Welcome to Vincennes
INDIANA’S FIRST CITY

Mayor Joe Yochum

Local Shops & Restaurants

Grouseland
President William Henry Harrison’s Mansion & Museum

George Rogers Clark
National Historical Park

Indiana Military Museum
6th Street just off Willow Street

State Historic Sites
Vincennes University Campus

Red Skelton Museum
Vincennes University Campus

Visit our website: www.vincennes.org

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Visit our website: www.vincennes.org
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On behalf of the Knox County Chamber of Commerce, welcome to Knox County, Indiana!

Knox County is a historic area with an esteemed past and a vibrant future. It is the first county in Indiana and is full of opportunities. Nestled on the banks of the Wabash River, Knox County is positioned as a great place to raise a family and locate your business. Each of our communities contribute to the uniqueness of Knox County; Vincennes to Oaktown, Wheatland to Monroe City and all the those in between.

During your visit make sure to check out the local art galleries, museums, the national park, and our great restaurants. Immerse yourself in our outdoor fun by biking, hiking, and swimming at one of our many parks or take a stroll down our picturesque Riverwalk overlooking the Wabash River.

Our dynamic community offers state of the art health care, top notch education and diverse arts and cultural opportunities. We also have a strong business community with robust agriculture and thriving industries.

Knox County has many exciting things to offer and we hope you will use this guide as a reference for community information and keep it as a resource for all your business needs. It contains a complete directory of our member businesses and lots of information on how to enjoy your time in Knox County.

We are very proud of our past and look forward to a very promising future. We hope you enjoy your stay and invite you to make Knox County your home.

Jamie Neal
Executive Director
Knox County Chamber of Commerce
Trans-Care says **Thank You** to all the Volunteer & Professional Firefighters, First Responders, 911 Dispatchers, Police and other support staff who help make your community a safer place to live.

Please remember to give all emergency and caution light vehicles plenty of space to make the area not only safe for them, but for you and your family as well.

**Did you know...**

When 911 is called, it activates a nationally recognized set of procedures where the dispatcher activate the appropriate personnel so the incident is managed by the best personnel available. Whether it be police to control traffic or safety, firefighters to extricate, begin patient care or fight the fire, a wrecker for vehicle management, an ambulance to begin paramedic interventions or even interact with an incoming medical helicopter to either intercept at a safe area or at the hospital where the patient might need to be transferred to higher level of care.

And then, lets not forget about your local hospital. Good Samaritan is a Level III Trauma Center capable of managing your emergency. When the ambulance is in route to Good Samaritan, the paramedic is communicating with the Emergency Department, so when they arrive, they are more prepared to take over patient care.

From time the 911 call is made until the time the patient arrives at Good Samaritan, generally 20-40 minutes, you will experience multiple levels of professional care beginning to end.

Next time you see emergency lights, remember the above and give them some space.
2 MONTHS BEFORE
- Begin sorting through clothes, storage and household items that you don’t want anymore. Lighten the load by donating or selling unwanted or unused items.
- Take stock of your valuables by beginning an inventory list with insurance replacement costs associated with each item.
- If you plan on using a moving service, start researching which companies you might use and get multiple estimates.
- Moving for work? Talk to your financial advisor about tax deductions associated with moving.

6 WEEKS BEFORE
- Contact your child/children’s current and future schools for a smooth transition.
- Check to see if changes in your insurance policy are necessary.
- Choose a moving company and schedule the moving day.

1 MONTH BEFORE
- Schedule the shutoff day for utilities and contact the new utility office.
- Buy packing supplies and begin boxing items that are rarely used or seasonal.
- Begin the process of switching or transferring bank accounts to new ones in the area.

INVENTORY LIST
- Bedding, pillows & linens
- Pots, pans, dishes, glasses & utensils
- Food, pantry items & snacks
- Important documents & manuals
- Clothes, shoes & coats
- Toiletries & bathroom items
- Pet supplies & gardening tools
- Seasonal item, storage & misc.
- Cleaning supplies & chemicals
- Large furniture & hardware
- Lawn mower & exterior tools
- Artwork, decor & knick-knacks

VINCENNES WEATHER

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Vincennes City Police Department  
(812) 882-1630

Vincennes City Fire Department  
(812) 882-2600

Knox County Sheriff  
(812) 882-7660

Emergency Management Agency  
(317) 641-4178

Social Security Office  
(812) 886-6881

Vincennes License Bureau Office  
(812) 882-3168

Knox County Health Department  
(812) 882-8080

Vincennes Mayor Office  
(812) 882-7285

Bicknell Mayor Office  
(812) 735-4636

Vincennes Water Department  
(812) 882-7877

Bicknell Water Department  
(812) 735-3301

Vincennes Park and Recreation  
(812) 882-1140

Vincennes Street and Sanitation  
(812) 882-2520

Vincennes City Treasurer  
(812) 882-6426

Vincennes City Inspector  
(812) 882-3338

Knox County Health Department  
(812) 882-8080

Knox County Auditor  
(812) 882-2502

Knox County Treasurer  
(812) 885-2506

Knox County Circuit Court  
(812) 885-2527

Knox County Assessor  
(812) 885-2513

Knox County Clerk  
(812) 885-2521

Poison Control  
(800) 222-1222

Animal Control  
(812) 882-8826

VU Police  
(812) 888-5555

Van Go  
(812) 886-3381

Knox County Library  
(812) 886-4380

Bicknell Public Library  
(812) 735-2317

Bicknell Police Dept  
(812) 735-2255

Duke Energy  
(800) 521-2232

Vectren  
(800) 227-1376

WIN Energy  
(812) 882-5140

Recycling  
(812) 885-2520

Social Services:

PACE Community Action  
(812) 882-7927

United Way  
(812) 882-3624

Division of Family Services  
(800) 403-0864

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

Wheaton Moving and Storage Services

15TH Street Self Storage
1611 Broadway  
Vincennes, IN 47591
812-882-5650
www.15thstreetstorage.com

Old National
Your bank. For life.

Vincennes
20 N Third St  |  812-895-4200
1905 Hart St  |  812-885-8051
oldnational.com
The campus of Vincennes University is always changing, always evolving to meet the needs of its students.

VU celebrated the opening of a new $13 million student union, the Jefferson Union Student Center, which features the latest in student amenities, including a coffee shop, a renovated bowling alley, a giant video board, a game room and ample space for students to sit, study and relax with their friends.

It connects the current state-of-the-art Physical Education Complex, the Aquatic Center and the Donald G. Bell Student Recreation Center, creating a mall-like complex in the heart of VU’s campus.

Just next door is Updike Hall, VU’s most recent endeavor, a $27 million, 85,740-square-foot facility dedicated to science, technology, engineering and math.

VU, the state’s oldest college, has positioned itself at the forefront of education and manufacturing technology, working to collaborate with regional business owners and community leaders in helping to improve the workforce and increase the local job pool. With just about 4,000 students on campus, students here also benefit from smaller class sizes and one-on-one teacher attention.

VU offers a variety of degrees in a multitude of fields, including business and convergent technologies, education, health science and human performance, nursing, humanities, science and math and social science, the performing arts as well as many others on the forefront of technology, like aviation, construction management, computer networking, robotics, welding and electronics.

With more than 150 degree programs to choose from, including a growing number of baccalaureate programs, local students and students from around the country can earn a quality education right here in Vincennes.
WE HAVE
FOUR
SCHOOL
SYSTEMS
TO CHOOSE FROM

NORTH KNOX SCHOOLS

The North Knox School Corp. offers a very personable and family-oriented environment with caring teachers who take an interest in their students’ well-being as well as their academic achievements.

North Knox Primary, located in Bicknell, is home to the corporation’s youngest students, those in kindergarten through the second grade. North Knox Intermediate School, located in Bruceville, houses those in grades three through six, and North Knox Junior Senior High School is for students in seventh through twelfth-grades.

Like so many others, North Knox has focused on incorporating a digital-based curriculum as well, with the addition of Chrome Books and iPads for students in grades 3-12. Interactive smart boards are located in nearly all classrooms as technology remains a focus in assuring students are well-prepared for a digital world.

North Knox also offers multiple dual credit courses for its older students in a variety of subjects, including literature, marketing, history, science, math and government.

The corporation most recently began offering an internship program developed in collaboration with local business and industry leaders. This program offers students real work experience they can use after graduation.

The junior senior high school also boasts the multi-sport junior high gymnasium, a facility complete with a walking track, state-of-the-art cardio and weight rooms, aerobics room, class rooms, a concession stand, and both staff and student locker rooms. The walking track is open to the community during certain hours and has become a great community asset.

TOP-NOTCH EDUCATION

With fantastic kindergarten to high school options, you can find a school where your child will thrive.
Vincennes Catholic Schools is the pride of those who have called it their alma mater.

The Catholic education system in Vincennes began in 1792 and exists now with Rivet Middle-High School and Flaget Elementary School.

Students at Flaget and Rivet consistently perform above the state average and graduation rates are often near 100 percent.

Officials with the Vincennes Catholic Schools credit their success to the classroom culture they create, one that breeds high expectations and, therefore, successful, driven students. And with small class sizes, teachers there pride themselves on being able to provide more one-on-one attention to students.

But class size offers no disadvantage when it comes to sports.

The high school has seen a wave of athletic success in recent years, especially in girls’ basketball and baseball. The girls’ basketball team won the Class A state championship in 2011 and were runners up for the honor in 2009, 2010, 2013, and 2014. The baseball team were runners up for the Class A state championship in both 2009 and 2013 as well.

SOUTH KNOX SCHOOLS

The South Knox School Corporation has recently embarked upon improvement and change.

Situated near Verne just off Indiana 61, South Knox recently underwent about $15 million in updates and expansions.

South Knox Elementary School got an additional 8,000 square feet of space and the 50-year-old Middle-High School received millions in improvements, specifically, a new cafeteria, more common space and redesigned entrances.

Both schools are located right next to one another, offering ease to parents and students alike.

The corporation typically has just under 2,000 students enrolled each year, and both of its buildings generally receive the highest ratings, either an A or a B, from the state’s Department of Education.

There are just 80-100 students per grade level, making class sizes small and manageable.

South Knox has traditionally excelled in athletics, particularly in track and field, cross country, basketball and girls’ tennis. They also have programs in softball, baseball, golf, soccer, volleyball and varsity cheerleading.

South Knox also boasts a strong music department as well as a wide variety of extracurricular clubs.

South Knox prides itself on providing an atmosphere of encouragement for students both academically and athletically as well as socially.
VINCENNES COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

The Vincennes Community School Corp. has recommitted itself to educating its students in state-of-the-art buildings all while maintaining a connection to the city’s history.

The VCSC in 2016 embarked upon a four year, $38 million restoration project of its four neighborhood elementary schools: Riley Elementary School at 1008 Upper 11th St., Vigo Elementary School, 1513 Main St., Tecumseh-Harrison Elementary School, 2116 N. Second St., and Franklin Elementary School at 2600 Wabash Ave.

The schools’ most historical elements are being preserved all while retrofitting the buildings with the latest in education technology and amenities.

The project is set to wrap up in 2020.

All four of those elementary schools feed into Clark Middle School, the corporation’s newest, state-of-the-art building constructed in 2011. Lincoln High School, built in 1987 but that recently underwent $4 million in renovations, is right next door, creating a convenient campus environment for the corporation’s oldest students and their parents.

The VCSC has, on average, about 2,700 students per school year and officials there have focused heavily on moving to a digital-based curriculum for all of them, slowly reducing the use of costly traditional textbooks. All students now have their own digital device where they can embrace and learn from the latest and most effective in online-based curriculum.

With the addition of curriculum coaches for the VCSC, each with an eye on assessment and remediation individual to each student, the corporation has seen its state test scores improve with each year, resulting in all buildings having either an A or B rating from the state Department of Education.

To make the most of their time with the VCSC, there are a whole host of extracurricular activities for students to get involved in and help them feel an integral part in the VCSC community.

Lincoln’s marching band, “Pride of the Green” has long been known as a top-notch performing band and often competes in the state finals, and the theater departments at both the middle and high school do two large Broadway-inspired productions each year.

Nicknamed the Alices for the heroine in the historic novel, “Alice of Old Vincennes,” the athletic department is one in which we all take pride. Lincoln boasts basketball championships in 1923 and 1981, and the baseball team was the Class 3A state champion in 2002. The school also has had success in cross country, football, golf, tennis, track and field, swimming, softball, volleyball and wrestling.

For more information, visit their website www.vcsc.k12.in.us.
Does your child love baseball?
Sign your slugger up at Cub League where over 500 kids participated in over 400 games in 2017.

The Cub League offers:
7 Leagues: ages 3 to 15 • Special Needs Teams
6 Baseball Fields • Concessions Stand
Press Box • Four Tunnel Indoor Practice Facility

Cub League has been the host of the Cal Ripken World Series and numerous local and regional tournaments.

Contact L. Kirk Bouchie for more info
1501 South 14th Street | Vincennes, Indiana
812-887-7681
www.vincensescubleague.com

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Customer Service Center
403 Busseron St.
Monday - Friday from 8AM to 5PM
812-882-7877
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in school?

Big Arts · Big Athletics · Big Academics · Big A · whyistheAbig.com

Arts

Athletics

Academics

whyistheAbig.com
The Vincennes Tourism Bureau is a one-stop shop for those looking to visit Indiana’s oldest city. From brochures and maps to a warm, small-town welcome, those at the VTB are willing and ready to act as a guide for visitors wanting to know more about the city, one steeped in history, nestled on the banks of the Wabash River.

The organization maintains a website, www.visitvincennes.org, with information on how visitors can connect with the people and history here. With lists of local restaurants, shops, art galleries, local attractions, an event calendar and even places to worship, the website is easy to navigate and has everything both visitors and residents need to connect to the community.

New residents can visit the VTB at 779 S. Sixth St. Road or call 812.886.0400.

**HOW TO SEE IT ALL**

*Our city is jam-packed with rich culture and a proud history.*

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The grand staircase leading to the second story rooms in the Grouseland mansion.
Grouseland was once home to our 9th U.S. President, William Henry Harrison.

The magnificent two-story brick mansion, located at 3 West Scott St., has been the pride of Vincennes since the early 1800s. Boasting lavish details and historic richness, the house is built in the Federal-style of architecture and has been the marvel of engineers as a unique example so far from the country’s east cost.

Harrison built the home for his growing family while governor of the Indiana Territory. It was completed in 1804 and reportedly dubbed “Grouseland” by Harrison, himself, due to the abundance of grouse in the area.

Harrison welcomed children, family, guests and several notable and distinguished political figures while living in the mansion, including Zachary Taylor and Aaron Burr. His exchanges with Tecumseh, a leader of the confederation of Native American tribes, many argue, led to the beginning of the War of 1812, took place just outside in what is now the newly-restored Walnut Grove.

The mansion, owned by the Daughters of the American Revolution and cared for by the Grouseland Foundation, gives tours daily.

812.882.2096
grouselandfoundation.com

WE WELCOME YOU to stop by the Visitors Bureau for local and area information. Whether you are planning your next group tour or meeting, let us assist with a customized itinerary that provides a unique glance into the past and the opportunity to savor the finest produce in the Midwest.

Contact the Vincennes/Knox County VTB for information.
779 South 6th Street, Vincennes, IN 47591
800.886.6443
www.VisitVincennes.org

This stately mansion allows visitors to unlock Indiana’s territorial past.
A SMALL START MAKING BIG HISTORY

Situated next to Grouseland, this row of historic buildings offers insight into early territory life.

Vincennes State Historic Sites, a local tourist attraction maintained by the Indiana State Museum, offers both visitors and locals alike a chance to step back in time and experience the Northwest Territory’s earliest days.

The site, visited by about **10,000 people each year**, sits adjacent to the campus of Vincennes University and consists of four fully restored historic properties, including:

1. **INDIANA TERRITORY CAPITOL**, built in 1805 as a tailor shop, the “Red House,” as it is more commonly known, is a small, two-story building that would eventually become a hub for early government business. From its very beginning, Indiana had a bicameral, or two-house, legislature. The 5-member Legislative Council, or Senate, used the upstairs room while the 9-member House of Representatives used the first level. The “Red House” was one of three buildings rented by the legislature from 1805 to 1813 and was the meeting place of the legislature in 1811 after the Battle of Tippecanoe.

2. **ELIHU STOUT’S PRINT SHOP** was home to Indiana’s first newspaper, now the Vincennes Sun-Commercial.
JEFFERSON ACADEMY, another of SHS’s properties, tells the story of early public education. Founded in 1801 by Gov. William Henry Harrison, it was the first school of higher learning in Indiana, and in 1806, it became Vincennes University. The school’s headmaster was the village priest, Father Jean Francois Rivet, after which Rivet High School was named.

LOCATED ACROSS KNOX COUNTY ARE EVEN MORE SHS PROPERTIES.

FORT KNOX II located near Ouabache Trails Park, was an important military outpost used by the U.S. Army from 1803 to 1813.

SUGAR LOAF MOUND, located behind the YMCA of Vincennes on Prospect Avenue, is a natural feature that the Woodland Indians used as a burial mound around 900 A.D.

THE OLD STATE BANK, located downtown on Second Street, helped transform Indiana from a fur-trade to an agricultural economy. On Feb. 13, 1834, the Indiana General Assembly chartered the Second State Bank of Indiana with headquarters in Indianapolis and 12 branches across the state, including Vincennes.

The bank, home to several community events per year, is built in a Greek Revival style of architecture and, inside, features six fluted columns, more than 30 feet tall, supporting a bell-shaped cupola and a hand-riveted steel vault.

THE OLD FRENCH HOUSE is also now in SHS’s possession at 509 N. First St., a prime example of French Creole architecture and one of only two remaining in Knox County.

SHS is open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Saturday at its Vincennes University location. Other sites are available for tours by appointment.

Tickets are $5 for adults, $4 for seniors and $2 for children. Children under 3 are free.
A GIANT SYMBOL OF LIBERTY

A celebration commemorating our victory over Britain.

The George Rogers Clark Memorial is Vincennes’ most recognized historic symbol and the emblem of Indiana’s oldest city.

Rising up majestically from the lush, green mall of the GRC National Historical Park, it is a place Vincennes residents go to marvel at the city’s rich history, take in a summer sunset along the banks of the Wabash River, enjoy an afternoon of reading under one of its many Linden trees or as a backdrop for many a family photo.

The memorial, commemorating the capture of Fort Sackville by George Rogers Clark during the American Revolutionary War is the nation’s largest Neoclassic architectural-type...
monument outside of Washington, D.C. Reaching 80 feet into the air and 90 feet across its middle, it is made of granite, marble and Indiana limestone.

Inside the rotunda are exquisite interior murals, each 28 feet tall done by prominent American muralist Ezra Winter more than 75 years ago.

Originally constructed during the Great Depression in 1933 it has, in recent years, undergone significant restoration. Millions have been invested by the National Park Service to ensure it is enjoyed by generations of Americans for years to come.

On average, the park attracts 120,000 people each year.

For more information, contact the park at 812.882.1776.
The Red Skelton Museum of American Comedy is working to continue the legacy of laughter established by Vincennes’ most beloved son, famed comedian and actor Red Skelton.

A labor of love for a small group of people dedicated to remembering Red, the museum, located on the campus of Vincennes University, opened to visitors in 2013.

The $4 million facility boasts 3,500 square feet of display space and features memorabilia from Red’s TV, movie and radio careers, as well as some of his own, personal paintings.

Exhibits also include some of his original costumes — including Clem Kadiddlehopper, Freddie the Freeloader and Sheriff Deadeye — and the makeup case he carried with him everywhere.

The museum also prides itself on its long list of interactive displays, ones that attract tour groups and school children from all over the region. Guests can try their hand at some of Red’s most famed disguises and makeup tricks using the latest in digital technology and, in the recording studio, even interject their own sound effects into one of Red’s radio shows.

Visitors also get the chance to perform right alongside Red with the help of a modern green screen and — if need be — get a few tips from the legend himself on how to effectively tell a good joke.

People can also see clips of some of Red’s most famous television and film work and read about his many philanthropic adventures.

Skelton, born here in 1913, spent more than 70 years in show business, working...
his way up from small Vincennes variety shows — he performed at the Pantheon Theatre on Main Street — to Vaudeville and, eventually, motion pictures, radio and television. His top-rated television show was on the air for 20 years and included several colorful characters, including Freddie the Freeloader.

Skelton grew up here in Vincennes in a small home located on Lyndale Avenue just across from the $20 million Red Skelton Performing Arts Center. Born just two months after his father died, the comedian and entertainer overcame poverty with hard work and determination to become one of the greatest entertainers of the 20th Century.

He died in 1997.

Since opening in 2005, the Red Skelton Performing Arts Center itself has attracted several big-names in music, including Amy Grant, Phillip Phillips and Crystal Gayle.

The center boasts state-of-the-art acoustics, a two-balcony theater that seats over 800 and a performing arts education center with offices and classrooms.

For more information, visit the museum’s website at redskeltonmuseum.org. To purchase tickets, call 812.888.4184.
The Indiana Military Museum, 715 S. Sixth Street, houses the largest collection of military memorabilia in the Midwest.

Founder and curator Judge Jim Osborne began collecting World War II memorabilia and military artifacts as a teenager, and now, decades later, that collection includes rare historic finds second only to Smithsonian treasures. From large equipment like World War II tanks and bombers to uniforms worn by Generals George Patton, Jr. and Dwight D. Eisenhower, visitors leave the museum in awe of Osborne’s dedication to preserving our nation’s military history.

The museum, which also boasts memorabilia from the Revolutionary War to present day, draws some 15,000 visitors annually from all over the country and the world. It's also now home to three annual reenactment weekend events that commemorate the two World Wars as well as the Civil War.

The museum is also in close proximity to major historical landmarks including the George Rogers Clark National Historical Park, Grouseland, and the Red Skelton Museum of American Comedy at Vincennes University.

The Indiana Military Museum is open seven days a week from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tickets are $5 each, veterans and seniors receive $1 discounts. WWII Veterans enjoy free admission.

For more information, visit the museum’s website at indianamilitarymuseum.org or call 812.882.1941.
The annual **Christmas Stroll** is held the weekend before Thanksgiving in downtown Vincennes. Festivities kick off Friday evening with the **Parade of Lights**, a beloved and spectacular holiday tradition. Stores then open up Saturday morning with holiday merchandise and refreshments for shoppers, and visitors can take a carriage ride through historic Vincennes.

The **Spirit of Vincennes Rendezvous** is Vincennes’ most beloved tradition, a Revolutionary War re-enactment held on the French Commons downtown every Memorial Day weekend. Attended by thousands each year, visitors come from all over to relive Vincennes’ history. From battle reenactments to vendors with period-correct wares and mouth-watering food all cooked over an open fire, history comes to life.

www.spiritofvincennes.org

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<th>CELEBRATE OUR HERITAGE</th>
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<td><em>The experience all the hottest festivals in Knox County!</em></td>
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Check out these and other great events at www.visitvincennes.org

The **First Friday Art Walks** offer a chance for local residents to enjoy special exhibits hosted by the three downtown art galleries, **Art Space Vincennes**, **The Open Gallery** and the **Northwest Territory Art Guild**. Each open their doors on the first Friday of every month for a new collection of artwork, refreshments and live music.
A new group, **Wabash Valley Progressives**, is aimed at infusing culture into Indiana’s oldest city, hosted the inaugural **Festival Latino** in 2017, an opportunity to celebrate the county’s vibrant migrant community. The event, held on the city’s new **Riverwalk**, was attended by thousands who enjoyed live salsa music, delicious Hispanic food and free dance lessons.

No one does the **Fourth of July** quite like Vincennes does. Thousands gathered on and around the **George Rogers Clark National Historical Park** to watch a fireworks display like no other sponsored each year by the local American Legion post. The event kicks off that evening with a parade and food vendors line **Patrick Henry Square**.

The **Watermelon Festival**, sponsored each year by the Knox County Chamber of Commerce and held on Patrick Henry Square, affords an opportunity for locals and visitors alike to celebrate Knox County’s agricultural community, specifically its vast production of watermelons. With vendors, food and live music, there is something for everyone at this family-friendly event. Oh, and there’s all the fresh sliced watermelon you can eat!

The **Red Skelton Festival** honors Vincennes’ native son, the comedian and film star, Red Skelton. Held around the **Red Skelton Museum of American Comedy**, 20 Red Skelton Blvd., the festival occurs on the third Saturday in July and includes games, a parade, food vendors, stage entertainment, a donut-eating contest, bathtub races and more.
Vincennes, for the residents who have called it home, is more than just a city.

Its people, its stories and its beloved traditions have a way of getting tangled up in the very fiber of who you are.

“There’s a lot to be said about knowing your community, knowing its people” said Tony Burkhart, a life-long Knox County resident and the owner of Burkhart Insurance Agency. “We try to give back, but we’ll never be able to give back even a fraction of what this community has given to us.”

Burkhart married his local sweetheart, Natalie Burkhart, after the two graduated from South Knox High School in 1984. They went on to earn degrees from Vincennes University and, together, they opened the Burkhart Insurance Agency, now located in a fully-restored brewing company at 16 N. First St.

Fast forward 30 years, and the couple enjoys a thriving business, four successful children — three of which have also made their home in Vincennes — and, most recently, grandchildren to spoil ridiculously.

But none of it, Burkhart said, would have been possible without the opportunities afforded by small-town life.

“We never had any doubts or questions about staying here,” Burkhart said. “We knew our kids’ friends, their teachers, their coaches. We enjoy generational relationships. I have clients that are friends of my grandpa. When we go to church, we sit in the pew next to my great aunt.”

“Could I make more money somewhere else? Maybe,” he said with a shrug of his shoulders. “But that’s not what life is about.”

Sonny Pinkstaff, too, was raised in Vincennes and now devotes his life to the people that live here.

After graduating from Lincoln High School in 1983, he joined the Vincennes Fire Department, following in his father’s footsteps, who was also a local police officer.
“I fell in love with it,” Pinkstaff said of serving the city he loved so much. “Serving people, helping people, I enjoy it. I really do.”

Pinkstaff had opportunities to leave Vincennes, he said, but its people and its history kept drawing him back. So he stayed, and he and his wife, Kori, have raised four children here.

“Vincennes has been very good to me,” Pinkstaff said. “It’s a safe place, a good place to raise a family. There are good schools, good people and great opportunities.

“The people that live here, they love it,” he said. They love who they are and what they do. And I think that’s a big reason as to why I have stayed so long.”

Georgiann Leonard, now 76, has spent her entire life here in Vincennes, first as an educator then as a small business owner.

After graduating from Lincoln High School in 1959, she attended Indiana State University in Terre Haute alongside her husband, Dick. After earning her degree in elementary education, she stayed a brief stint in Terre Haute before answering the call to come home.

“I don’t think I probably thought there was anyplace else to live other than Vincennes,” she said with a chuckle. “There was a comfort here. I knew people. I knew what went on, and both my husband and I had jobs waiting on us if we wanted them.”

So Georgiann and Dick returned to Vincennes and spent long careers as teachers, she with the Vincennes Community School Corp. and he with the North Knox School Corp. Together, they raised three children and even owned and operated a Ford dealership on U.S. 41 for a period of time.

Georgiann, too, opened a little home décor shop downtown, and in her spare time, she turned her eyes to philanthropy, serving on multiple non-profits boards and even starting her own organization, Think Pink. From golf tournaments to basketball games, she sought ways to raise money for Good Samaritan Hospital’s Breast Care Center, and in just a few years, she raised more than $800,000.

“Knox County is the kind of place where if you put forth an effort, you gain so much in return,” she said. “And it’s easy living here. The resources, the history, the people, it’s all unbelievable.

“I wouldn’t live anywhere else,” she said matter-of-factly. “I love Vincennes.”
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HEALTHY COMMUNITIES

Investing in the health of our city.

KEEP VINCENNES ROLLING

Keep Vincennes Rolling is a group aimed at making Indiana’s oldest city more bicycle friendly. The club of bicycle enthusiasts has done everything from lobbying to local legislators for more bicycle-friendly streets to even securing bike lanes on some of the county’s newest thoroughfares.

Its members have also entered the local schools to teach youngsters about bicycle safety, distributed free helmets and even sponsored “Bike to School” and “Bike to Work” days — as well as a long ride fundraiser in the summer — to encourage everyone to leave the cars at home and embrace healthy living lifestyles.

The group’s ultimate goal is to see a miles-long loop established throughout Knox County where bikers can safely practice the pastime they so enjoy. For more information, find them on Facebook by searching “Keep Vincennes Rolling.”
FITNESS FACILITIES & YOGA

The YMCA of Vincennes, 2010 College Ave., boasts weight and cardio rooms as well as two pools, basketball courts, pickleball courts and a variety of exercise classes.

Anytime Fitness, 1813 Willow St., open 24 hours a day, is great for those whose schedules don’t conform to traditional business hours, and even Vincennes University offers seasonal classes in some of the latest fitness trends.

Vincennes also welcomed its first Planet Fitness, also a 24-hour fitness facility, in November of 2017, offering low monthly rates and convenience for local residents.

Local studios Elements, 4 N. Second St., and First City Movement, 29 N. First St., offer a variety of yoga and exercise classes.

In the warm months, free outdoor yoga is offered at 9 a.m. on Saturdays at the Farmers Market of Historic Vincennes, located adjacent to the Old State Bank at 112 N. Second St.
TRY KNOX COUNTY

Vincennes’ Parks and Recreation Department each summer hosts TRY Knox County, a triathlon and duathlon. Started years ago as an event only for women, the TRY was eventually opened up to men as well, creating an event that now draws hundreds each year to Gregg Park and the new Rainbow Beach Aquatic Center.

The triathlon includes a 200-meter swim, followed by a 10-mile bike ride and 3.1-mile run, while the duathlon option includes a 3.1-mile run, 10-mile bike ride, and another 3.1-mile run. Organized each year by a crew of dedicated volunteers and fitness fanatics, the TRY offers people of all fitness levels a chance to not only conquer one of the fitness world’s most challenging obstacles but also to give back to a local not-for-profit organization.

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GOOD SAMARITAN

For more than 100 years, Good Samaritan has been a health care leader in southwestern Indiana and southeastern Illinois. Located in historic Vincennes, Good Samaritan Hospital is now a 175-bed community health care facility with over 1,900 employees committed to delivering exceptional patient care. Its Good Samaritan Physician Network is comprised of 30 physician specialty services offering our community specialized care from family practice to thoracic surgery.

Good Samaritan offers a broad range of medical services, as well as some of the most progressive technology available. Recently, the new Gibault Memorial Tower opened to provide patients, their families and the entire community the highest quality of care possible. The tower has five floors, each with a specific focus: cardiology and clinical decision, intensive care, oncology and medical surgery, joint replacement, and women’s health and pediatrics.

In addition, the hospital’s state-of-the-art Same Day Surgery Center is equipped with surgical suites designed with input from the hospital’s physicians. Its Cancer Pavilion is a 25,000-square-foot, comprehensive oncology care center that features one of the most advanced methods for delivering radiation therapy.
The Farmers Market of Historic Vincennes opens underneath the Riverfront Pavilion at the corner of Second and Busseron streets on Memorial Day weekend each year. The bustling market fills with the bright colors of fresh, seasonal produce, delicious baked goods and a variety of homemade wares, everything from wood creations to etched glass and quilts. Free yoga, guitar lessons, live music and free coffee are also huge draws for loyal market-goers each season.
**RAINBOW BEACH**

The Rainbow Beach Aquatic Center first opened to swimmers in the summer of 2014 after local voters overwhelmingly approved construction of the $3.8 million facility during a referendum the year before. Tucked away in Gregg Park, the city’s most popular and most visited park, the new pool features a splash pad, a zero-depth entry area with play apparatus for smaller children, a diving well, a rock-climbing wall, a lily pad walk, competitive swim lanes and two large slides. The new facility, open daily from noon to 7 p.m. in the summer months, draws thousands each season from Vincennes and the surrounding communities. The cost is $2.50 for ages 4-17 and $3.50 for adults, but season passes are available. There is also time set aside in the morning for lap swimmers and those with very small children.

**PARKS & WALKING TRAILS**

Knox County offers many opportunities for those who like to get out and walk. The loop around Gregg Park, located at the intersection of Washington Avenue and Niblack Boulevard, offers local residents a chance to enjoy one of Vincennes’ most popular and often bustling parks while Ouabache Trails Park, 3500 N. Lower Fort Knox Road, has miles of walking trails covered with lush tree canopies and steep ravines.

And if riverside is what you prefer, the city’s new Riverwalk offers picturesque views of the Wabash River while a new walking path recently built to connect the George Rogers Clark National Historical Park to the newly-renovated Kimmell Park to the north offers a serene, riverside mile-long trek right on the water.
ABOUT OUR CITY

Zip Code 47591
Population 18,000
Area Codes 812 & 930
Mayor Joe Yochum

VINCENNES: THE CITY OF FIRSTS

1. Indiana’s First City
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2. First Catholic Church
3. First County: Knox County
4. First Newspaper: The Western Sun
5. First Presbyterian Church
6. First Masonic Lodge
7. First Financial Institution
8. First Hospital
9. Indiana’s First Sheriff’s Department
Many choices await those choosing to make Knox County their home.

From big to small, pricey to practical, the choices abound.

For those who want a bit of Knox County to call their very own, there is much land on which to build, an opportunity for vast homesteads on which to grow.

For those who want to live outside the hustle and bustle of the city and yet enjoy the camaraderie of a small town, one of the county’s outlying communities is a perfect option.

Towns like Verne and Monroe City located to the south and the charming communities like Freelandville, Sandborn and Oaktown to the north offer people a chance to enjoy a bit of country life but with neighbors close at hand.

All of them are just a short drive into Vincennes and can offer homes upwards of 25 percent less than similar ones located in the city.

Bicknell, a city of about 3,000, also offers a small-town feel but with far more amenities, located about 20 minutes to the north of Vincennes.

For those who want to spend a bit more on a home with larger square footage, Vincennes is home to multiple, quaint living communities, neighborhoods with homes that range in price from $300,000 to $600,000 apiece and more.

Lakewood, Fox Ridge, Green Farms, Deer Creek and Forrest Hills are some of the area’s nicest subdivisions and include some of the best examples of high-end architecture in the Midwest.

Less expensive mid-range homes can be found in subdivisions like Warren Estates, Harrison Estates, Memering Yates and even charming streets and smaller neighborhoods off Old Wheatland and Old Bruceville Roads, most located just to the north of Vincennes proper.
Then there is old town or downtown Vincennes, which comes with a wide variety of conveniently priced homes, abundant square footage, lofts with stunning details and the historic charm of Indiana’s oldest city.

**Old Town Vincennes** appeals to many buyers and puts them in close proximity to many of downtown’s popular amenities, historic attractions, locally-sourced eateries, Main Street shopping, the Riverwalk and the Farmers Market of Historic Vincennes.

For more information, contact one of Knox County’s many Realtors.
COMMERCIAL REAL ESTATE

Vincennes, over the last few years, has experienced something of an economic boom.

From small downtown boutiques to franchises and industry expansion, Indiana’s oldest city is growing.

Sixth Street and Hart Street are two of the city’s main business thoroughfares, and each offers an abundance of opportunity.

Most recently, a $2 million connector road between Kimmell Road and Main Street — at the site of an old Kmart property — was constructed and features the city’s first roundabout. A local development team is looking to build multiple units of retail, commercial and even restaurant space.

Nearby, acres of potential commercial space are available on both Ford Road and Bierhaus Boulevard next to Kohl’s, a Vincennes staple since 2008. Most recently, Vincennes enjoyed the addition of a Hampton Inn as well as Yochum Auto Chrysler Dealership there.

On Sixth Street, commercial space is often available in bustling complexes like the Vincennes Plaza and the Knox Plaza, ones that already house retail giants like JC Penney, Big Lots, Gliks and restaurants including Buffalo Wild Wings.

Recently opened is a new Planet Fitness and a Japanese restaurant, and coming soon is an escape room, a family-fun pastime growing in popularity across the country.

For those who want a more small-town feel, there is always space on historic downtown Main Street, just feet from the city’s new Riverwalk on the banks of the Wabash River. Already, charming boutiques, gift shops and restaurants are plentiful, but a handful of empty buildings await the eager entrepreneur.
Most recently, downtown Vincennes welcomed two new ladies’ boutiques, Attic Salt and the Wild Rose Boutique. They join already thriving, established businesses like Pearl and Chrome Home Decor, Farm and Sport, a sports memorabilia shop, and Mingles, another ladies clothing boutique, to name a few.

Family-owned restaurants like Old Thyme Diner, Pea-Fections and The Cafe Moonlight are ready and waiting to help refuel eager shoppers with their local cuisine.

Willow Street on the city’s south side is also primed and ready for continued development. Many hope a newly-expanded Marriott Towneplace Suites hotel, nearby Gilbert’s Restaurant and a new Dollar General store will be the catalyst for even more.
Kyle and Jill Doggett, who were honored together as a couple, are originally from Lafayette but moved to Vincennes 12 years ago.

After receiving her law degree from the Indiana University Mauer School of Law in Bloomington, Jill took a job with the local law firm, HartBell LLC. She was made a partner in 2011 and now practices in both Indiana and Illinois. Jill, also a registered domestic relations mediator, specializes in family law, primarily doing marriage dissolutions, adoptions, guardianships and post-dissolution proceedings. Jill also is involved in the local Rotary Club and the Knox County Bar Association. She volunteers at Franklin Elementary School and is active in her church, St. Johns’ United Church of Christ, currently serving as its board’s vice president.

Kyle, earned a bachelor of art degree from Columbia College in Chicago and a master’s degree in education from Oakland City University. Currently, he is a third-grade teacher at Franklin Elementary School. Kyle, who has received numerous local accolades for his work with local students, previously taught first grade and fourth grade, and he coached high school soccer at South Knox High School. He, too, is an active member of St. John’s United Church of Christ and is a past board member.

Together, Kyle and Jill have two young sons, Lucas and Calvin.
2 LEAH RICHTER

Born and raised in Vincennes, Leah Richter has made commitment to improving downtown through her love of its historic buildings. After earning degrees from both Vincennes University and Southern Illinois University, Richter went to work remodeling houses alongside her parents, eventually stepping out on her own to open her own business, Pearl and Chrome Home Interiors, a decor and interior decorating shop at 309 Main St. She and her husband, Clint, have since ventured farther into the real estate and construction trades, acquiring several properties along Main Street over the years and giving each of them the TLC they need to live and thrive once again. Together, she and Clint are also raising two young twin boys.

3 LIZ ROMANI

After starting as a clerk just ten years ago, Liz Romani is now the manager of Valley Party Supply, 310 S. Fourth St. Under her leadership, Valley has grown tremendously and has now positioned itself as the area’s largest balloon and party store. Liz continues to devote herself to balloon decor by attending conferences to bring cutting edge decor to southwestern Indiana.

Liz is also involved in the local Rotary Club and has been instrumental in fundraising efforts for the Knox County Shriner’s Club. She is also active in Knox County Relay For Life, the Salvation Army and United Way of Knox County.

Originally from Los Angeles, California, Liz now makes her home in Vincennes with her husband, Jason, and their two young sons.
Debbie Dunn is a graduate of Rivet Middle High School. After graduating from Vincennes University, she channeled her love of natural healing and alternative health techniques into a job at GNC. She then purchased the store from her family in 2008. Debbie is also a Certified Natural Health Practitioner, a Level 1 cross fit trainer and an E-RYT 200-certified yoga teacher. In 2015, she and her husband, Nash Dunn, opened First City Movement at 29 N. First St, now a nationally accredited yoga teacher training school. She and Nash lead free yoga every summer at the Farmers Market of Vincennes, and they also help to organize the annual Good Samaritan Hospital Pumpkin Pride run and obstacle course. Debbie and Nash live in Vincennes and welcomed their first child, a son, in November of 2017.

Elizabeth Miller, a Knox County native, is the owner of Elizabeth A. Miller Endodontics. She graduated from Purdue University with a degree in biology then went on to earn advanced degrees at Indiana University. She opened her business here in 2008. She’s a member of the St. John’s United Church of Christ, is on the United Way of Knox County’s board of directors and is a mentor with the Knox County CEO Program, an initiative to help foster the entrepreneurial spirits of high school students. She lives in Vincennes with her husband, Stephen Holka, and their five young sons, Miles, Henry, William, Thomas and Eli.
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MUST TRY LOCAL EATS

You haven't lived until you've tried these native Vincennes eateries.

PROCOPIO’S PIZZA & PASTA

Procopio’s Pizza & Pasta serves up local authentic Italian cuisine at 127 N 2nd St. Located in a renovated historic building in the heart of downtown, Procopio’s features Sicilian pasta dishes, appetizers, salads, and pizza.

OLD THYME DINER

A classic greasy spoon with made-from-scratch food. From biscuits and gravy to juicy ribeye steaks, this diner at 331 Main St. is a local favorite.

CHARLIE’S CARAMEL CORN & CANDY

Family-owned Charlie’s Caramel Corn and Candy is a sweet tradition in Vincennes. Open for more than 60 years at 427 N 2nd St., they still use original recipes to make delicious homemade chocolates and decadent caramel corn.
GILBERT’S

The casual but elegant dining atmosphere of Gilbert’s Restaurant and Pub, 1350 Willow St., has become a local favorite. From premium-cut steaks to creative pasta dishes and even a large selection of custom-made salads and seafood, a variety of menu options appeals to everyone’s tastebuds. The bar, too, offers a stylish and sophisticated place to have a drink and visit with friends.
FOOD

**PEA-FECTIONS**

Pea-fects, a downtown eatery at 323 Main St., boasts a delectable menu full of fresh, homemade salads and unique sandwiches as well as a rotating menu of seasonal soups. And if you're still not full, Pea-fects has a variety of mouth-watering tortes and cheesecakes to satisfy any sweet tooth.

**BILL BOBE’S PIZZERIA**

Bill Bobe’s Pizzeria at 1651 N. Sixth St., is a beloved tradition amongst those who call Vincennes home. Serving up pies since 1954, Bill Bobe’s uses family recipes and fresh, high-quality ingredients. Their menu features everything from pizza to salads and sandwiches as well as the delicious, homemade breadsticks that keeps everyone coming back for more.

**MONTANA MIKE’S**

Montana Mike’s offers quality steak cuts complemented by delicious choices of chicken, ribs, seafood, and handcrafted pastas, as well as burgers, tasty appetizers and signature cocktails. Generous portions are moderately priced while its casual ambiance is the perfect place to share good times, lively conversation with great friends. Montana Mike’s is located at 1626 Willow St.
**9 POP AROUND THE CLOCK**

Pop Around The Clock, at 1731 Hart St., is a small gourmet popcorn shop owned by locals Chris and Amy Bruggeman. They make over 50 different flavors of fresh candy-coated and savory-flavored popcorn as well as popcorn treats. All of their products are made fresh in their shop using high quality wholesome ingredients and premium gourmet popcorn grown right here in southwestern Indiana.

**10 VINCENNES BREWING CO.**

The Vincennes Brewing Company, the city’s first in more than 80 years, opened to eager and thirsty patrons in the summer of 2017. The brewery features a fresh and seasonal small plates menu as well as a variety of ever-changing state and regional craft beers on tap. Owners also plan to brew, in house, as many as 300 barrels — everything from IPAs to porters and even stouts and pale ales — of beer each year. The brewery is located at 124 Main St.
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Agriculture is big business in Knox County.

Amid its rolling green hills are lush fields full of everything from traditional row crops, staples like corn, soybeans and winter wheat, to a growing number of acres dedicated to fresh produce, everything from juicy red watermelons to bell peppers.

The oldest industry in the county, agriculture plays a vital and much-needed role in the local economy each year. More than 70 percent of the state’s watermelon crop is produced right here, and over the last few years, Knox County, has seen nearly 300,000 harvested acres, which places it first in the state’s total production.

And while traditional row crops, watermelons and cantaloupe do make up the majority of what is grown here in Knox County, more and more fresh produce is grown here each year as our diverse soil allows for a wide variety of produce to flourish. The farming landscape has changed to include pumpkins, potatoes, tomatoes, bell peppers, squash, strawberries and many other vegetables and fruits to satisfy a growing number of people choosing to eat locally and healthier.
INDUSTRY

GROWTH & PROSPERITY

Investing in the wealth of our city.

The primary mission of the Knox County Development Corporation for the last 35 years has been to attract business and industry, and with more than 100 shovel-ready acres in the U.S. 41 Industrial Park, the organization has positioned the county well for future job growth.

The newest tenant to the U.S. 41 Industrial Park is an $84 million Farbest Foods Inc. turkey processing plant, which opened in 2014, bringing with it more than 400 jobs and an annual payroll of more than $9.6 million.

Farbest joined the already established Futaba Indiana of America plant there — a Tier 1 supplier to Toyota Motor Manufacturing of Indiana in Gibson County — which supplies Knox County with an additional 800 jobs and an annual payroll of nearly $29 million.

The ever-expanding industrial park supplies just over 9.1 percent of the county's total workforce and acts as one of its most attractive incentives. With room to grow, the KCDC, in partnership with the city and its utilities, is continuing to market Indiana's oldest city as a comfortable and nurturing environment for both new and established businesses.

But industrial opportunities exist far beyond the park's boundaries.

Sunrise Coal in Oaktown employs more than 640 local workers and has an annual payroll of more than $48 million. Another of Knox County's major employers is SCHOTT Gemtron, a glass manufacturer, which boasts 275 jobs and more than $23 million each year in salaries and benefits to its workers.

Other major employers include Pioneer Oil Company, Duke Energy, Lewis Brothers Bakery, Excell USA and Wabash Steel which, combined, employ nearly 700 workers.

Lori Cardinal
Broker/Owner

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Guide to Knox County 55
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VINCENNES UNIVERSITY is Indiana’s first college, founded on the principle that quality education must be affordable and accessible. Situated on the banks of the Wabash River, the 200 acre-campus offers more than 200 academic programs.

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VU invites the community to attend many of the activities and events on campus. Musical and theatrical productions paired with varsity athletics provide an exciting collegiate atmosphere. The campus also hosts a wide selection of camps, training seminars, conferences, and live performances.

VU’s renovated Kimmell Park creates a visitor-friendly facility that welcomes the community and visitors to enjoy outdoor relaxation along the riverfront.