

January 2012

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Issue 1

Tourism News

Now Online - The Clinton Convention & Visitors Bureau Community Map

The Clinton Convention & Visitors Bureau is excited to announce the launch of its new publication website at http://www.villageprofile.com/iowa/clinton_cvb/.

This interactive site features the editorial, pictures and design elements of the CVB's recently published, full-color community map. Included on the publication website are links to the CVB website, the publication's advertiser directory and the online map directory, which utilizes the Google Maps tool to pinpoint businesses, provide contact information and link directly to business websites. The searchable online map directory is downloadable to computer desktops and on-the-go via most wireless,

web-enabled devices - generating added CVB, business and community exposure to a worldwide audience, anytime, anywhere.

The community map is interactive at www.vpmobile.us via PDAs, smartphones, web-enabled cell phones

and most other mobile devices.

In addition, the current CVB's Village Profile® iPhone and Android App is under development and will soon be updated by Village Profile's exclusive app developer, MC Solutions. This app provides the Clinton Convention & Visitors Bureau, its advertisers access to their community in one touch, anytime, anywhere, from their handheld Smartphone devices. Downloadable from respective iPhone stores and the Android marketplace, the Village Profile® App will be comparable to navigating through www.villageprofile.com, with features including the community publication cover graphic; links to editorial chapters; access to the advertiser directory complete with reciprocal links; one-click, GPS-driven directions to all advertisers' business locations; including direct dial and direct email capabilities.

This technologically advanced, royalty-generating publication is produced at NO COST to the CVB. This leading-edge publishing program is made possible through a partnership between the Clinton Convention & Visitors Bureau and Village Profile® - an innovative publisher.

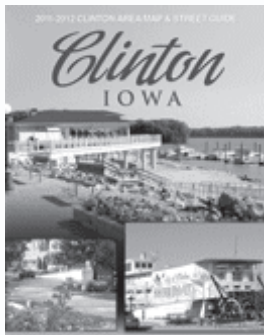
For publication information, please call 800-600-0134 x 220 or e-mail jcn@villageprofilemail.com

Martin Luther King Celebration

On Sunday, January 15, 2012, there will be a Re-enactment of a Civil Rights March beginning at 2:15 p.m. at Second Baptist Church, 438 4th Ave. No., Clinton. At 3 p.m., there will be a program, "Living the Dream," featuring Dion Jordan - a tribute to the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King - held at the Ashford University Durgin Center, 400 No. Bluff Blvd., Clinton.

The 10th annual MLK Peace and Justice Award will be presented at this event. There will be music by the Ashford Inspirational Choir and artwork and creative writing by Clinton Community School Students. Canned good donations are requested in honor of the MLK Day of Service and will be given to local pantries.

This Celebration is FREE to the Community and is sponsored by YWCA of Clinton, Clinton Community College, Ashford University, Sisters of Saint Francis, MLK Celebration Committee and made possible by contributions from many businesses, community organizations and individuals.





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“The Music of Friendships”

From the viewpoint of composers, musicians and listeners alike, chamber music is the music of friendships. Composers write it with specific groups of friends in mind, often writing a part for themselves in the ensemble. The group of friends get together

to play it, and usually invite their closest friends to hear it. Join the Clinton Symphony musicians as they continue this great tradition of musical friendships! This will be held at 3 p.m. on Sunday, January 22, 2012 at Zion Lutheran Church in Clinton.

River Arts Center Exhibit

The River Arts Center closes annually for the first two weeks in January. They will re-open on Wednesday, January 18, 2012, with a gallery show of paintings by Lyle Andresen of Clinton. Andresen has made excursions to the Arctic where he paints the wildlife in their wintry habitat. A few of his works were in the gallery last year, giving us a preview of his very unusual subject matter painted from his personal experiences. This exhibit will be on display through Sunday, March 4. A reception open to the public will be announced at a later date.

We welcome the public to all exhibits and receptions at no charge. The gallery is open Wednesdays through Sundays from 1-4 p.m. and by appointment for groups, meetings, and tours, by calling 563-243-3300.

2012 is the 50th Anniversary of the Clinton Art Association, whose volunteers operate the River Arts Center. There will be a number of upcoming events to celebrate during the year.



Annual Eagle Watch

The 28th Annual Clinton Eagle Watch is Saturday, January 7, 2012.

Schedule of Events:

8:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. – Eagle Watching at Lock #13, Fulton IL. Naturalists and volunteers will be on hand with spotting scopes to aid in viewing the bald eagles. Participants are encouraged to bring binoculars, spotting scopes and cameras – and to wear warm clothing to the viewing site. NOTE: Winter is a stressful time for bald eagles. It is important that resting eagles not be frightened to the point that they fly off and burn up badly needed energy.

Exhibits and Educational Programs at Clinton Community College:

9:15 a.m. – Welcome from Ben DeRoo, Corps of Engineers and Pam Steinhaus, USFWS

9:20 a.m. – American Eagle (PBS Documentary) produced by James Donald and Neil Rettig, written by John Rubin.

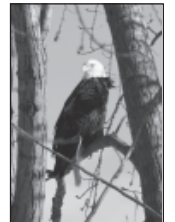
10:50 a.m. – “Live Birds of Prey” Program – Candy Ridlbauer, Northern IL Raptor Rehab and Education, Loves Park IL

11:50 a.m. – Native American Dance, in honor of the bald eagle – Rudy Vallejo, Kickapoo Eagle Dancer and member of the Kickapoo Tribe of Kansas.

1:00 p.m. – Nature Music and Songs – Chuck Jacobsen, Naturalist, Clinton County Conservation Board

1:30 p.m. – “Live Birds of Prey” Program – Candy Ridlbauer, Northern IL Raptor Rehab and Education, Loves Park IL

For more information, contact the Thomson Park Rangers at 815-259-3628 or the US Fish and Wildlife Service at 815-273-2732.



Mammals of the Midwest



The Bickelhaupt Arboretum has one of the most complete collections in the area of

mammals and birds on display. Sit back and enjoy interesting facts and stories of these creatures that live in the woodlands and our own backyards!

This program will be presented on January 21, 2012 from 10-11 a.m. at the Bickelhaupt Arboretum, 340 So. 14th St., Clinton.

Volunteers Are Special People

by Marsha Smith, CVB Director

At the Convention & Visitors Bureau, our volunteers are our most valued resource. It seems no matter when we call on them, they are always ready and willing to help with any project we have for them. We have volunteers who pack goody bags all year long for conventions, meetings and reunions and some who greet people attending a convention or meeting and hand out that goody bag they put together, and even more volunteers who literally greet people who come to Clinton as in the case of the Celebration Belle coming to Clinton and volunteers meeting them at the dock. All of this is important for tourism as those smiles on the volunteers faces are what encourage people to come back to Clinton and stay a few more days.

Iowa ranks 2nd in America for volunteerism with 93.4 million volunteer hours in 2010. 37.9 percent of Iowans devote time to helping others. The wage value of a volunteer is now \$16.77 per hour. Iowa volunteers provided more than \$2 billion in services in the past year. Iowa also ranked first in volunteer retention rate, meaning that more volunteers are staying in their volunteer opportunities according to Adam Lounsbury of the Iowa

Commission on Volunteer Service.

Locally, we have many volunteer opportunities geared to men and women, youth and retirees. The Sawmill Museum in the Lyons area is currently looking for docents (volunteers) to work in their gift shop and guide tours through their museum. They will periodically have orientations to train the volunteers. What a great way to learn about the lumber industry in Clinton and to tell this story to others. There are many ways to volunteer in our city including the Clinton County Historical Society, the Felix Adler Children's Discovery Center, the Curtis Mansion (Women's Club), the River Arts Center & Rainbow Pottery, Mercy Hospital, Soaring Eagle Nature Center, Trees Forever, RSVP, Bickelhaupt Arboretum as well as here at the Chamber and CVB. If other volunteer opportunities are out there, please call and let us know at the CVB (563-242-5702) and we will be glad to pass those on to anyone who calls wanting to volunteer in the community and surrounding area.

We say a big THANK YOU to our volunteers all over the community and encourage everyone to take some time to "have fun volunteering."

Eco Tourism Center Construction Begins

On January, 6, 2012, dirt will fly at Rock Creek Marina & Campground. On that day, the ground-breaking ceremonies will be held for the Mississippi River Eco Tourism Center.

The construction contract has been awarded to Clinton Engineering, contingent upon the approval of the Iowa Department of

wetlands display, highlighting reptiles, amphibians, waterfowl and other species that call the backwaters and sloughs of the Mississippi home. A crawl-through, clear acrylic tunnel will allow children to get an "up close and personal" view of the wetland inhabitants. Other displays include the river-bottom forest creatures, migratory birds and fresh water mussels of the Mississippi River.

The Eco Center will also be home to a large collection of replicas of Iowa state record fish species, including the largest large-mouth bass to the biggest flathead catfish and fish species in between. These replicas will give visitors a vivid impression of just how large our aquatic friends can grow. It will be the only place in Iowa that you can see such a vast collection!

Come down to Rock Creek on January 6th and help celebrate this exciting milestone in the building of your Mississippi River Eco Tourism Center. If all goes well, by this time next year, a grand-opening ceremony could be announced!



Transportation (IDOT).

Final plans include a 9,000 gallon aquarium as the centerpiece. This massive aquarium measures 20 feet long, 6 feet high and 10 feet wide. It will be viewable from both the camp store and the nature center portions of the building. It will be stocked with Mississippi River fish species. Also planned is a large

Tourism News

Clinton County Conservation Events

Jan. 5 – OWLS Outing (Older, Wiser, Livelier Souls) – Winter Birds – 1-2 p.m. – Soaring Eagle Nature Center. A Naturalist will present on bird behavior, feeds and feeding and demonstrate how people can participate in national bird counts. Attendees may create a feeder or nest box to keep for decoration or the birds. There will be time for socializing and refreshments. A short birding hike at 2 p.m. will be held, if weather allows.

Jan. 6 – Mississippi River Eco Tourism Center Groundbreaking Ceremony – 1 p.m. – Rock Creek. Winter isn't the best time to start construction, but we can't wait! Join us for a ceremony featuring school children from every school district in the county. We are gonna have cake and eat it, too!

Jan. 12 – Nature Tails – Children's Discovery Center – 2 p.m. – This nature activity is for elementary school-aged children to learn how tails help animals in nature. There will be a story, live animals, real furs and mounts along with a craft and snack.

Jan. 14 – Nature Tails – Children's Discovery Center – 10:30 a.m. – This nature activity is for three to five-year-olds to learn about textures, opposites, shapes and uses of animal tails using live animals and furs. There will also be a story, craft and snack, too!

Jan. 15 – Cross Country Ski Clinic – 1-4 p.m. – Emma Young Park, Clinton – Join naturalists for this introduction to the outdoor winter sports of cross-country. A new feature this year is the updated equipment provided free, including New Nordic Norm (NNN) boots and bindings, no-wax skis and poles. This new equipment will provide a better experience to those who have tried skiing and snowshoeing before and get beginners off on the right foot.

Jan. 19 – Full Moon Ski/Snowshoe – 6 p.m. – Rock Creek – Come explore the wilderness of the Upper Mississippi Fish & Wildlife Refuge on a pair of cross-country skis or snowshoes provided free on a first-come, first-served basis, by your Clinton County Conservation Department.

Jan. 29 – Snowmobile Radar Run – 10 a.m.-3 p.m. – Rock Creek – The Eastern Iowa Sno-riders snowmobile club will once again hold this annual event on the backwater ice at Rock Creek Marina, ice permitting. Anyone is welcome to race their snowmobile against a radar gun. Donations accepted per run. Call Ron Benhart, 563-529-5703, for more information.

Things to do...
with a river view!



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Calendar of Events

January

- | | | | |
|--------------|--|----|--|
| 1-April 2012 | Exploring Trees Exhibit, Sawmill Museum, 2231 Grant St., Clinton | 19 | Full Moon Ski/Snowshoe, Rock Creek, 6 p.m. |
| 5 | Music in the Loft, Soaring Eagle Nature Center, 7 p.m. | 21 | Mammals of the Midwest Program, Bickelhaupt Arboretum, 10-11 a.m. |
| 5 | OWLS Outing – Winter Birds – Soaring Eagle Nature Center, 1-2 p.m. | 21 | Winter Sports Clinic, Ericksen Community Center, 1 p.m. |
| 6 | Mississippi River Eco Tourism Center Groundbreaking Ceremony, Rock Creek, 1 p.m. | 22 | “The Music of Friendships,” Zion Lutheran Church, 3 p.m. |
| 7 | Annual Bald Eagle Watch, 8:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m., Clinton Community College, and Lock #13, Fulton IL | 23 | “Riout,” CCC Maquoketa Center, Maquoketa IA, 7 p.m. |
| 7 & 8 | Eagle Watching, Wide River Winery, Clinton | 27 | Camanche Spaghetti Supper, Camanche High School, 5-8:30 p.m. |
| 12 | Nature Tails (elementary school-aged), Children’s Discovery Center, 2 p.m. | 29 | Snowmobile Radar Run, Rock Creek, 10 a.m.- 3 p.m. |
| 14 | Nature Tails (3-5 years old), Children’s Discovery Center, 10:30 a.m. | 29 | Baked Potato Luncheon, Clinton County Historical Museum, 11:30 a.m.-2 p.m. |
| 15 | Cross Country Ski Clinic, Emma Young Park, 1-4 p.m. | | |
| 15 | Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration, Ashford Univ. Durgin Center, 3 p.m. | | |

Things to do... with a river view!