

# Jefferson Hot Spots & Happenings

Compiled by Jason Francis

## Hot Spots

Step into yesteryear as you step through the ten rooms of the **Jefferson Historical Museum** (317 S. Main St.), located behind Jefferson City Hall with parking on Gardner Street. The museum fills the city's old city police station and jail. It contains 175 years of Jefferson's history. Hours are Wednesdays, 10 a.m. to 12 p.m., and Sundays, 1 p.m. to 4 p.m., or by appointment. 920-674-7731, jeffersonhistoricalsociety.org

A series of **live music concerts** are presented Thursday nights June through August in **Rotary Waterfront Park** (301 S. Gardner Ave. in downtown Jefferson). A wide variety of genres are featured from some of the state's best bands. Free admission. Food and beverages available. In case of inclement weather, shows will be moved to the Jefferson Area Business Center. Also playing live in the park, on selected summer Fridays, is Jefferson's American Legion Band. For more than eighty years, Jefferson's residents and visitors have enjoyed these concerts. For many years, the band performed in the high school parking lot, and listeners stayed in their cars, honking their horns instead of applauding. Now the band performs in the Rotary Waterfront Park Pavilion. For a full schedule of dates and performers, visit [www.jeffersonlivemusic.com](http://www.jeffersonlivemusic.com). Rotary Waterfront Park is a 1.3 acre downtown park that lies on the east bank of the Rock River adjacent to the original Jefferson Depot.

The **Jefferson Performing Arts Center** (700 W. Milwaukee St.) provides culturally valuable, affordable and accessible entertainment, together with performing arts opportunities for Jefferson County and the sur-

rounding areas. Office hours are Monday, Wednesday and Friday, 10:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. 920-674-2179, [www.councilfortheperformingarts.org](http://www.councilfortheperformingarts.org)

## Happenings

**Thursdays June 8-Oct. 12-Farmers' Market:** Held every Thursday from 12-5 p.m. behind Jefferson City Hall (intersection of West Dodge Street and South Gardner Avenue). [www.jeffersonwis.com/community/market/](http://www.jeffersonwis.com/community/market/)

**July 12-16-165th annual Jefferson County Fair:** Midway rides, grandstand entertainment, Badger State Tractor Pull (July 12), truck pull (July 13), demolition derby (July 16), exhibits, demonstrations and country music, including The Charlie Daniels Band on July 14. Jefferson County Fair Park, 503 North Jackson Ave., 8 a.m.-11 p.m. 920-674-7148, [www.jcfairpark.com](http://www.jcfairpark.com)

**July 21-22-Tomorrow's Hope Annual Hope Fest:** Hope Fest is held at the Jefferson County Fair Park, located at 503 N. Jackson Ave. Hope Fest is a lot of things, including: a family event, motorcycle and classic car ride, walk, night time bike ride, community get-together, fundraiser, celebration of survivors, time to remember loved ones lost to life-limiting illness, joyous and fun party, health fair and more. Hope Fest is open to the public and admission is free. Tomorrow's Hope started in 1998 as a group of dedicated, passionate community members focused on granting help for those in the community affected by life-limiting illnesses through donations. 920-674-8967, [www.tomorrowshope.org](http://www.tomorrowshope.org)

**Aug. 21-Jefferson Rotary Brat and Burger Fry:** Rotary's primary fundraiser to provide scholarships each year to Jefferson High School seniors. Jefferson County Fair Park, 503 North Jackson Ave., 6:30 p.m.

[www.jcfairpark.com](http://www.jcfairpark.com)

**Sept. 7-10-Wisconsin Sheep and Wool Festival:** Family event featuring stock dog trials; sheep, Shetland, Border Collie, fleece and hooked rug shows; auction, art classes and giant country store. Food and beverages served all day. Jefferson County Fair Park, 503 North Jackson Ave. 608-868-2505, [www.wisconsinssheepandwoolfestival.com](http://www.wisconsinssheepandwoolfestival.com)

**Sept. 15-17-47th annual Gemuetlichkeit Days:** Gemuetlichkeit is German for "good times, good fun, good fellowship." Celebrate with German food, crafts, great music, dancing, and a big parade on Sunday at noon. The 2017 theme is "Lichterfest" (Festival of Lights). Jefferson County Fair Park, 503 N. Jackson Ave. Friday 5 p.m.-midnight, Saturday 9 a.m.-midnight, Sunday 10:30 a.m.-7 p.m. 920-674-4511, [www.gdays.org](http://www.gdays.org)

**Sept. 22-24-Fall Jefferson Car Show and Auto Swap Meet:** Swap meet, car corral and car show for classics, collectibles, street rods and trucks. Covers 99 acres. More than 3,100 vendor stalls and over 1,000 cars for sale. Swap and car corral all three days; car show Saturday and Sunday. Friday 10 a.m.-6 p.m., Saturday and Sunday 6 a.m.-4 p.m. Jefferson County Fair Park, 503 N. Jackson Ave. 608-244-8416, [www.madisonclassics.com/car-shows/fall-jefferson.php](http://www.madisonclassics.com/car-shows/fall-jefferson.php)

**Oct. 20-22-Harry Potter Festival:** Join Jefferson in a celebration of all things Harry Potter. Festivities will kick off with a lighted parade. This festival was formerly located in Edgerton. More information to come at [jeffersonchamberwi.com](http://jeffersonchamberwi.com).

Information compiled from internet sources, including local chamber of commerce websites, municipal websites, the Wisconsin Department of Tourism's [www.travelwisconsin.com](http://www.travelwisconsin.com), and other websites, unless noted.

## Harley-Davidson Museum chronicles century of Harley history



The Harley-Davidson Museum is located on a 20-acre campus on the corner of 6th Street and Canal Street in Milwaukee. (Photo courtesy of Harley-Davidson Museum)

Submitted by the Harley-Davidson Museum

On June 1, 2006, Harley-Davidson began building an attraction that would forever alter Milwaukee's landscape. Legendary dirt track rider Scott Parker was on hand to shift the first piece of earth with a burnout on a XL883R Sportster (a uniquely Harley twist on the tired "golden shovel" routine).

Since the facility opened its doors in 2008 at 6th and Canal in the heart of the Menomonee Valley in Milwaukee,

hundreds of thousands of Harley-Davidson enthusiasts, riders and non-riders alike, from the world over, have made the pilgrimage to the Motorcycle Mecca. The conversion of the 20-acre campus – formerly an industrial site – has dramatically transformed and revitalized the surrounding area.

The Harley-Davidson Museum is literally a walk-through history that is portrayed through its themed galleries, a must-see motorcycle collection and many rare documents and original arti-

facts you will only find here.

Of course, the museum would not have attained its world-class reputation without a dedicated team working together as one. From the moment visitors step on the museum campus, Harley-Davidson employees are there to greet them and help make sure the visit is a memorable

one. Behind the scenes, curators and archivists work diligently to share the 114 years of history and relay how the motor company became a global icon.

"The museum not only tells the story of Harley-Davidson, it's where our history, heritage and passion come to life. The

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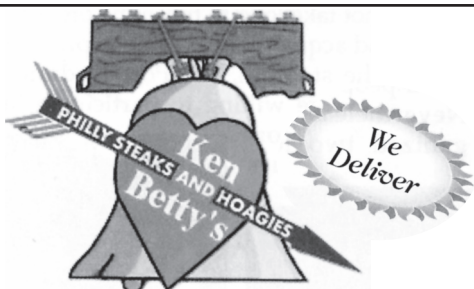
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