



The Torch

The official newsletter for Indiana state employees

State Fair is packed with free concerts, fun shows

There's never been a better time to enjoy the Indiana State Fair – Hoosiers' annual end-of-summer celebration. This year's 156th edition, Aug. 3-19, has an incredible amount of free concerts, Hoosier Lottery Grandstand events and free family shows to go along with all the livestock exhibits and delicious foods.

It's the "Year of Dairy Cows" presented by the American Dairy Association and there will be many dairy-related activities and exhibits. Cowtown USA in the Family Fun Park will give visitors the chance to hand-milk a real cow, participate in the pasteurization process and help make tasty dairy products to sample afterward. The Dairy Bar on Main Street has added a new "Moo-Chew" meal consisting of a sourdough grilled cheese sandwich loaded with American and pepper jack cheese along with a refreshing lemon chiller milkshake – yum! Also, the Mac Reynolds Barn will house exhibits featuring fun facts about dairy cows, cow-themed games and photo opportunities.

The State Fair headline concert series has a great line-up that includes Barry Manilow (Aug. 3), Train (Aug. 4), Journey (Aug. 8) and Blake Shelton (Aug. 17). These shows will be at Bankers Life Fieldhouse, only about 10 minutes away from the fairgrounds. The Free Stage features a variety of exciting concerts, including REO Speedwagon (Aug. 6) and



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MC Hammer (Aug. 13). Celebrity hypnotist Catherine Hickland puts audience members into a trance Aug. 15-17, and Food Network star Bobby Deen whip ups delicious dishes on Aug. 10.

The Hoosier Lottery Grandstand is packed with events every day of the fair. The best high school marching bands in the state perform during Marsh Band Day Aug. 3, with preliminaries beginning at 9 a.m. and finals at 8 p.m. For race fans, the Lucas Oil Indy Mile AMA Grand National motorcycle race begins at 3 p.m. Aug. 18. Other great events at the Grandstand include the International Circus Hall of Fame (Aug. 6-7), Timberworks Lumberjack Show (Aug. 8-9), Xtreme Action Sports Show presented by Voice (Aug. 10) and the Great American Wild West Show (Aug. 12-13).

If all that great entertainment doesn't get you "MOO-ving" to the fair, maybe this will. The new DuPont

Food Pavilion at the end of Main Street is packed with native Indiana foods, cooking demonstrations and a marketplace for folks who want to take their favorite Indiana foods home. Fairgoers can learn how to make healthy food choices and find out how to help feed the hungry. Indiana commodity groups and food manufacturers offer samples throughout the entire run of the fair in this 16,000 square foot exhibit funded in part through the LDI 100th Anniversary Celebration Cultural Partnership Gift Program.

Maybe the best news about this year's Great Indiana State Fair is that visitors still have a variety of opportunities to

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State Fair is packed

save some “MOO-lah” while enjoying all there is to see and do. The new Multi-day Admission Pass is just \$18 and is good for one person to attend up to three different days – that’s a \$12 savings off gate admission! The pass is available at Walmart, CVS, Indiana Farm Bureau offices, the Marten House Hotel and the State Fair ticket office. Midway vouchers are also available for just \$18 at any Indiana Walmart through Aug. 19 (vouchers good on select days only). The Turkey Hill Dairy \$2 Tuesdays and \$2 Taste of the Fair return on Aug. 7 and 14, where fair admission is only \$2 and concessionaires all over the fairgrounds offer \$2 servings all day long. Find details on these deals and many more at www.indianastatefair.com.

Celebrate summertime fun and the Hoosier Spirit this year with Indiana’s oldest and largest event – the Indiana State Fair. It’s sure to be “MOO-velous!



Artwork by
Jerry Williams

State Fair

Special ticket pricing and discounts

Multi-Day Admission Pass:

For the first time ever, the Indiana State Fair is offering a multi-day admission pass for people who love the fair too much to come just one time. The pass is good for one admission for up to three different days throughout the fair’s run, **Aug. 3 – 19**. The pass costs \$18 (a \$12 savings!) and is available at all Indiana Walmarts.

Free Admission tickets in The Indianapolis Star:

Monday, **Aug. 6**, The Indianapolis Star prints a ticket good for free admission to the fair on the following Wednesday and Thursday, **Aug. 8 and 9**.

Turkey Hill Dairy \$2 Tuesdays:

On Tuesday **Aug. 7 and 14**, visitors are admitted for just \$2 with a voucher printed from www.turkeyhill.com/indianastatefair compliments of Turkey Hill Dairy.

\$2 Taste of the State Fair Tuesday:

Also on **Aug. 7 and 14**, concessionaires all over the fairgrounds will have \$2 samples available all day. Midway rides also be \$2/ride all day long!

Free Admission for State employees:

All state employees are admitted to the fair for free on Thursday, **Aug. 9**, with the presentation of an employee ID card.

Free Lottery Ticket:

On Saturday **Aug. 11**, all guests at least 18 years old can redeem their fair admission ticket stub for a free lottery ticket from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. at Lotto Town at the Hoosier Lottery Grandstand.

IPL CARLOAD Day:

Large families and groups of friends traveling to the fair together will want to take advantage of this great offer on Monday, **Aug. 13**. Admission is only \$15 per vehicle for up to 10 people with voucher printed from www.iplpower.com.

Tractor Shuttle ride discounts for seniors:

All seniors, age 55 and older, can ride the tractor shuttles around the Fairgrounds for just \$3/day when they purchase a special wristband at the State Fair Information Booths located in Pioneer Village and on State Fair Blvd. On Golden Hoosiers’ Day, **Aug. 14**, seniors can ride the tractor shuttles for free!

BMV Day

Fairgoers can save \$5 off of the \$10 gate admission on **Aug. 15** by redeeming the voucher available online at www.mybmv.com.

AAA Day

Hoosier AAA members receive free admission on **Aug. 16** when they show their membership card at the gate. One valid AAA card per person.

Free Admission for Military personnel:

The State Fair is honoring our current and former members of the Armed Forces by offering free admission for them and family members on Thursday, **Aug. 16**, with presentation of a military ID.

\$2 Discount with Pepsi Product can:

All visitors who bring any Pepsi brand can on the fair’s final day, Sunday, **Aug. 19**, will receive \$2 off the gate admission.

Log onto www.indianastatefair.com for more information.

Bone marrow donations are needed to save lives

During the blood drive on July 18, volunteers from *Be The Match* Registry came to register possible bone marrow donors. A record number of donors turned out for the event. More than 75 donors registered for bone marrow donation and 186 units of blood donations were collected.

According to *Be The Match*, an organization that helps match marrow donors to recipients, and encourage others to volunteer, more than 10,000 U.S. patients every year are diagnosed with life-threatening diseases such as leukemia or lymphoma. When you help grow the registry, your efforts can help save the life of any patient in need of a bone marrow transplant.

Indiana Public Retirement System (INPRS) employee Joyce Genneken shares her son's story and the importance of bone marrow donation:

["Tyler Genneken"](#) was like any 11 year old boy. He loved

being outside, playing with his friends and his dogs, and saw each day as the blessing it truly is, until he was diagnosed with Leukemia. Leukemia is a blood cancer that strikes an estimated 4,000 children under the age of 14 and more than 40,000 adults annually. Leukemia is considered a curable disease, yet within five years, 50% of those diagnosed succumb to the disease or complications resulting from treatment.

Tyler was winning his battle with cancer for nearly three years; but then due a relapse, it was necessary for

him to have a stem cell/bone marrow transplant to survive. Unfortunately, a match could not be found and at age 14 Tyler joined the approximately 2,000 children who pass away from leukemia annually in the US.



Before Tyler's journey ended, he made it clear that no child or parent should have to face the harsh reality he did when a cure is available. Due to the small number of people on the National Marrow Donor Registry, a match could not be found, and as a result, he did not survive."

Joining the National Marrow Donor Registry (Be The Match) is simple and



takes only a few minutes. Giving your marrow or stems is painless, and takes only a few hours of your time. By doing so, you may give a cancer patient – a

child, a mother, another chance at life. Join Be The Match today – children just like Tyler is waiting on you to be their hero.

Joining the registry is easy. If you are between the ages of 18 and 60, meet the [health guidelines](#) and are willing to donate to any patient in need, you are welcome to join the registry.

When you come to a donor registry drive, volunteers will explain what it means to join the registry, help you [understand your commitment](#), answer your questions and help you through the process.

Be The Match Registry has grown to more than 10 million donors and nearly 165,000 umbilical cord blood units, the largest and most racially and ethnically diverse registry of its kind in the world. You can make the difference.

For more information about bone marrow donation visit:

- [The Bone Marrow Donation Process](#)
- [FAQs about Joining the Registry](#) or call 1 (800) MARROW-2 (1-800-627-7692).

Volunteers Needed for Hoosier Outdoor Experience

Volunteer to help with Indiana's largest, hands-on outdoor recreation event, the Hoosier Outdoor Experience, Sept. 15-16. At Fort Harrison State Park in Indianapolis, the free Indiana DNR event features more than 50 activities, including fishing, mock digging, mountain biking. 120 grassroots partners provide the public opportunities to learn about the outdoors.

Each day the event is open at 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Volunteers and staff are on site at 8 a.m. for setup and an hour after gates close for tear-down. Sign up now to volunteer at <http://2012experiencevolunteers.eventbrite.com>.

Questions? Contact volunteer coordinator Cheryl Hampton, (317) 233-1002, champton@dnr.in.gov or Leah Kopp, (317) 234-1064, lkopp@dnr.in.gov. More at www.hoosieroutdoorexperience.IN.gov.

National Farmers Market Week Aug 5-11

This year, August 5 to 11 is National Farmers Market week. Thousands of farmers markets across the America offer consumers affordable, convenient and healthful products sold directly from the farm in their freshest possible state. This increases consumer access to fresh fruits and vegetables, promoting family health and potentially reducing childhood obesity. Farmers markets also play a key role in developing local and regional food systems that support the sustainability of family farms, revitalize communities and provide opportunities for farmers and consumers to interact. The growth in number of markets might be “remarkable,” but farmers markets still account for only a tiny percentage of the food that is purchased in the US--less than 1%, according to USDA.



In 2011, USDA unveiled the 2011 [National Farmers Market Directory](#), which shows that the number of markets in America rose from 6,132 in 2010 to 7,175. Indiana is ranked 5th with farmers market numbers growth, jumping up 37% to 171 total markets. California has the most markets with 729.

“Our country has been losing more than an acre of farmland every minute, and that irreplaceable land is disappearing most rapidly in areas where our fruits and vegetables are grown,” said American Farmland Trust President Jon Scholl. “Farmers markets help curb this problem by strengthening family farms.”

Despite the drought, many farmers markets are doing better than expected. The Terre Haute Farmers Market

organizers say the heat took a toll on all crops this summer, but the market still had an outstanding turn out.

“A lot of the growers will tell you that they’ve lost a lot of their planting simply because it didn’t germinate because there wasn’t enough moisture in the ground. On the other hand, many of these vendors are watering their crops and so we really do have the full range of produce,” said Chris Gambill with the Terre Haute Farmers Market.

Lafayette market manager Kim Murray said about five vendors at her market have pulled out altogether. The market will continue and Murray said guests should

make a point to come early.

“Each vendor is experiencing something a little bit different,” Murray said. “If you have your mind set on something, it’s best to come down first thing in the morning to get the product you want.”

The [Statehouse market](#), in downtown Indianapolis, opened on July 12, and has seen a success, despite the drought. The market has eight vendors who bring a variety of products including from vegetables, fruits, cheese, honey and meat.

“We are struggling a bit because of the drought; but we have received some rain so my later crops should come through,” said Dave Sturgill of VanAntwerp Farms.

Click [here](#) to hear more from Statehouse market vendors and the drought. To find a local market near you, click [here](#).

2013 State Holidays

The following is a list of 2013 state holidays and the dates on which they will be observed:

New Year’s Day: Tues. January 1

Martin Luther King, Jr. Day: Mon. January 21

Good Friday: Fri. March 29

Memorial Day: Mon. May 27

Independence Day: Thurs. July 4

Labor Day: Mon. September 2

Columbus Day: Mon. October 14

Veteran’s Day: Mon. November 11

Thanksgiving Day: Thurs. November 28

Lincoln’s Birthday: Fri. November 29

Washington’s Birthday: Tues. December 24

Christmas Day: Wed. December 25

Click [here](#) for more information.

- [Download 2013 schedule as PDF](#)



Quake Cottage shakes up Government Center

The Indiana Geological Survey has purchased an earthquake simulator, called the Quake Cottage, which can produce the shaking equivalent of a 5.5 to 8.0 seismic event. The completely portable simulator is 22 feet long, 8 feet wide and 14 feet high and is mounted on a dual-axle trailer.

It is equipped with earthquake grade tools to keep furniture in place during the event of an earthquake and to alert if abnormal movements are sensed.

A two-year grant funded by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) through the Indiana Department of Homeland Security made the simulator possible.

On Monday June 11, around 100 state employees experienced the Quake Cottage on the Indiana government center campus.

“The simulator provides Hoosiers with

an opportunity to experience shaking similar to that of a moderate to strong earthquake,” said Walt Gray, education outreach coordinator for the Indiana Geological Survey. “It also shows how inexpensive preparedness efforts can protect lives and property.”



Assistant Fire Marshal Jim Bennett (near) and Chief Fire Investigator Bob Dean experience the earthquake simulator.

The Indiana cottage is one of only three earthquake simulators in the United States. The simulator encourages public officials and individuals to be better prepared for earthquakes and educate on what can be done to lessen the dangerous effects.

More information about the simulator is available at <http://igs.indiana.edu/EarthquakeExperience/>.



Walt Gray and Polly Geraldine from the Indiana Geological Survey answer questions about Indiana’s earthquake risk.



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Free state line-up

Aug. 3	"King Michael" Michael Jackson Tribute Show
Aug. 4	Allstar Weekend
Aug. 5	Hispanic Music Day
Aug. 6	REO Speedwagon
Aug. 7	Young Guns of Country with Gregg Bates & Tyler Farr pres. by HANK FM
Aug. 8	Easton Corbin
Aug. 9	The Spinners
Aug. 10	Bobby Deen (cooking)
Aug. 11	Action Item
Aug. 11	Rev. Peyton's Big Damn Band
Aug. 12	The Ohmies
	Contemporary Christian Music Day feat. Sanctus Real, Big Daddy Weave and Three Union
Aug. 13	The Ohmies
	MC Hammer
Aug. 14	Sandi Patty
	David Crowder
Aug. 15 - 17	Catherine Hickland, Hypnotist
Aug. 16	Ted Nugent
Aug. 17	"BritBeat" Beatles Tribute Band
Aug. 18	Texaco Country Music Showdown
	Casey James pres. By WFMS
Aug. 19	Pepsi Gospel Music Day

Food garden grows in White River State Park

It's common knowledge that Indiana boasts a rich agricultural history. But did you know that even Indiana's most urban spaces can be used to produce local, sustainable food? With the recent slow food movement making trails into Indiana, White River State Park has teamed up with Growing Places Indy to establish the Wishard Slow Food Garden at White River State Park, a cooperative garden seeking to empower individuals and communities with the motto "Grow Well, Eat Well, Live Well, Be Well."

Growing Places Indy is a non-profit organization placing a special emphasis on urban agriculture and its culture of healthy lifestyles. Its vision is simple, yet full circle: urban agriculture yields healthier communities, a sustainable future



for urban and farm land ecology, a burgeoning local food economy, and a vibrant and diverse food culture in Indianapolis – all supported by a strong local food and farm network. By promoting urban models of agriculture, Growing Places Indy seeks to introduce necessary farming skills, engage the local community in food systems, grow local leaders, inspire new farmers and food entrepreneurship, and nurture the vision required to commit to a healthier future.

Growing Places Indy currently farms on three sites, its main production site being cultivated at White River State Park. Located just off the Cultural Trail in greenspace adjacent to the Indiana State Museum and Eiteljorg Museum, the Wishard Slow Food Garden at White River State park is comprised of five agricultural beds, representing the five ways to eat locally:

- Grow your own vegetables
- Shop at a farmers' market
- Join a veggie share subscription program, or CSA (Community-Supported Agriculture)
- Shop at a food co-operative (food co-op) that sells locally grown produce or value-added products
- Eat at restaurants that source local produce

The Wishard Slow Food Garden has a 27-member veggie share program. On Wednesday mornings, volunteers from Growing Places Indy harvest vegetables from this garden for these members, who have paid in advance to receive a share of vegetables every week for ten weeks. Members

come to pick up their vegetables between 4 and 6 p.m. on Wednesday evenings throughout the summer.

Growing Places Indy also sells its locally-grown, herbicide and pesticide-free produce to several restaurants in the Indianapolis downtown area, including Natural Born Juicers, Fermenti Artisan, Black Market, R Bistro, BlueBeard, Patachou, and DUOS – the "slow food, fast" restaurant and Indy Food Truck that visits White River State Park every Thursday during lunch.

The efforts of Growing Places Indy at the Wishard Slow Food Garden at White River State Park are perfectly compatible with White River State Park's commitment to healthy, sustainable lifestyles, and strong community engagement.

For more information on the Wishard Slow Food Garden at White River State Park please visit <http://growingplacesindy.org/about>.

No butts out the car window

INDOT and the Indiana State Police remind motorists that it is illegal to improperly dispose of burning items from a moving vehicle. Despite recent showers, 87% of the state remains in severe drought and more than half the state is in extreme drought, according to the Indiana State Climate Office. The dry conditions make Indiana's roadsides extremely susceptible to burning materials.

Improperly discarded cigarettes are the leading cause of unintentional grass fires. Indiana statutes exist which the Indiana State Police may enforce in an attempt to protect citizens, property and natural resources. IC-35-45-3-3 states that a person who throws a burning material from a moving vehicle commits a Class A infraction and may receive a fine up to \$10,000.

Please be aware and responsible, and report any unattended fires by calling 911.

Project Search gives opportunity to interns across the state

This month, the state's Project SEARCH Indiana team is celebrating with 99 graduates. Project SEARCH Indiana, which is coordinated by Indiana Institute's Center on Community Living and Careers, is an internship transition experience for students and young adults with disabilities. Based on a national program first established at Cincinnati Children's Hospital, the program is a collaborative effort between a work site or sites, a local school system, and Indiana Vocational Rehabilitation. Daily for eight months, interns work at their job sites - which include hospitals, corporations, and government centers - and then attends classes to gain skills in interviewing, effective communication, taking the initiative, and more.

So far this year, 27 of the 99 Project SEARCH Indiana grads have already been hired, some at their host internship sites and others in jobs in their communities. Project SEARCH 2012 graduates work an average of 25 hours per week and are paid \$8.57 per hour. Armed with

Project SEARCH sites in Indiana

- Indiana Government Center-Indianapolis
- Community North Hospital-Indianapolis
- Community East Hospital-Indianapolis
- St. Vincent's Carmel
- Union Hospital-Terre Haute
- St. Mary's Warrick-Boonville
- Gibson General Hospital-Princeton
- IU Memorial-LaPorte
- Cook-Ivy Tech-Bloomington
- Memorial Hospital-South Bend
- Riverview Hospital-Noblesville
- Floyd Memorial-New Albany
- Summer Search-IGC Indianapolis



Successful graduates Rachel and Spencer, from the 2010-2011 school speak to this year's graduates.

their newfound skills, graduates of the program who don't yet have a job work with employment specialists on researching job openings and applying for positions.

The Rachel Collins who spoke to the Project SEARCH Class of 2012 in May is not the same person who began the program the previous year. Last year, Rachel - shy and lacking self confidence - was nervous about working at the Indiana Government Center (IGC) reception desk, her first internship assignment. She had good reason to be apprehensive. People regularly approach the desk asking for information and directions. Not only did Rachel need to know her way around the building, she also had to communicate well.

"I learned that if I wanted people to have confidence in my abilities. I had to lift my head, speak loudly and clearly, make eye contact and smile," Rachel said.

That successful experience lifted her confidence significantly. Rachel's second internship was with the Department of Child Services (DCS). At DCS, she learned office skills and how to work as part of a team. Upon completion of the DCS internship, Project SEARCH helped Rachel apply for a position with Pitney Bowes. She was hired, and now operates a mail machine, sorts and delivers mail, and does other tasks as well.

"I have many friends at work; I use public transportation; I've saved money for furniture and other necessities and hope to have my own apartment with a roommate soon," a smiling Rachel shared with this year's intern group.

"My hope is that you learned from your experiences and that you use them to get a good job, too."

Reflecting on where he sat just a year ago, Spencer Becker told the Class of 2012, "I know what you are thinking, you are excited to be graduating, but you also know that you have to look for a job and start making money."

After completing his successful internship rotation with the state Facilities Management maintenance department in 2011, Spencer was offered a full time position as a maintenance technician. He works independently, changing light bulbs, helping employees move office furniture and equipment, and collecting recycling. "I am fortunate to have a job doing something I enjoy, and I learn something new every day," Spencer advised the interns.

"Congratulations on your first success, but remember, you have to believe in yourself before others will believe in you!"

Track immunizations records online

Hoosiers are now able to directly access their family's immunization records from any computer through the use of a personal identification number (PIN). The PINs can be used to log in to a secure website and check immunization history as it is recorded in the Indiana Children and Hoosiers Immunization Registry Program (CHIRP). PIN numbers can be provided by local health departments and health care providers upon the request of the patient.



Indiana is one of the first states in the nation to be able to offer this service to residents. Through MyVaxIndiana, Hoosiers have the ability to download, fax or print official proof of immunization, which can be used for school, travel or other purposes. Each record also features the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) ACIP Immunization Schedule so parents can plan for future immunizations.

MyVaxIndiana was created by the Indiana State Department of Health through a technology grant from the Office of the National Controller. The goal is to reduce the burden and costs of physician office visits, offer a way for Hoosiers to further manage their health care, and increase Indiana childhood immunization rates.

For more information, visit <https://myvaxindiana.in.gov/>



July 25 - Governor Daniels enjoys a snack with YHCC participants during a visit to Versailles State Park. Since 2009, the Young Hoosier Conservation Corps program has put nearly 3,800 young Hoosiers to work at various properties across the state. The participants receive career information and training along with their summer employment and work experience. Seated around the picnic table are (from left) Ethan Suding, Clayton Warren, Jessica Huber, Brent Bradley, Adam Ison, Governor Daniels and Michael Brandes.

To meet the demand of more than 60 hospitals, Indiana Blood Center must see 550 donors every day. All blood types are needed, especially O-negative, which is the universal blood type that any patient can receive. One pint of blood can help up to three people. Each unit of blood can be separated into four components - red cells, plasma, cryoprecipitate and platelets. These components can help as many as three different hospital patients.

Interested donors can visit the nearest donor center or find a list of mobile drives by clicking [here](#). Wondering if you qualify? Check out the [donor requirements](#).



Have a question about Family Medical Leave?

Get your answers by dialing SPD's FML central number: 317-234-7955 or toll-free at 1-855-SPD-INHR (1-855-773-4647)

