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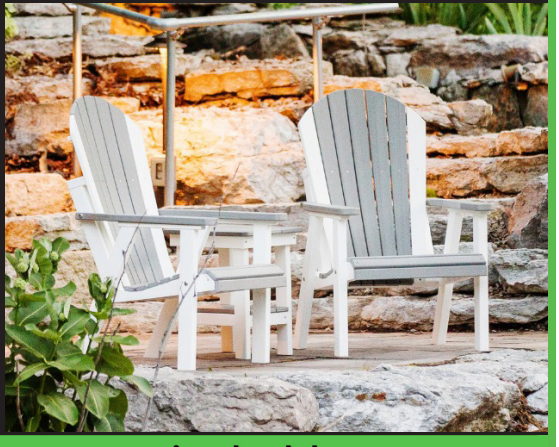












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WELCOME TO KALONA


Kalona Fall Festival


Dutch Country Table



Southtown Recreation



Midwest Woodworks

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Stay connected to Kalona with our local podcast, newspaper, music and more.

Ronald Slechta *Publisher* | Cheryl Allen *Editor*
Eli Ours *Graphic Designer*

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The News produces two tourism guides each year.
To advertise in the next issue, please contact The News.

On the cover: *Visitors to Kalona will notice the Kalona Historical Village is constantly evolving. Foreground right, is the new railcar museum adjacent to the Kalona Depot. Just west of the Visitor's Center, lower left, is the Showalter House, which will become the new home of the Washington County Military Museum. West of the Depot is the Mennonite Museum; in the upper right is a historic barn that was moved to the grounds in early 2025. Donations are welcome to complete the Military Museum building, which will also house a jukebox collection, and restore the barn.*

KALONA Fall Festival

Discover Kalona's history at this feast for the senses, Sept. 25-26, 2026

After the very first Kalona Fall Festival, held in 1972, the local newspaper printed two letters that organizers received about how much visitors enjoyed the event.

"We all enjoyed ourselves so very much," the first letter said. "The delicious looking baked goods, which we saw and purchased and enjoyed after we returned home. Also, the congeniality of the folks of your community, who were in each tent. It was so refreshing to mingle with you folks."

"I have never seen so many bakery goods," the second letter said. "Two of the products, shoo-fly pie and cottage pie, were delicious. Everything was very good, but the two pies were great. I would like to know where I can get the recipes for shoo-fly and cottage pie."

The takeaway: come for the people, stay for the pie.

So much has changed over the past half-century, but Kalona Fall Festival remains largely the same. Friends, family and visitors return year after year, finding comfort in the community and traditions that form Kalona's heart.

Located at the Kalona Historical Village, the festival's setting is one-of-a-kind, expanding the experience from one that is not only fun, but also culturally enriching.

The Fall Festival experience

As you pass through the admission gates, your first impressions may be of color: riotous mums in pinks, yellows and purples overflow their containers at one vendor booth, and handmade turquoise and red bird houses call for your attention at another. Hand-hooked rugs, custom-crafted metal signs, and



crocheted plush toys all vie for your admiration as you take your time through the market spaces, chatting with makers and feasting with your eyes.

Around the corner, the scent of fresh apple fritters sizzling in vats fills your nose, and your mouth begins to salivate for the cinnamon-sugar covered bites. Buttery twists of dough also catch your attention, and the golden pretzels deepen your appetite. But is that a grill over in the corner, covered in succulent pork tenderloins? And did you just catch a whiff of onion rings as those people walked by?

With your food selections made, the picnic tables beckon, and you take a seat by friendly looking families. Between bites, you find yourself engaged in conversation, sharing where you're from and your impressions of the festival. The folks around you reveal that they grew up going to Fall Festival, singing with school choirs while they were students, then volunteering to man food booths when they got older. Now they bring their kids every autumn, and they meet up with their parents here too.

After finishing a slice of fruit pie, you wander through the Village grounds, past original historic buildings like the Loom House, Grandpa House, and Buggy Shop. Men stirring a giant kettle of apple butter capture your attention, and you pause and watch, asking them about the process. A few steps away students are grinding cornmeal, and they have bags available for purchase. Across from them, a couple is making brooms from broomcorn; they tell you that's a type of sorghum, and they're binding it around a pine handle to form a work of functional beauty.

Everywhere you look, kids are having fun. A young lady is taking a pony ride; a young man is having his face painted. You follow a trio of kids into the Ag Museum, where a puppet show is about to begin. As banjo chords fill the air, you edge closer to the stage to see the handmade papier mache creations come to life.

Back outside you pause for a refreshment, filling a copper tankard with black cherry soda poured from a barrel tap. Is life in Kalona always this good? You wonder. Then the next musical guest is announced on the main stage, and you make your way to the tent, wondering what more there is to discover.

Kalona Fall Festival takes place Sept. 25-26 at the Kalona Historical Village.
Learn more at Kalonalowa.org.









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FRIDAY ITINERARY

Sweater Weather Weekend

Museums, shopping and plenty of fresh air make for relaxing days in Kalona

Coffee & Breakfast

- ☐ Try something from the seasonal drink menu at ***Kalona Coffee House,*** where the owners roast their own premium coffee beans and serve homemade coffee cakes and scones.
- ☐ Enjoy a fresh glazed donut or select a few pastries at ***Golden Delight Bakery.***

Morning Activities

- ☐ While you're out on the gravel roads, head out to ***Pine Ridge Variety, Community Country Store***, and ***JK Creative Wood*** for unique shopping experiences.

Lunch

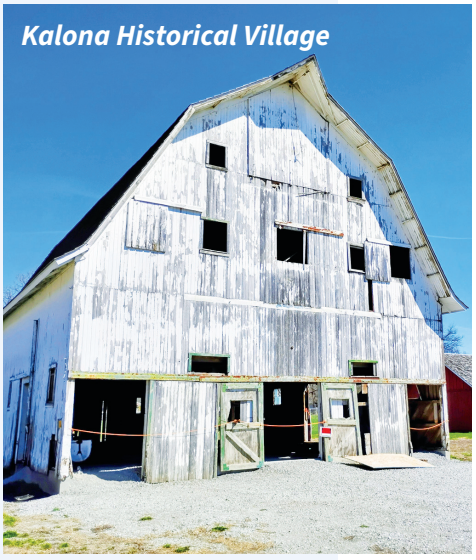
- ☐ Linger over tasty soups and sandwiches named after locals at ***The Lunchbox Café*** inside Kalona General Store.

Afternoon Activities

- ☐ Book an afternoon massage at ***Eden Salon & Spa*** to unknot your shoulders and relieve tension for the rest of the weekend.
- ☐ Spend a couple hours at the ***Kalona Historical Village***, where the area's rich history comes alive through galleries, museums, and preserved original buildings. Don't miss the ***Iowa Mennonite Museum and Archives*** on the same property.

Dinner & Drinks

- ☐ Relax at ***Los Amigos Taqueria***, where you'll find signature dishes like Pollo Santa Fe and chicken-stuffed jalapenos wrapped in bacon and an exciting selection of Mexican cocktails.


Kalona Historical Village



Kalona Coffee House


JK Creative Wood

SATURDAY ITINERARY

Coffee & Breakfast

- ☐ Incredible cinnamon rolls await you at ***Best of Iowa***; be sure to bag a few Iowa-shaped sugar cookies for the road.

- ☐ Stop by ***Creamery Coffee*** at Kalona Creamery for a cow-themed drink like The Betsy – a salted caramel mocha with cold foam. Don't miss your chance at fresh cheese curds inside the gift shop.

Morning Activities

- ☐ A stone's throw from Kalona Creamery, ***Stringtown Grocery*** is a must-visit for a huge selection of bagged bulk foods. Drive just a little further into the country and you can start your fabric shopping at ***Little Prairie Fabrics.***

- ☐ If sewing and quilting is your passion, head back into town for ***Stitch N Sew Cottage*** and ***Willow Creek Quilting & Gifts***, where you'll find both notions and knowledge. Explore downtown gift and antique shops on foot, being sure to duck into ***Kalona Chocolates*** for a little indulgence.

Lunch

- ☐ Visit the new ***Dutch Country Table*** for lunch between 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. The Dutch Country Burger is stacked with bacon and fried cheese curds; the Bontrager's Grilled Cheese is grilled on homemade Amish bread.

Afternoon Activities

- ☐ Get some fresh air at ***Southtown Recreation Area***; kids love the accessible playground, pups appreciate the dog parks, and you might even fit in a round of disc golf. Still have energy to burn? Explore the wooded trails or cast a line at the fishing pond.

Dinner & Drinks

- ☐ Enjoy chips and salsa while perusing the menu at ***Tequila Grill,*** where you'll find a huge selection of tacos, burritos, and enchiladas. Margaritas are the restaurant's specialty.


Kalona Chocolates


Collected Treasures Antiques & Quilts


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Join us for Christmas in Kalona, Dec. 5, 2026

Small-town Christmases share a simple magic. The kind where the local handyman plays Santa Claus and neighborhood children take part in the live nativity. The kind where retirees wrap gifts while you warm up with a mug of hot cocoa. The kind where the town's best bakers stock the cookie walk with treats, and those in the know line up before it opens.

Christmas in Kalona has that kind of magic.

Every year the community comes together to decorate shop windows, participate in the Christmas tree competition, and build floats for the lighted golf cart parade. The results are pure, twinkling fun, creating an atmosphere of wonder and joy from morning to night.

Shopping is a part of the day, of course; what would Christmas be without the pleasure of gift-giving? While shop owners stock goodies for children who come by with their walking stockings, vendors transform the YMCA into a Christmas Market, filled with handmade crafts and homemade sweets.

Food and drinks warm the soul at Christmas in Kalona; a handful of shops hand out cider and hot cocoa, and food trucks line the street downtown, filling the air with the aromas of kettle corn, cotton candy, and gourmet coffee.

As daylight fades, families pile into wagon rides, and the Optimist Club gives away sleds at the Kalona Historical Village. Inside the visitors' center, friends chat over cookies, and outside kids cluster around fire pits, roasting marshmallows.

Small-town Christmases share a simple magic. We hope you'll join us in Kalona this year.

Christmas in Kalona takes place Saturday, Dec. 5 at the Kalona Community Center, Kalona Historical Village and downtown Kalona. Learn more at KalonaChamber.com/Christmas-in-Kalona





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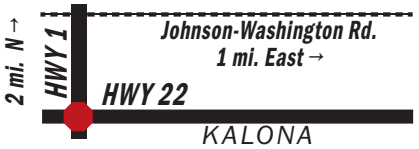
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Pleasantview Benefit Sale Oct. 30-31

Quilts, hand-made items, vouchers for future meals in local homes, frozen packages of locally grown beef and pork are some of the 400+ items to be auctioned at the 69th Annual Pleasantview Benefit Friday evening, October 30 and Saturday morning, October 31. Pleasantview is a not-for-profit continuing care retirement community in Kalona which offers independent living, assisted living, nursing care, skilled care, and memory care.

Open to the public and located in the fully accessible (including elevator) Hillcrest Academy in rural Kalona, the Benefit displays the Kalona community at its best. Great food -- Friday evening dinner and Saturday morning breakfast -- will be served on a donation basis. Music will permeate the gym as the crowd gathers. Bake sale goods will be in abundance, and once again the community will come together to connect with friends and to support Pleasantview by generously bidding in the silent and live auctions.



Fred Swartzendruber, Goshen, IN, holds one of the 12 Pleasantview mugs that he made for an earlier benefit. Numbered souvenir mugs will be auctioned again this year.

Whether you are in the market for a quilt, a gift certificate from a local business, a Christmas gift, cheese or frozen meat, or if you just want to come to eat and enjoy the music, you are invited to attend and bring a friend!

For more information go to www.pvkalona.com (benefit tab) or call 319-656-2421.

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Community Country Store Annex

Little Shops Lasting Finds

Shopping in Kalona feels personal in the best possible way.

Here, shops aren't slick or corporate, and they aren't trying to be. Each one reflects the personality of its owner—often someone who has spent most or all of their life in Kalona. Step inside and you're likely to be greeted by the owner at the counter, or by a family member who knows the story behind nearly everything on the shelf.

Each shop, one of a kind

Many of Kalona's shops are cozy rather than expansive, with shelves filled thoughtfully from floor to ceiling. Some feel delightfully full, packed with antiques, collectibles, fabrics, gifts or tools that follow a clear theme—variations on an idea rather than a random assortment. From the creak of old wood floors to the waft of just-poured chocolates, no two shops are alike, and each has its own distinct character.

Old finds and new favorites

There's a natural blend of old and new throughout town. Vintage finds, antiques and collectibles sit alongside modern fabrics, handcrafted Iowa-made goods and carefully chosen gifts. There is something for all ages, from plush toys, cute jewelry, and retro games that appeal to kids and teens to handmade quilts and wood furniture akin to fine art that are investment pieces for a mature clientele.

Meet the people behind the counter

What ties all these shops together is the people behind them. Kalona shop owners are known for being friendly, knowledgeable and genuinely curious about visitors. They'll ask where you're from, what brings you to town, and where you plan to go next—and they're always happy to offer suggestions or point you in the right direction.

Shopping, the Kalona way

This is not a tech-heavy shopping experience, and that's part of the charm. You won't find online carts or "buy it later" options.



JK Creative Wood

Some receipts are still written by hand. Most shops accept cash and credit, though in the surrounding countryside, cash is often preferred. It's a place where modern life meets traditions that have endured, creating a shopping experience that feels both refreshing and timeless.

Explore Kalona's locally owned shops and discover what makes each one unique; see directory page 52.

Amish Shop Protocol *- Be prepared! Amish shops accept cash only, and they are closed on Good Friday (March 26, 2027) and Ascension Day (May 6, 2027).*



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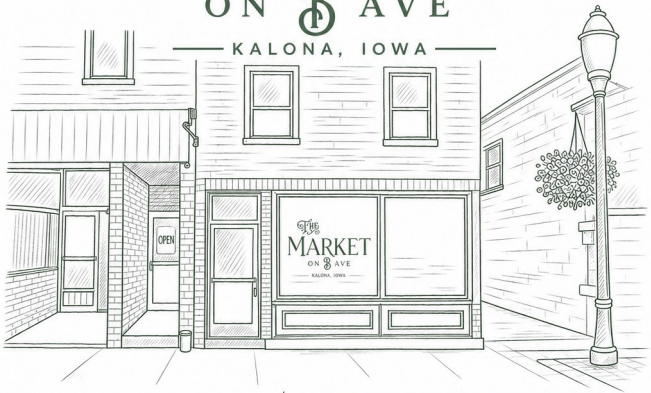
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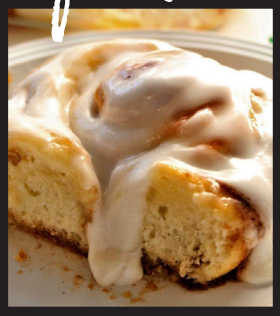
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Coffee, Pie & Conversation

Dining in Kalona doesn't always look the way visitors expect—and that's part of its charm. Rather than a row of traditional restaurants, many of the town's food options are tucked into places where community life naturally unfolds: shops, gathering spaces and local institutions. It's an approach that reflects Kalona itself—practical, welcoming and centered on connection.

While you shop

Folks in Kalona love their drinks and their sweets! No matter the weather, when you're out shopping downtown, you'll notice cups in hand – ***Kalona Coffee House*** is a must-stop, whether you're in the mood for hot premium coffee or a cold smoothie. Pick up a homemade scone or monster cookie there but save room – ***Best of Iowa*** will tempt you with their cinnamon rolls and gourmet cupcakes. Next door inside the ***Kalona General Store***, rest a bit at ***The Lunchbox Café***, where you'll find classic soups, salads and sandwiches made fresh. In summer, don't be surprised to find them grilling pork burgers, brats, and chicken outside – you might just smell that deliciousness wafting through downtown before you see it.



Kalona Creamery

For those who enjoy a cuppa, head into ***The Vintage Society***; a super-stylish tea bar is tucked into this antique shop, where you can sit down at a pink booth and sip an artisan drink from a dainty teacup. Chocoholics will want to indulge at ***Kalona Chocolates***, where everything from chocolate covered Oreos and Krisipe treats to caramels and candied orange peels will delight the tastebuds. And kids young and old enjoy walking up to the window at ***Yotty's Ice Cream*** for a soft-serve sundae or a sweet, crunchy Kalona Bar – vanilla ice cream coated in a hard chocolate shell and rolled in graham cracker crumbs.

Need to pick up a few grocery items? ***JW's Foods*** is your place – and you can enjoy a hot breakfast, lunch, or dinner at the deli/grill before or after you check out. There's plenty of seating, so plan to relax a bit with a plate of French toast or a barnyard burger with sweet potato fries.

While you visit

A couple hundred people call ***Pleasantview***

home, but you don't need to know anyone at the retirement village in order to eat there – although you just might before you leave! Their two eateries embody the whole Kalona vibe: cozy, friendly, and rooted in tradition. At the ***Cozy Corner Café***, located right inside the main lobby, you'll find breakfast, soups, salads, sandwiches, and drinks, including Italian sodas and specialty coffees. Look for specials like biscuits and gravy or the more quirky ham and pickle grilled cheese. ***Friendship Center Dining***, located at the Friendship Center, serves lunch Tuesday-Friday. Enjoy mid-western classics like pork chops, meat-loaf, and baked chicken, all served with dessert "because every meal deserves a little sweetness!"


Country Cookin'

While you explore

A visit to Kalona wouldn't be complete without a visit to ***Kalona Creamery*** where our famous cheese curds have been made since the 1950s. Enjoy that squeak! But don't overlook the house-made fudge and ice cream; made from organic milk from grass-fed cows raised on nearby small family farms, they're beyond good. ***Creamery Coffee*** is onsite too, serving specialty coffees enhanced by that same milk, as well as Lotus energy drinks and a host of yummy sweets like cinnamon rolls, frosted sugar cookies, muffins, and biscotti.

Amish country is also a must. While you're out exploring the rolling hills of Kalona's backroads, don't miss ***Golden Delight Bakery & Gifts,*** a destination for baked goods deeply rooted in traditional German and Amish culinary influences. Coffee cakes, glazed donuts, caramel pecan rolls, fruit pies, kolaches, bacon garlic cheese bread – they're all served fresh, warm, and delicious.

All manner of livestock filters through ***Kalona Sales Barn***, a fourth-generation family business where you can watch the auction sales take place in the arena. The Lunchroom is open weekly on Wednesday and Thursday sale days, where you'll find traditional hearty comfort food – pancakes, cinnamon rolls, homemade sandwiches, soup, salad, burgers, and homemade pie served with ice cream. This is a local favorite; plenty of folks will tell you it's the best lunch around.

On the road

From spring to fall, Kalona's local food trucks can often be spotted along Highway 22. Mornings, look for ***Juniper Roots***, whose coffee drinks are made with local organic ingredients; the homemade muffins, cinnamon rolls and bagels are delicious. ***Country Cookin'*** is known for its maid rites, brats and grilled pork tenderloins served with sides like baked beans, pasta salad, and soup – and for incredible homemade fruit and cream pies. And ***Revels Mobile Meatery*** serves hearty classics like pizza burgers, chicken fingers, pulled pork, and Philly cheesesteak, with sides including breaded pickles and cheese fries.

Full-service dining

When you're ready to sit down for a full-service meal, Kalona has great options. ***Dutch Country Table*** is your go-to for breakfast; try Amish-style fried cornmeal mush or a classic stack of pancakes. If you arrive in time for lunch, take a break for burgers and fries – and leave room for pie for dessert.

Los Amigos Taqueria serves authentic Mexican cuisine in a cozy setting for lunch and dinner; you'll find enchiladas, flautas, quesadillas, fajitas, and street tacos on the menu, as well as plenty of fish, shrimp, and veggie options. ***Tequila Grill*** is known for its burritos, tacos, steak and margaritas; enjoy generous servings and house-made chips served fresh with salsa in a relaxed, friendly atmosphere.

If you're looking for posh, head to ***Tuscan Moon Grill on Fifth***; this popular spot for special occasions and date nights serves dishes such as crab cakes, shrimp alfredo, pork belly burger, and rack of lamb. Located inside the original Kalona Hotel building, the wood floors, tall ceilings, and exposed brick provide a unique ambiance both indoors and out; an extensive wine list complements the scratch-made food.

EAT LIKE A LOCAL

Amish/Mennonite Flavors:

Dutch Country Table
JW's Foods Deli/Grill
Kalona Sales Barn Lunchroom
Miller Homestead Cooking

Local Coffee:

Kalona Coffee House
Creamery Coffee
Juniper Roots Traveling Coffee

Cinnamon Rolls:

Best of Iowa
Creamery Coffee
Golden Delight Bakery & Gifts
Kalona Sales Barn Lunchroom

Pie:

Country Cookin' Mobile Food Unit
Dutch Country Table
Golden Delight Bakery & Gifts
Kalona Sales Barn Lunchroom

ONLY DINE IN

TACOS Tuesday

$1.99
Soft or Crispy Tacos
Ground Beef or Shredded Chicken Lettuce and Cheese ONLY

$2.50
Mexican Tacos
Corn tortilla with onion & cilantro

Mexican Tacos: Steak, Grilled Chicken, Carnitas (Pork)

MARGARITAS

Mondays, Tuesdays & Thursdays



$1.99
MONDAY & TUESDAY
Margarita Special

$2.99
THURSDAY
Margarita Special





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MON-SAT 11 AM - 10 PM., SUN 11 AM - 9 PM | 125 4th ST., KALONA



MONDAY
$2.99 BEERS &
$9.99 QUESADILLAS
FIESTA, FAJITA, GRANDE

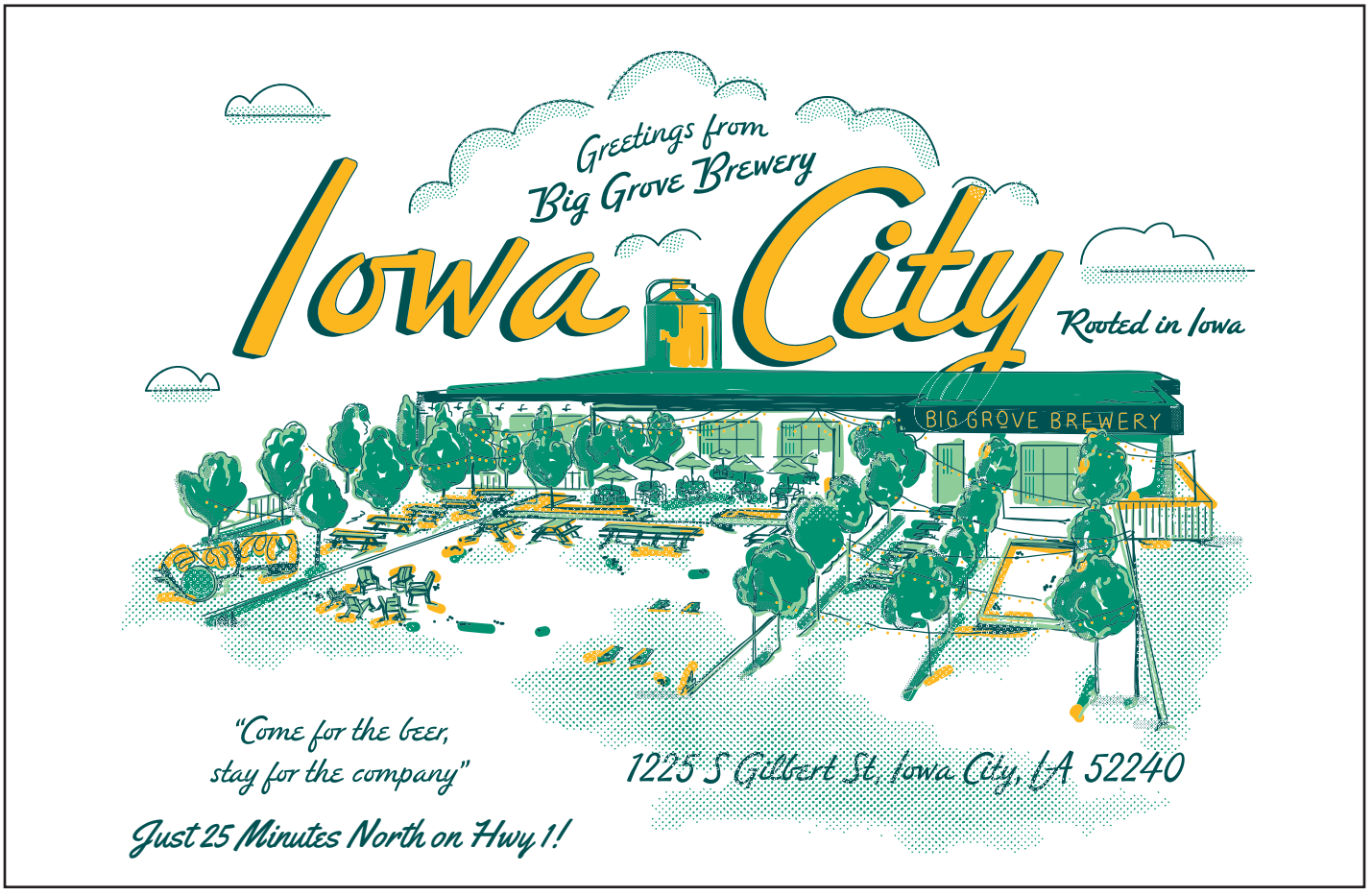
TUESDAY
$1 TACO TUESDAY
$4.99 JUMBO MARGARITA

WEDNESDAY
$9.99 BIG BURRITO SPECIAL

THURSDAY
ALL ENCHILADA DISHES $10.99
1/2 OFF 16oz. MARGARITA

specials

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TO IOWA CITY
Old Mans Creek Antiques
Sisters' Garden & Bloom
Derby Ave.
FRYTOWN
500th St
SHARON CENTER
1
Hazelwood Ave
Sharon Center Rd.
James Ave
Twin County Produce Auction
Central Discount
Little Prairie Fabrics
Lower Deer Creek Mennonite Church
540th St
F67
540th St
TO HILLS
Hillcrest Academy
JOETOWN
Kalona Creamery
Stringtown Grocery
Fairview Mennonite Church
Pine Ridge Variety
Gable Ave
560th St
East Union Mennonite Church
The Kuntry Nook
218
Miller Homestead Cooking
Community Country Store Annex
Community Country Store
Hazelwood Ave
Johnson Washington Road
Maple Ave
Golden Delight Bakery
Orange Ave
Palm Ave
Poplar Blvd
Golden Valley Ranch
Yoder's Polycraft Furniture
JK Creative Wood
Kalona Mini Barns
Maple Avenue Greenhouse
105th St
Nutmeg Ave
105th St
110th St
110th St
Ramsey Creek Woodworks
Heartland Design
Larch Ave
Ethel's B&B
KALONA
Five Star Auction
La Chiva Loka
Sonrise Coffee
The Hall Closet
Riverside History Center
Riverside Casino & Golf Resort
Palm Ave
TO WELLMAN
4-WAY STOP
22
Dutch Country Inn
Kalona Auto Used Cars
Shed Barn
TO RIVERSIDE
TO LONE TREE
Midwest Woodworks
Kwik Star
Kalona Historical Village
Reliable Tire
133rd St
CS Autobody
Kuenster
Magdalena's on the English
Windmill Ridge Campground
Kalona Golf Course
R&S Harness
140th St
TO WASHINGTON
Gravel Road
Paved Road
Paved Highway
Map not to scale
N

Downtown Kalona



ATTRACTIONS

1. Gospel Light Fellowship
2. Kalona United Methodist Church
3. Kalona Fire Station
4. Kalona Community Center & City Hall
5. Kalona Public Library
6. Kalona By-Ways Tours & Chamber of Commerce
7. Mid-Prairie East Elementary & Middle School
8. Kalona Historical Village
9. Kalona Sales Barn
10. City of Kalona Campground
11. Kalona Municipal Pool
12. Sunnyside Mennonite Church
13. Cornerstone Church
14. Bunker Mill Bridge

STAY

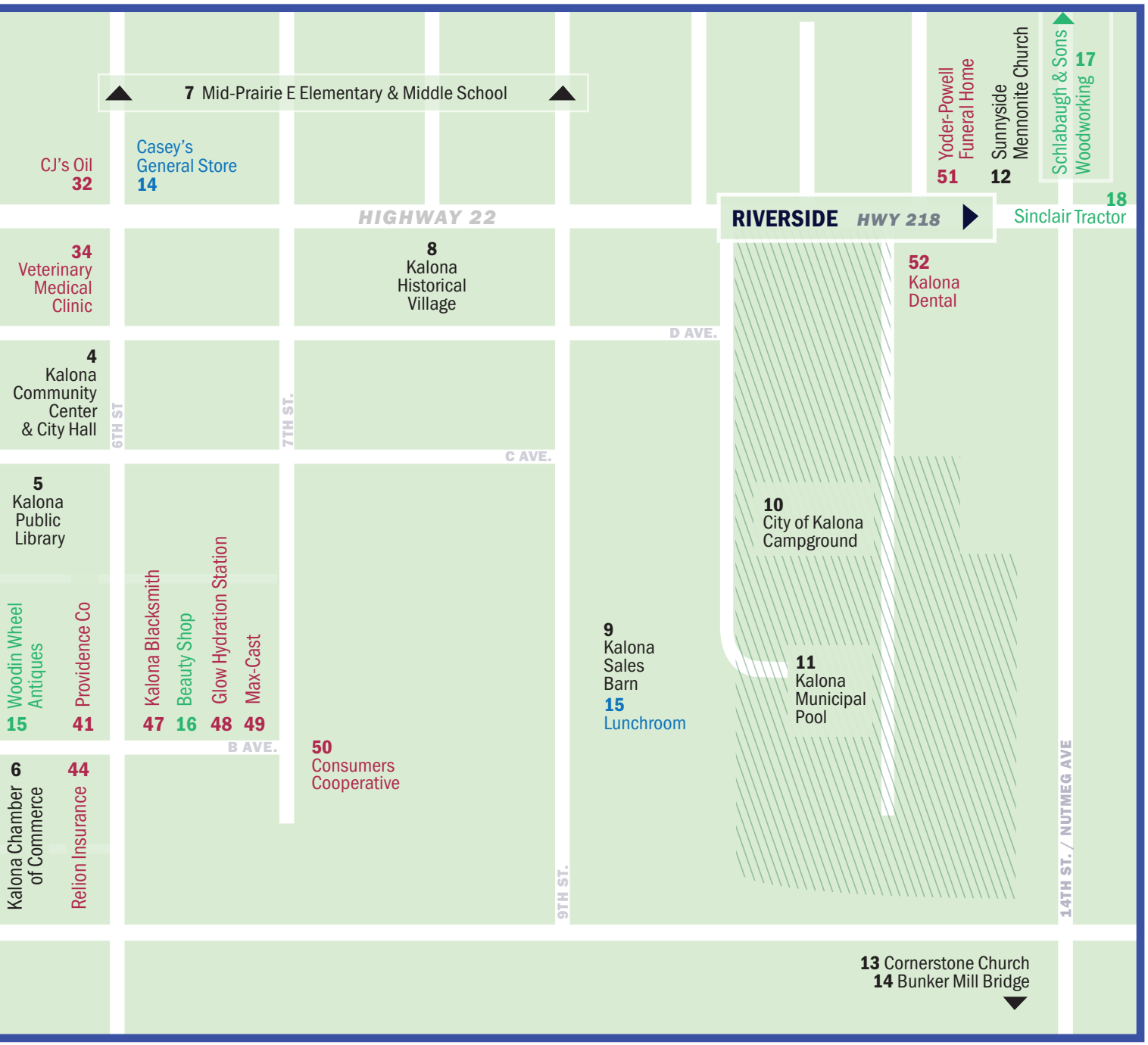
1. Dutch Country Inn

SHOP

1. Stitch 'N Sew Cottage
2. Tequila Wine & Spirits
3. Shirley Rae's
4. Vintage Society
5. Collected Treasures
6. Vintage Chic
7. Refined Collective
8. Willow Creek Quilting & Gifts
9. The Market on B Ave
10. Kalona General Store
11. Best of Iowa
12. Fresh
13. Timeless Charm
14. First Class Apparel
15. Wooden Wheel Antiques
16. Beauty Shop
17. Schlabaugh & Sons Woodworking
18. Sinclair Tractor

EAT/DRINK

1. Kwik Star
2. Subway
3. Los Amigos Taqueria
4. JW's Food & Deli
5. Dutch Country Table
6. Tequila Grill
7. Cozy Corner Cafe
8. Friendship Center Dining
9. Kalona Chocolates
10. Tuscan Moon
11. Kalona Coffee House
12. The Lunch Box
13. Yotty's Ice Cream
14. Casey's General Store
15. Kalona Sales Barn Lunchroom



SERVICES

1 Kalona Realty
2 Century Insurance
3 Eden Salon & Spa
4 Westside Petro
5 Reliable Tires & Service
6 Car Wash
7 Bright Futures Chiropractic
8 WCHC Health Care
9 Pleasantview Home
10 Farmes Elevator Exchange
11 Hershberger Oil
12 J&S Plumbing
13 NAPA
14 Beatty - Peterseim Funeral Home
15 Willow Hair Studio
16 Kalona Auto Used Cars
17 Washboard Laundromat
18 Appliance Barn
19 Kalonial Transport
20 Bontrager Tax
21 Everence & Law Offices
22 The Daily
23 Errthum Chiropractic
24 Shear Image
25 Iowa Family Counseling
26 Washington Chiropractic
27 The News
28 Physical Therapy
29 CBI Bank
30 Allen Mitchell CPA
31 Kalona Auto Service
32 CJ's Oil
33 Midway Van Rental
34 Veterinary Medical Clinic
35 Kalona Post Office
36 One-to-One Pharmacy
37 Financial Concepts
38 Eye Associates
39 Yotty's Ace Hardware
40 Yotty's Golf Carts
41 Providence Co
42 Hills Bank
43 KCTC/iTech
44 Reilon Insurance
45 Southeast Iowa Insurance
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49 Max-Cast
50 Consumers Cooperative
51 Yoder-Powell Funeral Home
52 Kalona Dental

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Closes after Oct. 15



Fall Mums



Walking Through Time

As America celebrates its Semiquincentennial, the Kalona Historical Village brings local history to life.

Like the individual human beings who populate them, past and present, communities are multi-faceted, with no one trait making up the whole of who and what they are. It is up to local history museums to determine how best to tell the stories of individual lives and the community as a whole so that those in the present can gain a deeper understanding of the town they have inherited.

The Kalona Historical Village, established in 1969, began with the preservation of the original railroad depot that was central to the establishment of the town. From there it grew to encompass a dozen additional buildings that reflect pioneer and Amish life in the late 19th century.

Expansion has been rapid in recent years, with completion of the Wahl Museum, where a life-size streetscape brings the streets of early Kalona to life, followed by the addition of a boxcar to the railroad exhibit and the moving of a century-old barn to the property, which will become a full-fledged agriculture museum in future years.

The Village tells many stories, including those about Kalona's quilting heritage, Amish/Mennonite roots, and farming history. In 2026, it will explore yet another facet of its people's lives: service to their country.

This year the Washington County Military Museum relocates from Washington to the Kalona Historical Village, expanding its access to the public. Although it will occupy space temporarily for now, plans are underway to establish permanent exhibits in 2027.

The military exhibits focus on local veterans' service from the Civil War to the present. An impressive collection of uniforms, gear, weaponry, wartime souvenirs, and photographs are displayed with interpretation that tells the stories of soldiers and their sacrifices.

In celebration of America's 250th anniversary in 2026, the Kalona Historical Village will be open on Memorial Day, Independence Day, and Veterans Day holidays, and special exhibits and lectures will be part of the programs. Visitors won't want to miss these unique opportunities to engage with Kalona's history.









2026 Programs at Kalona Historical Village

Aug. 1 - Historical Dinner: Civil War, hosted by Mike Zahs

Aug. 7-8 - IIQSG Iowa Illinois Quilt Study Group

Sept. 25-26 - Fall Festival

Oct. 17 - Presentation: "Washington County's WWII Heroes," by Caedyn Huston

Oct. 30 - Jack O'Lantern Jaunt

Nov. 11 - Veterans Day America 250 exhibits and lectures

Dec. 5 - Open House and Christmas Tree Walk

Dec. 12 - Presentation: "Iowa Colorguard," by Michael Huston

Iowa Mennonite Museum and Archives

Artifacts, archives, books, and stories from Amish and Mennonite families of the Kalona area and throughout Iowa fill the museum and archives located on the property of the Kalona Historical Village. The stories of Amish settlers, who found a home in Johnson County in 1846, are told here. For those conducting research, the Archives contain newsletters, family documents, periodicals, histories of local Mennonite churches and more.



Iowa Mennonite Museum & Archives



DISPLAYS

Amish & Mennonite growth through the years, Anabaptist history, family stories, artifacts & collections, business & agriculture stories.

RESEARCH

Genealogy books, reference books & vault access by appointment only.

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Books about the Amish & Mennonites, genealogy fans & charts, apple butter by pint & half pint & much more! Cash & checks accepted.

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every Thursday, Cattle 9:00 AM - Hay 11:00 AM

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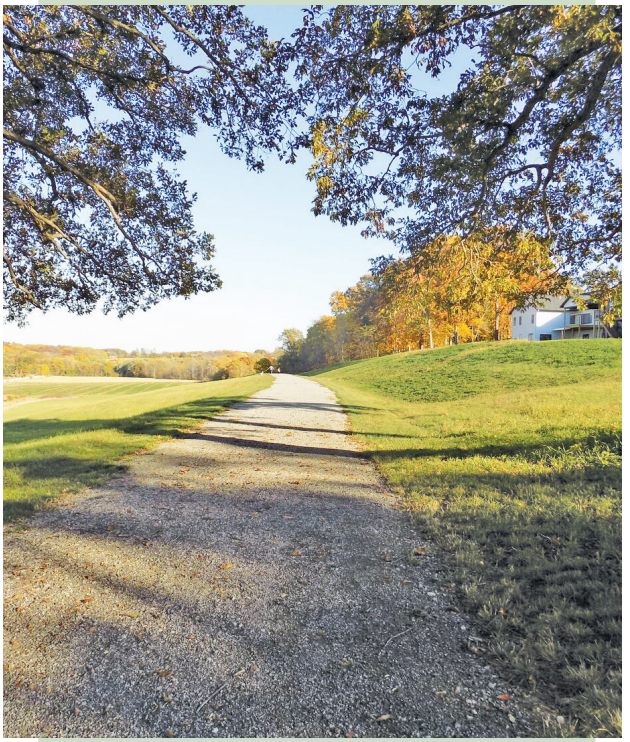
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Fresh Air & Quiet Trails

Southtown Recreation Area and Vista Ridge Park



It required years of planning, but today Kalona boasts a park and recreational area that punches far above the community's 2,600-population weight. Over 100 acres of dedicated public land lies just a stone's throw south of the city proper where everyone is welcome to do what they love, whether that be fish, run, or wash the dog.

ADA Playground

Fully inclusive with adaptive swings, sensory panels, and poured-in-place surfacing

Splash Pad

Zero-depth water play with 18 in-ground water spray features

Dog Park

Over 2 acres with separate areas for large and small dogs, internal walking trail, and natural limestone seating

Disc Golf

Challenging 9-hole course open to the public

Fishing Ponds

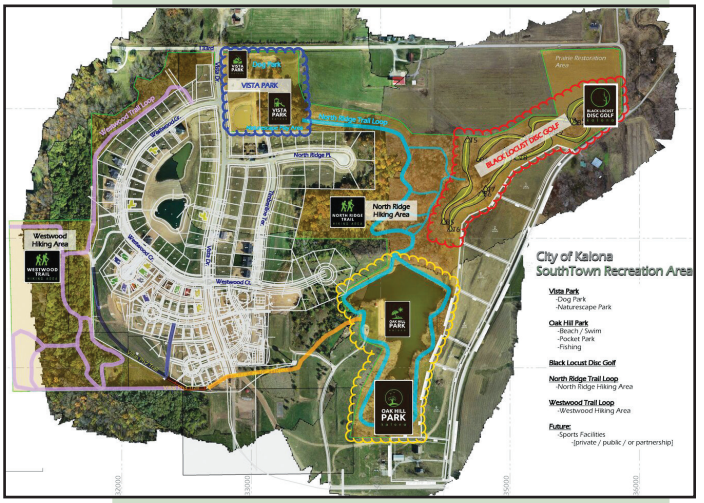
Two publicly accessible ponds, one stocked with trout

Trails

Over two miles of aggregate trail access for walkers, runners and cyclists

Facilities

Restrooms, dog wash station, and shaded plaza



How to get there:
take Highway 1 south from Kalona for two miles, then turn left on 133rd Street. Look for signs for Southtown on your right; parking is available next to the playground and Vista Park Pond. Address is 2885 133rd Street, Kalona.



BUNKER MILL BRIDGE
KALONA, IOWA
2026

May 12: Eric Pettit Lion
May 19: Dave Zollo
May 26: Goat Hollow Boys
June 2: Dogs on Skis
June 9: Cedar County Cobras
June16: Todd Partridge
June 23: Saint Silver
June 30: The Swampland Jewels
July 7: Tanya English Band
Sat. July 11: Doris Park Memorial
4:30pm Potluck 6:30pm Two Bit Maniac
July 14: Regular Joes
July 21: Awful Purdies
July 28: Illinois John Fever
August 4: Aaron Simmons
August 11: Pigs & Clover
August 18: Heartfelt Trucking
August 25: The Mullins Brothers
September 1: The Laid Back Band
September 8: Silt Creek
September 15: Lojo Russo
September 22: Space Ship Driver
September 29: River Glen Duo
October 6: TBA Rain Date
October 13: TBA Rain Date

How to Have the Best Night by the River...
*Bring your chair, cooler & snacks!
*All Ages Welcome!
BANDS ARE NOT ASKED TO CENSOR MUSIC
*$10 Suggested Donation
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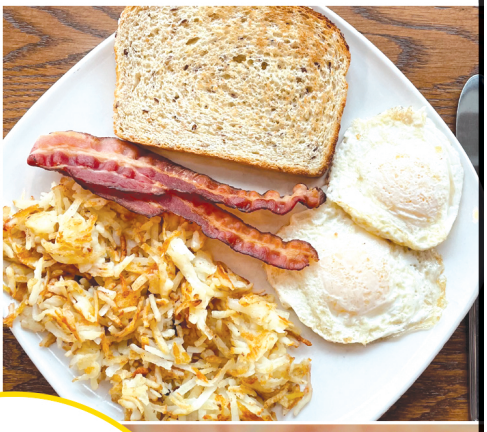
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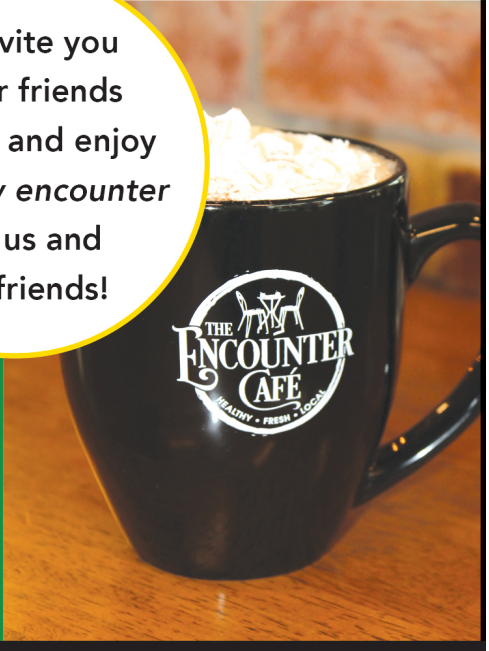








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April 23 9 a.m. - 7 p.m.
April 24 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

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A COZY PLACE TO LAND

Overnight lodging in Kalona

Dutch Country Inn

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Dutchcountryinnkalona.com | (319) 656-3611

Owned by country farmers who come from Amish families, this affordable hotel aims to provide an atmosphere of rest and refreshment for all who enter. The lobby provides comfortable couches, TV, and books, and tables and chairs are available for work or study. The continental-style breakfast offered each morning includes locally made caramel cinnamon rolls. Room options include double queen, whirlpool suite, family suite, ADA, and single king.



Windmill Ridge Campground

2114 140th St
Windmillridgecampground.com | 319-656-4488

Open April to October, Windmill Ridge offers a stunning natural environment for overnight stays in Kalona. Over 70 sites with electricity, fire pits, tables, and restroom/shower access will keep you comfortable in your RV or tent. A free sewer dump station is available, and kitchen and pavilion rentals are available as well.



Ethel's Gourmet Kitchen B&B

1070 Highway 1
(319) 936-6131

Reserve a room in advance for this popular B&B in the heart of Amish country. The cozy accommodations include a large, comfortable common area with cable TV, internet, and fireplace; food includes a gourmet breakfast in the morning and dessert and beverage in the evening.



City of Kalona Campground

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Just Down the Road RIVERSIDE

For a rural Iowa town of just over 1,000 people, Riverside gets more than its fair share of attention thanks in part to Gene Roddenberry, creator of the science fiction series Star Trek. For the past 30 years, the city has made much of its status as the future birthplace of Capt. James T. Kirk, who will be born here on March 22, 2228. But that's not the whole story: the town boasts a world-class casino, resort hotel, and golf course, as well as unique downtown shopping.









RIVERSIDE LISTINGS

Bud's Custom Meats
3027 IA-22
Budscustommeatsonline.com

La Chiva Loka
70 W First St
Lachivaloka.com

Gnoll's Loot Table
51 E First St
Thegnoll.com

The Hall Closet
21 W First St
Facebook.com/thehallclosetia

Kindred
51 W First St
Facebook.com/kindred.riverside/

Ockershausen Outpost
41 W First St.
Ockershausenoutpost.com

Old 218 Tap
108 Main St., Hills
Facebook.com/Old218Tap

Railroad Park
across from Voyage Home Museum

Riverside Casino & Golf Resort
3184 IA-22
Riversidecasinoandresort.com

Riverside City Hall
60 Greene St.
Riversideiowa.gov

Sass Family Farm
3060 160th St
Sassfamilyfarms.com

Sonrise Coffee
11 E 1st St
Sonrisecoffeeiowa.com

Voyage Home Museum
361 W First St.
Voyagehomemuseum.org

RIVERSIDE CASINO & GOLF RESORT

Gaming: More than 800 slot machines, 39 table games, a poker room and ELITE Sportsbook give you the opportunity to win 24/7.

Dining: Indulgent buffet, steak, and seafood restaurants, a sports lounge, and two cafes will satisfy every appetite and desire.

Golf: Blue Top Ridge championship golf course is world-class and offers a one-of-a-kind experience to every golfer, from beginner to pro.

Entertainment: Check out the lineup of live events and performances online; Skillet, Sevendust, and Jeff Foxworthy are a few of the headliners in Spring 2026.

Spa & Hotel: Enjoy the full resort experience, complete with deluxe suites, valet parking, indoor/outdoor pool, gift and fashion boutiques, and luxurious salon



and spa treatments.

TREKKIE ATTRACTIONS

Star Trek Landmarks

— Check out the monument marking the birthplace of Capt. James T. Kirk on the south side of Riverside City Hall.

— Marvel at the bronze statue of a youthful Capt. Kirk in Railroad Park.

— Don't miss the Star Trek banners on light poles throughout downtown.

— Look for a Delta Shield crafted from bicycles on the side of the Voyage Home Museum.

Voyage Home Museum & Riverside History Center

This inventive museum is like nothing you've seen before. Inside you'll find exhibits including a transponder, complete with buttons and lights; a Bat'leth guitar; and a statue of the University of Iowa mascot, Herky, giving the Vulcan salute in this ode to Riverside's most famous future resident. Take home a t-shirt, action figure, or Starfleet insignia pin to remember your voyage.



TrekFest

Mark your calendars for June 24-26, 2027, when Star Trek fans from all over the world will celebrate with a weekend of fun. Celebrity guests Robert McNeill and Garrett Wang – Tom Paris and Harry Kim from Star Trek Voyager – will be out and about, leading the parade floats Saturday morning and signing autographs, and look for special events with Star Trek writers and makeup artists throughout the weekend. Consider coming in costume and competing in the costume contest – pets too!

GRAB A BITE

Feeling a bit peckish? Find specialty coffee drinks and morning pastries at ***Sonrise Coffee***, grab a stash of jerky and meat sticks at ***Bud's Custom Meats***, enjoy Mexican-American fusion and specialty margaritas at ***La Chiva Loka***, and head north on Highway 218 a few miles to ***Old 218 Tap*** for some incredible wings at the bar.

RAVE REVIEWS

Ockershausen Outpost: Step inside the doors of this downtown storefront and you'll suddenly find yourself out west, surrounded by crystals, gems and minerals that the owner mined himself. Crack a geode, commission a piece of jewelry, and take in the wagon wheel and antler décor.

Sass Family Farm: Beloved for its pumpkins, gourds, and petting zoo, this farm has something for all ages and seasons, from just-picked produce to crafts and antiques inside the rustic country store. Don't miss out on the baked goods and be sure to leave time to play in the dried corn.



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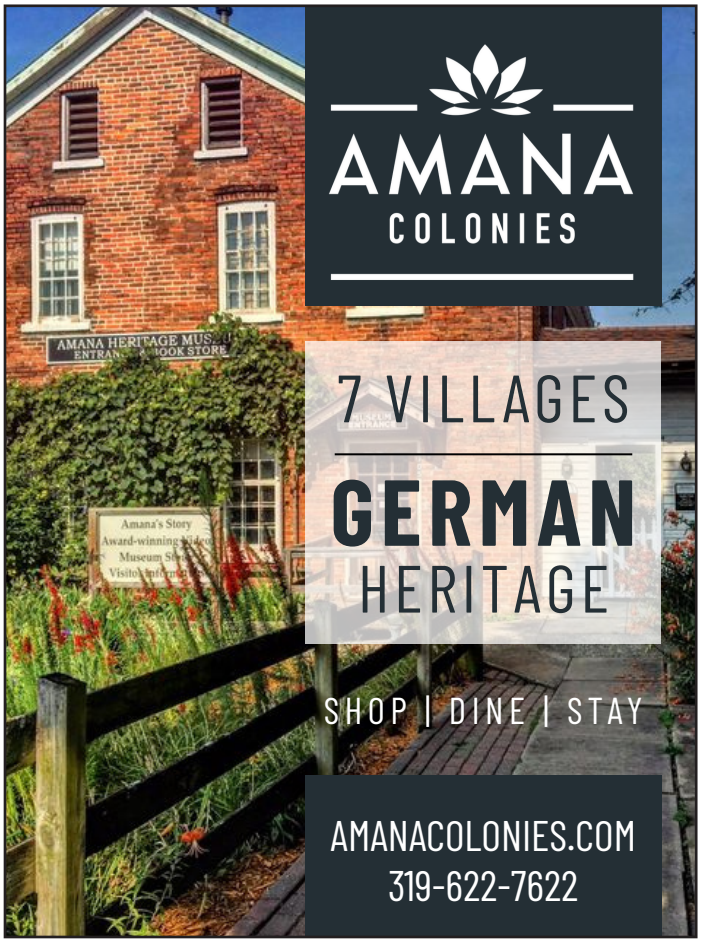


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Mary Swander's Buggy Land
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MUSIC

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It's the same bunch of names everywhere you go
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Get yourself an English Valley phone book.

Old Man Band pokes fun of Kalona with this original song written by Trent Yoder, which gets it so right. See it performed on Youtube.com/@OldManBandRocks

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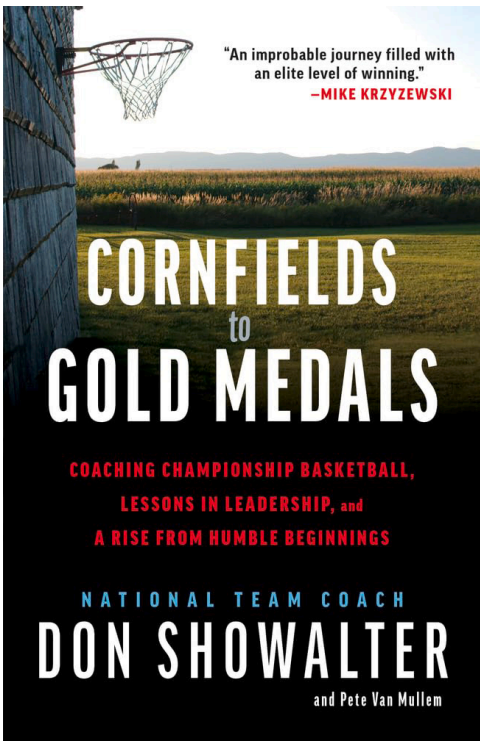
Cornfields to Gold Medals
Kalona native Don Showalter shares the story of his early life on the family farm to receiving international recognition as coach of USA Basketball's Junior National Team. Interspersed in this compelling narrative are 10 lessons in leadership and strategies he employed throughout his career.

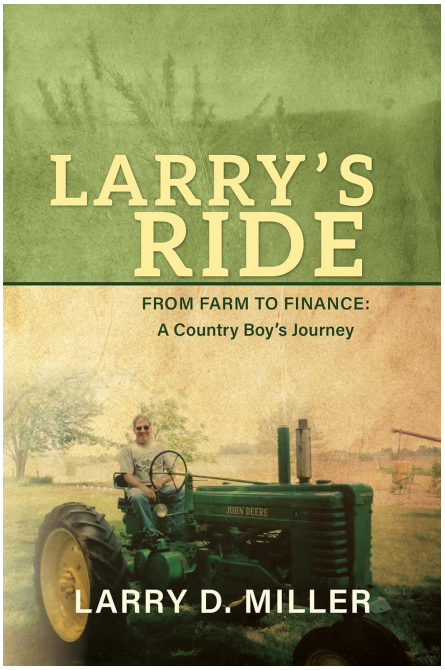
Always More to Learn
A teacher at Kalona's elementary school for a decade, author Jan Hochstetler reveals how burnout led to playing a key role in the startup of a new Christian school serving mostly minority and low-income youth in nearby Iowa City, an experience that helped her rediscover the joy of being an educator.

Larry's Ride
Author Larry Miller grew up on a farm in Kalona; even though a meaningful career in faith-based financial services would follow, his heart never leaves the farm. In this book, he reveals that path that led him to become CEO of Everence prior to retirement.

Available at Best of Iowa, Kalona Historical Village, and on Amazon







The News
KALONA, WELLMAN, RIVERSIDE, LONE TREE & HILLS
Volume 133 • No. 20 KALONA, WASHINGTON COUNTY, IOWA 52247 • THURSDAY, MAY 14, 2026 $1.75

Cyclists take on the Horseshoe



On Saturday, May 9, cyclists gathered at the starting line during the Kalona Horseshoe Bike Race in Kalona. See more photos on page 10A JJ PETERS/THE NEWS

Johnson County's bond requests could hit nearly $200M

BY PAUL D. BOWKER
The News

IOWA CITY

Johnson County voters may see bond referendum requests for nearly $200 million in next November's election.

Following a heated Johnson County Board of Supervisors work session May 6, even that amount is not certain. Nor is the number of referendum requests.

At issue is a proposed new Johnson County jail and sheriff's office that may cost $99 million to build on a property that the five supervisors have discussed in closed session while county attorneys work on legal agreements and costs.

The Board has commissioned studies and surveys, but remains divided on specifics ranging from the number of beds in a new jail to funds for affordable housing and public safety.

The county is also coming under fire from residents, and in the work session, from two University of Iowa students and City of Iowa City Councilperson Laura Bergus during a public comment session.

"There is not a location, there is not a

KALONA LISTINGS

ATTRACTIONS

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iamennohist@gmail.com

Kalona Chamber Byways Tours
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Kalonachamber.com

Kalona City Park
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Cityofkalona.org

Kalona Community Center/YMCA
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Washingtony.org

Kalona Golf Club
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Kalona Historical Village
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Kalonaiowa.org

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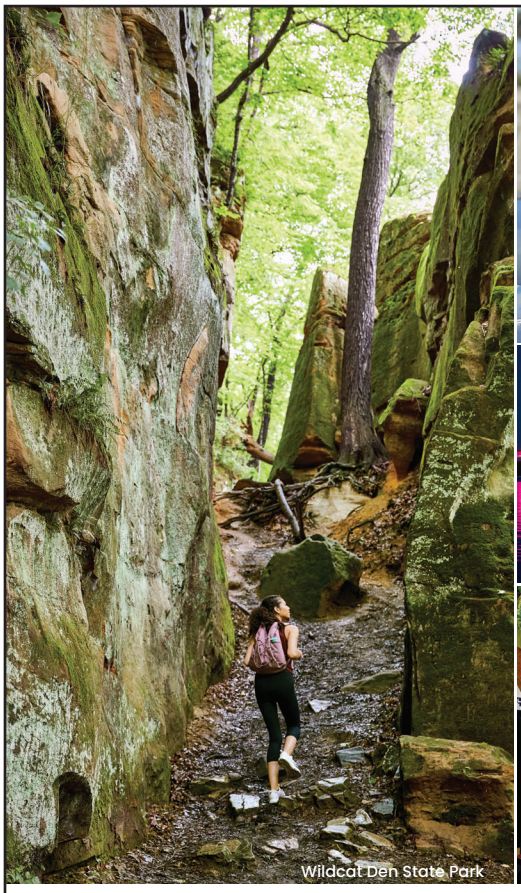
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CITYWIDE GARAGE SALES: SECOND WEEKEND IN SEPTEMBER
OCTOBERFEST GOLF TOURNAMENT - BIRDIES, BEER & BRATS: OCTOBER 2
CHOCTOBERFEST: OCTOBER 15
YMCA TRUNK OR TREAT: OCTOBER 24 | 3PM
TRICK OR TREAT AROUND THE SQUARE & COMMUNITY: OCTOBER 31ST
SMALL BUSINESS WEEKEND: NOVEMBER 27-28
BREAKFAST WITH SANTA: NOVEMBER 28
WASHINGTON WONDERLAND HOLIDAYS AND LIGHTED PARADE: NOVEMBER 28
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