

***Don't miss this year's Lincoln's Festival
on Route 66!
July 20 – 22, 2018
Bloomington-Normal, Illinois***

Help us celebrate ten years of sharing our local ties to Abraham Lincoln – along with Lincoln's connections to Shakespeare and our communities' links to historic Route 66! Three days of programs, July 20-22, 2018, bring to life some of the exciting events and people that have made history in Illinois over the past 200 years.

Introducing the Festival on Friday will be films about Lincoln shown at the Bloomington Public Library and living history performances from 5 to 8 p.m. around the downtown square, dramatizing fascinating new stories about Lincoln's post-war legacy in our community. Music lovers can enjoy an outdoor concert in the evening at the Bloomington Center for the Performing Arts, featuring songs from the 1950s through the 60s.

Families are invited to experience McLean County's trails, rails and roads, with a car show on Saturday at Franklin Park sponsored by the Bloomington-Normal Jaycees, along with presentations at the Bloomington Public Library and the Museum of History about the "Mother Road" and Mr. Lincoln.

Franklin Park will also be the setting for a nineteenth-century-style “Saturday in the Park,” with children’s old-fashioned games, a band concert playing Lincoln-era tunes, picnic-style foods, face painting, and kids’ carnival activities. There will also be lots of special programs for children at the Bloomington Public Library and the Museum of History—marble games, Lincoln-related crafts, and a pedal-car exhibit that kids will love. On Saturday evening, audiences can thrill to a different beat when the Bloomington Center for the Performing Arts hosts a second outdoor concert, featuring music with a Cajun vibe.

We are also celebrating the tenth anniversary of the Abraham Lincoln National Heritage Area, and Mr. Lincoln will be on hand all weekend to tell a tale or two about traveling the Illinois Eighth Judicial Circuit with his Bloomington friends. During that journey, he often carried in his pocket a well-thumbed copy of Shakespeare’s *Macbeth*, and we will pay tribute to Lincoln’s love of the Bard by partnering with the Illinois Shakespeare Festival, which is hosting a series of Lincoln-themed lectures and performances at Ewing Manor. The keynote presentation—“Lincoln and Shakespeare” by noted author Michael Anderegg—will be showcased at the Manor on Saturday, July 21.

Another highlight of the weekend’s Lincoln-era events will be a Civil War encampment on the lawn of IWU’s Ames Library both Saturday and Sunday, and

"Wheels Through Time: A Historic Bike Show" on Saturday at the David Davis Mansion—celebrating two centuries of traveling on two wheels (or sometime three!) and showcasing old bikes, new bikes, serious cyclists and those who ride simply for pleasure! Rounding out the fun will be a visit to Illinois State University's Milner Library (open Saturday and Sunday), where visitors can see an exhibit of rare Lincoln artifacts.

Lincoln's Festival on Route 66 is part of our communities' observance of the Illinois Bicentennial in 2018. Local stories of Lincoln and Route 66, the building of the Illinois Central Railroad, the literary impact of Shakespeare on Lincoln, and the creative, inventive, entrepreneurial individuals who lived in McLean County are all chapters in our state's 200-year history. Join us on the journey!

Most events are free. For more details, find us on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/Lincolns-Festival-In-Bloomington-131612763538632/?r>.