

WELCOME *to* ME SPRINGFIELD

welcometospringfieldmagazine.com | Vol. 26 | No. 2 | MARCH / APRIL 2025



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Events | Restaurants | Attractions | Arts | Shopping

What to do, where to eat & much more!



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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 \$5.99

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 Ravioli \$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 \$9.99 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 stops in town that will give you a glimpse of Route 66's heyday. If you happen to be in town in August, the annual 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
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
Baker Creek Heirloom	
Seed Company	www.rareseeds.com
Dickerson Park Zoo	833-1570
Missouri Institute of Natural Science	883-0594
Sports Hall of Fame	889-3100
Springfield Art Museum	837-5700

ENTERTAINMENT

1984 Arcade	831-3665
417 Pedal Tours	350-8484
Aetos Center for The Performint Arts.	724-3529
Hour House	771-5702
Ozark Empire Fairgrounds	833-2660
Pythian Castle	865-1464
Rumors Cabaret	886-8284

Springfield Contemporary Theatre	831-8001
Springfield Little Theatre	869-1334
INFORMATION	
Nixa Chamber of Commerce	725-1545
Springfield Convention & Visitors Bureau	800-678-8767

RESTAURANTS & MORE

417 Taphouse	942-0958
7th on Walnut	865-1775
Aviary by Lavendar Falls Cafe	881-9736
Big Biscuit	360-1298
	360-1294
CaféCUSCO	868-8088
Cielito Lindo Mexican	886-7676
Colton's Steakhouse	823-9909
Discount Snacks	831-2305
El Aguacate	241-1333
Gailey's Breakfast Café	866-5500
Habanero's Mexican Restaurant & Cantina	771-5766
	237-9335
Ichiban Buffet	866-2770
India Palace Restaurant and Bar	771-5270

Jimmy's Egg	720-4436
	368-0125
Kai After Dark	832-0077
Korean Kitchen	890-1016
La Habana vieja	771-5723
Leong's Asian Diner	887-7500
Leslie's Mexican Supermarket	501-1017
Los Michoacano's Garcias	218-8549
	884-1266
Mexican Villa	887-1010
	883-1040
	869-4459
	866-7292
	831-6196
	582-0600
Neighborhood Pizza Café	833-4411
Niji Sushi Bar & Grill	851-1707
Palm & Paddle Grille	605-7500
Pizza House	881-4073
Red Robin Gourmet Burgers & Brews	883-9363
Rice & Dumpling Restaurant	771-5617
Shot Shack	425-1992
Spring Creek Tea Room	582-1331

Storming Crab Seafood	771-5882
Sushi Village	890-1016
Tacos El Gordo	402-9307
	883-5305
Taj Mahal Indian	719-4573
Teriyaki House	866-6888
Thai Garden	889-5280
That Lebanese Place	459-8894
Van Gogh's Eeterie	344-0085
Village Inn	881-0774
	887-4774
	581-8815
	647-2200
Ziggy's Restaurant	866-1377
	823-9972

SHOPPING/SERVICES

Bricks & Minifigs	771-5255
Candace Faith Real Estate	414-1095
Chabom Teas + Spices	719-4311
C-Street City Market	988-1393
LeDoux Furniture & Whatnots	413-1644
My Movers	882-6683
Patricia's	881-8444
Spring Creek Antiques	581-5914

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. Faris 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, and the Historic Fox Theatre. The Springfield Regional Opera House, the Springfield Symphony Orchestra, Springfield Little Theater, Springfield Contemporary Theatre 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. ■

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.

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I am proud to advocate for my clients. If you are thinking of buying or selling property, I would be happy to assist.

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The Home for Bold Theatre in Springfield

This year will mark the 30th anniversary of one of Springfield's best-kept secrets: Springfield Contemporary Theatre (SCT). SCT is a non-profit organization that is dedicated to the high-quality production of well-written contemporary plays and musicals - or classic works that can be reimagined or re-energized through a modern point of view.



Productions at SCT are characterized by bold stories, voices and perspectives often not heard on stage, and themes and ideas that are timely to the Springfield community and the world around us. SCT's programming includes cutting-edge new works and regional premieres, with some materials brought directly from the Broad-

way and Off-Broadway stage. Others include hit audience favorite musicals and revues, and even some productions making their world premiere right here in Springfield. One thing that remains consistent is that all of their productions, guided by a professional staff, involve outstanding local talent, including actors, musicians, directors, designers, and volunteers behind the scenes and in the box office. SCT is made by the community for the community.

Since being founded in 1995 by Louis H. Schaeffer, SCT has performed in a variety of spaces, including the Hotel Vandivort, Wilhoit Plaza, the Springfield Art Museum, the backlot of Chestnut Corners on Chestnut Expressway, and even the studio of their office space, before finally landing at their current home at the Historic Fox Theatre. SCT's residency at the Fox began as a joint effort with the History Museum on the Square to preserve and revitalize the historic venue by drawing attention to it as a performance space.

The Fox, originally a movie theater from 1916-1982 and then home to Abundant Life Church



from 1985-2014, was acquired by the History Museum in 2012 as part of its expansion project that moved the museum back downtown. SCT's first production at the Fox in February 2023 was *The Color Purple* (co-produced with Mosaic Arts Collective), appropriately historic for having the largest all-Black cast of a musical in Springfield to that date. After the smash success of this trial run, SCT and the History Museum developed an agreement and Springfield Contemporary Theatre became the first resident company of the Historic Fox Theatre.

SCT strives to be a place for creation and collaboration, a place to explore new ideas, to be challenged, and a place to grow as an individual and as a community. SCT welcomes participation on every level, without any previous theatre experience. For those who want to get involved, SCT has opportunities for virtually every skillset, including ushering for performances, working backstage, performing, building sets and costumes, and even designing.

You can experience SCT at the Historic Fox Theatre by attending one of the

remaining productions of Season 29: POTUS, or, Behind Every Great Dumb*ss are Seven Women Trying to Keep Him Alive, running April 25-May 4; or *Disaster! A 70's Disaster Movie Musical*, running June 13-29, with auditions on April 28 and 29. SCT is set to announce their 30th anniversary season later this year. Visit SGFtheatre.org for event details, to sign up for their mailing list, or to learn more about volunteer opportunities. ■



Springfield has it all!

SPORTS



SHOPPING



ATTRACTIONS



EVENTS



DINING



NIGHTLIFE



WELCOME to SPRINGFIELD

Vol. 26 No. 2
March / April 2025

The magazine for the Queen City of the Ozarks, Nixa, Ozark, Republic, Willard and surrounding areas.

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



Sharon Ladd, publisher



Thank you for your support!

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Come, walk the gardens of Baker Creek.

Always An Adventure In Growing Heirlooms

Baker Creek's farm and pioneer village, located near Mansfield, MO, sits on a historic homestead at the confluence of Baker Creek and the Gasconade River. In addition to the popular seed store, visitors can explore the farm and village, with group tours available by emailing us at seeds@rareseeds.com. You can also visit during one of our three festivals to taste some great food, listen to some fun music, and learn from brilliant experts in heirloom gardening and sustainable lifestyles.



LET'S GROW TOGETHER

2025 FESTIVAL DATES:

April 6th & 7th • May 4th & 5th • Oct. 5th & 6th

2278 BAKER CREEK RD, MANSFIELD, MO 65704

Normal Store and Farm Hours: Monday-Friday 8:00 to 5:00



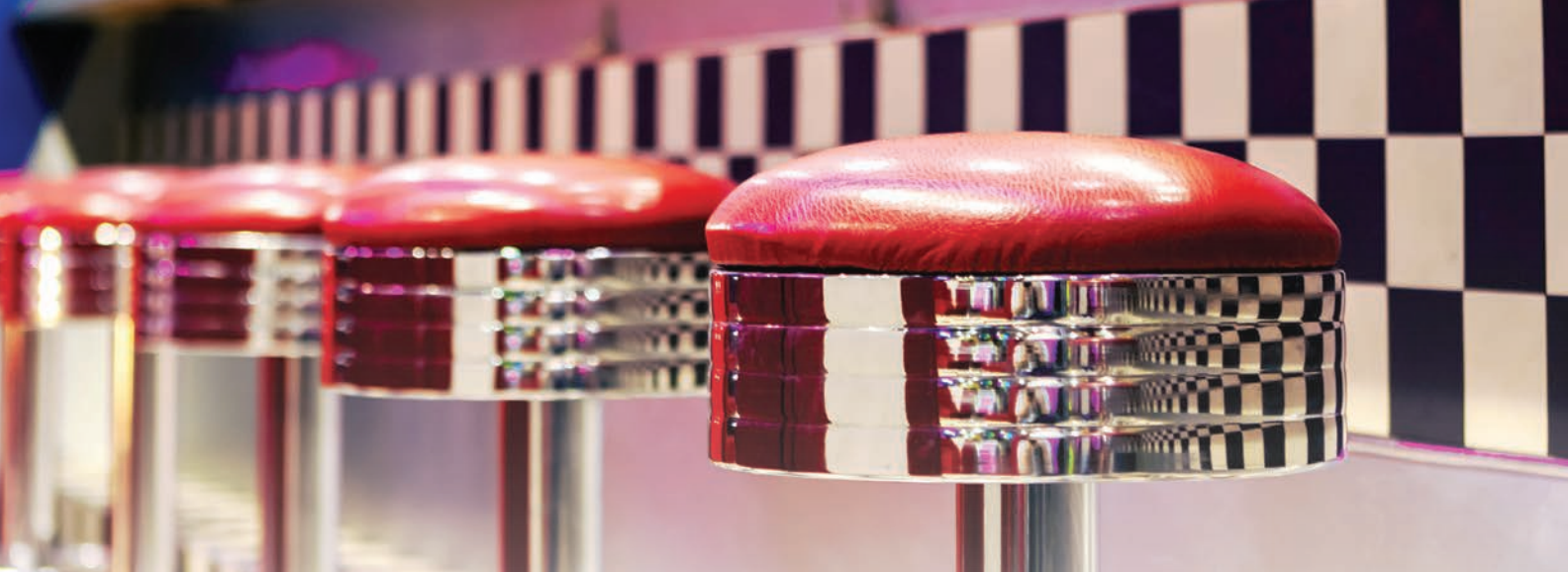
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TAKE A TRIP DOWN MEMORY LANE..

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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! ■

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. ■



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. ■



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 wonderous 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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vi

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in business*

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**AWARD-WINNING
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PIES & SERVICE**

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 ■



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SPRINGFIELD, MO**

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, or call 887-7500.

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

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梁 Asian Diner
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Journey around the World within Chabom Tea & Spices

on Commercial Street

When adventuring down Commercial Street, your eyes might drift to the vibrant purple paint of a small shop. Ducking under the hanging wooden sign and into the building reveals row upon row of teas and culinary spices. Local pottery, incense from Japan, German teapots, African tea, and more line the walls.

The Portuguese inspired tea and spice market was opened in 2015 by businessman Joe Gidman and his mother Claire. Chabom is the second of Gidman's businesses opened in-between Cafe Cusco and Van Gogh's Eterie, both delicious restaurants located on Commercial Street.

"When I opened Cafe Cusco, I wasn't really happy with the quality of spices I was getting from my grocers," Joe said. "I thought if I open this store, I can get my spices in a better quality, bigger bulk and better price."

Lining the walls of the shop is a walkway of culinary spices, salts, peppers, sugars, and more. From the common to the obscure, there is no doubt the store houses ingredients from all four corners of the globe. And to say they have more culinary spices than anything else is an understatement; with over 400 and growing!

While plenty of boxed teas are also available to purchase, the star of the show is the loose-leaf tea selection. Over 190 varieties of such teas are available for every taste sensation.

"Tea culture is a lot different than coffee culture," Joe said. "Coffee is more of a fast-paced, get-up-and-go, and tea is more of a stop and reflect kind of moment. I think we have a lot of customers that this is their break. We never rush them through their shopping experience."

Know somebody absolutely obsessed with tea? Delicious teas ranging from black, green, oolong, and beyond fill jars as a feast of the senses, caffeine free options beckon to those who shy from caffeine or worry about staying awake past bedtime, and premium teas straight from Japan and China can be found right here in the Ozarks.

Much like their spices, Chabom has an easy option for those who are in awe. An easy way to sip-and-try are the sample size Taster Bags! Perfect gifts for any occasion, these tasters contain half an ounce of tea which is enough for multiple steepings in a mug, or a strong pot of your new brew.

Another feature of Chabom is the Scooping Station and Tea Bar; here customers can go to the helpful staff for tastes, scoops or any other assistance you may need.

"We wanted people to be able to experience high quality ingredients and experiment with them, without being bound to a massive quantity," Joe said.

Chabom has you covered with several different options when it comes to scoop-able items, with a variety of bags, jars or tins that are available for purchase. You can also bring in old jars that you have at home to be refilled with fresh spices or teas at no extra service charge.

Not only a great place for your kitchen, Chabom is bursting with eclectic gifts. Enjoy supporting local businesses and artists? Jewelry, cards, incense, mugs and more are available! Thinking global? Chopsticks, bowls, utensils, tea sets, and cups are just a few options to look for.

Chabom is also filled with hospitality, don't be afraid to chat with employees! They are happy to help in your journey to find what you're looking for as well as new products and experiences within the store!

Brick and mortar hours are Monday through Saturday 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Sunday hours are 12 p.m. to 5 p.m. For those unable to make it to the street, Chabom does offer an online experience! Simply visit <https://www.chabomteaspice.com/> for all your loose-leaf and culinary spice needs. ■



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Experience a taste of Europe at Van Gogh's Eeterie

by Meredith Tatum

Artistic and modern yet cozy, Van Gogh's Eeterie is the Dutch-inspired brainchild of Joe and Claire Gidman, co-owners of the much-applauded Cafe Cusco. Gidman is tackling another of his favorite regions, this time one that's in Europe instead of South America.

"There were three exchange students from Rotterdam at my university and we became very good friends," said Gidman, "and then I actually went to their university in Holland and studied for a year."

Gidman explained that Rotterdam, a city of South Holland, is a very modern, contemporary and international, and this is what the decor in Van Gogh's is reflective of. This contemporary style is airy, light, happy; and so is the food!

"One of the things that I loved about being in the Netherlands was of course the Dutch pancake. It's very, very different from an American pancake," said Gidman. "I really loved more of the savory options and they were kind of taken aback by these fluffy, sweet breakfast things that we have. In Holland, the pancake is something that you would eat for lunch or dinner."

Lucky for us, Van Gogh has an extensive Dutch pancake list, available all day. The savory menu includes options like "Sunflowers" made with scrambled eggs, sunflower pesto, bacon, skillet chips and cheese, and the "Rotterdam" made with shwarma beef, lettuce, tomato, cucumber, creamy garlic dill and curry ketchup. On the sweet side are options like the "Pirates of the Caribbean," made with brandy-fired raisins, banana, cinnamon and caramel.

Breakfast options include the "Brexit," a traditional English breakfast,

complete with all of the components: eggs, bacon, ham, smoked sausage, skillet chips, fried tomato, sauteed mushroom, baked beans and toast. They also serve a "Breakfast Board" that includes: assorted fruits, cheese, ham, Greek yogurt with blueberry compote, bread, and orange juice.

Lunch items include appetizers like "Dutch Fries - Pataje," which are crispy, gold potatoes served with pickled onions, frites sauce, curry ketchup and peanut sauce, "Edam Brandy and Cheese Dip Kaasdoop," which is a blend of cheeses melted with heavy cream and brandy, served with bread and vegetables.

Dinner entree options include delicious treats like "Braised Beef Hutspot", a traditional Dutch dish of slow cooked tender roast beef over potatoes mashed with carrot, garlic, onion, covered in a brandy and brown sugar gravy with side of sautéed asparagus, and "Vincent's Ear," made with Cavatappi Cellentani pasta, broccoli, smoked sausage, tossed in lemon garlic and anchovy sauce tossed in a lemon and dill béchamel.

The drink menu includes the first kombucha bar in a restaurant in Springfield and is accompanied by optional flavorful syrups that can be added to make your kombucha really "pop." A selection of European wines are available, as well as Dutch & Belgian beers. Plus many local breweries are represented including; KC Bier Co., Logboat Brewing Co., & 4x4 Brewing Co.

Van Gogh's Eeterie is open Mon-Fri, 9am-8pm, Sat 8am-8pm; and Sunday from 8am-2pm. The restaurant can be reached online at www.vangoghseeterie.com, by phone at 417.344.0085 and is located at 334 E Commercial St. ■

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Enjoy exotic cuisine at Cafe Cusco

“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, a Peruvian restaurant in Springfield, is run by someone who is undeniably qualified. After traveling through 30 countries, owner Joe finally settled on a cuisine that was worth the trouble and dedication it takes to start a restaurant.

“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.’” And just a few months after graduating, they did. “I just ate, traveled, drank and danced,” Gidman says,

laughing.

Coming back to the Ozarks after his travels, Gidman went into restaurant management in the Branson area for a few years. But the idea of a 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.”

Over ten years in business later, and the restaurant has consistently 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.

Gidman also made sure to cater to those who are vegetarian and vegan. “I was actually a vegetarian for eight years,” Gidman says. Dishes like these include the Andean Tamal, Sweet Potato Noodle Stir fry and the Jackfruit Jungle Bowl! Along with this many dishes are also gluten free to cater to those who struggle with allergies.

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. Alongside those drinks are the fan favorite Sangria and the Cubano which features a unique cinnamon coated rim. Cafe Cusco also has an extensive exotic wine collection, but never forgetting to keep it local the restaurant features beer from Springfield Brew Co..

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 great smelling food either!

Cafe Cusco is open Tues-Sat, 11am-9pm and Sunday 11am-8pm; plus a happy hour Mon-Fri from 3pm-9pm. The restaurant can be reached online at www.cafecusco.com, by phone at 417.868.8088 and is located at 234 E Commercial St. ■

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Join us at the St. Patrick’s Day Parade on March 15th for an exciting sneak peek of the 2025 season! We’ll be back in full swing every Thursday and Saturday starting April 5th, and this year is extra special as we celebrate 25 amazing years! Don’t miss the fun—come and celebrate with us!



More Information
www.cstreetcitymarket.com

WELCOME to SPRINGFIELD

Restaurant Guide



431 S. Jefferson Ave. Ste 160 In the middle of Wilhout Plaza, (417) 942-0958 | Looking for a fun spot in Downtown Springfield? 417 Tap House has you covered! Serving up lunch and dinner, they offer mouthwatering burgers, crispy fries, and savory chicken & waffles. Enjoy your meal with drinks from their full bar, featuring a self-serve beer wall, wines, and cocktails. Play the night away in their game room with pinball, shuffleboard, and skee ball. Whether you dine in, take out, or get delivery, 417 Tap House delivers great food and fun in one place! Open Mon-Sat 11am to 1:30am and Sun 4pm-12 midnight [See ad on page 47.](#)



319 1/2 E. Walnut St., (417) 865-1775 | "Enjoy an intimate and unique dining experience at "The 7th on Walnut," a locally owned 7ft wide downtown staple. Located at the 7th door off Jefferson on Walnut Street, this cozy spot specializes in hand-pattied burgers, fresh-cut fries, and funky cheesesteak sandwiches. A unique hole-in-the-wall "The 7th on Walnut" offers a memorable eating experience with its whimsical lobby and food. Don't miss out on this hidden treasure: The 7th on Walnut. Easy to miss. Hard to forget." www.7onwalnut.com Tues-Thur 11am-8pm, Fri 11am-10pm, Sat 12Noon-10pm, Closed on Sun and Mon. [See ad on page 50.](#)



2144 E. Republic Rd., (417) 881-973 | Aviary Café by Lavender Falls, located in Farmers Park, is your go-to spot for breakfast, brunch, and lunch. Locally owned with a full scratch kitchen, it's "The Place to Gather with Your Gaggle!" Specializing in sweet and savory crepes, Aviary also serves omelets, burgers, pasta, paninis, sandwiches, soups, salads, and signature brussels sprouts. Enjoy dishes with chicken, beef, pork, shrimp, and salmon, plus gluten-free, vegan, and alpha-gal options. Sip on signature and classic cocktails, bottomless mimosas from the full bar, and book private events for a unique dining experience! Open Daily 8 am - 3 pm [See ad on page 31.](#)



Two locations: 2920 S. Glenstone, (417) 360-1298 and 3620 S. Campbell, (417) 360-1294 | At The Big Biscuit, we're all about dishing out huge portions, whipping up those classic comfort foods you grew up loving, and giving you that friendly hometown vibe when you step through our doors. Swing in for a breakfast that's not just big, but downright better! Whether you're in the mood for our massive plate-sized buttermilk pancakes, our famous "Sticky Biscuits," or an egg white omelet from our Big & Healthy lineup, there's something for everyone here. Our goal? To make sure you leave feeling like you've had a meal with your favorite folks. [See ad on page 26.](#)



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. [See ad on page 14.](#)



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 27.](#)



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 24.](#)



2865 S. Glenstone Ave, in front of the Battlefield Mall next to HuHot, (417) 241-1333 | El Aguacate Mexican Restaurant serves up authentic flavors for lunch and dinner. From savory beef, pork, chicken, shrimp, and tilapia dishes to fresh salads, vegetarian options, and kid-friendly meals, there's something for everyone. Indulge in delicious desserts and pair your meal with a refreshing margarita, ice-cold beer, or a drink from their full bar. As the sister restaurant of Mexicana La Catrachita, 110 W. Commercial St in Mansfield 417-924-2241, El Aguacate brings tradition and taste together in every bite. Whether dining in or taking out, enjoy a true Mexican experience with bold flavors and warm hospitality. See display ad for hours [See ad on page 24.](#)



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 12.](#)



4406 S. Campbell Ave, Springfield, (417) 771-5766 | 4221 S. Wilson Creek Rd., Republic, (417) 647-6099 | 100 Lincoln St, Carthage, (417) 237-9335 | 2412 S. Main St., Joplin, (417) 208-2388 | 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. [See ad on page 31.](#)





ICHIBAN BUFFET

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 25.](#)



1908 S Glenstone Ave, (417) 771-5270 | India Palace Restaurant & Bar in Springfield offers an authentic Indian dining experience. Our menu features a diverse selection of traditional dishes crafted to delight your palate. We are committed to providing exceptional service in a warm and inviting atmosphere. Whether you're a longtime fan of Indian cuisine or exploring it for the first time, India Palace promises a memorable culinary journey. Join us and savor the rich flavors of India right here in Springfield. Open Tues - Sun Lunch hours 11am-2:30pm, Dinner hours 4:30pm-9:30pm, Closed on Wed. [See ad on page 25.](#)



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 23.](#)



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 50.](#)



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 for lunch & dinner hours. [See ad on page 28.](#)



220 E Commercial St, (417) 771-5723 | La Habana Vieja is a Cuban restaurant, Latin cuisine has just found it's 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 15.](#)



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 13.](#)



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. Leslie's taqueria inside the store. Experience the best of Mexican cuisine right in Springfield. Come try Leslie's Taqueria for fresh delicious meals - \$5 OFF \$30 Purchase! Open Mon-Sun 9am - 9pm [See ad on page 27.](#)



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 30.](#)



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 10.](#)



NEIGHBORHOOD Pizza•Café

3559 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.](#)



2515 S. Campbell Ave., Suite 400 (417) 605-7500 | Located just south of Bass Pro Shops, Palm & Paddle Grille invites you to experience the vibrant flavors of the Caribbean, transporting guests straight to the islands. With a lively ambiance and a menu brimming with fresh, flavorful dishes, diners can indulge in signature tropical cocktails and refreshing mocktails, all complemented by friendly service. This delightful escape is perfect for families, special occasions, or casual lunch meetings, making it a must-visit destination for anyone craving a taste of island paradise. [See ad on page 29.](#)

Red Robin

3720 S. Glenstone Ave, (417) 883-9363 | Red Robin Gourmet Burgers and Brews in Springfield is your go-to spot for delicious, customizable gourmet burgers and bottomless steak fries. Pair your meal with refreshing salads or a creamy milkshake. Red Robin also offers a selection of craft beers and cocktails to enhance your dining experience. Known for its family-friendly atmosphere, the restaurant provides something for everyone with an extensive menu of flavors and options. Whether you're celebrating with friends or enjoying a casual family meal, Red Robin has you covered! Open Sunday - Thursday 11am to 10pm, Fri and Sat 11am to 11pm. [See ad on page 24.](#)



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.](#)



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 27.](#)



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 9.](#)

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 48.](#)



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 Lunch Mon-Fri 11am to 2pm, Dinner 4pm to 9pm, Sat 11am to 9pm, Closed on Sun. [See ad on page 28.](#)

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 35.](#)





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 7am to 9pm, Fri and Sat 7am to 10pm and Closed Sunday. [See ad on page 22.](#)



3454 S. Campbell Ave., (417) 889-5280 | Thai Garden is located in the Shamrock Center and serves authentic Thai cuisine made fresh to order. Offering a diverse menu featuring beef, chicken, shrimp, duck, frog legs, tilapia, and catfish, there's something for every craving. Whether you're stopping in for lunch or dinner, Thai Garden provides carry-out and delivery, with online ordering available for convenience. Experience the bold flavors of traditional Thai dishes, crafted with fresh ingredients and rich spices. For a true taste of Thailand right here in Springfield, visit Thai Garden today! Full Bar. Happy Hour Mon-Fri 4-6pm, Sat & Sun 3-5pm - \$2.00 Off alcohol. Lunch hours are 11am-3pm, Dinner 4pm-9pm Mon-Fri, Sat & Sun 12 noon to 9pm [See ad on page 30.](#)



VanGogh's

334 E Commercial Street, (417) 344-0085 | Van Gogh's Eeterie is Springfield's only restaurant specializing in 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 16.](#)



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 47.](#)



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 27.](#)



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 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.](#)



1128 S. Glenstone Ave., (417) 866-6888 | Teriyaki House in Springfield is under new management and continues to serve fresh, flavorful Japanese & Chinese cuisine. Specializing in Teriyaki chicken, steak, and shrimp, the restaurant also offers 14 sushi rolls and sushi platters, perfect for any occasion. Enjoy lunch, dinner, and delivery (UberEats, Grubhub & Doordash), along with a variety of appetizers like crab rangoon, egg rolls, and spring rolls, plus soups and salads. Need to feed a crowd? Their party trays are a great choice. Stop by Teriyaki House for fresh sushi and grilled favorites made to order! Hours are Mon-Sat 11am to 11pm [See ad on page 25.](#)



Tacos El Gordo: *Authentic Mexican Cuisine* with a Family Touch

When Reyna and Pablo Angel moved to Springfield, Missouri, from Chiapas, Mexico, they quickly realized something was missing—authentic Mexican cuisine. Determined to bring true flavors from their homeland to the Ozarks, they opened Tacos El Gordo in May 2019. What started as a dream quickly became a beloved destination for those craving handmade tortillas, gorditas, sopas, machetes, and guarachas.

From the beginning, the Angels committed to making everything from scratch, just like back home. Their dedication to fresh, homemade ingredients has set them apart in Springfield's growing food scene. Customers appreciate not only the rich, bold flavors of their dishes but also the warm, welcoming atmosphere that comes from being a family-owned and operated business.

Food is a family tradition for the Angels. Their two oldest children studied culinary arts in Mexico, bringing professional expertise to the restaurant's kitchen. With a deep understanding of authentic Mexican cooking techniques, they ensure that every dish reflects the



flavors and traditions of Chiapas. This strong culinary background has helped Tacos El Gordo gain a loyal following, with customers returning for their hand-crafted specialties time and again.

Springfield quickly embraced Tacos El Gordo, and demand for their food grew so much that the Angels opened a second location later in 2019. The expansion allowed them to share their passion for traditional Mexican cuisine with even more people in the community. From Springfield locals to visitors from surrounding areas, customers continue to rave about the restaurant's dedication to quality, authenticity, and family-style service.

For Reyna and Pablo, the success of Tacos El Gordo is about more than just serving food—it's about sharing culture, tradition, and love through every meal. They are incredibly proud that Springfield and the surrounding communities have embraced their food and family. Their journey from Chiapas to the Ozarks has been one of hard work and passion, and with the continued support of their customers, Tacos El Gordo will remain a cherished part of the Springfield dining scene for years to come. ■



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Springfield's Go-To Breakfast Spot

For over a decade, Jimmy's Egg has been Springfield's go-to breakfast spot where friends and families gather to enjoy a delicious meal. With two convenient locations, Campbell Avenue at Primrose Street and East Battlefield at S. Moulder Avenue—our guests enjoy a warm and inviting dining experience, whether they prefer cozy booths, tables, or counter seating with a full view of our open kitchen.



At Jimmy's Egg, we take pride in crafting fresh, made-to-order breakfast, brunch, and lunch dishes. From unique and classics options to lighter fare for the health-conscious, there's something for everyone to love. Fan favorites include Biscuits Gone Wild, two fluffy buttermilk biscuits topped with crumbled sausage, ham, sausage gravy, cheddar cheese, and two eggs or our decadent Cinnamon Roll Pancakes. Other stand-

out dishes include Classic Eggs Benedict, Avocado Toast, Chorizo Breakfast Tacos, Chicken Quesadillas, and the newly introduced Steakhouse Melt.

Brunch is better at Jimmy's Egg! Treat yourself to a refreshing Mimosa or Bloody Mary or indulge in one of our irresistible non-alcoholic iced coffees, available in Cinnamon Roll, Caramel, and Chocolate Fudge, along with seasonal flavors throughout the year. They are so good, you'll want to take one to go!

Planning a business meeting or holiday celebration? We cater! Let Jimmy's Egg handle the food, whether it's our award-winning breakfast and lunch dishes or custom orders. We also offer a private meeting room at our Campbell Avenue location, perfect for hosting your next celebration.

Jimmy's Egg Rewards offers delicious perks! Receive 250 bonus points when you join, a free birthday entrée and earn five points for every \$1 spent. Don't miss out—sign up and start stacking your points today! ■



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Red Robin.

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1128 S. GLENSTONE AVE. (UNDER NEW MANAGEMENT) | SPRINGFIELD



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.

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A slice of Springfield's *Best Kept* secret

by Tom Ladd

Nestled in the heart of Springfield, Missouri, Neighborhood Pizza Café has earned its reputation as the local gem that provides more than just great pizza. With its commitment to being the cherished “third place” for the community, this unassuming pizzeria has become a home away from home for residents and a sought-after destination for tourists.

What sets Neighborhood Pizza Café apart, besides its mouthwatering pies, is the warmth of its local patrons. In an industry often dominated by impersonal chain restaurants, this pizzeria boasts the best patrons who make the dining experience truly exceptional.

Neighborhood Pizza Café’s secret ingredient is its exceptional product. The pizza’s edge-to-edge toppings, a signature feature, create a flavor explosion that’s second to none. These high-quality, loaded pizzas cater to a niche audience, the connoisseurs of pizza, who appreciate and seek out the difference between a gourmet pie and mass-produced options from national chains.

Neighborhood Pizza Café has proudly taken home the “People’s Choice” award, 10 times at the local pizza bowl,



a testament to its delicious offerings and enduring popularity. This recognition has further solidified its reputation as a local treasure.

With the aim of sharing their culinary excellence with a wider audience, Neighborhood Pizza Café is gearing up to franchise its unique concept. By the end of the year, they hope to have the capability to expand their brand beyond Springfield, promising a taste of local excellence to pizza lovers nationwide.

Despite the national potential, Neighborhood Pizza Café remains deeply rooted in its community. Founded in 2004 by Leesia Parent and currently owned and operated by Larry Grace since 2018, the pizzeria exemplifies a sense of trust and unity. Larry Grace, who moved his family from California on faith, was welcomed by Leesia’s unwavering commitment to their deal. This dedication not only preserved the pizzeria’s legacy but also nurtured long-lasting relationships with loyal customers.

Beyond its exceptional pizza, Neighborhood Pizza Café is known for its exceptional customer service and a welcoming atmosphere that makes patrons feel at home. The humble, small local shop thrives on the support of the community but also attracts tourists from neighboring hotels thanks to its glowing reviews on Google.

As the pizzeria strives to maintain its original recipes while streamlining the menu for simplicity, it remains committed to its roots. Neighborhood Pizza Café in Springfield, Missouri, is not just a place for great pizza; it’s the embodiment of community, quality, and the promise of exceptional dining experiences that are destined to go far beyond its local borders. ■

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at Palm & Paddle Grille: A Culinary Escape in Springfield, MO

Nestled in the heart of Springfield, just south of Bass Pro Shops, the Palm & Paddle Grille offers diners an exceptional journey inspired by the vibrant Caribbean islands. Founded by local entrepreneurs Greg and Kristin Walker, whose love for travel and the beach and their passion for hospitality and tourism, the restaurant aims to bring the magic of the islands to life right here in Springfield.

From the moment you step through the doors, you are transported to a lively, colorful oasis where the upbeat ambiance is both relaxed and invigorating. The decor, rich in tropical hues and island-inspired accents, invites you to unwind while igniting your sense of adventure.

At Palm & Paddle Grille, the dining experience is crafted with care and creativity. The menu boasts an array of delicious, fresh dishes that capture the essence of the islands. Each bite delivers unexpected flavors, making it hard to choose just one! Signature tropical cocktails and colorful



mocktails are crafted to delight, ensuring every guest, young and old, feels rejuvenated and inspired.

The warmth of the staff enhances this joyful atmosphere. Patrons rave about the attentive service, describing servers as friendly and genuinely happy to help, making you feel like a VIP. Whether you're reminiscing about family vacations or celebrating a special occasion, the welcoming environment fosters connection and community.

If you're looking for a delightful escape from reality, Palm & Paddle Grille promises a memorable experience you'll want to share with friends and family. Come for the flavors, stay for the vibrant atmosphere, and leave feeling truly transported to the Caribbean.

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(Across from Amazon)
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CARTHAGE
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100 LINCOLN ST.
CARTHAGE, MO

JOPLIN
(417) 208-2388
2412 S. MAIN ST.
JOPLIN, MO

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Shopping Guide

Baker Creek Heirloom Seed Co. 2278 Baker Creek Rd in Mansfield, MO is a haven for gardeners and heirloom enthusiasts. Founded to preserve agricultural heritage, Baker Creek offers a vast selection of rare, non-GMO seeds from around the world. The company hosts seasonal festivals, showcasing gardening workshops, local foods, and cultural events. Visitors can also explore their charming village, featuring historic buildings and greenhouses. Dedicated to sustainability and biodiversity, Baker Creek inspires growers of all levels to cultivate unique, time-honored plant varieties while supporting a healthier, more diverse planet. Open Mon-Fri 8am-4pm Closed Sat and Sun Order online at www.rareseeds.com

Bricks & Minifigs 1570 E. Battlefield Rd Ste E, 417-771-5255 Bricks & Minifigs in Springfield is the ultimate destination for LEGO enthusiasts of all ages. Locally owned by Phil and Tiffany Vice, this store specializes in buying, selling, and trading new and used LEGO sets, pieces, and minifigures, breathing new life into old bricks. Opened in February 2023, the store has already doubled in size, becoming the largest Bricks & Minifigs location. Featuring a large event space for birthday parties, classes, and clubs, it's a hub for creativity and connection. Explore, create, and trade at Bricks & Minifigs! Open Mon-Fri 10am - 6pm, Sat 10am - 7pm and Sun 12 - 5pm.

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.

LeDoux Furniture and What Nots 422 W. Commercial St., 417-413-1644 is the newest vibrant shop on Historic Commercial Street. Featuring a thoughtfully curated blend of eclectic home decor and beautiful local art. At LeDoux's you will find vintage statement pieces and

unique treasures in their airy, upscale environment. The family-owned and operated business prides itself on creating the perfect place to browse, relax, and live in the moment. It's a welcoming destination that adds charm and character to your C-Street visit. You'll be rewarded just for visiting and could leave with something special for your home. Mon, Tues, Thurs and Fri open 1pm-6pm, Closed on Wed, open Sat and Sun 10am-4pm.

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, 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!

Patricia's is proud to be
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Adult Gift Boutique

Patricia's has 16 stores located throughout Oklahoma, Kansas, Illinois and Missouri, and opened our first store in 1992. We are proud to have been Springfield's premier adult gift boutique for many years. Springfield residents have embraced us and made us a stronghold in the retail industry here. Our new store manager has brought many excellent and fresh ideas to the store which show in dazzling store displays and an updated appearance. If you haven't been in lately, you might be missing out!

With many years of experience, the Patricia's chain of stores is a trendsetter and leader in the adult gift boutique arena. We provide our customers with a comfortable and safe shopping environment that's upscale, fun and educational. All of our stores are brightly lit and very well-merchandised, and we carry a huge, constantly updated selection of novelties, bedroom toys, lubes, lingerie, dance-wear, shoes, movies and magazines. Integral to our continued success is our superior customer service. We strive to show every customer that walks through our door how much we appreciate their business – and people shop where they feel appreciated.

We strive to make our stores special, and our shop in The Plaza shows that. Without exception, our stores stand out as being couple-friendly and inviting. Every store is staffed with friendly and well-trained employees who are comfortable answering product and usage questions, which puts us a cut above any competition. Our business is built on loyal repeat customers. We specialize in helping our customers create a whole romantic evening and to enhance their intimate experiences.

Our customers can always count on a wide and varying selection of lingerie and toys. We are committed to maintaining the highest standards for quality and selection, and our customers can count on that. Buying from many suppliers means we have the opportunity to offer incredibly competitive pricing on many items while still offering high-quality selections that our customers have come to know us for. Whether a customer is looking for that one-time date-night outfit with all the accessories, or a favorite negligee, we meet those needs. With such a large and varied customer base, we sell all sizes to both men and women.



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The minimum age to enter our stores is 18. While we cater to couples, women tell us they feel completely comfortable shopping alone in all of our stores. Comments from our male customer base confirm that we offer them what they are looking for, whether that is to shop for themselves or get expert advice about what to select for their partners. People seek us out for bachelor and bachelorette parties, and of course for all sexual health and educational materials. Today's customers know more about the products they use than ever before. They are educated in which products work best with other products and why, and they expect the same level of knowledge from our staff. We are proud to provide that level of customer service. Despite the tough economic times, we have opened two stores in the last few years. This kind of continued success is the result of maintaining standards of excellence in everything we do, beginning with the selection of products we carry and the top-notch beauty of our stores and continuing with the manner in which we take care of our customers. Excellence and pride in what we offer – that's what makes Patricia's a very special place to shop. ■





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A Must Visit for *LEGO* Fans

Bricks & Minifigs, locally owned and operated by Phil and Tiffany Vice, has quickly become a favorite destination for LEGO enthusiasts since opening in February 2023. More than just a toy store, this Springfield gem offers a unique buy-sell-trade model that brings new life to old LEGO sets and pieces. Customers can trade in LEGO sets or minifigures they no longer need for something new, making it a treasure trove for kids and adult fans alike.

Bricks & Minifigs taps into Springfield's growing community of LEGO lovers, offering more than just 5,000 square feet of LEGO products—it's a space for connection and creativity. Whether you're a collector searching for rare pieces, a builder looking for inspiration, or a family wanting to engage in screen-free fun, there's something for everyone.

Phil and Tiffany designed their store with community at its heart. Their large event space is a hub for birthday parties, where kids (and adults!) can celebrate surrounded by their favorite bricks. The store also hosts a variety of classes and clubs throughout the year, fostering an environment where creativity flourishes and friendships form. From hands-on workshops to themed build challenges, there's always a reason to gather, build, and unleash your inner architect or artist.

One of the key goals of Bricks & Minifigs is to encourage families to spend less time in front of screens and more time building memories together. The joy of sorting, designing, and creating with LEGO offers a timeless appeal that spans generations. It's a reminder that imagination is one of the most powerful tools we possess.

While the Bricks & Minifigs franchise has been around for over 13 years and is growing rapidly—adding more than 100 stores in the last three years—the Springfield location stands out. Phil and Tiffany recently expanded their store, doubling its size and officially becoming the largest Bricks & Minifigs location to date. This milestone reflects their dedication to serving the local LEGO community while solidifying their place as a hub for creativity, fun, and connection.

Stop by Bricks & Minifigs and discover why LEGO fans of all ages are calling this vibrant space a must-visit. Whether you're trading, buying, or simply building, inspiration is always just a brick away. ■



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Enjoy the Spring Creek Tea Room

by Tom Ladd

A hundred years ago, having a cup of tea was an event. The Spring Creek Tea Room in Ozark would like to bring that back and make the facility a hot spot for women and their daughters while they are out shopping. But honestly, this facility is perfect for any occasion and it's due in large part to the great food and memorable desserts that are served from 10:30 am until 2 pm Tuesday through Saturday.



Spring Creek Tea Room may be remembered as a unique place to fill your belly, as they pride themselves with serving up stacked sandwiches, hearty soups, delectable salads and perhaps the best thing...the absolutely to-die-for desserts.



We're talking cheesecakes like no other, pies with homemade crusts and cakes of all kinds.

Tearooms often get the rap that they cater to older women in colorful hats, but Spring Creek Tea Room serves the needs for just about every taste out there. As a matter of fact, each meal is served with a flavored iced tea, which is included in the meal price. The salads are made fresh daily and there is a soup

special for each day. The bottom line is no one should leave hungry after a visit to Spring Creek Tea Room,

Spring Creek Tea Room is perfect for special events, and can be reserved for parties of five or more by calling 417-582-1331. Takeouts are available and cakes and desserts can be made for takeout with advance notice.

Spring Creek Antiques & Tea Room

Antiques • Primitives • Collectables

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Tea Room: 417-582-1331
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The building also houses an antique shop. So for a great meal, a great time with friends, and the best desserts in these parts, stop by Spring Creek Tea Room at 107 S. 3rd Street in Ozark Mo. ■





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March 1-2

Springfield RV Mega Show

March 4-6

S&H New Holland Training

March 6-9

SMDTC Dog Obedience

March 7-9

2025 Missouri USA State Championship

March 8-9

RK Gun Show - March 2025

March 13-15

Trading Hands Kid's Consignment Sale

March 18

Peak Auction

March 21-22

Ozark Empire PRCA Pro Rodeo

Ozark Outdoor Expo

March 21-23

Ozark Spring Round Up Preview

Cattle Shows

March 24-26

Vermeer Training

April 4-5

The Man Show Expo

April 9

Super Tech Competition

April 11-13

HBA Home Show

South East Spas Hot Tub Expo - April

April 15

Peak Auction

April 16

Build My Future

Performance Foodservice:
Ozarks Foodcentric

April 25-26

Midwest Overlanding & Offroad Expo

April 28-30

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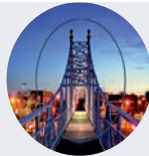
HISTO ATTRA

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



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



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



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



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



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. is Springfield, Missouri's oldest cultural institution, founded in 1928.

HISTORICAL ACTIVITIES



Wild Bill Hickok



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 25c 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

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



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

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

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!



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SPRINGFIELD ARTS, THEATRE, MUSEUMS & EVENTS Pages 38-43

Springfield Missouri

offering something for everyone!

Springfield, MO, is a vibrant hub for local theatre, arts, and cultural events, offering something for everyone. The city's thriving arts scene features the beloved Springfield Little Theatre, known for its family-friendly productions and community engagement. For those who enjoy cutting-edge performances, Springfield Contemporary Theatre presents bold, innovative works year-round.

SPRINGFIELD LITTLE THEATRE 90TH EMERALD ANNIVERSARY SEASON

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Music and large-scale events take center stage at the Juanita K. Hammons Hall for the Performing Arts, hosting everything from Broadway tours to symphony concerts. The Aetos Center for the Performing Arts also offers diverse programming, enriching the cultural landscape of the region.



Art lovers can explore the Springfield Art Museum, which showcases regional and national exhibitions, while the Missouri Institute of

Natural Science captivates visitors with fascinating displays of fossils and geological wonders.

Sports enthusiasts aren't left out—Allison Sports Town offers state-of-the-art facilities for athletes of all ages, and the Mis-

sonouri Sports Hall of Fame celebrates the state's rich athletic history.

Springfield's calendar is packed with local events and festivals celebrating the city's diverse culture and creativity.



From art walks to seasonal festivals, there's always something happening. Whether you're catching a play, attending a concert, or exploring a museum, Springfield's rich tapestry of local arts and events ensures an unforgettable experience for residents and visitors alike. ■



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ALL SCHOOL EXHIBITION

February 28 - April 6, 2025

Held this year at Missouri State University's Brick City Gallery, the Springfield Art Museum's 2025 All School Exhibition celebrates young artists and features hundreds of works from Springfield public, private, parochial and homeschool cooperatives.

As the art teachers who work with these students know, art is a powerful educational tool. In addition to creativity and self-expression, the arts teach problem solving, critical thinking, innovation and collaboration. The All School Exhibition highlights the importance of arts education and honors the accomplishments of young artists.

The exhibit also reflects the work of the incredibly talented teachers in our community, many of whom are practicing artists themselves. Faculty members from public, private, parochial schools, and home school cooperatives select the artwork for exhibition each year, and a dedicated team of teachers and students from Springfield Public Schools installs the artwork with assistance from our curatorial staff.

Support for this exhibition is generously provided by the George and Linda Deatz Family.

Exhibition Hours:

Monday - Friday: 11:00 AM - 6:00 PM
Saturday - Sunday: 12:00 PM - 4:00 PM

Public Programs:

Middle & High School Student

Showcase:

Fri, Feb. 28, 2025, 5:30 PM - 7:00 PM

Elementary School Student

Showcases:

Grades K - 2: Sat., March 1, 2025,
12:00 PM - 1:30 PM

Grades 3 - 5: Sat., March 1, 2025,
1:30 PM - 3:00 PM

These events are free and open to the public.



215 W Mill Street,
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The Springfield Art Museum is temporarily closed for renovations - for details on upcoming programs, classes, and exhibitions happening throughout the community, please visit sgfmuseum.org

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Great place for group outings like Birthday Parties & Field Trips!

Rob Marsh at the Helm of the Missouri Sports Hall of Fame



For nearly 30 years, while employed for a local grocer, Rob Marsh rolled up his sleeves and worked from sun up to sun down and usually well into the night. So, when the chance to lead the next golden era of the Missouri Sports Hall of Fame here in Springfield arose – as well as to help 50 Ozarks children’s charities – Marsh jumped at the chance.

Think it was an easy choice? Hardly. The 1991 graduate of Kickapoo High School had risen to being the No. 1 confidant of Erick Taylor, the CEO of Springfield-based Pyramid Foods, a.k.a.



Price Cutter Supermarkets.

“I am ready to tackle this job,” Marsh said when introduced as CEO & Executive Director in mid-December. “The Hall of Fame has been successful for so long, and I am excited to keep it going – and build on the success of the past 30 years. It’s going to take rolling up our sleeves and getting to work, and that’s what I have known my whole life.”

The Hall of Fame is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit located in southeast Springfield and, since the museum opened in 1994, has never applied for state or federal grants. Instead, it has relied exclusively on private donations, induction ceremonies, golf events, auctions, a sporting clays classic and a bass fishing tournament.



Additionally, the Hall of Fame manages a major fundraiser, the PGA Korn Ferry Tour’s Price Cutter Charity Championship presented by Hiland Dairy Foods. The PCCC has presented more than \$20.5 million to Ozarks

children’s charities since its inception in 1990.

The charitable aspect of Marsh’s role has been a central focus after the tournament experienced challenges last year. Like he did in his days with Price Cutter Supermarkets, he is in the office morning, noon and night – including weekends.

“I haven’t had much sleep since December,” Marsh said. “But that’s my focus, to make sure we take care of our charities and see that our 2025 tournament in July is a success. We hope the community and individuals will join us, because the charities’ missions are incredible.”

The community is near and dear to Marsh, who grew up in Springfield and has called Nixa home for 20 years.

Having previously worked for Smitty’s and Albertson’s, Marsh had risen from Assistant Manager within Price Cutter to a number of roles in his 27 years with the company: Manager of the Price Cutter at Kansas Expressway and Grand Avenue, District Manager, Director of Planning & Development, Director of Operations and Vice President of Sales & Merchandising.

He was named by Supermarket News as a Supermarket Rising Leader and a 40 Under 40 by the Springfield Business Journal. In 2021, the Missouri Sports Hall of Fame bestowed him the President’s Award for championing its mission and sports in general in the Show-Me State.

“This is going to be an exciting chapter, for the Hall of Fame, Price Cutter Charity Championship and for me personally,” Marsh said. “We hope to make everybody proud.” ■

MISSOURI SPORTS HALL OF FAME

JOHN O. HAMMONS FOUNDER

SPRING & SUMMER

<p>OUTDOOR SPORTS LUNCHEON Presented by Hiland Dairy Foods March 11 University Plaza Convention Center</p> <p>HIGH SCHOOL GOLF CLINIC Presented by Ozarks Coca-Cola/Dr Pepper March 24 Highland Springs Country Club</p> <p>FINAL FOUR BREAKFAST April 4 San Antonio</p> <p>WOMEN'S SPORTS LUNCHEON April 15 Oasis Hotel & Convention Center</p> <p>MIZZOU ALUMNI GOLF CLASSIC Presented by Great Southern Bank May 2 Millwood Golf & Racquet Club</p> <p>LAKE OF THE OZARKS HALL OF FAME GOLF CLASSIC Presented by Missouri Eagle May 12 Old Kinderhook, Camdenon</p>	<p>BASEBALL & SOFTBALL LUNCHEON May 11 Wilson Logistics Arena</p> <p>SPRINGFIELD HALL OF FAME GOLF CLASSIC Presented by Great Southern Bank June 1-2 Highland Springs CC</p> <p>SPORTS COMMISSION AWARDS Presented by Elliott Lodging June 17 Gilloiz Theatre</p> <p>PRICE CUTTER CHARITY CHAMPIONSHIP Presented by Hiland Dairy Foods July 7-20 Highland Springs CC</p> <p>KANSAS CITY HALL OF FAME GOLF CLASSIC Aug. 4 Tiffany Greens Golf Club</p> <p>STAN MUSIAL HALL OF FAME CHAMPIONSHIP Presented by Landau Pontoons Aug. 17-18 Old Kinderhook, Camdenon</p>
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environment for athletes, families, and spectators. With concessions, ample seating, and family-friendly amenities, it's a hub for community engagement and athletic development. Whether you're a seasoned player or just looking for fun, Allison's Sports Town has something for everyone! ■



ABOUT US

Allison Sports Town's mission is to provide the four-state region with a premier multi-sport complex for the enhancement and development of recreational and competitive athletics for all ages. We are committed to promoting sportsmanship, respect, integrity, self-discipline, and character development.

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JOIN THE FUN!



CHRISTIAN COUNTY PLACES & EVENTS

Pages 44-45

Thriving Business in *Christian County* Missouri



Nestled just south of Springfield, Christian County is experiencing a boom in business growth while maintaining its small-town charm. As one of the fastest-growing counties in the state, Christian County has become a prime destination for entrepreneurs, small businesses, and larger enterprises seeking a thriving economic environment. Christian County fosters a welcoming environment for small businesses. Cities like Ozark and Nixa are home to a variety of locally owned shops, restaurants, and service providers that contribute to the county's unique character. From boutique retail stores and farm-to-table eateries to specialty coffee shops and artisan makers, the local business scene is diverse and vibrant. The Nixa Area Chamber of Commerce and Ozark Chamber of Commerce provide strong support, offering networking events, training programs, and community initiatives that help businesses grow. The county's expanding population has fueled an increase in retail and dining establishments. Residents and visitors alike enjoy a mix of national chains and locally owned restaurants, including family-owned diners, bakeries, barbecue joints, and fine dining establishments. The growth of Farmers Park and similar developments has attracted high-quality eateries, catering to a range of tastes and dietary needs. Manufacturing and logistics also play a key role in Christian County's economy. With easy access to major highways and Springfield's business network, companies in industries such as construction, automotive, and technology continue to invest in the region. The availability of a skilled workforce, bolstered by nearby colleges and training programs, ensures businesses have the talent needed to succeed. As Christian County continues to grow, its pro-business climate, strong community support, and high quality of life make it a desirable location for both new ventures and established businesses. With ongoing development, expanding job opportunities, and a commitment to fostering local success, Christian County is a business-friendly gem in southwest Missouri. ■



MAY 16 & 17
DOWNTOWN NIXA, MISSOURI



ARTS, CRAFTS, & MUSIC

SUCKERDAYS

NIXA, MO | SINCE 1957



Nixa SuckerDays provides fun for all ages. This annual festival has taken place in downtown Nixa for 67 years, showcasing the community's deep rooted traditions. Join us May 16 & 17 to truly experience Nixa.

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- Sucker Fish Tasting
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- Live Entertainment

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DOWNTOWN SPRINGFIELD

RESTAURANTS
BARS • COMEDY
SHOPPING • ARTS
ENTERTAINMENT
Pages 46-50

Downtown 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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A Culinary Journey Through Tradition:

Rice & Dumpling

Restaurant in Springfield, MO

Nestled in the heart of downtown Springfield, Missouri, Rice & Dumpling Restaurant offers an authentic taste of China that transports diners straight to the bustling streets of Beijing or the cozy alleys of Chengdu. This hidden gem has quickly become a favorite among locals and visitors alike, thanks to its dedication to preserving the rich culinary traditions of Chinese cuisine.



At Rice & Dumpling, the menu is a celebration of China's diverse regional flavors, crafted with fresh ingredients and time-honored techniques. The star of the show is undoubtedly the dumplings, a beloved staple in Chinese households. The steamed pork and mushroom dumplings, with their delicate wrappers and savory filling, are a must-try. Each bite reveals layers of flavor, a testament to the skill and passion that goes into every dish.

The restaurant's rice dishes are equally impressive, offering a variety of flavors that cater to all palates.

The shrimp pineapple fried rice is a delightful combination of sweet and savory, with succulent shrimp and juicy pineapple pieces mingling with perfectly seasoned rice.



For those seeking a more traditional option, the Yangzhou fried rice is a classic choice, brimming with a mix of meats, vegetables, and eggs that create a satisfying and flavorful dish.

For something more hearty, the claypot rice dishes are a must. The slow-cooked rice, infused with the rich flavors of meats and vegetables, is served in a traditional claypot that keeps the dish warm and flavorful from the first bite to the last.

Rice & Dumpling also caters to vegetarian diners with a range of carefully crafted dishes that showcase the depth and variety of Chinese cuisine. The cumin lamb, with its aromatic spices and tender meat, is a favorite among spice lovers, while the vegetarian options offer a lighter but equally satisfying experience.

Whether you're a longtime fan of Chinese cuisine or a newcomer eager to explore its flavors, Rice & Dumpling in downtown Springfield is the perfect destination for an unforgettable dining experience. ■



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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! ■

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