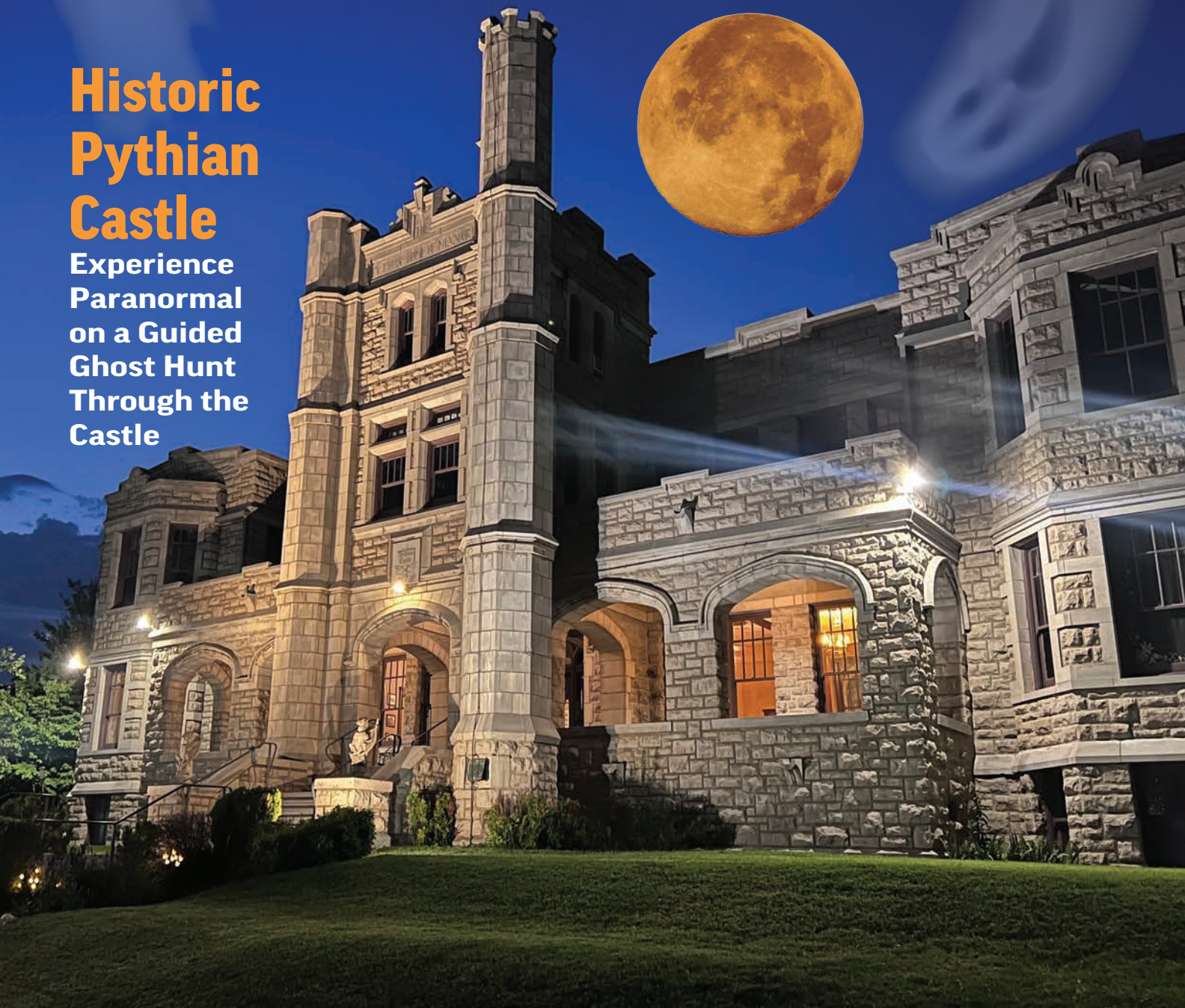


# WELCOME *to* ME SPRINGFIELD

welcometospringfieldmagazine.com | Vol. 25 | No. 5 | SEPTEMBER / OCTOBER 2024

## Historic Pythian Castle

Experience  
Paranormal  
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Rev. 09/2024

## Signature Pizzas

1. Start by Choosing your Crust:  
Crispy, Thin or Traditional Thick
2. 8" Single 12" Med 16" Lrg  
\$11.99 \$19.99 \$28.99  
Additional Toppings  
\$.99 ea. \$1.99 ea. \$3.49 ea.

### Neighborhood Pie

Alfredo Sauce Base, Fresh Leafy Spinach, Chopped Grilled Garlic Chicken, Bacon Crumbles, Five Cheese Mozzarella Blend, Sliced Fresh Mushrooms, & Diced Tomatoes.

### Supreme

Our Signature Pizza Sauce, Pepperoni Slices, Crumbled Pork Sausage, Five Cheese Mozzarella Blend, Canadian Bacon, Sliced Red Onions, Sliced Fresh Mushrooms, Sliced Black Olives, & Diced Green Bell Peppers.

### Four Meat

Our Signature Pizza Sauce, Five Cheese Mozzarella Blend, Pepperoni Slices, Crumbled Pork Sausage, Canadian Bacon, & Ground Beef Crumbles.

### Chicken Bacon Ranch

Ranch Base, Chopped Grilled Garlic Chicken, Bacon Crumbles, Five Cheese Mozzarella Blend. Try adding Jalapenos!

### Buffalo Chicken Ranch

Frank's Red Hot mixed with our Ranch Base, Five Cheese Mozzarella Blend, Our Chopped Grilled Garlic Chicken.

### Taco Pizza

Refried Beans Base, Seasoned Ground Taco Meat, Five Cheese Mozzarella Blend, Sliced Red Onions, Sliced Black Olives, Baked and then Topped with Cold Ingredients: Salsa, Chopped Lettuce, Diced Tomatoes, Sour Cream & Shredded Taco Cheese.

### BBQ Chicken Pizza

Barbecue Sauce Base, Chopped Garlic Chicken, Five Cheese Mozzarella Blend, Red Onions, with a BBQ Sauce drizzle on top.

### Luau

Barbecue Sauce Base, Chopped Garlic Chicken, Bacon Crumbles, Canadian Bacon, Five Cheese Mozzarella Blend, Pineapple Chunks, & Sliced Mandarin Oranges, with a BBQ Sauce drizzle on top.

### Garden

Our Signature Pizza Sauce, Fresh Leafy Spinach, Five Cheese Mozzarella Blend, Diced Roma Tomatoes, Sliced Red Onions, Sliced Fresh Mushrooms, Sliced Black Olives, & Diced Red & Green Bell Peppers, with a sprinkle of basil.

## BYO Pizzas

Build Your Own Pizzas start with our Signature Pizza Sauce and Five Cheese Mozzarella Blend as your base, then add your choice of toppings from the list.

1. Start by Choosing your Crust:  
Crispy, Thin or Traditional Thick

2. 8" Single 12" Med 16" Lrg  
\$8.99 \$13.99 \$18.99

### Each Topping

\$ .99 ea.	\$ 1.99 ea.	\$ 3.49 ea.
Pepperoni	Mushrooms	
Sausage	Red Onions	
Italian Sausage	Diced Tomatoes	
Beef	Black Olives	
Canadian Bacon	Fresh Spinach	
Chopped Garlic Chicken	Pineapple Chunks	
Bacon Crumbles	Mandarin Oranges	
Green Bell Peppers	Sliced Jalapenos	
Red Bell Peppers		

Any BYO Pizzas with a Sauce Base different than our Signature Pizza Sauce will be counted as a topping choice:

Alfredo Sauce	BBQ Sauce
Ranch Base	Spicy Ranch Sauce
Buffalo Sauce	Spicy Garlic Sauce
Garlic Butter	

## Signature Salads

### Neighborhood Side Salad \$3.99

Fresh Salad Mix, Shredded Cheese Blend, Diced Tomatoes, Sliced Cucumber, Red Onions, one Bread Stick & choice of one dressing.

### Neighborhood Entrée Salad \$7.99

Same as above just entrée size with 2 Breadsticks, and 2 dressings.

### Chicken Bacon Salad \$14.99

Fresh Salad Mix, Shredded Cheese Blend, Diced Tomatoes, Sliced Cucumber, Red Onions, Grilled Garlic Chicken, Bacon Crumbles, 2 Breadsticks & choice of dressing.

### Asian Chicken Salad \$13.99

Fresh Salad Mix, Grilled Garlic Chicken, Pineapple Chunks, Slices of Mandarin Oranges, Cashew Pieces, Sunflower Seeds, Chow Mein Noodles, 2 Breadsticks & choice of dressing.

### Chef Salad \$14.99

Fresh Salad Mix, Sliced All-Natural Deli Ham and Turkey, Shredded Cheese Blend, Diced Tomatoes, Sliced Cucumbers, Red Onions,

Sliced Boiled Egg, 2 Breadsticks & choice of dressing.

### Spinach Salad \$11.99

Fresh Leafy Spinach, Bacon Crumbles, Sliced Boiled Egg, Shredded Cheese Blend, Red Onions, Sliced Mushrooms, 2 Breadsticks & choice of dressing.

### Spinach Salad W/ Chicken \$14.99

Italian Salad \$13.99  
 Fresh Salad Mix, Sliced Pepperoni, Canadian Bacon, Diced Tomatoes, Black Olives, Banana Peppers, Red Onions, Mozzarella Blend, Grated Parmesan Cheese, 2 Breadsticks & choice of dressing.

### Taco Salad \$14.99

Fresh Salad Mix, Seasoned Ground Taco Meat, Shredded Cheese Blend, Red Onions, Black Olives, Diced Tomatoes, Sour Cream & Salsa, Served with Tortilla Chips.

Extra Salsa or Sour Cream \$ .59 ea

## Salad Dressing Choices

Additional Dressings \$.59 ea.

House Sweet French	1000 Island
Neighborhood Creamy Italian	Bleu Cheese
Zesty Italian	Caesar
Ranch	Honey Mustard
Raspberry Vinaigrette	Low Fat Ranch

## Pastas

### Neighborhood Casserole \$12.99

Our version of Lasagna made with shells, Our Signature Meat Sauce, 8 different Cheeses, & 2 Garlic Breadsticks

### Pasta Supreme \$13.99

Spaghetti Noodles, Creamy Alfredo Sauce, Chopped Grilled Garlic Chicken, Bacon Crumbles, Sliced Mushrooms, Red Onions, Diced Tomatoes, Chopped Broccoli Florets, & 2 Garlic Breadsticks

### Pasta Alfredo \$7.99

Spaghetti Noodles with Alfredo Sauce, & 2 Garlic Breadsticks.  
 Pasta Alfredo W/ Broccoli \$8.49  
 Pasta Alfredo W/ Chicken \$9.99  
 Pasta Alfredo W/ Chicken & Broccoli \$10.49

### Spaghetti Marinara \$7.99

Spaghetti Noodles served with our Signature Marinara & 2 Garlic Breadsticks.  
 Spaghetti Marinara + Meatballs \$11.99  
 Spaghetti Marinara + Meat Sauce \$10.99

### 12 oz Bowl of Mac N Cheese \$9.99

## Sandwiches

### Build your own:

1. Choose your Sandwich Base:  
**Club** (Ham, Turkey, and Bacon) \$10.99  
**Chicken & Bacon** \$10.99  
**BBQ Chicken** \$10.99  
**Buffalo Chicken** \$10.99

### 2. Choose your bread or Wrap:

White Bread, Wheat Bread, Sourdough Bread, Hoagie Roll, or White Wrap, WheatWrap, Tomato Basil Wrap.

### 3. Choose your Cheese:

American, Swiss, Provolone, Pepper Jack, Shredded Cheddar/Jack, Grated Parmesan, Shredded Mozzarella.

### 4. Choose Your Toppings:

Lettuce, Diced Tomatoes, Onions, Cucumbers, Black Olives, Green Bell Peppers, Red Bell Peppers, Banana Peppers, Spinach, Jalapenos.

### 5. Choose Your Dressing:

Mayonnaise, Mustard, Miracle Whip, Creamy Italian, Zesty Italian, Oil & Vinegar, Spicy Mustard, Ranch, Honey Mustard, Sweet French, Pizza Sauce, Buffalo Sauce, BBQ Sauce.

### 6. Choose your Side Choice:

Bag of Chips, Sweet Pepper Slaw or Potato Salad

### Meatball Sub \$9.99

4 oz of Meatballs on a toasted Hoagie with Pizza Sauce, Mozzarella & Parmesan Cheeses served with your side choice.

### Italian Deli \$10.99

Ham and Pepperoni on a toasted Hoagie with Provolone Cheese, Lettuce, Tomato, Onions, Banana Peppers, and Black Olives, Creamy Italian Dressing served with your side choice.

### Classic BLT \$10.99

Bacon, Lettuce, Tomato. Just choose your Bread, Dressing, and Side Choice.

### Grilled Cheese \$6.99

Our Grilled Cheese is made with American and Shredded Cheddar/Jack on White Bread unless otherwise specified.

## Others

### Quesadilla \$12.99

12" Flour Tortilla stuffed with Shredded Cheese Blend and your choice of one meat and up to 3 other toppings from our pizza topping list and baked in the oven.

### Nachos \$12.99

Corn Tortilla Chips topped with Shredded Cheese Blend and your choice of one meat and up to 3 other toppings from our pizza topping list and baked in the oven.

### Boneless Chicken Tenders Buffalo \$10.49

Boneless Chicken Tenders Original \$9.99  
 Along with a dipping sauce from our Dressing list.

### Toasted Raviolis \$8.99

Choose Cheese or Beef, served with Marinara for dipping.

## Calzones

### Neighborhood Calzone \$12.49

Our Signature Pizza Sauce mixed with Alfredo Sauce Base, Fresh Leafy Spinach, Chopped Garlic Chicken, Canadian Bacon, & Five Cheese Mozzarella Blend, wrapped in our small crust, baked to perfection, and buttered.

### BYO Calzone \$11.99

Our Signature Pizza Sauce, Five Cheese Mozzarella Blend, & your choice of up to 3 toppings from our Pizza Toppings list.

## Sides

### Bosco \$2.29

7" Breadstick stuffed with Mozzarella Cheese

### Three Garlic Breadsticks \$2.29

### Dozen Garlic Breadsticks \$7.29

### Garlic Crust Pie 8" \$9.99

### Garlic Crust Pie 12" \$14.99

### Potato Salad \$2.29

### Cottage Cheese \$2.29

### Bag of Chips \$1.49

### 4oz Garlic Butter Sauce \$2.29

### 4oz Pizza Sauce \$1.19

### Side Dressing \$.59

### Pint Sweet French \$4.99

## Kids Menu

This menu is for kids 12 years and under only

Kids Meals include a 12oz fountain beverage.

### Kids Cheese Pizza \$6.99

Add Toppings \$ .99 ea

### Kids Spaghetti Marinara \$6.99

Spaghetti Noodles served with our Signature Marinara & 1 Garlic Breadstick.

### Kids Mac n Cheese \$6.99

### Kids Grilled Cheese Served with Chips \$5.99

## Beverages

### Coca Cola Fountain Beverages \$2.59

### Fresh Brewed Iced Tea \$2.59

### Bottled Beverages starting @ \$2.99

### 2 Liter Bottles \$3.99



# Welcome



Greetings!

On behalf of the City of Springfield it is my honor and distinct pleasure to welcome you to our city. Springfield is situated in the heart of Ozark Mountain Country and is one of the fastest growing cities in the Midwest. It is a region blessed with much natural beauty, offering large lakes and beautiful streams with a wide variety of water recreation activities.

We are confident that your visit to Springfield will be rewarding. We urge you to take advantage of the many opportunities available, such as:

**Birthplace of Route 66.** Springfield is officially recognized as the birthplace of what became known as the iconic "Mother Road." It was on April 30, 1926 at Park Central Square where officials first proposed U.S. 66 as the name of the new Chicago-to-Los Angeles highway. Route 66 meandered across Springfield from Kearney to Glenstone Chestnut Expressway. The Birthplace of Route 66 Roadside Park is located near the intersection of College Street and Fort Avenue. Stop in at the Route 66 Springfield Visitor Center at 815 E. St. Louis Street to learn about other Birthplace of Route 66 Festival, featuring a car and motorcycle show, parade, drive-in movie and concert, is a great event for any Route 66 enthusiast or lover of Americana.

**Jordan Valley Park.** features the Jordan Valley Ice Park, a multi-purpose facility featuring two NHL-size ice sheets and an adjacent 12-acre park with a fountain and water feature designed to evoke an Ozarks stream. In addition, the Springfield Cardinals, the Double A affiliate of the St. Louis Cardinals, play at nearby Hammons Field. A short walk on the new Jordan Creek Greenway or a drive on new Streetscapes links the Jordan Valley development to our traditional downtown area.

**Downtown.** Our downtown area features a variety of restaurants in all price and taste ranges, art galleries, the historic Landers Theatre, built in 1909 and renovated in its baroque Renaissance/Napoleon architecture and décor, and the renovated historic Gillioz Theater. Downtown and Jordan Valley also are close to several of the City's most popular venues, such as the hands-on Discovery Center, a children's science museum, the Walnut Street Historic District and the Juanita K. Hammons Hall for the Performing Arts at Missouri State University.

**Other attractions.** Springfield is home to many area attractions such as the Missouri Sports Hall of Fame, Wilson's Creek National Battlefield (Civil War), Dickerson Park Zoo, and nine public and private golf courses. You might also enjoy visiting our Mizumoto Japanese Stroll Garden, complete with a traditional tea hut. Springfield is the headquarters of Bass Pro Shops' Outdoor World, billed as the "World's Most Spectacular Sporting Goods Store," with its four-story waterfall, giant aquariums, nature center and taxidermy studio.

We are truly proud of our City and the many opportunities available to our visitors. On behalf of the City of Springfield, we welcome you and look forward to sharing with you the hospitality of the "Queen City of the Ozarks".

Sincerely,

*Ken McClure*  
Ken McClure  
Mayor, City of Springfield



## ABOUT SPRINGFIELD, MISSOURI

Springfield sits atop a plateau of the oldest mountain range in the country - the Ozark Mountains. Surrounded by rolling hills, the city offers the best in metropolitan and outdoor adventure, making it a perfect family destination. Springfield is rich with interesting and entertaining attractions, approximately 7,000 hotel rooms, more than 1,100 dining options and a variety of shopping and cultural activities.

**Population:** Springfield is the third-largest city in Missouri and the largest Springfield in the nation. The U.S. Census Bureau estimates the population within city limits is about 170,000. The estimated Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) is more than 440,000.

**Weather:** The average annual precipitation in Springfield is 43 inches including 20 inches of snow. The average low and high temperatures for each season are: Spring: 44-67o F; Summer: 65-88o F; Fall: 46-69o F; Winter: 24-45o F.

## Phone Booth

All numbers are area code 417-

### ATTRACTIONS

Allison Sports Town	530-1600
Dickerson Park Zoo	833-1570
Missouri Institute of Natural Science	883-0594
Sports Hall of Fame	889-3100
Springfield Art Museum	837-5700
Wild Animal Safari	232-0723

### ENTERTAINMENT

1984 Arcade	831-3665
Big Time Golf + Games	771-5664
Blue Room Comedy Club	228-8403
Gillioz Theatre	863-9491
Hour House	771-5702
Juanita K. Hammons Hall for the Performing Arts	836-7678
Jerry Lee Lewis Experience . onfiretheshow.com	
Ozark Empire Fairgrounds	833-2660
Ozark Mountain Sports Complex	470-2255
Pythian Castle	865-1464
Rumors Cabaret	886-8284
Springfield Little Theatre	869-1334

### INFORMATION

Springfield Convention & Visitors Bureau	800-678-8767
--	--------------

### RESTAURANTS & MORE

7th on Walnut	865-1775	Leslie's Mexican Supermarket	501-1017
Big Biscuit	360-1298	Los Michoacano's Garcias	218-8549
	360-1294		884-1266
Bruno's Italian Restaurant	866-0007	Mama G's Kitchen	379-2166
Café Cosco	868-8088		771-5168
Charcoal Grill House	252-9023	Mexican Villa	887-1010
Chicken Salad Chick	450-4816		883-1040
Cielito Lindo Mexican	886-7676		869-4459
Colton's Steakhouse	823-9909		866-7292
Discount Snacks	831-2305		831-6196
El Maguery Mexican	865-1453		582-0600
El Puente	883-4502	Nawab's Indian Cuisine	844-5050
	724-9488	Neighborhood Pizza Café	833-4411
	581-0591	Niji Sushi Bar & Grill	851-1707
Gailley's Breakfast Café	866-5500	Pizza House	881-4073
Habanero's Mexican Restaurant & Cantina	771-5766	Plaza Mexico Restaurant	350-1530
	237-9335	Rerico Brazilian Grill	881-8882
Ichiban Buffet	866-2770	Rice & Dumpling Restaurant	771-5617
Jimmy's Egg	720-4436	Spring Creek Tea Room	582-1331
	368-0125	Storming Crab Seafood	771-5882
Kai After Dark	832-0077	Stusquatch Rockstar BBQ & Breakfast	
Korean Kitchen	890-1016		788-6328
La Habana vieja	771-5723	Sushi Village	890-1016
Latino Market	831-4227	Tacos El Gordo	402-9307
Leong's Asian Diner	887-7500		883-5305
		Taj Mahal Indian	719-4573

Tapas 65 Restaurant & Bar	827-2777
That Lebanese Place	459-8894
The Vault Bar & Grill	421-1281
The Hill Italian Restaurant	920-8850
University Convenience Store	306-9701
Van Gogh's Eeterie	344-0085
Village Inn	881-0774
	887-4774
	581-8815
	647-2200
Where House Cocktail Bar & Beer Garden	597-4040
Wommacks Supermercado Taqueria	315-8043
Ziggy's Restaurant	866-1377
	823-9972

### SHOPPING/SERVICES

Chabom Teas + Spices	719-4311
My Movers	882-6683
Patricia's	881-8444
Spring Creek Antiques	581-5914
The Frog Family Exotic Pets, Reptiles & Amphibians	493-5131
Valley 65 Antiques Collectibles Decor	485-2646



# WELCOME to SPRINGFIELD

Vol. 25 No. 5  
September / October 2024

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Welcome to Springfield is published bimonthly and is distributed to many hotels, motels, apartments and other locations. Designed to benefit local community, guests and visitors to help inform on Local Events, Shopping, Dining, Sights, Attractions and much more.

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**Advertising information:** The best way to make a real impression on the over 30,000 people staying overnight in Springfield's motel and hotel rooms every week as well as 160,000 residents is to have your advertising message on the pages of Welcome to Springfield. Please call 417-830-5477 for rates and specifications.

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We are very proud to be the destination of your trip. And, while you are visiting the home of "The Mother Road", historic Route 66, we are providing this informational magazine that we hope gives you some helpful suggestions of things to do, places to eat great food, and other insights or ideas to further enjoy your stay.

Whether you are here on business, a family visit, or just touring this part of the country, we hope your stay is comfortable, profitable, and worthwhile. On behalf of the thousands of Springfield area folks in the hospitality industry, we hope you find your stay here something special and that you will look forward to coming back.

Please contact this magazine, our friends at the Convention & Visitors Bureau, or the Springfield Hotel Lodging Association if you have any challenges or questions. We can't wait for you to come back.



Sharon Ladd, publisher

Welcome to the beautiful Ozarks, southwest Missouri, the Springfield area, and Welcome to Springfield magazine.



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## Moving to the "Queen City"

As the third largest city in the state, Springfield is a vibrant and vigorous regional center of activity for commerce, recreation, live entertainment and the arts in southwest Missouri.

It's little wonder, then, that this city of nearly 170,000 people boasts the nickname "Queen City of the Ozarks," a characterization found as early as 1876, in a December issue of the Springfield-Patriot Advertiser.

"Springfield sits quietly, peacefully, and prosperously on the summit of the Ozarks, as a royal diadem on the brow of a queen."

In a book titled "Seeing the Middle West," written in 1923, author John T. Paris observed, "Springfield, standing in all of the splendor of a queen amidst its spacious orchards of stately fruit trees, has been fittingly designated the Queen City."

Today, this city on historic Route 66 lives up to the name with a wealth of varied points of interest and activities for the enjoyment of our visitors from near and far. The city's several colleges give it a youthful feel, and are also a source of sports entertainment, led by Missouri State University, Drury University and Evangel University. The Great Southern Bank Arena on the Missouri State campus is not only the home of basketball action, but a place to see major music shows (Elton John, Carrie Underwood and The Eagles, among them) and other events, such as professional bull riding.

Not far away is the Juanita K Hammons Hall for the Performing Arts where you can see concerts, touring Broadway shows and other acts. (Bob Dylan, the late George Carlin

and Bonne Raitt have been on the stage there.)

Prominent venues in the downtown area are the historic Shrine Mosque (Dylan and Willie Nelson have performed there), and the historic Gillioz Theater (John Prine, Lyle Lovett and John Hiatt have played there.)

Other performing arts in the downtown area are based in the Landers Theatre. The Springfield Regional Opera House, the Springfield Symphony Orchestra and Springfield Ballet, also grace the city's performing arts choices.

Speaking of downtown, it is the hub of nightlife with its many restaurants, music clubs, comedy clubs and a movie theatre complex. You'll find the place abuzz on weekend nights, and many nights in between. And in the daytime you can find some unique retail shops and merchandise that might pique your interest. ■



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# Experience the *haunted* Pythian Castle

by Meredith Tatum

**P**ythian Castle, one of Springfield's most unique venues, also has a claim to fame in the paranormal world: it's a certified haunted castle.

The history begins in 1909 when Springfield competed among seven other cities to be the place where the Knights of Pythias would construct the "Pythian Home," a place where members of this fraternal order could retire with their families. The first floor holds a grand foyer, meeting room, ballroom, dining hall, and sitting parlors. The second floor has dual staircases on either wall and was designed with dormitory style rooms for children and bedrooms for adults. This floor also has a theater with original ticket booth, seats, upper projection and lighting room as well as changing rooms backstage.

The castle operated as an orphanage and retirement home until 1942, when the United States Military com-

mandeered the facility to use it in conjunction with an adjacent hospital that housed injured U.S. troops. However, German and Italian prisoners of war were also assigned to the castle during WWII for medical treatment and as laborers. Some of these prisoners were kept in the detached powerhouse and laundry room behind the castle.

After the war was over, the castle remained U.S. property until it was sold in 1993 to a private owner. This owner sold the castle to the current owners who are the first to open it up to the public offering weddings, proms, corporate events, holiday events, history tours as well as monthly murder mystery dinners.

But the castle's storied history has not been forgotten. In 2011, the castle was explored by TV show, Ghost Lab, where it was confirmed the the property is haunted with spirits from it's past proprietors. In 2017 TV show, Ghost Adventures, also came and used paranormal techniques to assess the castle, confirming the same.

The castle offers weekly Ghost Tours on Tuesday, Friday and Saturday nights at 8pm year-round where photos are encouraged. More ghostly tours are offered during peak seasons (October). Guests may walk away with photos containing "orbs," which are the ghosts or spirits themselves.

Ghost investigations are also offered quarterly for those wanting to practice their paranormal skills. Public investigations start at \$85 per person and are scheduled from 7pm to 3am, and include a midnight snack. And, if you are brave enough, you can try an escape room at this haunted castle.

You must attend an event to visit the castle so check out the website for dates and times to see what you can experience at Pythian Castle. Online ordering discounts.

Pythian Castle is located at 1451 E Pythian St, Springfield, MO and can be reached at 417-865-1464, and online at <https://pythiancastle.com>. ■

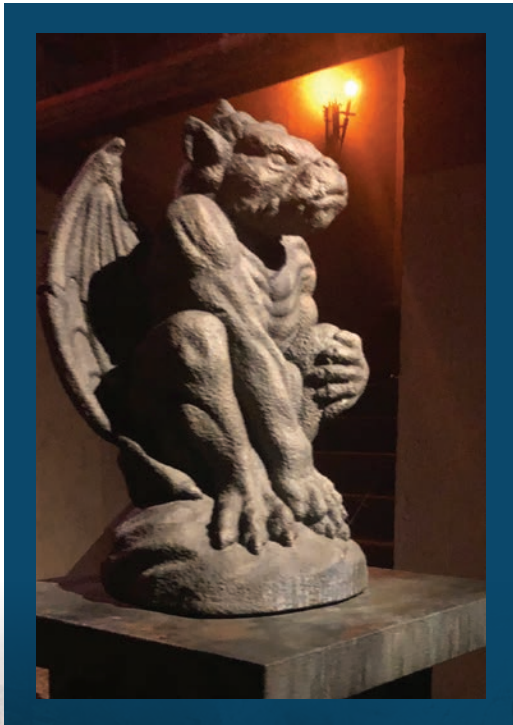


## ...OH MY!

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(FYI: our monkeys don't fly.)

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*Springfield  
has it all!*

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**ATTRACTIONS**



**EVENTS**



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**NIGHTLIFE**



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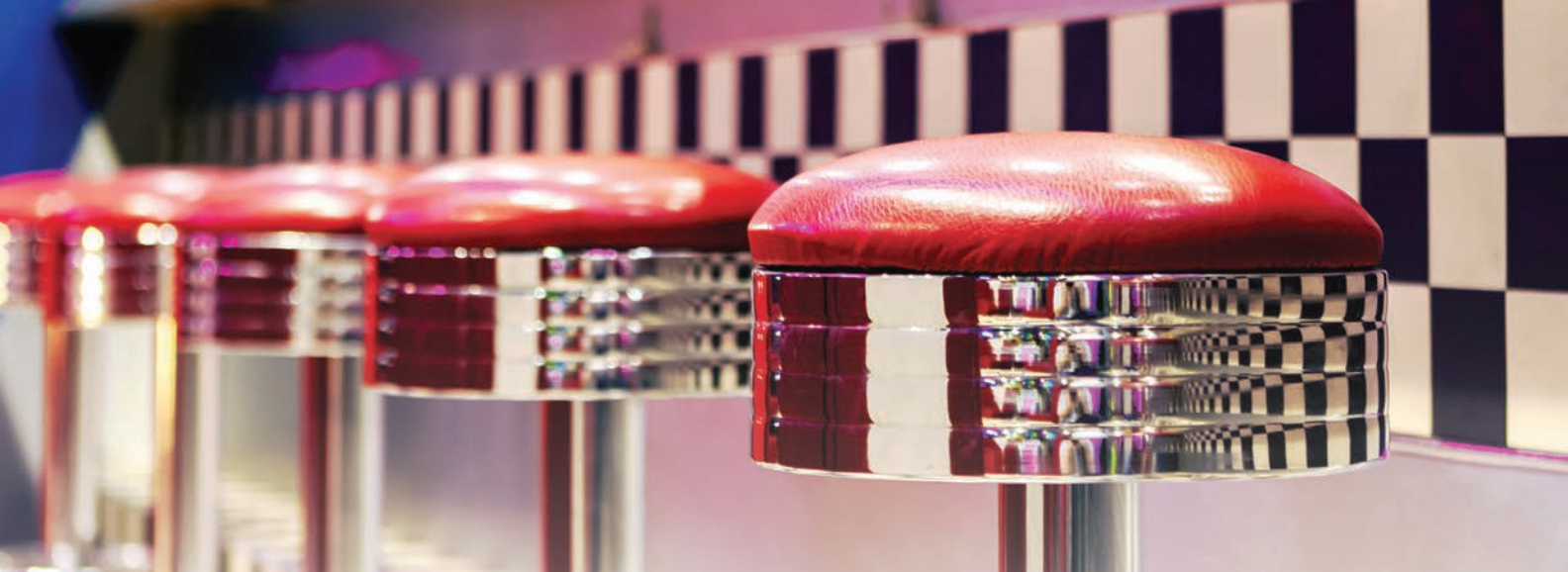
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*TAKE A TRIP DOWN MEMORY LANE..*

# *Cheers to 50+ Years!*

by Meredith Tatum

Springfield has a rich history in food culture and in this issue, we'd like to celebrate the restaurants that have been in business 50+ years and tell part of their stories!

Gailey's opened in 1942 when married couple Joe and Beulah Gailey created a fountain drugstore close to Route 66 in downtown Springfield. Joe ran the pharmacy and Beulah cooked burgers and served chili and shakes. Gailey's still inhabits the original drugstore and diner.

Mexican Villa began in a BBQ restaurant that Garin and Betty Ferguson bought in 1951. Garin, an army pilot, fell in love with tex-mex food while training with the army in San Antonio. The BBQ restaurant was later leased to a restaurant called "Italian Villa." When the owner retired, the Ferguson's replaced "Italian" with "Mexican" on the storefront and "Mexican Villa" was born.

In 1958, Dorothy and Pat began Pizza House. Their menu was simply pizza, salad and drinks. The dough and sauce are made fresh every day and the cheese is ground fresh daily. Pizza House moved to Commercial Street 13 years ago but otherwise remains the same.

In 1963 David Leong opened Leong's Tea House, a 350-seat white-tablecloth restaurant. Leong created "Springfield-style cashew chicken," something that hundreds of Chinese restaurants in town have tried to duplicate.

Springfield's original Village Inn locations opened in 1965 and are still operated by the Greene family. Brothers Bob and Bill Greene run the front of house and the kitchen respectively and are a large part of the charity fundraising community in town.

*Cheers to 50+ years!* ■



# Mexican Villa Restaurants— a Springfield original

by Garin Ferguson



In 1943, our country was at war and millions of young men left home to “join up”. Garin Hargrave Ferguson left Springfield, his girl-Betty Hall, and a job at Heer’s Department Store to join the Army Air Corp. First stop was Aloe Field in Victoria, Texas. Missing Betty, he sent a telegram proposing marriage. She said yes and they married on his first leave home.

While flying P-40’s, B-24’s and B-29’s at Randolph Field in San Antonio, Garin fell in love again... with Tex-Mex food. This passion for Mexican food would follow him home to the Ozarks.

After the war, the Fergusons returned to Springfield. Garin started Ferguson Crop Dusting Service, dusting and seeding from here to Tunica, Mississippi. His career would span 17 years, 11 pilots, 9 Stearman biplanes and one run-in with a power line!

Garin and Betty bought the Pig-N-Bun in 1951, a longtime barbeque restaurant at National & Bennett. There, Garin gave Springfield its first taste of Mexican food! Working from Texas memories and with the help of his good friend Mike, the same recipes that you enjoy today, made their debut.

In the late 50’s, the Fergusons moved to Glenstone (across from the Cat & Fiddle) to open “Old Mexico”, the city’s first carry-out restaurant. They leased the Pig-N-Bun to Tommy Lafino for his Italian Villa. Betty worked in the restaurant while Garin cropdusted. He would “buzz” the restaurant on his way to the Downtown Airport, so she would know to go pick him up.

When Tommy Lafino retired, the Fergusons moved back to National, replaced Italian with Mexican on the neon sign and

Mexican Villa was born. The El Taco on Kearney opened in the early 60’s followed by the Villa East, Comida, Villa West, Villa South and El Taco in Ozark.

Mexican Villa is proud to grow with the Ozarks - sharing your special moments, watching your families grow. Many of you stopped in to work and some of you stayed. We could not have done it without all of you. As our story goes on, (three generations now), we look forward to serving you the Mexican food you grew up with.

We’ve built our reputation on consistently serving you the best - in taste and quality. We believe in using only the finest and freshest quality ingredients for our recipes because we believe you deserve no less than the best!

As we mark 68 years in service to Springfield and the Ozarks, we would like to express our appreciation to our many loyal friends, customers and employees. We’re a family business and the most important part of this family has always been you. We dedicate this milestone to the people of the Ozarks.

All vegetables are sliced and prepared daily in our kitchen to ensure their freshness to you.

Because our concern is to provide healthful, wholesome food, we use 100% vegetable oil in our food preparation. We also use only USDA inspected 100% pure beef that is boiled in water to reduce cholesterol and fat. ■





# Leong's Asian Diner, home of the original Springfield style cashew chicken

by Meredith Tatum

Springfield may not make it into the headlines often, but it is famous for one thing both nationally and globally: Cashew Chicken—Springfield style.

At Leong's Asian Diner, on West Republic, the legacy continues as Springfield's original cashew chicken is served daily, and the tradition lives on.

Most Springfieldians embrace the Leong story as a Springfield classic, heralding it as one of those "American dream" tales we all love.

In 1940 David Leong, who passed away in July 2020 at the age of 99, emigrated from Guangdong, China. He served in World War II, and afterwards cooked his way through Philadelphia, New Orleans, Pensacola, and finally made one last move to Springfield, where, little did he know, he'd strike gold. Leong worked the kitchen at a couple of different supper clubs after arriving in Springfield. One of them, The Grove, was where Leong started serving Chinese-inspired dishes, and began to experiment with the dish that would become cashew chicken.

Deciding to open his own restaurant was the next step, and in 1963 Leong's Tea House was born. The 350-seat white tablecloth restaurant, did exceedingly well, serving cashew chicken and Leong's famous egg rolls. With the success of the Tea House, other restaurants followed suit, trying to hold their own while the taste took off around the city for Leong's creation.

The Tea House was more than a 30-year success. It ensured that cashew chicken became a staple in Springfield cuisine. Cashew chicken is a mix of here and there,

of two cultures. At its base is the American Midwestern and Southern affinity for fried chicken, but infused with Chinese flavors. The chicken is served on a bed of fried rice with Chinese oyster sauce and cashews.

Today there are more than 70 Chinese restaurants in a town of 157,000, serving cashew chicken. It's the norm; it's a staple; and one Leong is at it again.

From 1997 to 2010, Springfield went without a Leong-owned restaurant. Locals missed their original Chinese restaurateurs. In 2010, Leong's Asian Diner opened its doors, and since then, the restaurant has experienced great success!

The "diner" stars Leong's son, Chef Wing Yee, and features lunch, dinner, and take-out menus offering the regulars: cashew chicken, along with its variants; sweet and sour chicken, and general chicken. There are other Chinese dishes as well, but the menu also has other items to please the masses, including: Caesar salad, Angus beef and Swiss sandwiches, fries, mac and cheese, and even pizza for the kids. A full service bar is available, with a four-page wine and beer list, including seven different kinds of sake. All the offerings any great restaurant could need, making business boom—Leong style.

Leong's Asian Diner is located at 1540 W. Republic Street and is open from 11 am-8:30 pm Mon- Thurs, 11 am-9:30 pm Fri-Sat and 11 am-5:00 pm Sunday. To check on other events at Leong's Asian Diner, visit their website at [leongsasiandiner.com](http://leongsasiandiner.com), or call 887-7500.

Make sure to complete your Springfield experience with tradition, at Leong's Asian Diner. ■

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# Visit Gailey's Breakfast Cafe for a new twist on an old favorite

by Meredith Tatum

It all started with love at a fountain drugstore, Joe and Beulah Gailey met and fell in love in one of America's beautiful past-time establishments where patrons could get their medicine and other household items while also stopping to eat lunch or dinner. After marrying, Joe and Beulah Gailey decided they would open their own fountain drugstore in downtown Springfield in 1942, close to Route 66. Joe was in charge of the pharmacy and Beulah would fix burgers, chili, and milkshakes. Now, long after those fountain store days, the tradition has been kept alive- and expanded. Gailey's currently inhabits its original corner location and also the next two spaces over, one being Hotel Seville, which sat beside the original Gailey's. There are a few modern updates, but the history all stands the way it used to. The original diner stools as well as Beulah's original burger flipping "station" remain right where they were. Additions have been added to the expansive menu over the years including a large selection of omelets, breakfast dishes, skillet, burgers, and even a large bar menu. Order the famous "Downtowner" that comes with two eggs any style, with choice of potato, pork, and toast. The "El Jefe" skillet is also another go-to for many locals featuring two eggs any style on a bed of home fry potatoes and stacked with chorizo, jalapenos, tomato, onion, avocado, cilantro, and queso. Or enjoy the "Drugstore

Burger" featuring a third pound ground beef patty cooked to temp and served with your choice of cheese, lettuce, tomato, onion, and pickle. There is also a selection of breakfast and brunch drinks like mimosas, bloody marys, and a seasonal cocktail menu. For those who are looking for traditional drinks there's also a full bar and seven taps with local and national bar selections. Gailey's is open 7 AM to 3 PM Sunday to Tuesday and 7AM to 9 PM Wednesday to Saturday. Come experience Springfield's rich history in one of its original burger joints!

Gailey's is located at 220 E Walnut and can be reached by phone at 417.866.5500 and online at [gaileysbreakfast.com](http://gaileysbreakfast.com) ■



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# Welcome to Village Inn Family Restaurant with classic favorites

by Bob Greene

It was the year 1965 when Jack and Jane Greene opened the first Springfield Village Inn. Son Bob at 16 years old worked full time with his family, later to be joined by his future wife Susan. A few years later younger brother Bill started at the ripe age of just 14, and in following his brothers' footsteps his wife had also later joined the family. The first few years were extremely hard with long hours of work and such, however the family along with a very dedicated staff made it a phenomenal successful family restaurant. Today the iconic restaurants are owned and operated by the 3rd generation of the Greene family, Chip and Billy. With their dedication and perseverance, the restaurants are still holding strong today. Our food is prepared and served to order, made from several long-standing scratch recipes. Throughout several years we have won several National as well as local awards for our iconic food, coffee, and pies. We have also won many awards for our exceptionally dedicated service. If you live in the area or are just visiting the Ozarks, please stop in to enjoy a meal at one of the Midwest Famous Family Restaurants, Village Inn. For 56 wonderful years we are still as strong as ever and will continue our iconic presence in the Ozarks. We have three locations to serve you, two in Springfield and one in Republic. So if you are ready for the best breakfast in the Ozarks, so are we - all day every day. At Village Inn we serve and stand by our Best Pie in

America. Having the Best Pie in America isn't just a promise, it's a commitment. Please call ahead for hours of operation. ■



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# Enjoy great food and historic decor at Springfield's Pizza House

by Meredith Tatum

The story of Pizza House begins as one of empowerment—two women created and ran their business for decades and now another woman owns and operates the business. There have been trials, but all pushing toward the greater good of where they are now; still a constant pillar of the community and a place that many call home.

In 1958, Dorothy and Pat began a simple little pizza joint in a shopping center at Bennett and Glenstone.

Their menu was straight forward; pizza, salad and drinks—something that has remained to this day. In the early 80s, the now-owner, Stacey, used to come in with her parents and decided she would work at the Pizza House part time while in high school. She continued working with the two original owners much past high school, always keeping a connection to the restaurant even after taking a more than a decade-long job with Kinkos. After a while Stacey decided to move on from Kinkos and fell back on her kind of “second home” at the Pizza House. It became her full-time job and she began taking on a managerial role. In 2004 Tanya, a friend that Stacey met at Kinkos, came on in an administrative role, and the two women lead the team, much like how the business began.

In 2008, an angry tenant that owned the space next to the Pizza House in the shopping center bought the lease out from under them and got them evicted. The news flew across town and patrons—some of which had been coming to the restaurant for 50 years—held a rally. Stacey found a new location on Commercial Street and now looks back on the memory with

the resolute statement that “it truly was a blessing in disguise.”

“I wouldn’t change a thing if I could go back in time because we wouldn’t be where we are now, and we’re doing better than ever.” The business has grown three times since it’s move to Commercial Street. The staff grew from four people to 21 people. The move also marked the moment when Stacey took over as the official “owner” and she continued

to take care of Dorothy until her passing a few years later.

The menu has remained “basic” with pizza, salads and drinks and every pizza made to order. The dough is made fresh every day, as well as the sauce and the cheese is ground fresh for the pizzas every day as well. Four years ago, beer and wine were added as drink options, with local beers being the star of the show.

“The thing is, our customers are like family. Some of them started coming in as kids like I did, and they’re still coming in,” said

Stacey. “Some of them come through once or twice a year on their annual vacations and make sure they stop every time. This really is a place that people can come home to.”

Come check out the magic of the Pizza House for yourself today.

The Pizza House is open Tuesday through Thursday, 11am to 9pm, and Friday and Saturday, 11am to 10pm. Closed Sunday and Monday.

The Pizza House can be reached at 417-881-4073 and is located at 312 E Commercial St. ■





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# Enjoy healthy cuisine at Cafe Cusco

by Meredith Tatum

We never said goodbye, we always said, 'One day, Cafe Cusco.'" Joe Gidman sat relaxed in his chair but an eagerness couldn't help but come out, "it was a running joke, but here we are."

The atmosphere is warm, teeming with oranges, yellows, and reds. Soft colored woods tie it together, with little alcoves that house dining tables every other spot. There are pops of freshness with pearl-like shell strings, white feather ceiling lamps, and a blue door hung straight on the wall. Tapestries with South American influence bring the last touch, pulling it all back around to the origin; the start of it all.



Cafe Cusco, the newest Peruvian restaurant in Springfield, is run by someone who, undeniably, is qualified. After traveling through 30 countries, 34 year-old Gidman finally settled on a cuisine that was worth the trouble and dedication it takes to start a restaurant.

Eventually, the family made it to the South-west area and Gidman ended up at College of the Ozarks, working on an art degree. "My best friend in college was from Lima, Peru. He had a picture of Machu Picchu in his dorm, and I always said 'One day, we're gonna go there.'"

A few months after graduating, they did. "I just ate, traveled, drank and danced," Gidman says, laughing.

Coming back to the Ozarks, Gidman went into restaurant management in the Branson area for a few years. But the idea of the cafe was never far away, and a little research led to the push over of the first domino. "I was consulting for another restaurant here in town, and I was reading what the food trends would be for the year. Everything kept saying that high-end Latin food was on the rise, with Peruvian food being the fastest growing." Gidman says smiling, "I thought, hmm, maybe it's time for Cafe Cusco."

A year and a half in business later, and the restaurant has already been a finalist in 417's Best, with dotting mentioned on the fish tacos. "It's all fresh," Gidman says of his ingredients, "we don't fry the fish, we use our ceviche." Ceviche is one of the traditional dishes of South America and was used as a way to preserve fish using fruit juices. The citric acid in the juice cooks the fish in a way, without taking away its natural taste.

The ceviche is only the beginning of the regionally inspired, and innovative cuisines that Gidman has chosen to feature. "Our kitchen is entirely gluten free," Gidman says with pride. Bread is served with some dishes but is completely outsourced from local bakeries, and the flours used to fry certain food items are made up of corn flour, rice flour, and gluten free bean flours.



Gidman also made sure to cater to those who are vegetarian and vegan. "I was actually a vegetarian for eight years," Gidman says. Many meat dishes are on the menu though, and the restaurant can actually boast to be the only one in Springfield that features goat. "We get it from New Zealand," Gidman says. "Which is great because we don't have to worry about any GMOs, most other countries are extremely strict on their food laws, which work in our favor."

As for alcoholic beverages, Gidman made sure to bring in national favorites like the pisco sour, Peru's national drink, and the caipirinha, Brazil's national drink. The pisco sour tastes a lot like a margarita, but with an interesting twist, cinnamon and egg white are added. Never forgetting to keep it local, the restaurant features beer and wine from the Midwest as well. "The owner of White

River brewing company comes in a lot," an employee chimes in, "and he says 'I know I make beer, but I'll have a couple piscos if you don't mind,' they're that good."

Gidman admits that they're not alone in the building. He believes that three ghosts inhabit the upstairs and downstairs and he's got stories to prove it. But it's a peaceful existence Gidman says. "We know they're there and they know we're here. We get along."

They probably don't mind the food either. ■



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**301 Park Central E, (417) 771-5664** | Big Time Arcade featuring the Big Slice Pizza, is a competitive socialization focused arcade located in downtown Springfield. The arcade features 3 TRUGOLF simulators and an arcade featuring numerous games to play alongside your friends! Pizza by the slice is available from open to close along with all our appetizers and desserts! We offer a full-service bar, a private room for private parties! We promote a family friendly atmosphere, but we are 21+ after 8pm! Open Monday-Sunday 11am to 1:30am [See ad on page 49.](#)



**420 W. College St., (417) 228-8403** | Indulge in laughter where every joke is served with a side of savory satisfaction. Our full bar boasts an array of tantalizing cocktails, perfectly paired with delectable appetizers, sliders, sandwiches, pizza, and nachos that’ll leave your taste buds begging for an encore. Whether you’re a comedy connoisseur or a first-time giggler, our venue promises an unforgettable night of hilarity and flavor. Join us for an evening of uproarious entertainment and culinary delights that will tickle your funny bone and tantalize your palate.” Fri and Sat Shows. [See ad on page 50.](#)



**416 South Ave., (417) 866-0007** | Located in vibrant downtown Springfield, Bruno’s Italian Restaurant is found in a beautifully restored 1905 historic building. Step inside Bruno’s and immediately get the “I could be in Italy” feeling. Fresh Italian ingredients are crafted into delicious traditional Italian recipes and cooked the Italian way. Wonderful appetizers, fresh Sicilian-inspired salads, savory pasta, the best Italian pizza in Springfield (cooked in Bruno’s unique brick oven), truly authentic Italian entrees, seafood specials, and freshly prepared daily desserts. Tues - Thurs 11am - 2pm lunch and 4pm - 9pm dinner, Fri - Sat 11am - 2pm lunch and 4pm - 10pm dinner [brunoswinebar@gmail.com](mailto:brunoswinebar@gmail.com). [See ad on page 46.](#)



**234 E. Commercial, (417) 868-8088** | After hiking the Inca Trails with his best friend from Lima, Chef Joe Gidman decided to bring Peruvian cuisine to Springfield. Inside one of the city’s oldest buildings on Historic Commercial Street, Café Cusco is a delight to the eyes and taste buds. Offering a wide variety including many gluten free, vegan/vegetarian options, Cusco has been heralded a “Gem of Springfield” and a favorite among locals. \$\$ Lunch/ Dinner, family friendly, and full service bar. Enjoy our happy hour, Sun-Thur 3-5:30pm and Friday & Sat in our lounge from 8-10pm. Buen Provecho! Discover Peru! [www.cafecusco.com](http://www.cafecusco.com). [See ad on page 15.](#)

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**3522 S. Campbell Ave., (417) 252-9023** | Experience the flavors of Armenia at Charcoal Grill House, where authentic charcoal cooking meets a warm, inviting atmosphere. Enjoy a wide selection of traditional dishes, including kebabs, shurma, pork skewers, lamb ribs, and loin. Complement your meal with homemade apple or grape kvas, and take advantage of their flexible dining options: dine-in, carry-out, or enjoy the outdoor seating. Don’t forget to mention their ad to receive \$5.00 off your order of \$25.00 or more. Perfect for lunch, dinner, and catering. Open 11am-8pm daily [See ad on page 28.](#)



**1322 E. Battlefield Rd., (417) 450-4816** | Local franchisees and long-time Springfieldians, Mike and Kelly Parker are thrilled to bring an amazing restaurant concept to Springfield! Chicken Salad Chick believes in spreading joy, enriching lives, and serving others. With 12 different flavors of made from scratch, southern-style chicken salad, gourmet soups, fresh side salads, signature sandwiches, and delicious desserts, there’s truly something for everyone at Chicken Salad Chick. We make everything from scratch, with love, and made fresh for you. Order online or stop by and see us! [order.chickensaladchick.com](http://order.chickensaladchick.com). [See ad on page 6.](#)



**3530 S Campbell, (417) 886-7676** | Cielito Lindo’s claim to fame is that it has been feeding Springfieldians for over 20 years. What makes the restaurant different from other, newer Mexican options? The food is more fresh, more authentic, customers feel more at home. Sure, you can get Mexican food anywhere, but a fresh, cheesy chile relleno and delicious made-in-house chorizo? Cielito Lindo, a Springfield favorite, has you covered. Don’t forget the pico de gallo and white cheese dip. [See ad on page 26.](#)



**2020 E Independence St., (417) 823-9909** | Located in Southeast Springfield by the Wal-Mart SuperCenter. We know what’s at steak at Colton’s Steakhouse and Grill! Services offered: appetizers, steak, ribs, seafood, salads, pasta, burgers, sandwiches, desserts, lunch specials. Of course, it wouldn’t be a meal at Colton’s without peanuts. Enjoy all you want while you look over the menu. We serve USDA Choice hand-cut steaks, and our ribs are slow-smoked over hickory every day. Plus, we offer delicious chicken and seafood entrees, burgers and sandwiches, entree salads and soups, and more. There’s something for everyone, and don’t forget to save room for dessert! [See ad on page 20.](#)



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**220 E Walnut St, (417) 866-5500** | Gailey's Breakfast Café is a quaint diner full of history in downtown Springfield just south of the square. A favorite among locals and tourists alike, Gailey's has been serving patrons since original owners Joe and Buelah opened the corner fountain drugstore in 1942. Today Gailey's is known for their #1 Breakfast but also offers a wide variety of dinner options, as well as a full bar with drafts and a great selection of cocktails. Open 7 days a week with late hours Wed-Sat until 10pm and live music on weekends. [See ad on page 10.](#)



**4406 S. Campbell Ave, Springfield, (417) 771-5766 | 4221 S. Wilson Creek Rd., Republic, (417) 647-6099 and 100 Lincoln St, Carthage, (417) 237-9335** | From sizzling fajitas to mouthwatering tacos, our Mexican culinary creations are here to make your day exceptional. They offer a full bar, and daily specials. This amazing Authentic Mexican Restaurant started in Carthage, MO in 2014 with a second location right here in the "Queen City of the Ozarks". Get ready to experience the irresistible allure of Habaneros! Springfield & Republic location hours are Sun - Thurs 11AM - 9:30PM, Fri and Sat 11AM - 10:30PM, Carthage location hours are Sun - Wed 11AM - 9 PM and Thurs, Fri, Sat 11AM - 10PM [habanerosmexicancantina.com](http://habanerosmexicancantina.com). [See ad on page 29.](#)



**625 N. Glenstone, (417) 866-2770** | Ichiban ALL YOU CAN EAT Buffet features over 100 different items daily like fresh sushi, fried chicken, hibachi grill items and more. Springfield cashew chicken, sizzling and stir fried dishes in addition to appetizers like egg rolls, crab rangoon, chicken wings and bar-b-que spareribs. At Ichiban Buffet you can order on-line for pickup. Sun-Thurs 11am-9pm; Fri-Sat 11am-10pm. [See ad on page 20.](#)



**3315 E. Battlefield Road | 3837 S. Campbell Avenue | 1611 S. Range Line Road, Joplin, MO** | Jimmy's Egg is your local breakfast spot where family and friends gather to enjoy a delicious meal. Our menu offers a variety of classic and unique breakfast and lunch dishes with so many choices there is something for everyone to love. Stop in and enjoy a fresh, made-to-order dish served just the way you like with a hot cup of coffee or a delicious mimosa or blood mary. We are open 6 am - 2 pm daily, serving breakfast and lunch all day at three locations in the Ozarks. Come see us! [See ad on page 25.](#)



**306 S. Campbell Ave, (417) 832-0077** | Kai After Dark in Springfield offers an exquisite dining experience, blending the best of Japanese cuisine with Korean influences. This stylish restaurant features a tantalizing menu, including Korean-style BBQ short ribs, pan-seared organic Japanese vegetable dumplings, and spicy seafood soup brimming with shrimp, muscles, and squid. Guests can savor the delicate flavors of Hamachi sashimi, indulge in crispy Kai calamari, or treat themselves to luxurious lobster spring rolls. Kai After Dark is the perfect destination for those seeking a unique and flavorful culinary adventure. Two private meeting rooms available. Lunch Mon-Sat 11am-2pm, dinner Mon-Thurs 5-11pm, dinner Fri-Sat 5-11:30pm, closed on Sunday. [See ad on page 45.](#)



**1440 W. Republic Rd, (417) 890-1016** | Experience the fusion of flavors at Korean Kitchen, where we proudly serve an authentic menu featuring the best of Japanese, Korean, and Chinese delicacies. Located in Springfield, our restaurant offers a culinary adventure like no other. Indulge in the tantalizing tastes of traditional Korean dishes alongside Japanese favorites and Chinese specialties. From sizzling bulgogi to savory sushi rolls and flavorful stir-fries, our diverse menu

caters to every palate. At Korean Kitchen, we're committed to delivering a memorable dining experience that celebrates the rich tapestry of Asian cuisine. [See ad on page 28.](#)



**220 E Commercial St, (417) 771-5723** | La Habana Vieja is a Cuban restaurant, Latin cuisine has just found its new home in the downtown Missouri area. This cozy establishment highlights our passion for market-fresh ingredients, honest cooking, and an enjoyable atmosphere. Our menu features a selection of dishes, all made in-house by our team of talented chefs. With some of the most delicious combinations of ingredients, there is something for everyone to enjoy. Loved by locals and traveling foodies alike, now is the perfect time for you to join us today at La Habana Vieja. ! La Habana Vieja is open Tuesday through Saturday, lunch 11am to 1:30pm and dinner 5pm to 9pm. Closed Sunday and Monday. [See ad on page 14.](#)



**1540 W Republic Rd, (417) 887-7500** | Welcome to Leong's Asian Diner, the place where east meets west! Our mission is to offer favorites from the original Leong's Tea House alongside new interpretations of hearty dishes from traditional continental cuisine. Area natives love Springfield-style cashew chicken and have long recognized Mr. David Leong as the originator. By the 1970s, the Leong family's famous dish had become such a part of the Springfield culinary scene that there were literally hundreds of Chinese restaurants serving their version of cashew chicken, and many still do today. [See ad on page 9.](#)



**218 S. Glenstone Ave, (417) 501-1017** | Leslie's Mexican Supermarket in Springfield offers a vast selection of authentic Mexican groceries. Discover fresh produce, including fruits and vegetables, alongside a Butcher

Shop with high-quality beef, pork, and chicken. Enjoy homemade tortillas and delectable desserts from their Mexican Bakery that bring the flavors of Mexico to your table. With its wide variety of products and friendly service, Leslie's Mexican Supermarket is your one-stop destination for all your Mexican culinary needs. Experience the best of Mexican cuisine right in Springfield. Open Mon-Sun 9am - 9pm [See ad on page 23.](#)



**1779 S. Glenstone, (417) 218-8549 and 1402 W. Sunshine St, (417) 884-1266** | Real authentic Mexican food. Everyone says they're authentic, but do they make their own hand made, homemade corn tortillas? We do! You can't have Mexican food without trying our margaritas or our micheladas. We have daily specials so don't wait to try real authentic food, and come feel like part of the family here with us! West Sunshine location is open Mon, Tues and Thurs 11am-9pm, closed Wed, open Fri & Sat 11am-10pm and Sun 10am-8pm. The Glenstone location is open Mon, Tues, Wed and Thurs 11am-9pm, open Fri & Sat 11am-10pm and Sun 11am-8pm. [See ad on page 22.](#)



**2463 W Sunshine St. Ste. 124 (next to US Automotive), (417) 379-2166 and 210 S Market Ave. Ste. 124 (next to Blue Room Comedy Club), (417) 771-5168** | Mama G's Kitchen is located in Springfield & serves food to comfort your soul at two locations. We offer a variety of Comfort foods & Desserts that will satisfy your craving. If you like to feel at home while eating out, come experience "A Taste of Lovely". Downtown: Mon-Wed-Thurs 11am - 9pm, Fri & Sat 11am - 2:30am and Sun 12 Noon - 6pm. West Sunshine: Mon 5pm-8pm, Thurs-Sat 4pm-8pm, Closed Tues, Wed & Sun. [See ad on page 48.](#)





**2755 S Campbell, (417) 883-1040 | 1337 E Sunshine, (417) 887-1010 | 1408 S National, (417) 869-4459 | 1100 W Sunshine, (417) 866-7292 | 434 Glenstone Ave, (417) 831-6196 | 1595 W Jackson St, Ozark, MO, (417) 582-0600** | We've built our reputation on consistently serving you the best - in taste and quality. We believe in using only the finest and freshest quality ingredients for our recipes because we believe you deserve no less than the best! As we mark 68 years in service to Springfield and the Ozarks, we would like to express our appreciation to our many loyal friends, customers and employees. We're a family business and the most important part of this family has always been you. We dedicate this milestone to the people of the Ozarks. [See ad on page 8.](#)



**3654 S. Campbell, (417) 844-5050** | Consistency in cooking, appealing presentation, ambiance & excellent service is strictly adhered to here. Unlike the misconception that Indian food is very spicy and hot, Nawab's prides itself on belying that myth cooking authentic Indian food, made with a variety of very rich and silky sauces (curries) and just enough spices make the food extremely palatable. Enjoy succulent appetizers, freshly baked native breads and rice preparations, rich and smooth curries, Tandoori style meats and vegetables and tempting traditional style Indian desserts. [See ad on page 26.](#)



## NEIGHBORHOOD Pizza•Cafe

**3550 N Glenstone Ave Ste L, (417) 833-4411** | Neighborhood Pizza Café (NPC) was established in 2004 and has gained popularity throughout the community for its tradition of serving fresh hot pizza loaded with toppings. Here you do not have to ask for extra cheese, there is plenty on our pizzas already. Our town has a Pizza & Pasta Bowl every year in which all the pizza places in town can compete. We have won various categories each time we entered including people's choice ten times. That makes us 100% winners. 10 times entered; 10 times won. We also serve a variety of other things including salads, pastas, & sandwiches. Neighborhood-PizzaCafeMO.com. [See ad on page 2.](#)



**3938 S Lone Pine Ave Suite 100-B, (417) 851-1707** | Offering an ample variety of fresh authentic Japanese cuisine, which includes hibachi meals, ramen bowls, sushi rolls, sashimi and much more. Niji Sushi Bar & Grill is located in the ever-so-comfy neighborhood of Galloway where you'll find scores of people walking, running, and biking on scenic trails. The best way to describe how you feel as you enter is deeply comfortable and in the lap of luxury. The outdoor patio is an oasis and a perfect atmosphere to escape, enjoy the fresh air and unwind. Mon-Thurs 11am to 9pm, Fri and Sat 11am to 9:30pm. nijisushigrill.com. [See ad on page 22.](#)



**312 E. Commercial St. (417) 881-4073** | Serving Fresh Pizza Pie's for OVER 60 years! Open since 1958, this low-key pie shop with a vintage vibe boasts thin-crust pizzas & lunch deals. Their hand rolled cracker thin pizza crust, with delightfully burnt ends, will drive your taste buds crazy. Pizza House is historically known to many generations. After you experience the "eclectic" atmosphere, and amazing customer service you will be part of the family. They offer pizza, salad, local craft beer and soft drinks as well as the best service in town. Enjoy a part of Springfield history at Pizza House. [See ad on page 12.](#)



**4249 W. Chestnut Expy, (417) 350-1530** | **A Taste of Authentic Mexican Flavors!** Located in the heart of town, Plaza Mexican Restaurant is a vibrant destination for lovers of authentic Mexican cuisine. The menu boasts a wide array of delicious options, from shrimp nachos and fajitas nachos to savory chimichangas and hearty Plaza Mexico specialties. Whether you're craving pork, chicken, or steak tacos, or prefer vegetarian specialties, there's something for everyone. Complement your meal with soups, salads, or classic American favorites, making Plaza Mexican Restaurant a perfect spot for any palate. Open Tuesday-Saturday 11am to 9pm Sunday 11am to 8pm Closed on Monday. [See ad on page 22.](#)



**3371 E. Monclair St, (417) 881-8882** | Springfield offers a culinary journey through the vibrant flavors of Brazil. With its unique churrascaria-style dining, ReRico invites guests to savor an array of succulent meats, expertly grilled and carved tableside by skilled gauchos. The restaurant's diverse menu also features an impressive salad bar with fresh, seasonal offerings. Guests can indulge in the rich and authentic Brazilian cuisine while enjoying a warm and inviting atmosphere. Whether you're a meat enthusiast or seeking a taste of Brazilian culture, ReRico Brazilian Grill promises a delightful experience that transports your taste buds to the heart of South America. Mon-Fri 4:00 pm - 8:15 pm, Sat 12:00 - 3:00 pm & 4:00 pm - 8:20 pm Closed on Sunday [See ad on page 24.](#)

## RICE & DUMPLING RESTAURANT

**431 S. Jefferson Ave, Unit 100-104, (417) 771-5617** | "Indulge in the flavors of authentic Chinese cuisine at Rice & Dumpling in Downtown Springfield. Our culinary haven brings the essence of traditional Chinese cooking to your plate, offering a tantalizing array of rice and dumpling dishes crafted with passion and precision. From classic favorites to innovative creations, each bite is a journey through the rich tapestry of Chinese culinary

heritage. Experience the first "Smart Chinese Restaurant" with cutting edge AI cooking Equipment! Open daily 10:30am - 9:30pm, Closed Sundays. [See ad on page 47.](#)

## Spring Creek Antiques & Tea Room

**107 S 3rd St, Ozark, (417) 582-1331** | Open with the same owners since 1998! What a delightful tea room nestled in an antique mall wonderland. Browse the many booths of antiques, shabby chic, re-purposed, vintage, retro and much more as you wait for your table. Spring Creek Tea Room offers a creation of unique food choices of soups, sandwiches, salads, quiche (Friday only), decadent desserts, teas and coffees! Elegant lunchtime and shopping experience all under one roof! Please call or go online for hours. Their strawberry soup is amazing and the desserts are legendary! [See ad on page 33.](#)



**2815 S. Glenstone Ave, Located at Battlefield Mall Main Entrance, (417) 771-5882** | Storming Crab Boil Cajun Seafood Bar & Grill invites you to a seafood extravaganza like no other. Dive into a culinary adventure where flavors collide, and seafood takes center stage. Our vibrant and welcoming establishment offers a unique dining experience, combining the freshest catches with bold spices and creative dishes. From succulent crab legs to mouthwatering shrimp, every bite is a celebration of taste and texture. Join us at Storming Crab for a feast that storms the senses and leaves you craving more. Discover the joy of indulging in seafood done right, right here in Springfield. Sunday -Thursday 11AM - 9PM and Fri, Sat 11AM - 9:30PM [See ad on page 51.](#)







**BBQ 2463 W Sunshine St Ste 124, (417) 788-6328** | Stusquatch's Rockstar BBQ brings you all the familiar favorites at Billboard's top 100 level. It's not just the bbq that steals the stage here. Our house made signature sides carry a rhythm all their own. Dueling with Rockstar level sauces are what make this hidden gem shine like the marquee. The powerhouse of our show aka ole smoke, sits center stage on the patio where guests can enjoy the sweet aromas of our locally sourced meats dressed to the T biding their time for the lineup on your plate. We offer Outdoor seating, Dine in, Carry out and Catering. Open Mon-Thurs 11am-9pm, Fri-Sat 11am-10pm and Sun 11am-6pm. [www.stubque.net](http://www.stubque.net) *See ad on page 29.*



**1440 W. Republic Rd, (417) 890-1016** | Embark on a culinary journey at Sushi Village, your destination for exquisite sushi delights in Springfield. Experience the artistry of sushi boats laden with an array of fresh sashimi, vegetarian rolls, and traditional favorites. Whether it's lunch or dinner, our menu caters to every palate with a symphony of flavors. Indulge in the delicate balance of textures and tastes meticulously crafted by our expert chefs. Join us and discover the essence of Japanese cuisine in every bite at Sushi Village, where every meal is a celebration of taste and tradition." Delivery also available. Open Mon-Fri 11am to 2pm lunch and 4pm to 9pm dinner, Sat hours are 11am to 9pm, Closed on Sun. *See ad on page 28.*



**1510 N. National Ave (Tacos El Gordo #1), (417) 402-9307 and 5360 S. Campbell Ave (Tacos El Gordo #2 La Dona Mexican Bar & Grill), (417)883-5305** | Tacos El Gordo Mexican Bar & Grill in Springfield offers authentic Mexican cuisine with two convenient locations. Enjoy dine-in or carry-out options for breakfast, lunch, and dinner. Indulge in tacos de Trompo, carne asada, beef, chicken, pork, shrimp, fish, and seafood. Their menu

features fajitas, burritos, and more. Fresh tortillas made daily. Pair your meal with a selection of beers, cocktails, and margaritas for a complete dining experience. Visit Tacos El Gordo for a flavorful and festive atmosphere. Hours Mon - Thurs 6am to 9pm, Fri and Sat 6am to 10pm and Closed Sunday. *See ad on page 25.*



**1250 E. Republic Rd., (417) 719-4573** | Everything on the menu is made from scratch. They serve all dishes mild, but all entrées can be prepared with a range of spicy heat. You can ask for mild, medium or hot. People like the restaurant's buffet because they can sample different dishes. The most popular dish, the chicken tikka masala, starts with chicken breast marinated in spices and yogurt. Like a lot of Indian food, the popular dish is cooked in a clay oven called a tandoor. For those of you unfamiliar with Indian cuisine, all items are described in simple English terms. Every dish is individually prepared to ensure freshness and quality. *See ad on page 22.*



**3371 E. Montclair St, 417-827-2777** | We believe that dining out should be a memorable experience, which is why we go above and beyond to provide exceptional service and create a welcoming atmosphere. Our knowledgeable and friendly staff are always on hand to answer any questions you may have and to help you choose the perfect dishes and drinks to suit your tastes. Whether you're a seasoned tapas aficionado or new to the world of Spanish cuisine, we invite you to join us at Tapas 65 Restaurant and experience the flavors of Spain like never before. We look forward to seeing you soon! Tues-Sat 3:30pm to 9:30 pm *See ad on page 24.*



**338 E Commercial Street, (417) 459-8894** | They serve up fresh, healthy, traditional Lebanese food and create an inviting atmosphere for you to experience and enjoy. Passion, love, and customer service are the three things owner Elie Ghanem has brought

to the Springfield Community through delicious, Middle Eastern cuisine. Everything from labneh, falafel, tabouleh, split lentil soup, lamb kebab, shish tawouk, Lebanese burger, lamb burger, baklava, kanefe, and much more. They also serve Lebanese Beer and have a large array of wine. *See ad on page 13.*



**600 E. Battlefield Rd, 417-920-8850** is an all you can eat Italian dining experience, inspired by "The Hill" neighborhood in South St. Louis. Our market style dining allows guests to eat as much or as little as they would like, all for one price! Our stations offer a large variety of Italian favorites, such as fettuccine alfredo, eggplant parmesan, chicken cacciatore, and more. Mon-Fri 11:30 am - 2:30 pm & 4:30 pm-8:00 pm, Sat 11:30 am-8:00 pm, Sun 11:30 am- 8:00 pm *See ad on page 24.*



**400 South Ave Ste 100, (417) 412-1281** | Discover Springfield's culinary gem at The Vault Bar & Grill! Indulge in a full bar experience alongside delectable lunch and dinner options, featuring locally raised beef burgers, succulent chicken tenders, fresh salads and GATOR TAILS BEING OUR SPECIALTY. Whether you're dining in or carrying out, our menu delights with mouthwatering selections. Join us for lively weekends filled with live music, bar bingo on Wednesday, Wednesday college night 9:00pm-Close with killer drink specials, music bingo Thursday and karaoke on Thursday, creating unforgettable moments. Savor the flavor of their wings, mushrooms and pretzel bites. Experience the heart of Springfield's dining scene at The Vault Bar & Grill." Open Sat-Sun 11am to close, Wed-Fri 3pm-close, Closed on Monday and Tuesday. Located in the same block as the Moxy Hotel Downtown. *See ad on page 49.*



**601 S. Kimbrough, (417) 306-9701** | Discover convenience at its finest at University Convenience Store in Springfield. With an

extensive inventory, we offer a diverse selection of liquor, beer, wine, including Indian brands, alongside a wide array of Indian spices, groceries, fresh fruits, and vegetables. Craving sushi? We've got you covered with our fresh sushi options. Need a quick bite? Grab one of our delicious grab-and-go sandwiches, hot samosas or pizza by pie or slice. Plus, don't forget to try your luck with our lottery tickets. At University Convenience Store, we're here to meet all your needs with convenience and variety. Open Mon - Fri 7am - 12am, Sat and Sun 9am - 12am *See ad on page 44.*



VanGogh's

**334 E Commercial Street, (417) 344-0085** | Van Gogh's Eeterie is Springfield's only restaurant specializing in Indo-Dutch cuisine and traditional dishes from the Netherlands. Offering breakfast and lunch throughout the week and dinner on the weekends. A contemporary Western European atmosphere inspired by Dutch Artists. Handmade stroop wafels, large crepe-like pancakes and many other treats will bring you instantly from Springfield to Amsterdam. This charming eeterie is located in Springfield's Historic District in the heart of Commercial Street. Hours are Tues-Thur 10am-9pm; Fri-Sat 8am-9pm; and Sun 8am-2pm. Follow us on facebook/ VanGoghsEeterie! *See ad on page 14.*



**2036 S. Glenstone (417) 881-0774 & 4222 S. Campbell (417) 887-4774 | Republic 533 E. Elm St. (417) 647-2200 | Ozark 850 N. 17th St. (417) 581-8815** | For 56 years Springfield's Premier Family Restaurants serving breakfast, lunch and dinner all day, anytime. All meals are priced family friendly. Today in keeping with tradition, the restaurants are owned and operated by the 3rd generation of the Greene family, Chip and Billy. To be business for 56 great and successful years, ya gotta be pretty darn good! Call ahead for hours of operation. *See ad on page 11.*





**2463 W Sunshine St #120, (417) 695-0077**  
| The Where House Bar now heading on its 3rd year of operation has quickly become the Hot spot for music in the Ozarks. Local and Regional acts all come together at this incredible venue. Three unique stages and free music are a draw for anyone who enjoys a fun laid back atmosphere. The Bar offers many taps from our local breweries and some classic favorites as well. More into cocktails, are award winning bar staff have created seasonal menus with incredible flavors and complexity. From Whiskey to Tiki we have you covered. Food you say? Stusquatch Bbq & Mama G.s Soul food are in the building. We also have the largest food truck park in Springfield. Sit inside or outside and enjoy tastes from around the world. The Where House Bar is a great way to spend a day in the Ozarks. Open Mon-Thurs 4pm-11pm, Fri 2pm-12Midnight, Sat 11am-12Midnight and Sun 11am-11pm.  
*See ad on page 29.*



**1130 N. Grant Ave, (417) 315-8043** | Wommacks Supermercado Taqueria in Springfield offers a vibrant butcher shop with fresh meats including chicken, beef, and shrimp. Enjoy dine-in or carry-out options featuring roasted ribs, pollo asado, and tacos. Our large grocery inventory ensures you find all your essentials in one place. Experience the authentic flavors and friendly service at Wommacks, your go-to spot for quality meats and delicious Mexican cuisine. See us on Face Book and [www.wommackssupermercado.com](http://www.wommackssupermercado.com) Tues - Sat 10am to 9pm and Sun 10am to 7pm, Closed Monday *See ad on page 48.*



**1772 South Glenstone, Lamplighter Inn & Suites South, corner of Sunshine & Glenstone, (417) 823-9904; 2515 North Glenstone, Coach House Best Western, between Kearney & Interstate 44, (417) 866-1377 and 2129 W Republic Road, (417) 720-1628** | We invite your appetite to a long-time favorite, award winning, great variety of food with a complete menu. South location open 24 hours, North serving from 6 am-9 pm. Republic Road location is open from 6am-10pm. Outstanding breakfast specials, senior discounts and special menu. 10 minute Lunch Express Monday-Friday guarantee; Dinner Specials from \$5.99. *See ad on page 26.*



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[ichibanbuffetspringfield.com](http://ichibanbuffetspringfield.com)



# Experience authentic Mexican flavor served with pride at El Maguey

by Mike Schilling

If you want to experience authentic Mexican flavor (rather than a Texas dish with a Mexican name) then head to El Maguey, where they pride themselves in what they serve, as well as how they serve it, with delicious food and exceptional service.

Before you even begin your meal, you will get a taste of what is so unique about El Maguey. They offer complimentary chips and two types of salsa, mild and hot, both of which are made fresh from scratch. Their mild sauce is delicious, but if you want to add a little extra “zing in your zanger,” then try the hot sauce. After taking a bite, it stares up at you from its cream-colored bowl like a single dark eye that seems to bear the expression of a bandit challenging you to a draw.

“I dare you to reach for your drink,” it says with its peppery glare. But go ahead. Cool your mouth because you’re going to want more. Its fresh flavor with just the right amount of spicyness, sets it above the appetizers of other Mexican restaurants. El Maguey’s queso dip is also made from scratch, so if you are in the mood for something a bit more mild, then you can still be assured that you are beginning your dining experience with fresh food.

Don’t worry about leaving El Maguey hungry, because the portions are large enough to make you thankful for the extra holes in your belt. They also have a kid’s menu and a vegetarian menu. With more than 30 combination items on the menu, including favorites like tamales made from scratch and

chimichangas, lots of dinner items and many other Mexican specialties you are sure to leave on a full stomach.

However, the hardest part may be choosing from among so many fresh and delicious choices, and you can count on excellent suggestions from your waitress.

The staff at El Maguey exemplifies the definition of service. Some have even said that it’s the staff that truly makes El Maguey stand apart from the competition. They seem to genuinely love serving their guests, as if they were an honored guest in their own home. To become a guest at El Maguey, go to 631 N. Glenstone Avenue, the very convenient corner of Glenstone and Chestnut Expressway. To make reservations call 417-865-1453. ■



## El Maguey

# El Maguey

## MEXICAN RESTAURANT



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GLENSTONE

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Full Service Bar

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- Tacos
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 Mon-Thurs 11am-9pm | Mon-Tues-Thurs 11am-9pm  
 Fri-Sat 11am-10pm | Fri-Sat 11am-10pm  
 Sun 11am-8pm | Sun 10am-8pm

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# The Authentic Flavors of India Straight to Your Plate



Nawabs Indian Cuisine, located in the heart of Springfield offers a vibrant dining experience that brings the authentic flavors of India straight to your plate. This culinary gem has quickly become a favorite among locals and visitors alike, thanks to its commitment to authenticity and quality.

One of the standout features of Nawabs Indian Cuisine is its daily lunch buffet, which provides an excellent opportunity to sample a wide variety of traditional Indian dishes. From Monday through Friday, the lunch buffet is available for just \$17.99, offering an incredible value for the array of flavors you can explore. On weekends, the buffet price is slightly higher at \$19.99, but it's worth every penny for the expanded selection and special weekend dishes.

The restaurant prides itself on serving certified halal meat, ensuring that all guests can enjoy their meal with confidence. This commitment to quality extends to every aspect of the dining experience at Nawabs, from the carefully sourced ingredients to the skilled preparation methods used by their experienced chefs.

The menu at Nawabs Indian Cuisine is a true reflection of the diverse culinary traditions found across India. Diners can enjoy a variety of dishes, from rich and creamy butter chicken to the fiery heat of vindaloo. The Tandoor Bar is a particular highlight, offering a selection of meats and breads cooked to perfection in a traditional clay oven. The smoky, charred flavors imparted by the tandoor are a hallmark of Indian cuisine and a must-try for any guest.

In addition to its outstanding food, Nawabs Indian Cuisine offers a warm and inviting atmosphere that makes every meal feel special. The decor is a blend of traditional Indian elements and modern touches, creating a comfortable yet elegant setting for any occasion. Whether you're enjoying a casual lunch with friends or a celebratory dinner with family, Nawabs provides the perfect backdrop for memorable moments.

Nawabs Indian Cuisine also caters to those who prefer dining at home with a comprehensive carry-out menu. This makes it easy to enjoy their delicious offerings anytime, anywhere. Whether you're a longtime fan of Indian food or a newcomer eager to explore new flavors, Nawabs Indian Cuisine promises a dining experience that is both authentic and unforgettable. Visit Nawabs Indian Cuisine in Springfield and embark on a culinary journey through the vibrant streets of India. ■



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 Springfield, MO 65807  
**(417) 883-4502**

**Nixa**  
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 Nixa, MO 65714  
**(417) 724-9488**

**Ozark**  
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# The Big Biscuit... Don't Mess With Breakfast

The Big Biscuit - your go-to spot for an all-American breakfast in Springfield! With two convenient locations at Battlefield & Glenstone and S. Campbell & W. Powell, The Big Biscuit serves the classic breakfast you know and love since 2019.

The Big Biscuit is known for hometown hospitality, fresh ingredients, and made-to-order dishes with impossibly generous portions. Think plate-sized buttermilk pancakes, crispy hashbrowns, and award-winning biscuits so big you'll understand where they get the name. In addition to serving oversized buttermilk biscuits with just about every order, their playful spin on breakfast classics really sets them apart.



Have you tried the 3-Car Pile-Up? A plate-sized pancake covered with three hand-cracked eggs scrambled with bacon, sausage, cheddar, and breakfast potatoes, topped with hash browns,

two buttermilk biscuits, and sausage gravy. If you have a sweet tooth, order a Bonut- a buttermilk biscuit dipped in French toast batter, fried to golden perfection, and tossed in powdered sugar. Or a Sticky Biscuit - biscuit dough baked in house-made cinnamon filling and drizzled with creamy vanilla icing. With over 60 menu items, there's something for everyone here!

Not only is the food mouthwatering, but The Big Biscuit just launched their Bigger, Better Beverage menu! They've added specialty drinks, including strawberry lemonade, iced teas, palmers, and cold brew with a creamy vanilla cold foam. Feeling adventurous? Dive into their five new Western Sodas, each blending coconut cream and lime for a refreshing summer twist. With so many options, The Big Biscuit's Bigger, Better Beverage menu offers a delightful, thirst-quenching experience for everyone.



The Big Biscuit's new Strawberry Shortcake Bonut - buttermilk biscuits dipped in French toast batter, fried to golden brown perfection, then tossed in powdered sugar and topped with fresh strawberries and whipped cream.

So whether you're craving a classic breakfast feast or eager to try something new this summer, swing by The Big Biscuit for a meal that's as satisfying as it is memorable.

The Big Biscuit - Don't Mess With Breakfast ■

**The Big Biscuit**

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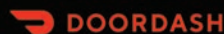


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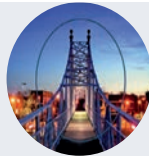
# A JEWEL OF AN ANIMAL PARK NEAR SPRINGFIELD.

*Our top picks for essential Springfield experiences*



### Bass Pro Shops

1935 South Campbell, (417) 891-5100 | Johnny Morris founded Bass Pro Shops in 1972 on 8 square feet of space in the back of his father's liquor store in Springfield, Missouri. Visit the "granddaddy of all outdoor stores." Don't make a visit to Springfield without seeing the "Sportsman's Paradise!" [basspro.com](http://basspro.com)



### C-Street Footbridge

401 E Commercial St, Springfield, MO 65803 | Jefferson Avenue Footbridge is a historic footbridge located in Springfield, Missouri, United States. Built in 1902, it measures 562-foot long and allows pedestrians to cross 13 sets of railroad tracks. It was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 2003.



### Missouri Institute of Natural Science

2327 West Farm Road 190, (417) 883-0594 | Come see us! Explore the past. Change the future. As Missouri's first natural history museum, we have an ever-growing collection of educational exhibits that touch upon the natural history of Missouri and the world. Come see artifacts from the oldest fossil cave in North America and Henry, the world's largest triceratops. We have a variety of fossils, an extensive gem and mineral collection, a gift shop, and more! [monatsci.org](http://monatsci.org)



### Dickerson Park Zoo

1401 W Norton Rd, (417) 864-1800 | The Dickerson Park Zoo was established in 1922 and is home to more than 500 animals that represent 160 different species. An up-close adventure with hundreds of animals from around the world in natural surroundings. [dickersonparkzoo.org](http://dickersonparkzoo.org)



### Fantastic Caverns

4872 N. Farm Road 125, I-44 & Hwy 13 N., (417) 833-2010 | Fantastic Caverns was discovered by John Knox and his hunting dog in 1862. America's Only Ride-Through cave. 50-min. guided tour follows an ancient underground riverbed filled with massive formations. [fantasticcaverns.com](http://fantasticcaverns.com)



### History Museum on the Square

154 Park Central Square, (417) 831-1976 | The History Museum on The Square first opened its doors back in 1976. To walk through and experience the history of Springfield and Greene County, visit the History Museum on the Square. visit them at [historymuseumonthesquare.org](http://historymuseumonthesquare.org)



### The Historical Gillioz Theatre

325 Park Central East, (417) 863-9491 | In its early years, the Gillioz was Springfield's premier entertainment venue, hosting a number of movie premiers and vaudeville shows. Both the lobby and auditorium have been restored to their original 1926 condition. With a seating capacity of 595 on Orchestra level and 420 in the Balcony, The Gillioz offers Springfield a perfectly sized venue for many events. The Gillioz Theatre in conjunction with the Jim D. Morris Building serves a plethora of functions including: Broadway productions, theatre, movies, religious gatherings, arts education, dining, rehearsals, school programs, banquets, receptions, concerts, film festivals, weddings, seminars/conventions, and television broadcasts.



### Springfield Art Museum

1111 E. Brookside Dr., (417) 837-5700 | ENJOY, LEARN, and CREATE at the Springfield Art Museum. Get inspired by our expansive permanent collection or a featured special exhibit. [sgfmuseum.org](http://sgfmuseum.org). is Springfield, Missouri's oldest cultural institution, founded in 1928.





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## UPCOMING EVENT CALENDAR

### September 1

Double B Productions  
Barrel Racing Event

### September 7

Blue Valentine & Driftwood  
Heritage Horse Sale

### September 11-15

Friends of the Library Book Sale

### September 14

Cattle Barons Ball  
GOP 64th Annual Target BBQ  
MO Food Truck Fest

### September 19

Springfield Business Expo

### September 21

OMRA Train Show

### September 24

Peak Auction  
SGC Culinary Connection

### September 26-28

Ozark Piecemakers Quilt Show

### September 28

Show Me Snakes Reptile Show

### October 4-6

Ozark Fall FarmFest

### October 9

KY3 Career Fair

### October 10-13

SMDTC Dog Obedience Trails

### October 12-13

RK Gun Show - Oct 2024

### October 17-19

MRCA Rodeo Finals

### October 19

Springfield Bird and Pet Fair

### October 21-27

National Association of Diving Dogs

### October 22

Peak Auction

### October 25-27

Barn Hunt

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EVENT TODAY!**



### Ozark Empire Fairgrounds

**3001 N. Grant Ave, (417) 833-2660** | The Ozark Empire Fair started in the early 1900's as a traveling display of area crafts and handwork. Admission and exhibits were free in the Thirties. The only charge to fairgoers was for carnival rides, food, and Grandstand performances. The Grandstand shows of the Thirties included major production spectaculars; special vaudeville and circus acts; horse, car, and motorcycle races; stunt shows; and big band entertainers. Admission for these shows ranged from 25¢ to \$1.00, depending on seat location. The first Fair was set for October 10-16, 1937. For all Historical information go to [www.ozarkempirefair.com](http://www.ozarkempirefair.com)

## Pythian Castle

### Pythian Castle

**1451 E. Pythian St., (417) 865-1464** | The castle was originally built in 1913 as an orphanage by the Knights of Pythias. Later, it was owned by the U.S. Military this certified haunted castle is a must see. Historic Castle offering history tours, ghost tours, escape rooms, murder mystery dinners, clue adventure games, and other holiday events occur regularly. Check website for schedule and to make reservations. Online ordering discounts. [pythiancastle.com](http://pythiancastle.com)



**SPRINGFIELD  
LITTLE THEATRE**

### Landers Theatre

**311 E. Walnut St., (417) 869-1334** | Home of the Springfield Little Theatre, listed on the National Register of Historic Sites. The Landers Theatre in Springfield, Missouri, built in 1909, is the second oldest and largest civic theater operation in Missouri. It has been in continuous use either as a legitimate theatre or a movie theater since it opened. In 1928, the theater became the 35th facility in the world to acquire sound film. Greene County, visit the History Museum on the Square. visit them at [historymuseumonthesquare.org](http://historymuseumonthesquare.org)

## SPRINGFIELD NATIONAL CEMETERY

### Springfield National Cemetery

**1702 E. Seminole at Glenstone Avenue, (417) 881-9499** | Established in 1867 as a place to initially inter Civil War Union Soldiers, many of whom died at the Battle of Wilson's Creek in 1871 a section for Confederate Soldiers was added. It has since been expanded and opened to all veterans, and now has the interred remains of soldiers from wars dating back to the Revolutionary War. The cemetery lends its name to National Avenue in Springfield, which formerly passed by the cemetery prior to the southern expansion of the city decades ago. The only place in the United States where both Union and Confederate soldiers are buried in the same cemetery. [cem.va.gov/cems/nchp/springfield](http://cem.va.gov/cems/nchp/springfield)

## WILSON'S CREEK NATIONAL BATTLEFIELD

### Wilson's Creek National Battlefield

**M and ZZ from HWY 60, (417) 732-2662** | Site of the Civil War Battle fought on August 10, 1861. Major features include a five-mile automobile tour loop, the restored 1852 Ray House, and "Bloody Hill," the site of the final stage of the battle. Visitors Center with audio-visual theatre, exhibits, and library. The site is located near Republic, MO in southwestern Missouri just southwest of the city of Springfield. It has been a unit of the National Park Service since 1960, and was listed on the National Register of Historic places in 1966.



### Wild Animal Safari

**124 Jungle Dr, Strafford, 417-859-5300** | As one of the Nation's Best Drive-Thru Animal Parks, we offer a full day of laughs, memories, and an experience for all ages and accessibilities. Wild Animal Safari celebrated its 50th Anniversary in 2021, which means whole generations can get closer to nature and to each other. We offer self-guided tours from the comfort of your own vehicle or from our rental fleet (in case your vehicle is afraid of animals) and guided tours with our knowledgeable education staff. The park is packed with scenic views across a 5-mile paved road. The Drive-Thru Safari and Walkabout Adventure Zoo™, both included in General Admission, allow you to meet and feed many wild animals up close and personal. Be sure to ask about our animal encounters with giraffes, reptiles, baby farm animals, and sloths!



# Shopping

**Chabóm Teas + Spices** 209 E. Commercial St., 417-719-4311

Inspired by the Old World Portuguese tea and spice route. Chabom Teas + Spices is a unique specialty market in the Historic C Street district. This beautiful building replicating the seaport of Lisboa, offers quality bulk spices and loose leaf teas, an array of unique gifts, bath and body, candles, and a hot tea and pastry bar. Open every day at 10am tea time. Like us on Facebook! WiFi, nursing mom's safe spot, [www.chabomteaspice.com](http://www.chabomteaspice.com).

**Frog Family Reptile Shop** 3433 S. Campbell, 417-493-5131

Frog Family Reptile Shop in Springfield is your destination for exotic pets, specializing in reptiles and amphibians. We offer a wide range of aquariums, supplies, tropical plants, and bioactive materials to create thriving habitats. Our education classes provide valuable knowledge for both new and experienced pet owners. Visit Frog

Family Reptile Shop for expert advice, quality products, and a welcoming community for all reptile enthusiasts. Hours are Tues – Sat 11am to 7pm, Closed Sun and Mon.

**Mike's Unique** 3335 W. Sunshine St., 417-869-5400 Mike's Unique is a large Flea Market Antique Store located in the Heart of the Ozarks. The store has over 250 booths and showcases filled with treasures for every member of the family. We are Pet Friendly and invite all pets to bring their people. Every day we have FREE 4-day old coffee! It's a fun store to shop for used furniture, antiques, collectibles, primitives, retro, vintage and quality used items! Come see us!

**Patricia's** 1918 S. Glenstone in the Plaza Shopping Center on the corner of Sunshine and Glenstone, where fun and fantasy meet. 881-8444. You are invited to "Flirt With Style" by visiting one of the most unique stores in Springfield. We offer lingerie, novelties, movies and toys to the discriminating visitor who is interested in successful intimate relationships and partnerships. We are open seven days a week, 9 am-10 pm Monday-Thursday, until midnight on Friday & Saturday nights, and noon to 10 pm on Sunday.

**Spring Creek Antiques & Tea Room** 107 S 3rd St, Ozark, 417-581-5914 Open with the same owners since 1998! What a delightful tea room nestled in an antique mall wonderland. Browse the many booths of antiques, shabby chic, re-purposed, vintage, retro and much more as you wait for your table. Spring Creek Tea Room offers a creation of unique food choices of soups, sandwiches, salads,

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1918 S. Glenstone  
417.881.8444

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# Guide

quiche (Friday only), decadent desserts, teas and coffees! Elegant lunchtime and shopping experience all under one roof! Please call or go online for hours. Their strawberry soup is amazing and the desserts are legendary!

**Valley 65 Antiques, Collectibles, Décor** 105 N. 20th St., Ozark, 417-485-2646 A favorite shopping destination for tourists and local patrons for over 25 years. Our focus is simple, offer great traditional antiques, collectibles and popular décor while providing the most enjoyable shopping experience in the heart and minds of our customers. We are proud to define our 55 vendors as experienced, knowledgeable, and dedicated to store quality. Home furnishings to cast iron, albums to tools, our store has it all. Located in the “Antiques District of Ozark” 10am-5:00pm, Monday- Saturday and 11am-5pm Sunday. We are excited to share our treasures with you!

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## Spring Creek Antiques & Tea Room

Antiques • Primitives • Collectables

Antique Shop: 417-581-5914  
Tea Room: 417-582-1331  
107 S 3rd Street • Ozark, MO



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# Branson MISSOURI

Branson, Missouri, is a haven for travelers seeking an enchanting blend of captivating entertainment and breathtaking landscapes. Known as the “Live Entertainment Capital of the World,” Branson boasts a myriad of theaters showcasing world-class performances that cater to every taste and age.

One cannot mention Branson without spotlighting its vibrant theater scene. From Broadway-style productions to toe-tapping musicals and side-splitting comedies, the theaters in Branson offer a diverse array of live shows that rival those found in major metropolitan areas. Visitors can immerse themselves in the nostalgic tunes of Elvis Presley impersonators or marvel at the acrobatic feats of Cirque-style performances. Upon its debut season in Branson, the On Fire The Jerry Lee Lewis Story was awarded several prestigious awards including Tribute Show of the Year and New Show of the Year. Visit On Fire The Jerry Lee Lewis Story @ onfiretheshow.com and on Face Book @ ON FIRE – The Show. It’s a must see!

Beyond its theaters, Branson captivates with its stunning landscapes and outdoor adventures. Table Rock Lake, with its crystal-clear waters

and scenic surroundings, beckons outdoor enthusiasts with opportunities for boating, fishing, and swimming. The surrounding Ozark Mountains provide endless hiking trails, offering panoramic views of the picturesque countryside.

For thrill-seekers, Branson’s zip lines offer an exhilarating way to experience the region’s natural beauty from above. Soar through the treetops and feel the rush of adrenaline as you zip across lush forests and sparkling streams.

But Branson isn’t just for adrenaline junkies; it’s also a haven for shoppers and families alike. The city’s bustling shopping districts are brimming with unique boutiques, outlet malls, and specialty stores, making it the perfect destination for a day of retail therapy. And with a plethora of family-friendly attractions, including theme parks, museums, and interactive exhibits, Branson ensures that visitors of all ages are entertained.

As the sun sets, Branson comes alive with a vibrant nightlife scene. From cozy pubs and trendy bars to lively music venues, there’s no shortage of options for those looking to unwind after a day of adventure. Whether you’re seeking a quiet evening under the stars or a lively night on the town, Branson has something for everyone. Branson, Missouri, offers a captivating blend of world-class entertainment, natural beauty, and family-friendly attractions that make it a must-visit destination for travelers from near and far. Whether you’re seeking dazzling live shows, outdoor adventures, or simply a place to relax and unwind, Branson has it all. Come experience the magic of this enchanting city for yourself and create memories that will last a lifetime. ■

**TUESDAYS & THURSDAYS @ 7PM      SATURDAYS @ 2PM**



**THE SUN RECORDS SHOWROOM IN THE SHOPPES AT BRANSON MEADOWS**



# Go for a run while visiting Springfield

by Forest Swisher

As the weather begins to cool and fall arrives in the Ozarks, it is the perfect time to enjoy some of the many scenic and enjoyable running trails here in town. Springfield boasts over 100 miles of trail maintained and operated by Ozark Greenways, a non-profit organization dedicated to building community through connectivity since 1991. Whether you are a seasoned runner, new to the hobby, or just looking for a fun day of light exercise, Springfield and the surrounding area have you covered.

In the Downtown area, Jordan Creek offers an easy path through not one but three parks. Beginning at beautiful Jordan Valley Park, which features artwork that is a part of Sculpture Walk and daily fountains, the trail runs north to historic Silver Springs Park, home of the cultural landmark Timmons Hall, before ending at Smith Park in Midtown.

If you are looking for a longer run, check out Galloway Creek in southeast Springfield. This scenic route takes you through some of the most beautiful spots in town, running through Sequiota Park and past the popular Pet Cemetery, many sculptures, and the many charming restaurants and shops of Galloway Village. The trail, which was the first in Missouri to be designated a National Recreation Trail by the National Park Service in 2003, also connects to the more rug-

ged Nature Center trails and James River Water Trail, an ideal spot for canoeing, kayaking, and fishing.

Runners and bikers alike also enjoy the 35-mile Frisco Highline Trail, which connects Springfield and Bolivar. Built on the old Frisco railroad line, the wheels of locomotives have been replaced by bicycle wheels along this historic path. Kiosks tell the story of two bank robbers escaping along the railroad in 1908 six miles in, where you can also find delis, pizzerias, and cafes to relax. Continue on, and runners will enjoy more historic spots, gorgeous meadows, and unique bridges with stunning views. Frisco Highline is perfect for training for long runs or simple, relaxing strolls. ■

## Local Fall Festivals in the Ozarks

### Japanese Fall Festival

2400 S. Scenic Ave, Springfield  
Sept 6-8

### PumpkinFest

5585 W, 76 Country Blvd, Branson  
Sept 21-Oct 26

### Harvest Fest

3825 W. farm Rd 146, Springfield  
Oct 5-6, 12-13, 19-20, 26-27

### Seymour Apple Festival

123 W. Market St, Seymour - Sept 12-14

### Black Walnut Festival

East Spring St, Stockton - Sept 26-28

### Republic Pumpkin Daze

300 E. Hines St, Republic - Oct 4-5

### Crafts & Harvest Festival

#### Silver Dollar City

399 Silver Dollar City Pkwy, Branson  
Sept 13-Oct 26

### Wildier Days

3050 State Hwy A, Mansfield  
Sept 27-28

### Ozark Fall FarmFest

3001 N. Grant, Springfield - Oct 4-6

### Marionville AppleFest

30 E. Washington St - Sept 20-Sept 21

### SGF CultureFest

321 E. Commercial St, Springfield  
Sept 28 10am-6pm

### 50th Annual Ozark Fall Craft Fair

961 N. Riverside Rd, Ozark - Oct 4-6

### Mothers OktoberFest

215 S. Grant, Springfield  
Sept 21 at 1pm

### Pets and Pumpkins Family Festival

Downtown Springfield  
Oct 19 11am-4pm

### Cedar Fest

190 Top of the Rock Rd, Ridgeale  
Oct 5, 12, 19, 26

### Cider Days

Walnut St, Springfield - Sept 21-22

### Apple Butter Makin Days

319 E. Dallas St - Oct 11-13





# Fall in Springfield, MO: A Season of Festivals, Crafts, and Family Fun



As the air turns crisp and leaves paint the landscape in hues of gold and crimson, Springfield comes alive with the vibrant spirit of fall. The season brings with it a variety of festivals and events that celebrate the

region's rich arts, crafts, culture, and family-friendly activities.

One of the most anticipated events is the **Harvest Fest at Rutledge-Wilson Farm Park**. This family-friendly festival, held every weekend from October 5 through to October 27, features a pumpkin patch, corn maze, hayrides, and a petting zoo. Kids can enjoy pony rides, crafts, and games, while adults browse through vendors offering handmade goods and seasonal treats. The farm's festive atmosphere provides the perfect backdrop for creating cherished family memories.

For art and culture enthusiasts, the **Ozarks Fall Farmfest** is a must-visit. Hosted annually at the Ozark Empire Fairgrounds, this event showcases the best of rural culture with its impressive array of agricultural exhibits, livestock shows, and craft vendors. With over 800

booths to explore, visitors can find everything from handcrafted jewelry to homemade jams. The festival also features live music and food vendors, offering a taste of the region's culinary delights.

The **Cider Days on Historic Walnut Street** is another favorite, in its 26th year this fall. This two-day festival is a showcase of local artists and crafters, with more than 80 vendors lining the historic street. Visitors can sip on warm cider while browsing booths offering pottery, paintings, jewelry, and other handcrafted items. Live performances, including music, dance, and theater, add to the festive atmosphere, making it a perfect outing for families. This event takes place on September 21-22, 10am-5pm each day.



For those who love a bit of spooky fun, **Pythian Castle Haunted Tours** at the Historical Pythian Castle offers a hauntingly good time. This family-friendly event features Halloween-themed decor, haunted castle tours, and interactive EMF experiences that all will enjoy. See information in this September /October issue.

From pumpkin patches and corn mazes to arts and crafts fairs, Springfield offers a plethora of activities to embrace the magic of fall. Whether you're looking to explore local culture, indulge in seasonal treats, or simply enjoy a day out with the family, Springfield's fall festivals have something for everyone. ■



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# SPRINGFIELD CULTURAL ENRICHMENT

**M**estled in the heart of downtown Springfield, Missouri, the Gillioz Center for Arts & Entertainment stands as a beacon of cultural vibrancy and community engagement. As a nonprofit organization, our mission is clear: we are committed to preserving the past, celebrating community, and making memories through arts, education, and entertainment.

Founded in 1926, the Gillioz Theatre has been lovingly restored to its former glory, blending historic charm with modern amenities. Our commitment to preserving this architectural gem ensures that every visit is a journey into Springfield's rich cultural heritage.

Central to our offerings is the exclusive 26 Club, a haven for arts enthusiasts seeking an elevated experience. Members enjoy privileged access to ticket pre-sales, a private bar with premium drinks, a host of other exclusive benefits.

At the heart of our mission is our diverse programming, catering to a wide range of tastes and interests. From electrifying live music performances to side-splitting stand-up, and plenty of film screenings, the Gillioz is a stage where creativity knows no bounds.

As a 501c-3 nonprofit, we rely on the generosity of our community to thrive. Donors, essential personnel, and patrons alike play a crucial role in sustaining our commitment to artistic excellence and accessibility.

In essence, the Gillioz Center for Arts & Entertainment is more than a venue—it's a cultural hub where memories are made, and connections are forged. Join us as we continue to illuminate the spirit of Springfield through the power of entertainment. ■

## THE HISTORIC GILLIOZ THEATRE

WHERE THE STARS PLAY SINCE 1926

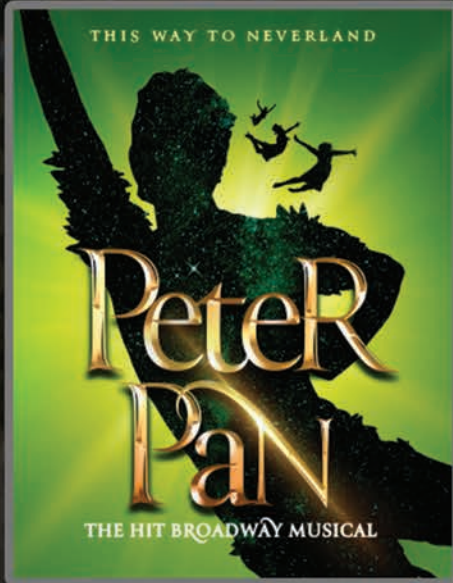
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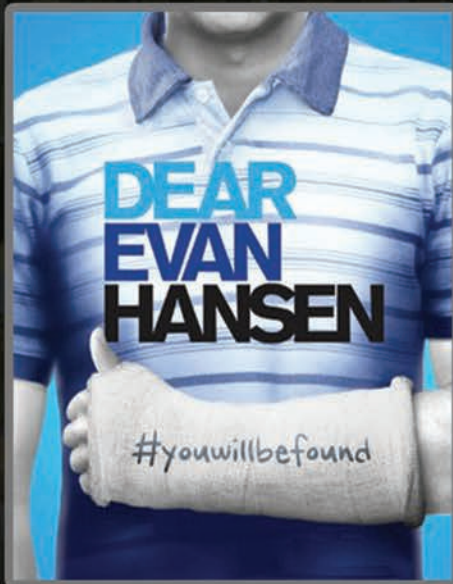
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THIS FALL



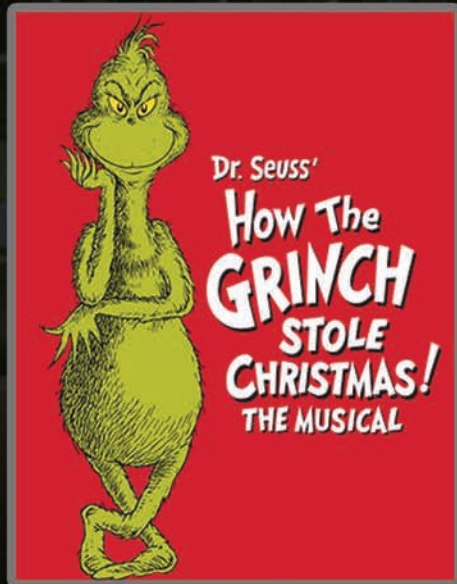
SEPTEMBER 9-11



OCTOBER 1



OCTOBER 8-10



NOVEMBER 4-7



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# YOUR GUIDE TO LOCAL EVENTS



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Farmhouse Tours ★ Concessions ★ Sunday Church Service ★ Primitive Camping ★ Showers

D & R Model Railroad



Tractor Rodeo

Friday, September 13



## CLASSIC TRACTOR PULL

Friday, September 13 – 5:00 p.m.

Tractors 1957 and older

Weigh-in begins at 1:00 p.m. - \$10.00 entry fee

% Pull with light tractors pulling first - 2 hooks

For information: Larry Voris - (417) 840-4418

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Ozarks Steam Engine Association Rules

For information: Travis Brummett - (417) 359-6618

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- FOR MORE INFORMATION -

Dana Erickson OSEA Pres. 417-827-1194	Jeff Ruth EDGE&TA Br 16 Pres. 417-818-3750	Doc Comstock Flea Markets 417-872-5171	Chris Garrett Concessions 417-872-6648	Rusty Wolf Truck Club Pres. 417-230-4742
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Showgrounds: 6065 St Hwy O, Ash Grove, MO 65604 (I-44, exit 58) Web: steamorama.com & Facebook!

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# Exploring the Wonders of Nature:

## The Missouri Institute of Natural Science in Springfield, MO

Nestled in the heart of Springfield, Missouri, the Missouri Institute of Natural Science (MINS) stands as a beacon for nature enthusiasts and curious minds alike. This hidden gem is a testament to the region's rich biodiversity and commitment to scientific education.

Founded in 2001, MINS has grown to become a prominent institution dedicated to the exploration, preservation, and dissemination of knowledge about the natural world. The institute houses an extensive collection of fossils, minerals, and artifacts that span millions of years, providing visitors with a captivating journey through Earth's evolutionary history.

One of the institute's main attractions is the Hall of Ancient Life, a mesmerizing exhibit that transports visitors back in time. Filled with carefully curated fossils, this hall showcases the diverse flora and fauna that once roamed the region. Come see artifacts from the oldest fossil cave in North America



and Henry, the world's largest triceratops, 66 million years old. From the towering skeletons of dinosaurs to the intricate details of ancient plant life, the exhibit offers a comprehensive look at Missouri's prehistoric past.

MINS is not just a repository of fossils; it actively engages the community through educational programs and outreach. The institute hosts interactive work-

shops and educational events for visitors of all ages. These initiatives aim to foster a deeper appreciation for the natural world and inspire the next generation of scientists.

For those with a passion for paleontology, MINS provides a unique opportunity to participate in fossil digs. Under the guidance of experienced researchers, participants can unearth fossils and contribute to ongoing scientific discoveries. This hands-on experience allows individuals to connect with the Earth's history in a tangible and meaningful way.

In addition to its educational mission, MINS is committed to conservation efforts and environmental stewardship. The institute collaborates with local organizations and researchers to study and protect the region's ecosystems. By promoting awareness and understanding of the delicate balance of nature, MINS strives to instill a sense of responsibility for the environment in its visitors.

The Missouri Institute of Natural Science is not just a museum; it's a living testament to the wonders of our planet's past and a gateway to a deeper understanding of the natural world. Whether you're a seasoned naturalist, a student eager to learn, or a family looking for an educational adventure, MINS offers a captivating experience that leaves a lasting impression on all who enter its doors. Step inside and embark on a journey through time, where the mysteries of nature unfold before your eyes. Join us for a tour of the museum and a fossil collection hike. [www.monatsci.org](http://www.monatsci.org) 417-883-0594 We are located at 2327 W. Farm Rd 190 Contact us for planning birthday parties and field trips! ■








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OF NATURAL SCIENCE**

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## Wild Animal Safari in Strafford, MO:

# A Captivating Wildlife Adventure

by Pati Blain

Wild Animal Safari in Strafford, Missouri offers an experience for all ages and accessibilities to get up close and personal with a variety of animals from around the world. You can choose your level of adventure from full on in your face, slobber on the doors, hours of hilarity or take it down to a more serene, calming, observe from a distance and appreciate the scenic 5-mile drive all by adjusting the height of your car windows. General Admission includes access to the whole park for the whole day with no limit on the number of times you would like to go through. This includes both the Walk About Adventure Zoo, Reptile House, and Drive-Thru Safari. You will see animals from across the world including American Bison, Elk, Eland, African Lions, Bengal Tigers, Giraffes, Argentinian Tegu, Grey Wolves, American Black Bears, Indian Pea Fowl, so long as you are in the parking lot by closing time, we will be happy to have you. We aren't offering overnight stays... yet!

Guests are more than welcome to take their own vehicle through the Drive Through Safari as a self-guided tour or further their knowledge about these incredible animals on the complimentary guided bus tour with one of our knowledgeable education staff members. We also offer rental vehicles for as low as \$20 to make sure your vehicle stays in tip top shape. No extra trip to the car wash is needed to remove all the slobber, aka animal kisses.

We also offer a multitude of ways to engage with animals while you are at the park including animal encounters including a custom painting from one of our very artistic giraffes, brunch with Ring-Tailed Lemurs, a new hair-do courtesy of our mountain coatimundis, cuddles from our farmyard babies, and having salad with a sloth. Availability does change throughout the year so check our website for bookings and schedule for Santa during the Safari Lights Event this December!



How ever you choose to scale your adventure, we are here for you. We can accommodate large groups for family reunions, company team building exercises, birthday parties, divorce parties, even the lone adventurer. We are here to elevate and educate everyone's experience while you are here. We have an amazing staff always willing to answer questions and make sure your visit is worth every single penny. We thank everyone for their continued support over the last half century as we educate, inspire, and engage our community with these amazing animals. ■



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**D**owntown Springfield pulses with an eclectic blend of experiences that cater to every taste and interest.

Start your day at one of the charming breakfast cafes, where you can fuel up with a hearty meal before diving into the city's rich cultural tapestry. Explore the vibrant arts and culture scene at local galleries and museums, where exhibitions showcase both historical treasures and contemporary works of art.

As the sun sets, Downtown Springfield comes alive with laughter at comedy clubs and the soulful tunes of live music venues. Embark on a culinary journey with a diverse array of dining options, from authentic Indian and Italian cuisine to legendary Wild Bill Hickock shootout-inspired fare. Cap off your evening at one of the bars, where you can raise a glass to the city's storied past and vibrant present. With its rich history, diverse entertainment, and culinary delights, Downtown Springfield invites you to experience the best of Missouri's cultural melting pot. ■



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*Authentic Italian Dining*



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## Lunch & Dinner Hours

Tuesday - Thursday  
11AM - 2PM  
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4PM - 10PM

(417) 866-0007  
311 S Jefferson Ave  
Springfield, MO

Scan QR Code  
for details  
and to see  
full menu



## Call for Reservations

# Savor the Feeling of Italy



Located in vibrant downtown Springfield, Bruno's Italian Restaurant invites patrons to savor the feeling of Italy in the heart of the city. Stepping through its doors, guests are embraced by the warm and inviting atmosphere that can only be achieved in a 119-year-old building. With a full bar and a wine list featuring wine from all around the world, there's nothing quite like it.

Bruno's prides itself on serving authentic Italian dishes crafted with passion and expertise. From pasta dishes with robust flavors to savory risottos cooked to perfection, each dish pays homage to Italy's rich culinary heritage. However, the true star of the show is their pizza oven, expertly crafted in a traditional oven imported from Naples. There's something for everyone at Bruno's.

Whether it's a romantic dinner for two or a lively gathering with friends and family, Bruno's offers an unforgettable dining experience. For convenience, reservations can be effortlessly made

through OpenTable or by calling (417) 866-0007, ensuring a seamless and enjoyable evening for all. So come and indulge in the flavors of Italy at Bruno's Italian Restaurant, where every bite tells a story of tradition, passion, and culinary excellence.

Location: 416 South Ave, Springfield, MO 65807. Hours: Tuesday-Thursday 11am - 2pm - Lunch 4pm-9pm - Dinner Friday-Saturday 11am - 2pm - Lunch 4pm-10pm Dinner. ■





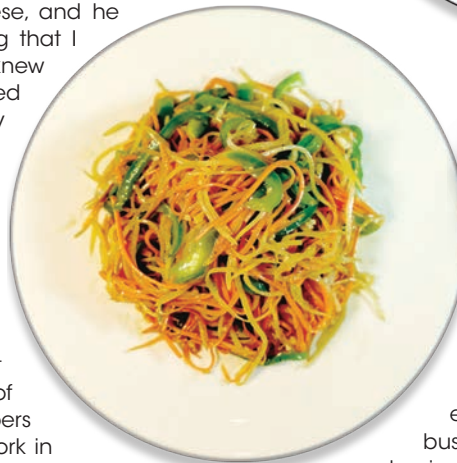


# RICE & DUMPLING

# 米飯餃子

This is a very special Chinese restaurant. After working in China for 30 years, I returned to Springfield some time ago. Recently, a friend told me that an authentic Chinese restaurant had opened in town, so my husband and I decided to check it out. The restaurant is located at 431 S Jefferson Ave 100-104, Springfield, MO 65806. The location is great, with free parking available around the restaurant and a large parking lot behind the building. The restaurant is very clean and artistically decorated. The ceiling is adorned with batik cloth arranged to look like ocean waves, and there is a large piece of Chinese calligraphy art on the wall. Although I couldn't fully recognize the characters, I knew it was a poem by the famous Tang Dynasty poet Li Bai called "The Song of Eternal Regret." I found this poem online and it's a beautiful and passionate piece. If you understand Chinese culture, you will be deeply moved by its words. The restaurant also displays many ancient Chinese ceramics, showing the owner's refined taste.

When we entered the restaurant, we happened to meet the owner, Mr. Xu. My husband greeted him in Chinese, and he was both surprised and very warm. Upon learning that I had lived in Kunming, China for many years, he knew I would appreciate spicy food and recommended the Sichuan Spicy Chicken. Since this is the only dumpling restaurant in town, dumplings were a must, so we also ordered Pineapple Chicken Fried Rice and a plate of dumplings. The portions were generous, and the dumplings had the familiar taste of China, and the Pineapple Chicken Fried Rice far exceeded my expectations. I initially thought it would be too sweet, but everything was perfectly balanced. The Spicy Chicken was almost magical—it might be a bit too spicy for those not used to it, but for me, it was perfect. Mr. Xu also gifted us a plate of stir-fried shredded potatoes, carrots, and green peppers as a thank you for my many years of charitable work in China, helping many Chinese people. This dish's flavor was also extraordinary, complementing the spicy chicken perfectly.



During our conversation, we learned that Mr. Xu is a successful entrepreneur in China, owning businesses in hotels, restaurants, and tourism. He chose to invest in the US while sending his daughter to school here. Surprisingly and unbelievably, the restaurant's dishes are cooked by robots. Out of curiosity, we visited their kitchen with permission. Mr. Xu introduced their advanced smart kitchen, where technology wonderfully replicates the complex ingredients and cooking techniques of traditional Chinese cuisine. Every ingredient is precisely measured and timed, with seasoning controlled to the gram and temperature to the degree. He told us that this restaurant is still in the market testing phase. They plan to open more such restaurants in this city and then replicate the successful business model across the US and even worldwide. Their goal is to make Chinese cuisine as simple as McDonald's.

At the kitchen's serving window, I saw a sign reminding employees: "Every dish is a piece of exquisite art. If you are not satisfied, please do not pass it through this window..."

As we left, the server gave us two beautiful glass cups as gifts. This was truly a perfect dining experience. If you want to experience authentic Chinese cuisine in this city, this is definitely your best choice.



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Hours: Tues-Sat 10am-9pm • Sun 10am-7pm  
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8pm-1:30am Daily



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*Delicious Fried Foods*



Mama G's kitchen was established in July 2022, owned & operated by Gloria Hairston also known as "Mama G". Gloria started out as Lovely Creations doing sweet treats & fruit designs & now has grown into a soulfood restaurant in honor of her Mother Evelyn "Lovely" Hairston. We offer a variety of food that will comfort your soul & recently won 2 out of 3 awards at the Taste of the Ozarks and 3 awards at Mac & Cheese Fest. If you like to feel at home while eating out, come experience "A Taste of Lovely".

DINE IN • CARRYOUT • DELIVERY

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- Shrimp
- Desserts
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- Lots of Delicious Sides



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Next to the Blue Room Comedy Club  
**417-771-5168**  
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Fri-Sat 11am-2:30am  
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make your  
day lovely!!!*





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- Wicked Hot Cheesesteak
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# Storming Crab Boil Cajun Seafood & Bar



Located in the Battlefield Malls Main Entrance, 2815 S. Glenstone Ave. Storming Crab stands as a beacon of culinary delight for seafood enthusiasts. This vibrant restaurant offers a unique dining experience, combining the zest of Cajun flavors with the freshness of the finest seafood. From the moment you step inside, Storming Crab welcomes you to a world where the sea meets the heartland, creating an unforgettable fusion of taste and atmosphere.

The ambiance at Storming Crab is a lively blend of coastal charm and Midwestern warmth. The rustic decor, adorned with maritime accents, instantly transports patrons to the seaside, while the friendly staff ensures a hospitable dining experience. The restaurant's commitment to creating a welcoming environment is evident in every detail, from the nautical-themed wall art to the soothing sounds of ocean waves playing in the background.

What truly sets Storming Crab apart is its innovative approach to seafood. The menu features an array of dishes that showcase the restaurant's dedication to culinary excellence. Signature dishes like the Cajun Seafood Boil bring the essence of Louisiana to the heart of Missouri. Packed with succulent crab, plump shrimp, and flavorful crawfish, the boil is a symphony of spices and textures that leave taste buds tingling with delight.

For those seeking a more customized experience, Storming Crab allows patrons to create their own seafood specialty with multiple combinations available. Choose your preferred seafood, spice level, and add-ons, and watch as the skilled chefs transform your preferences into a delectable masterpiece.

Storming Crab's commitment to quality extends to its sourcing practices. The restaurant prides itself on using only the freshest ingredients, sourced sustainably to support both local producers and the environment. Each bite at Storming Crab tells a story of dedication to excellence and a passion for delivering a top-notch dining experience.

In addition to its culinary offerings, Storming Crab hosts events and celebrations, making it a popular choice for gatherings and special occasions. Whether you're enjoying a casual meal with friends or celebrating a milestone, Storming Crab provides the perfect backdrop for creating lasting memories.

Storming Crab is not just a restaurant; it's an experience. With its inviting ambiance, innovative seafood creations, and commitment to quality, it stands as a beacon of culinary delight, inviting patrons to embark on a seafood journey that is nothing short of extraordinary. Call for Reservations. Over 20 locations Nationwide! ■

**- SHARE FOOD**

**ENJOY SEAFOOD**

**IN YOUR FAVORITE PLACE**

**FULL BAR**



**MILD TO HOT!** **CAJUN SEAFOOD**

**f** **OPEN DAILY** **G**

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- Shrimp Head-off
- Shrimp Head-on
- Dungeness Crab Legs
- White Clams
- Crawfish
- King Crab Legs
- Black Mussels
- Lobster
- Lobster Tail
- Scallops
- Snow Crab Legs

**KIDS MENU AVAILABLE**

**20 Locations Nationwide**

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Located Battlefield Mall Main Entrance

Springfield, MO 65804

**(417) 771-5882**

[SPRINGFIELD.STORMINGCRAB.US](http://SPRINGFIELD.STORMINGCRAB.US)

Hours:

Mon-Thurs 11-9pm

Fri-Sat 11-9:30pm

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