

# Explore This Weekend's Upcoming Events!

by CJ Nasello

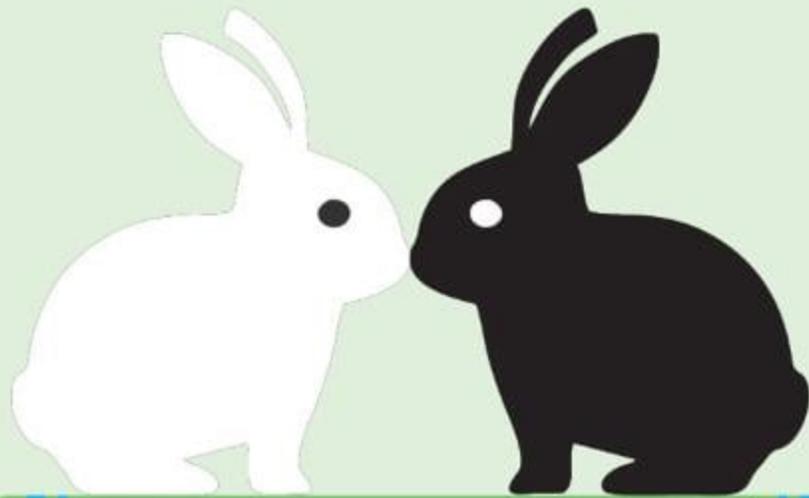
March 13 2024 2:18 PM

From educational workshops to festive gatherings, the diverse array of upcoming events offers something appealing for everyone in the community. For a complete listing of all the exciting activities and experiences available, visit [www.riverbender.com/events/](http://www.riverbender.com/events/).

## Featured



Alton Little Theater presents...



**ALABAMA  
Story**



By Kenneth Jones

Directed by Lee Cox and Gail Drilling

Produced with Permission from Dramatists Play Service

**Evenings:**

March 15, 16, 20, 21, 22 & 23

**Matinees:**

March 17 & 24, 2024

Evenings 7:30pm | Matinees 2:00pm (February 13th & 20th)

The Alton Little Theater is thrilled to bring to the stage the dramatic production of [Alabama Story](#). Directed by Lee Cox & Gail Drillinger, this play, inspired by true events, unfolds a poignant tale set in Montgomery, Alabama during the Civil Rights movement. It juxtaposes the heated conflict between a segregationist senator and the firm state librarian over a children's book with the tender reunion of childhood friends – an African American man and a woman of white privilege. Lauded for its humor, heartbreak, and hope, Alabama Story is recognized as a must-see piece of theater.

A promotional graphic for a Pancake Breakfast event. On the right is a photograph of a white plate containing two pancakes, scrambled eggs, and two sausages. On the left, the text reads: "PANCAKE BREAKFAST" in large blue letters, followed by "Every 3rd Sunday of the Month from 9AM - 12PM" in red. Below that, it says "Join us for Pancakes, Eggs, Sausage, Coffee, and Orange Juice in support of VFW Post 1308 and Scout Troop 1. Cost is \$10 per plate." At the bottom left is the VFW logo (Veterans of Foreign Wars) and the text "Open to the Public" in red. A red and white logo featuring an eagle with a shield is positioned between the text and the image.

**PANCAKE  
BREAKFAST**

Every 3rd Sunday of the Month from 9AM - 12PM

Join us for Pancakes, Eggs, Sausage,  
Coffee, and Orange Juice in support of  
VFW Post 1308 and Scout Troop 1.  
Cost is \$10 per plate.

**VFW**   
VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS

Open to the Public

Join the local community for a hearty [Pancake Breakfast](#) at the VFW Post 1308. This monthly event, occurring every third Sunday from 9 AM to 12 PM, is a perfect opportunity to savor pancakes, eggs, sausage, and beverages while supporting both VFW Post 1308 and Scout Troop 1. Open to the public, each plate is served at \$10.

PLEASE JOIN US



**ADOPT-A-HIGHWAY  
LITTER CLEANUP**

Sunday, March 17th

11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

US 67

Meet at Godfrey Walmart  
Bags, gloves and vests provided



Make a difference with Trinity's Way in their effort to beautify the stretch of Highway 67 during the [Highway 67 Litter Clean Up](#). Volunteers will convene in the back of the Godfrey Walmart parking lot equipped with trash bags, gloves, and vests, all set to tackle litter and leave a lasting positive impact on the environment.

## **Fish Frys**

Riverbender.com has created the Ultimate Fish Fry Go-Guide for the region! You can visit this link and learn about all of the Fish Frys in the Riverbend during Lent:  
<https://www.riverbender.com/articles/details/the-ultimate-fish-fry-guide-for-lent-2024-70981.cfm>

## **Events on Mar. 15, 2024**

Don't miss the captivating [Robert J. Ellison Photo Exhibition](#) at the Jacoby Arts Center, which features his remarkable work on the Civil Rights movement and the Vietnam War.

Spark your child's curiosity with the [S.T.E.A.M. Take Home Kits](#) for a fun and educational experience focusing on Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Math.

Take advantage of the [Free Tax Preparation](#) services offered at the Niedringhaus Building, designed to assist families with an annual income of less than \$60,000.

Note that the libraries will open at noon due to the [Quarterly Staff Meeting - Libraries Open at Noon](#), so plan your visit accordingly.

Gain valuable insights on dental care from the students of the Lewis & Clark Community College Dental Hygiene Program at the [Dental Hygiene Presentation](#) hosted by Senior Services Plus.

Celebrate Pebbles' first birthday with us at [Pebbles' Birthday Weekend](#) at MeowTown, where you can join the festivities and make a reservation for some feline fun.

O'Brien Tire & Auto Care is inviting you to their [118th Anniversary Celebration](#), complete with complimentary food and drinks for all who attend.

Get into the festive spirit at The Rustic Grill & Tavern with their [St. Patrick's Day Weekend](#) celebration, featuring food and drink specials, along with live entertainment.

Come celebrate with us at [Sports Tap's Birthday Bash!](#), where great food, games, and giveaways are guaranteed to make it an unforgettable event.

Show off your talent or just come to enjoy the performances at [Open Mic Night](#) at Maeva's Coffee, a place where musicians, authors, and comedians are welcome.

Experience the heartwarming musical [FIDDLER ON THE ROOF](#), presented by the Calhoun Entertainment Company at the Center for American Archeology gym.

Witness the thrilling and dark tale of [Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber of Fleet Street](#) at the Alfresco Performing Arts Center, a Broadway success that has kept audiences on the edge of their seats.

End your week with laughter at the [Live ComedySportz Match - Fridays at The Old Orchard Gallery](#), where improv comedy is played as a sport and guarantees a night full of giggles and amusement.

# Events on Mar. 16, 2024

Don't miss the excitement at the [Flea Market](#) on March 16, 2024, at the Belle-Clair Fairgrounds in Belleville, IL, where you can explore over 600 tables of antiques, collectibles, and merchandise.

Get involved with the community by joining the cleanup efforts with [Moose Roadside Trash Pick Up](#) at the Wood River Moose #1349 on March 16th and help keep our streets clean.

Take a journey through history with John C. Guenther at the [Reimagining Places of the Past: Historic Preservation Lecture Series, Part III: The Gateway Arch: An Illustrated Timeline](#) on March 16, 2024, at the Genealogy & Local History Library in Alton, IL.

Enhance your computer skills at the [Computer Classes: Internet Basics](#) at the Hayner Library in Alton, IL, where you can learn all about the Internet in a friendly and supportive environment.

Celebrate St. Patrick's Day in style at the [Downtown Alton St. Pats Pub Crawl](#) on March 16, 2024, and enjoy a day filled with food, drinks, and entertainment across various venues in Downtown Alton.

Join the Easter fun at The Warty Toad LLC in Bethalto, IL, with their [Children's Easter Egg Scatter](#) on March 16th, featuring a petting zoo, sweet treats, crafts, and a visit from the Easter Bunny.

If you're too old for the egg hunt but still want to join in the fun, come to The Warty Toad LLC for their [Petting Zoo](#) on March 16, and enjoy meeting a variety of adorable animals.

Art lovers, you're in for a treat with the [Grafton Art Gallery Grand Opening](#) on March 16 in Grafton, IL, showcasing an array of stunning pieces from regional artists.

Prepare for the upcoming solar eclipse by attending the [Get Ready for the Solar Eclipse with The Center for STEM SIUE](#) on March 16 at SMRLD, 2001 Delmar Ave, and engage in exciting experiments and activities.

Experience a unique blend of cuisine and cuteness at the [Hop Till You Drop! Easter Fun](#) on March 16, 2024, at Kasabi Hibachi & Sushi Express Wood River IL, featuring the Easter bunny and an array of adorable farm animals.

Be entertained by the talented dancers of The O’Faolain Academy of Irish Dance at [Morrison's Irish Pub](#) in Alton, IL, during their St. Patrick’s Day celebration starting at 4:30 PM.

Feel the thrill of racing at the [Highland Speedway Opening Night](#) on March 16th in Highland, IL, and catch the action of DIRTcar Super Late Models, Modifieds, ProModifieds, and Street Stocks.

Support a great cause while enjoying a night of Las Vegas-themed fun at the [Viva Las Vegas Gala Benefiting Partners 4 Pets](#) on March 16, 2024, at The LeClaire Room in Edwardsville, IL.

Join the excitement of PFK Music Bingo at the [Bunker Hill American Legion](#), where doors open at 5:30 pm on March 16th for a night of fun and great prizes.

Indulge in pizza and pies while testing your trivia knowledge at the [Pursuit of Pi\(e\)](#) event on March 16th at Brown Street Baptist in Alton, IL.

Show off your music knowledge at the [3rd Annual Music Trivia](#) night at the Wood River VFW Hall, where you can enjoy a night of trivia, raffles, and auctions on March 16th.

Test your brainpower and support local causes at the [Highland Woman's Club Presents Trivia Night](#) on March 16 at the Knights of Columbus Hall in Highland, IL.

Join the nocturnal adventure with a [Frog Walk](#) at The Nature Institute in Godfrey, IL, led by naturalist Paul Shetley, and get up close with some hopping friends on March 16th.

Ready for a night of Irish cheer and rock tunes? Head over to [Roper's Regal Beagle](#) in Godfrey, IL, for the St. Patrick's Day Party featuring Porch Café on March 16th!

Kick off St. Patrick's festivities with the electrifying performance of Foreplay at [The Pump House](#) in Wood River, IL, on March 16th.

Rock out with Badd Tattoo at [3rd Chute Bar & Grill II](#) in Alton, IL, as they bring the best of the 70's & 80's music to life on stage!

## **Events on Mar. 17, 2024**

As the sun rises on March 17, 2024, the [Spring Equinox Sunrise Observance](#) will be a tranquil experience held at the Cahokia Mounds World Heritage Site in Collinsville, IL, where attendees can welcome the new season at 6:30 am without any ceremonial conduct out of respect for Native American cultures.

Meanwhile, coin enthusiasts can visit the Gillespie Civic Center in Gillespie, IL, for the [Coin Show Gillespie, IL Civic Center](#), where the Hiltop Coin Club hosts their 58th Annual Coin Show from 9 am to 3 pm, featuring over 50 dealers, free admission, and parking, along with door prizes.

Over in Clayton, MO, the vibrant neighborhood of Dogtown will be bustling with excitement during the [2024 Dogtown St. Patrick's Day Irish Festival](#), offering an array of food, drinks, live music, and family-friendly activities, including a parade with over 90 floats that showcase Irish dancing, music, and culture.

In the quaint town of Troy, IL, the Friedens UCC will be serving up hearty meals during their [Friedens Sausage & Kraut Dinner!](#) With drive-thru service running from 11:30 am to 4:30 pm, patrons can enjoy a traditional menu of grilled pork sausage, mashed potatoes & gravy, green beans, sauerkraut, & dessert, all in celebration of their 150th anniversary.

Theatergoers in Alton, IL, will have the opportunity to witness a gripping drama at the ALTON LITTLE THEATER, where the production of [Alabama Story](#) will take the stage, bringing to life a story of a librarian's courage in the face of segregation and a testament to the power of literature in the midst of the Civil Rights movement.

Finally, in Granite City, IL, Unity Baptist Church will be hosting [The Poverty Effect- A Poverty Simulation](#), an event organized by Cornerstone and Metro East Mutual Aid to offer a unique simulation experience that aims to increase understanding and empathy towards neighbors living in poverty.

Don't miss the chance to get your events in front of a wider audience! If you have an upcoming event you'd like to share with the community, you can submit it for free by simply clicking [sign in](#) to your account.

***If you want to make sure even more of the region is aware of your event email [cj@riverbender.com](mailto:cj@riverbender.com) and explore our range of Event Promotion Services!***