

JANUARY

18 Blues and Bluegrass

H.I. Lincoln Building, 136 N. Elm St., Franklin Grove. Open Stage. Acoustic music: gospel, folk, country, blues, bluegrass, etc. Always third Friday of the month. Free admission. Donations accepted. 7 p.m. (815/456-3030) www.franklingroveil.org

FEBRUARY

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17 4th Annual Antique Road Show

Our Lady of Perpetual Help Hall, Locust Street, Sublette. Bring your antique and have it appraised by a professional appraiser who was originally on television's Antique Road Show. Lunch will be available at the show. Adults \$5. 1-4 p.m. (815/849-5533) or www.subletteweb.com

24 12th Annual Sauk Valley Talent Showcase

The Next Picture Show, 113 W. First St., Dixon. Music talent of Jr. High through college age students. Recommendations required. Refreshments served following showcase. Admission: Adults \$5, children 12 & under \$3, seniors \$4. 2:00 p.m. Sponsored by Kiwanis Club of Dixon. (815/288-1890) jweaver@grics.net

MARCH

16 26th Annual Sublette Farm Toy & Antique Tractor Show

Six buildings in downtown Sublette with over 300 tables of farm toys. Antique tractor show with over 200 tractors lining the streets. This year's show will feature John Deere tractors and equipment. Other features include a semi-tractor show, quilt show, train show and a pancake and sausage breakfast. Vendors from eight midwestern states. Admission \$2 adults, \$1 children. 9 a.m.-3 p.m. (815/849-5929) www.subletteweb.com

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30 28th Annual Franklin Creek Preservation Area

Ham Dinner

Ashton Franklin Center Middle School, Franklin Grove. This fundraiser for projects of the Franklin Creek Preservation Area Committee features plant sales, videos of park projects, displays, and music by local musicians. Dinner served 11 a.m.-2 p.m. Tours at the Grist Mill till 4 pm. (815/456-2283 or 456-2878) www.essex1.com/people/fcpac

APRIL

1 61st Annual Phidian Art Show

Loveland Community Building, 513 W. 2nd St., Dixon. Show has display of artwork entered in the Phidian Art Club sponsored competition. Winners will be announced by the show's judge at 7 p.m. Art remains on display two weeks after the show. Adult artists within 35 driving miles of Dixon can obtain show entry rules by calling 815/284-2741 or 815/288-3768. Loveland Community Building's hours are 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Saturday.

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18-19 1st Annual Dixon Home Show

Kitzman's Lumber, 411 W. First St., Dixon. Dixon Main Street presents Dixon's first Home Show featuring local merchants including building contractors, plumbers, painters and many more. (815/284-2949)

19 Paw Paw Townwide Garage Sales

Maps available at E & H Hardware, 333 Chicago Road. 8 a.m. -3 p.m. (815/627-9331)

24 Arbor Day Celebration

Steward Elementary School, 602 Main Street, Steward. The Village of Steward and Steward Elementary School have paired up to hold an educational and celebratory assembly in honor of Arbor Day for the 4th time. Trees improve air quality, conserve energy, reduce noise pollution, improve water quality, improve aesthetics, and increase property values. 8:45-9:45 a.m. (815/396-2413) Inicoloff@leeogle.org

MAY

3 Cinco de Mayo

Salamandra Restaurant, 105 W. First St., Dixon. Cinco de Mayo Fiesta celebration with Marachi Band, Mexican folklore, music and more. Free admission. (815/285-0874) chikyamexican@yahoo.com

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16-17 Steward Depot Days & Garage Sales

Village of Steward. Visit the historic Steward Depot and pick up some great deals at garage sales. Lunch will be served at the depot and a bake sale will be held to raise funds for depot restoration. 8 a.m.-5 p.m. (815/396-2846) villageofsteward@juno.com

17 Cruise 'n Show

Cruise U.S. Route 52 to downtown Sublette and show your car. No judging - just tire kicking and car talk. 4-7 p.m. (815/849-5582) don@sublettebank.com

JUNE

6-7 Relay for Life

Relay for Life will be at Dixon High School from Friday evening through Saturday morning. The theme for this year's event will be "Camping for a Cure!" If anyone would like to join the committee or sign up a team, please call the American Cancer Society at (1-800-892-9296). \$25 per team.

7-8 26th Annual Ashton Summer Celebration

Downtown Ashton - Saturday: Cole Family Memorial Walk, horseshoe contest, 3 on 3 basketball tournament, youth olympics, talent shows, Karaoke contest, and bed races. Sunday: parade and entertainment. High School-Toy tractor show 9 a.m.-3 p.m. and car show 11:30 a.m.-3 p.m. Community Church service at the Mills-Petrie Building, 11 a.m. Approx. 9 p.m. fireworks show at high school grounds. (815/453-2103)

8 22nd Annual Ashton Farm Toy Show

Mills-Petrie Building, Rt. 38, Ashton. Exhibits, buying, selling and trading of toy tractors in gym. Apple cider, donuts, lunch stand and craft show. Car show downtown. Adults \$1, children under 10 free. 9 a.m.-3 p.m. (815/453-2103)

14-15 Father's Day Week-end Horse Show

Equestrian Area of Franklin Creek State Natural Area, Twist Road, Franklin Grove. Saturday: Timed events 9 a.m. Sunday: Judged events 9 a.m. Camping with water available. Spectators free. (815/857-2308) seahorse@grics.net

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21-22 Battle of Chaplin Creek

Chaplin Creek Village, 1715 Whitney Rd. (S. State St. in town becomes Whitney Rd.), Franklin Grove. The first ever Battle of Chaplin Creek, a Civil War Reenactment and Living History weekend, is a family friendly event sponsored by the Franklin Grove Area Historical Society in conjunction with Battery G, Civil War Artillery Reenactment Unit. The battlefield and field hospital utilize the grounds and 1800s period buildings and other historical artifacts. Join us at 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Saturday and 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Sunday as we portray the daily life struggles of pioneer days. (815/990-5090) reenactment@chaplincreek.com www.chaplincreek.com

28-29 Men's Softball Tournament

Sublette Centennial Park, West Street and 3rd Street, Sublette. Eighteen team softball tournament. Sign up your team for a fun weekend. Saturday 9 a.m.-5 p.m., Sunday 9 a.m. to finish. (815/849-5013)

JULY

2-6 Dixon's 44th Annual Petunia Festival

Throughout Page Park and Dixon High School grounds. Carnival, pancake breakfasts, Taste Trail, craft show, Kid's Day, fine arts show at John Dixon Park, and Country Concert. Entertainment throughout festival. Adults \$5, children under 12 free. Parade and huge fireworks display on July 6. Brochure listing dates and times of events available. (815/284-3361) www.petuniasfestival.org

4 7th Annual Reading of the Declaration of Independence

Chaplin Creek Historical Site. South of Franklin Grove on Whitney Road. This somber event is free. Many local area people will be participating with some unique presentation activities entwined within this patriotic event. Bring your own seating. 9 a.m. sharp. (815/631-7841) rtpally@yahoo.com

4-5 All Breed Dog Show & Obedience Trial

Lee County 4-H Center Fairgrounds, U.S. Rt. 30, 1 mile east of Junction U.S. Rt. 52, Amboy. Friday, 7-10 p.m. is an informal match show. Saturday dogs are pre-entered with trophies, ribbons and credits toward championships awarded to major winners. Obedience and Rally classes at all levels. Adults \$3, Seniors and children (5-12) \$2. Friday 6:30-10 p.m. Saturday 8 a.m.-4 p.m. Sponsored by the AKC Licensed Blackhawk Kennel Club (815/332-9306)

5 Reagan 5K - "Pace the Place in the Reagan 5K"

Race begins at Reagan Boyhood Home, 816 S. Hennepin Avenue, Dixon. Free Kids Fun Run starts 7:30 a.m. Adults and children 9 years and over pre-register \$18, day of \$23. Start 8 a.m. Watch for details in local publications or check our website at http://dixonil.com/parks. (815/288-3306) dixonpark@grics.net

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24-27 52nd Annual Lee County 4-H Fair and Jr. Show

Lee County 4-H Center, U.S. Rte. 30, 1 mile east of U.S. Rte. 52, Amboy. Showcasing the talents of Lee County's young people, this event offers

something for the whole family. Truck and tractor pulls, garden tractor pull, pedal pull, Demolition Derby, carnival, stick horse rodeo and more. Displays of all types and a variety of food stands. Adults \$4, children 12 & under free. Season pass \$10. Thursday noon-10 p.m. Friday and Saturday 7 a.m.-10 p.m., Sunday 7 a.m.-6 p.m. (815/857-2603) www.leecounty4hcenter.com kdallam@hotmail.com

AUGUST

1-3 29th Annual Franklin Grove Summer Harvest Festival 2-3 28th Annual LHAEA Antique Tractor Show

The friendly folks of the Franklin Grove area invite you to enjoy activities of today and yesterday. Community-wide rummage sales, events by local groups, food, parade and the ever-popular Slow Tractor Race. The Chaplin Creek Historic Village features crafters, artisans, and a blacksmith demonstrating skills of days gone by in buildings restored to replicate life in the 19th century. The Living History Antique Equipment Association site offers two exciting days of working exhibits such as: Threshing, shingle-making, and rock crushing. Watch the saw mill, the corn shredder, and the draft horses at work. (815/456-3285) www.franklingroveil.org www.LHAEA.com franklingroveharvestfest@yahoo.com

2-3 Hammer-In 2008

John Deere Historic Site, Grand Detour. come and enjoy the second largest gathering of working blacksmiths in Northern Illinois. Food vendors will be on site and an auction of donated ironworks will be held at 2 p.m. 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. Admission \$3 for 12 and older. www.johndeereattractions.com (815/652-4551)

8-9 Lincoln Highway BuyWay Yard Sale

136 N. Elm St., Franklin Grove. Towns along the Lincoln Highway. Anyone living near the Lincoln Highway is invited to have a yard sale, church/organization rummage sale, or any similar sale to join in a sale spanning hundreds of miles, across several states! (815/456-3030) lincolnhighway2010@yahoo.com http://illinoislincolnhighway.tripod.com/

9-10 5th Annual Tri-County Vintage Tractor Run

Starts on Main Street, Sublette at 9 a.m. Fun filled ride through beautiful and historic counties in Illinois. Share your love of tractors and visit with others who share your appreciation in this hobby. August 10th tractors on display at Grand Detour, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Admission \$3 for 12 and older. (815/652-4551 or 815/849-5582) johndeereattractions.com or djd93@wireless.essex1.com

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15-16 8th Annual Reagan Trail Days

Friday night: Reagan Ball honoring former Dixon citizens who have gone on to fulfill their lives much as President Reagan did. Dinner and dancing. Saturday: Trolley tours of all the Dixon Reagan sites. Free pontoon rides on the Rock River starting at the beach where Reagan was lifeguard. Jelly Belly (Reagan's favorite candy) contests, and many other events fill the day. Saturday's events are all free and include cash prizes for contest winners. Members of the USS Ronald Reagan aircraft carrier are usual attendees at all the Reagan Trail Day events. (815/288-3303)

21-24 Amboy Depot Days

Amboy Depot and downtown. Celebrate Amboy's railroad heritage with events that include pancake breakfasts, pork chop dinner, arts & crafts, garage sales, free live stage entertainment Thurs., Fri. & Sat. evenings. Tractor show, carnival, parade & area's largest car show. Thurs. & Fri. 10 a.m.-10 p.m. Sat. 8 a.m.-12:30 a.m. Sun. 6:30 a.m.- 4 p.m. (815/857-3814 or 857-2324) www.depotdays.com

Calendar of Events

2008

Lee County

Illinois



Compiled, printed and distributed compliments of the

Lee County Tourism Council

113 S. Peoria Ave. ♦ P.O. Box 119
Dixon, Illinois 61021

(815) 288-1840

Toll Free (877) 533-8687

www.encounterleecounty.com

DECEMBER

20th Annual Dixon Christmas Walk

Please check the website: mainst@grics.net for date and times. This holiday event includes carriage rides, story teller, Breakfast with Santa, refreshments and other entertainment. (815/288-2308)

5 Sublette's Christmas in the Village

Main St. and Ellice Dinges Center, Sublette. Food, Christmas music, and carriage rides. Craft show and face painting at Ellice Dinges Center. Ginger Bread House contest. Stores open serving refreshments. 6 p.m.- 9 p.m. (815/849-5582)

6 Dixon Lioness Christmas Craft Show

Loveland Community Building, 513 W. 2nd St., Dixon. Many new crafters, featuring a wide variety of items, several raffles. Lunch available, Santa visits 9-11 a.m., bake sale. 9 a.m.- 3 p.m. (815/288-3447)

12 11th Annual Christmas in the Grove

The village businesses, churches and organizations of Franklin Grove invite you to come to the Grove for holiday fun. Visit Santa or hop on the horse drawn wagon rides at the H.I. Lincoln Building. Do your holiday shopping. Look for Kettle Korn, carolers and barbershoppers. Refreshments and door prizes are "on us". Map provided. 5-8 p.m. (815/456-3030) www.franklingroveil.org

12-13 Paw Paw's Annual Holiday Fest

Friday evening: Lighting of the town Christmas tree, wagon rides, ginger-bread house contest, craft booths and refreshments at the community building in the evening...all FREE. Saturday: craft show & merchants' drawings & prizes. Sponsored by the Chamber. (815/627-9331)

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SPECIAL FEATURE

The Next Picture Show

113 W. First Street, Dixon. A fine arts community center featuring exhibits by local, regional and national artists. Shows run from four to six weeks, depending on the theme of the show. Main floor - featured artists. Lower level gallery - student artwork displays. Call the gallery or check the website for current and upcoming shows. (815/285-4924) nps@grics.net www.TheNextPictureShow.org

SEASONAL

Dixon Farmers Market - 2nd week in July through Oct.

Hay Market Square, 200 block Highland (across from Post Office), Dixon. Wednesdays & Saturdays 7 a.m.-noon. Home grown fruits, vegetables, flowers, plants and crafts available. Baked goods of all sorts (no creamed pies, eggs, dressed meat, home preserved items or other foods not permitted by Lee County Health Dept.) (815/288-5043)

Please note -

Although the information listed here was correct at the time of publication, organizations occasionally find it necessary to make changes. If you are traveling a distance to attend an event, please verify the date and time by calling the listed contact number or check our website for new events: www.encounterleecounty.com. *Thank You*

www.encounterleecounty.com

20 Autumn in the Grove

Franklin Grove area. Travel back 100+ years when you board the free shuttle to the Nachusa Grasslands, Franklin Creek Grist Mill, Chaplin Creek Historic Village, and the Lincoln Building. Wander a prairie, experience a working gristmill, explore a restored village, and visit the National Headquarters for the Lincoln Highway Association. 10 a.m.-5 p.m. (815/456-2340) bkleiman@tnc.org

20 Paw Paw Townwide Garage Sales

Maps available at E & H Hardware, 333 Chicago Road. (815/627-9331)

20-21 Poker Run Trail Ride and Fun Show

Equestrian area of Franklin Creek State Natural Area, Twist Road, Franklin Grove. Saturday Poker Run 2 p.m. Sunday Fun Show 10:30 a.m. Camping and water available. (815/284-6773) seahorse@grics.net

27 Dixon's 13th Annual Scarecrow Festival

Come to the historic downtown Dixon area on Saturday for Art on the Square, scarecrow decorating contest, progressive restaurant walk, pumpkin painting, food, street performers, bean bag tournament, kiddy water fight, kids games and much more. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. (815/288-2308) mainst@grics.net or www.dixonil.com/mainstreet

27 4th Annual Sweet Potato Queens Ball

Knights of Columbus Hall, just off the corner of West 3rd Street & Madison, Dixon. Devotees of Jill Connor Browne's book "The Book of Love" unite to dance the night away to the sounds of live music. Themed games and contests, silent auction and 50/50 cash raffle. A portion of the proceeds will go toward local programs for breast cancer awareness. Admission open to those 21 years old and over: \$5.00. (815/677-0200)

OCTOBER

11 Petunia City Quilters Flea Market

Loveland Community Building, 513 W. 2nd Street, Dixon. The Petunia City Quilters will be holding their second Quilters Flea Market. This is a one day event featuring booths with all kinds of treasures - quilting books and patterns, fabrics, quilts, crafted items, maybe even a sewing machine or two. Adults \$3. 9 a.m.-4 p.m. (815/284-9645) qlter1@juno.com

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NOVEMBER

14 Amboy's Annual Christmas Walk & Festival of Trees

Downtown Amboy and Amboy Depot Museum. Enjoy horse drawn wagon rides, music on the streets, various specials in stores, refreshments, door prizes, and Santa. 6 p.m.-9 p.m. (815/857-3814)

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22 68th Annual Holiday Church Bazaar

First United Methodist Church, 202 S. Peoria Ave., Dixon. Buffet luncheon serving 11 a.m. and 12 noon. Individual ham loaf, salads, rolls & beverages. Cookie walk, country store, Christmas room, coffee shop, candy, stitchery and bakery booths, white elephant room. Adults \$6, children 10 and under \$3. 9 a.m.-2 p.m. (815/284-2849)

24 18th Annual Amboy Depot Days Car, Truck & Motorcycle Show

Downtown Amboy 6 a.m.-4 p.m. Largest car show in the area featuring the finest cars, trucks and motorcycles around. Large 50/50 drawing and awards starting at 3 p.m. (815/857-3814 or 857-4700) www.depotdays.com

23-24 Dixon Carp Fishing Tournament

Downtown Dixon on River Street between the bridges. \$2,000 in prizes for the 10 largest carp by weight. Entry forms available at Bunny's Bait Shop, 1024 E. River St. Sponsored by Dixon Tourism. Saturday afternoon tournament party at the Royal Palms at 3 p.m. Adults \$7, Children \$3. Sat. 7 a.m.-3 p.m., Sun. 7 a.m.-Noon. (815/288-3812 or 288-1485)

30 Dixon Fall Art, Craft and Collectible Show

John Dixon Park, 500 N. Galena Ave., Dixon. Many crafters will exhibit handmade arts and crafts with no manufactured or "Flea Market" items. Food and drinks will be provided by the Lions. 8:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. Sponsored by Dixon Lions and Lioness Clubs. (815/251-4767) barns@grics.net

31 Paw Paw Tractor, Truck & Garden

Tractor Pull

Illini State Pullers Sanction Rules. On Sunday six classes range from 6800# Street Legal Truck to 10000# No Turbo Tractor (participants limited to 15 mile radius of Paw Paw) Sunday pull begins at noon. Admission \$5, children under 12 free. (815/627-3951) www.illinistatepullers.com

SEPTEMBER

1 Annual Paw Paw Homecoming Day

Downtown Area. This down-home family celebration lasts all day and features a parade at 10 a.m., games, barbecue, tractor pull, antique car show and craft show. Sponsored by the Lions. (815/627-9331)

1 Paw Paw 14th Annual Car Show

Registration 8 a.m. to noon and participant judging noon to 1 p.m. Trophies for Best Paint, Best Interior, Best of Show, Best Ford, Best GM, Best Chrysler/Dodge - 1st, 2nd, & 3rd Place trophies. Twenty-seven categories from antiques to trucks & motorcycles. Music of 50s & 60s by 3D Sound Company. (815/713-5547 or 815/251-4211)

1 Paw Paw Tractor, Truck & Garden Tractor Pull

Illini State Pullers Sanction Rules. Five classes range from 6200# Sanctioned Truck Pro-Stock to 11000# Pro Farm Tractor, Smoker. Start time is 1 p.m. Admission \$5, children under 12 free. (815/627-3951) www.illinistatepullers.com

7 60th Anniversary Grand Detour Fine Arts Festival

John Deere Historic Site, Grand Detour, IL Route 2 between Oregon & Dixon. One of the oldest art fairs in Illinois sponsored by KSB Hospital. Forty plus artists, music, food, John Deere Museum, blacksmith and gift shop. Adults \$1, children 11 and under free. 9 a.m.-4 p.m. (815/652-3330) dixonmarge@hotmail.com

13 Sublette Cruise 'n Show

Car show featuring Kaiser-Frazer and Willys - Overland and Hudson - all makes welcome. Along U.S. 52 near Vaessen Bros. Chevrolet. No judging, no trophies, just tire kicking and car talk. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. (815/849-5582) don@sublettebank.com

14 Family Fun in the Park

Sublette Centennial Park, West Street. A fun day for the entire family. Games, food, and entertainment. (815/849-5582)

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