you secretly love, from Hall & Oates to Michael McDonald to Steely Dan. No wonder their shows have been named "Best Place to Get Drunk with Your Dad," among other accolades. All funds raised from this benefit concert will go to pediatric-cancer research. [thevogue.com](http://thevogue.com)

AUGUST 10

Those precious 15 minutes of adults-only swim at the end of each hour at your local pool become a full-on party at **ADULT NIGHT AT FREEDOM SPRINGS** aquatic center in Greenwood. As the sun goes down, stretch out with a little Oaken Barrel beer or Mallow Run wine beneath your own reserved cabana (there are six, each equipped with a couch, two chairs, and a table for up to six). Or tap into your inner child and drift down the Lazy River, race your friends down the water-slides, and grab the mic—tonight's karaoke night. [greenwood.in.gov](http://greenwood.in.gov)

AUGUST 11

The Oca Cart wheels up to **NEWFIELDS BEER GARDEN** every Sunday at 11 a.m. for one of the tastiest, prettiest picnics in town. Oca's top-shelf trimmings adorn Smoking Goose Meatery's

limited-edition sausages and brats, all grilled up on the spot. August menu highlights include duck-and-jalapeño sausage, fennel sausage with fresh mozzarella, and good old classic franks. [ocameansgoose.com](http://ocameansgoose.com)

AUGUST 12

A table that lowers from the ceiling. A guest lineup of bright, curious folks (like you). A menu concocted specifically for the event by a top local chef. And a roomful of art—with the artist there to answer questions, whether entry-level or expert. That's the creative formula that has made the Harrison Center's monthly **ART DISH** events a hot ticket as well as a boon for local artists. Warning: These tend to sell out well in advance. [harrisoncenter.org/art-dish](http://harrisoncenter.org/art-dish)

AUGUST 13

What's usually one of the brightest cosmic events of the year, the **PERSEID METEOR SHOWER**, will be mostly washed out this time around thanks to a nearly full moon during its peak. But that doesn't mean you can't see the bright fireballs at all—you'll just have to try a little harder. To take a space odyssey, go to the darkest spot you can find (so, probably away from

downtown). You'll have to get up early, but not insanely so—the Perseids are best spotted after the moon sets (4:57 a.m.) and before the sun rises (6:54 a.m.).

AUGUST 14

So back in the day, you were a hiker extraordinaire, ruled at Capture the Flag, and won the tetherball tournament every year. Get back in the summer-camp saddle by signing up for **MICKEY'S CAMP**, the brainchild of businessman Mickey Maurer. Learn new skills from experts who make the trek out to Bradford Woods to teach everything from poker to gourmet cooking (none of that stuff you were fed in the dining hall as a preteen). The adult version of camp is more eclectic, more comfortable, and more of a networking fest than the one you remember from childhood, broken down for women (August 12–14) and men (August 14–16). And if you choke while looking at the cost, remember—all net proceeds go to nonprofits suggested by campers. [mickeysclubcamp.com](http://mickeysclubcamp.com)

AUGUST 15

Unlike most theater-world fests, **INDY-FRINGS FESTIVAL** doesn't consider the quality or pedigree of



Brown County

a show before booking it: You pay the entry fee, you get a spot. That translates into unpredictability and, ideally, excitement as about 80 different 60-minute shows compete for your ticket buys over 11 days. You can pick the familiar (Dance Kaleidoscope usually has a dancer-choreographed showcase), take a chance on an unknown quantity, or do a mix of both local and out-of-town acts. [indyfringe.org](http://indyfringe.org)

AUGUST 16

Now is the night to break out your boldest sartorial choices: It's the annual **ARTSPARKLE** fundraising event at the Indianapolis Art Center. This big end-of-summer bash begins in the center's impressive galleries and trickles out into the ArtsPark, filled with food, specialty drinks, and eye-catchers like interactive sculptures that move in harmony with nature. Get an exclusive preview of

what's coming up next year, then hit the dance floor and party under the stars. [indplsartcenter.org/artsparkle](http://indplsartcenter.org/artsparkle)

AUGUST 17

Take a trip to the mysterious world that lies beneath Indianapolis. Exploring underground tunnels may sound like the stuff of horror movies, but we promise, there are no piles of skulls and bones down here. Instead, Indiana Landmarks offers guided descents into the Romanesque ruins of the **CITY MARKET CATACOMBS**, where you'll find grand brick vaults and a rich history of both the Market and Tomlinson Hall, an adjacent building that held public meetings and the like before burning down in 1958. Bonus: Even when August humidity swells, the Catacombs tend to stay comfortably cool. [indianalandmarks.org](http://indianalandmarks.org)

AUGUST 18

In a digital world, there's something

wonderfully tactile about pinball machines, where real balls hit real bumpers and are kept in play by real flippers that you manipulate. You can slide your quarters into a machine at your local Dairy Queen or at an increasing number of bars (see Tappers Arcade Bar and The Sinking Ship), but consider that mere practice for **3RD SUNDAY PINBALL TOURNAMENTS** at Lafayette's Main Street Amusements. Players are assigned to foursomes, with strikes going to the two lowest scorers per game. Four strikes and you're out. [mainstreetamusements.wordpress.com](http://mainstreetamusements.wordpress.com)

AUGUST 19

Foodies are off to the races when **DEVOUR INDY** holds its summertime session, a kind of communal dining experience for the entire city. By uniting previous events Devour Downtown, Devour Northside, and Chow Down Midtown, organizers are bringing together more than 200 eateries and bars to offer prix fixe meals at a reduced cost. See how many you can pack in until those little special menu inserts disappear after the last dinner is served on September 1. Just keep in mind that some restaurants, especially the indie ones, are closed on Mondays—and no matter which day you go, reservations are smart during this two-week feeding frenzy. [devourindy.com](http://devourindy.com)

AUGUST 20

Take Indiana's best **rustic day-trip adventure** and head south to Brown County. Antiques shopping. Hiking trails. Misty forests. Saffron sunsets. Summer stock. Hand-made apple butter. That slam you heard was us piling into the car. [browncounty.com](http://browncounty.com)

## FIVE FAB AL FRESCO SPOTS

When the host asks "Inside or out?" the decision is easy at these dining-and-drinking gems.

BY NATALIE GIVAN



THE COURTYARD  
Iozzo's Garden of Italy

Just behind this Old World-style Italian eatery is a courtyard surrounded by red brick walls, lit by bulbs strung low overhead. It's an idyllic atmosphere for wine and some bites with friends (no fighting over the three meatballs in the signature martini-glass appetizer). [iozzos.com](http://iozzos.com)



THE BEER GARDEN  
Half Liter BBQ & Beer Hall

Despite its name, Half Liter is full of Texas-size vibes along with a fun farmhouse aesthetic, down to the trays used to carry your 'cue to your table. The Monon-side beer garden is the hip new place to chill (or bake) this summer. [halfliterbbq.com](http://halfliterbbq.com)



THE PATIO  
Flatwater Restaurant

This mellow spot sits just out of earshot of the bustling nightlife on the strip, right next to Broad Ripple's calming Canal waters. Watch ducks waddle by, take in some live music, and build your own Bloody Mary or order from the fantastic draft-beer selection. [flatwaterbroadripple.com](http://flatwaterbroadripple.com)



THE LAWN  
Field Brewing

A manicured stretch of grass stocked with bocce ball gear cuts through an expansive outdoor patio, leading to a loft that's home to a sofa lounge and small event center. Games like Jenga and Connect Four make the wait for your meal go oh-so-much faster. [fieldbrewing.com](http://fieldbrewing.com)



THE ROOFTOP  
Livery

Ask for a seat on the patio on the roof to view the cityscape from a new perspective: above the street noise, sky a-twinkle with string lights. Whether you're doing the empanadas-and-tamales thing or just sipping a sangria, it's a milieu made for lingering. [livery-restaurant.com](http://livery-restaurant.com)





## AUGUST (continued)

### AUGUST 21

Yes, passersby will gawk at you as you sweat it out in Spandex and sneakers, but you'll quickly discover that when it comes to public humiliation, there's safety in numbers—and a lot of exercisers typically turn out for **WORKOUT WEDNESDAY** on Georgia Street. Meet up on the west end of the street for a noon cardio/hip-hop class led by a YMCA instructor, and giggle your way through the fitness routine en masse. [georgiastreetindy.com](http://georgiastreetindy.com)

### AUGUST 22

Get your feline fix at the **NINE LIVES CAT CAFÉ** in Fountain Square. Sip on a chai latte while a sweet kitty naps on your lap—or if you're squeamish about cat hair floating in your cup, settle into the humans-only room, where you can watch the all-adoptable animals play. Walk-ins

are always welcome, but if you plan to hang out in the Cat Lounge, reservations are highly recommended. And if you feel like going full-on cat lady, this is the place to do it: Wear your baggiest sweater, bring your knitting bag and break out your yarn and needles, and revel in the joy of being in a room full of felines—no one will judge you here. [ninelivesindy.com](http://ninelivesindy.com)

### AUGUST 23

Going to a midnight movie should be on everyone's bucket list, and Landmark Keystone Arts has a whole series of them this summer. Tonight and tomorrow, **PULP FICTION** is on the marquee, and it's every bit as bloody, horrifying, and exhilarating as you remember from its first go-round in theaters in 1994. Come re-live the movie that spawned the phrase "Tarantino-esque." [landmarktheatres.com/indianapolis](http://landmarktheatres.com/indianapolis)

### AUGUST 24

Back in the late 1800s, residents of near-eastside neighborhoods like Woodruff Place often decorated their

porches with lanterns, lit first by candles and later by electric lights. By 1909, these scattered efforts snowballed into a full-on affair in which neighbors gathered every year to hang lanterns throughout Spades Park, on the bandstand, and on local bridges. The **FEAST OF LANTERNS** died out after a few decades, but has been revived in recent years as one of Indy's most colorful—literally—events. Bright paper globes light up an evening of concerts, food trucks, artisan booths, and a beer garden. The historic festival is still held in Spades Park, where it originated more than a century ago. [indyfol.org](http://indyfol.org)

### AUGUST 25

If the *Mamma Mia!* movies had you drooling over the scenery, it might be time to check out the **INDIANAPOLIS GREEK FESTIVAL**. Chow down on authentic cuisine, like grilled beef and lamb tucked into warm pita bread and drizzled with fragrant tzatziki—better yet, pay attention to the cooking demonstrations, pick up some ingredients in the onsite market, and make your own Greek dinner that night. Expect live music, dancing, and all the other usual trimmings at this annual affair hosted by Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church in Carmel. [indygreekfest.org](http://indygreekfest.org)

### AUGUST 26

Two years ago, **EXHIBIT COLUMBUS** attracted attention from around the world, with visitors descending on the Southern Indiana city to see what happens when world-class architecture interacts with innovative artists. (It helped that the indie flick *Columbus* was also bringing attention to Indiana's design showplace.) This time



"Weird Al" Yankovic

around, the exhibition includes 18 projects, including work by professionals from Mexico, Rwanda, Cambridge, and New York City, along with local university and high school students. [exhibitcolumbus.org](http://exhibitcolumbus.org)

### AUGUST 27

Bank on some hot basketball action when the **INDIANA FEVER** take on the Las Vegas Aces at Bankers Life Fieldhouse. One thing to love about these games is that unlike Pacers events, where you have to buy a seat in certain floor-level rows in order to eat at the LightBound Courtside Club, all Fever ticket-holders get access to the court-level restaurant. Players walk back and forth right in front of it, so fans can get an up-close-and-personal moment with them. [fever.wnba.com](http://fever.wnba.com)

### AUGUST 28

Go **grape-picking** as a reminder of the joys to be had in rummaging through other people's driveways for hidden treasure. Fine—it may be easier to just scroll Facebook Marketplace from your phone if you're looking for bargains. But maybe the summertime tradition of the garage sale holds on because of the human connection—going through other people's stuff is like sifting through their lives. And, yes, Facebook Marketplace does come in handy for finding the sales in the first place.

### AUGUST 29

**"WEIRD AL" YANKOVIC** was goofing around with Lin-Manuel Miranda on a late-night talk show last year, and by the time the pair busted out a jaunty polka medley

riffing on several songs from *Hamilton*, it was obvious: "Weird Al" is having a moment. Exhibit A: That song, "The Hamilton Polka," became the first song in the genre ever to make Billboard's Digital Songs Chart. Exhibit B: Al got a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame a few months later, decades after earning his nickname with song spoofs like "My Bologna" and "Eat It." The Lawn hosts his comedy/rock/God-knows-what show. [whiteriverstatepark.org](http://whiteriverstatepark.org)

### AUGUST 30

If Indianapolis has a simmering culinary scene, Fletcher Place is its white-hot epicenter. See why for yourself by taking a **FLETCHER PLACE FOODIE WALKING TOUR**, an afternoon-long exploration of the Virginia Avenue stretch of the Indianapolis Cultural Trail, led by an experienced fellow foodie. For \$55, you'll sample the wares at five of the neighborhood's most innovative eateries—Milktooth, Bluebeard, Rook, Tortas Guicho Dominguez y El Cubanito, and Amelia's—and chat with the chefs and owners behind them. [indyculturaltrail.org/foodtours](http://indyculturaltrail.org/foodtours)

### AUGUST 31

Go **garage-saling** as a reminder of the joys to be had in rummaging through other people's driveways for hidden treasure. Fine—it may be easier to just scroll Facebook Marketplace from your phone if you're looking for bargains. But maybe the summertime tradition of the garage sale holds on because of the human connection—going through other people's stuff is like sifting through their lives. And, yes, Facebook Marketplace does come in handy for finding the sales in the first place.

# SEPTEMBER



The Indy Eleven

### SEPTEMBER 1

That soaring theme music. Peter O'Toole's crystalline blue eyes. The tiny visual details in David Lean's epic that can't even be spotted on a TV. Just some of the reasons that the movie masterpiece **LAWRENCE OF ARABIA** really needs to be seen on the big screen to be appreciated—and if you missed it in 1962, now's your chance, since it's playing in five Indy-area theaters. [fathomevents.com](http://fathomevents.com)

### SEPTEMBER 2

Let go of stress at the Central Library's weekly **COLORING CAFÉ**. Feel the negative thoughts float off into the ether with each stroke of colored pencil on pages designed for adults, all provided for you—you need only show up. [indypl.org](http://indypl.org)

### SEPTEMBER 3

An end-of-summer **trip to Paris**? *Mais oui*. Given the nonstop flights from Indy that Delta launched last year, it's easier and cheaper than you might

think—the eight-hour journey and back recently rang in under \$745 if you left today and stayed for a week. Plus, the tourists have mostly cleared out by now after the midsummer madness, freeing up all the best Airbnb offerings. [delta.com](http://delta.com)

### SEPTEMBER 4

The **INDY ELEVEN** take on the NY Red Bulls II at Lucas Oil Stadium, having emigrated last year from their old stomping grounds, Carroll Stadium. The soccer team now offers official tailgating with food and drink from the likes of Broad Ripple favorite Union Jack, plus indoor and outdoor space so the party can continue rain or shine. [indyeleven.com](http://indyeleven.com)

### SEPTEMBER 5

Slip into your favorite lederhosen for one of the season's first—and best—**OKTOBERFEST** parties: the one held at German Park on the south side, organized by the German American Klub of Indianapolis. [indianapolisgak.com](http://indianapolisgak.com)

### SEPTEMBER 6

If three days of nonstop horror sounds like a nightmare, congrats—you're probably a very well-adjusted person. For the rest of us, there's **HORRORHOUND WEEKEND**. The Indiana Convention Center hosts screenings of the latest scary flicks, costume contests, and appearances from stars like Rose McGowan (*Scream*, *Grindhouse*) and Tobin Bell (the *Saw* movies). [horrorhoundweekend.com](http://horrorhoundweekend.com)

### SEPTEMBER 7

The French don't make a big deal of something, they *en faire tout un fromage* (make a whole cheese about it), which is exactly what St. Joan of Arc Parish does with its **FRENCH MARKET**—a festival with authentic Gallic cuisine, live music filling the air, and dozens of artisans selling artwork, jewelry, and clothing. [sjoa.org](http://sjoa.org)

### SEPTEMBER 8

It's the end of a (two-year) era—one more **BRICKYARD 400** in September before the race returns to its July slot next year. More patriotic, maybe, but the Speedway had tried the switch because sweltering weather caused fan complaints and, maybe, the slip in attendance. So enjoy the cars in the (kind of) cooler weather one last time. [indianapolismotorspeedway.com](http://indianapolismotorspeedway.com)



Paris in September



Workout Wednesday