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Abraham Lincoln Tourism Bureau of Logan County

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Lincoln-related Activities Slated for July 16 and 17 in Elkhart

Elkhart, IL - On Friday, July 16, and Saturday, July 17, the historic town of Elkhart is offering events and activities with a Lincoln-related theme.

The **Elkhart Public Library**, 121 Bohan Street, will have a special display of books related to Lincoln on Friday from 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. and Saturday from 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. The Elkhart Library was built in 1904 and is a wonderful historic building to visit, with many of the original furnishings still in place.

Birdsong - Books & Vintage, on Governor Oglesby Street in historic downtown Elkhart, will have all Lincoln themed books, postcards and items marked 10% off Friday, July 16, and Saturday, July 17. Birdsong - Books & Vintage in historic downtown Elkhart will be open on Friday, July 17, until 5:30 p.m. for those shoppers attending the Elkhart Historical Society's dinner lecture.

Two **tours of historic Elkhart Hill** will be given on Saturday, July 17. The tours will be offered at 9:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. For information and a reservation form, see www.elkharthistoricalsociety.org. The tour includes historical and political sites and will stop at the "Looking for Lincoln Wayside Exhibit" located near the Elkhart cemetery.

The **historic chapel in Elkhart Cemetery** will be open for two tours on July 17 at 9:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. Rarely open to the public, the Gothic Revival style chapel was built in 1890 and is the only privately owned and operated church in Illinois. The tour includes a demonstration played on the chapel organ, one of the three oldest working pipe organs in the state. Reservations are recommended but not required. More information can be found at www.elkharthistoricalsociety.org.

There are plenty of dining options in historic downtown Elkhart. **Hudson's Talk of the Town** restaurant at 115 Governor Oglesby Street will be offering a Friday Night Dinner Special and will be open on Saturday for lunch from 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. with a full menu. The **Blue Stem Bake Shop**, 107 Governor Oglesby Street, will be open from 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. on Friday and Saturday, July 16 and 17, and will be offering free coffee with a pastry purchase for

Historical Hill Tour participants. The **Wild Hare Café**, 104 Governor Oglesby Street, will be open for lunch with a Historical Hill Tour Special - choice of two homemade soups, homemade herbed cheese biscuit, and drink of your choice for \$6.99. Reservations are recommended. Call 217-947-2100 after your Historical Hill Tour reservation has been confirmed.

Or Saturday, July 17, from 4:00-5:00 p.m. enjoy a special **organ recital** in the St. John the Baptist Chapel at Elkhart Cemetery by organist Marcy Brooks. A tour of the chapel is not included in the recital. The online, printable reservation form is at www.elkharthistoricalsociety.org

Take the short drive from Elkhart into Springfield to see **“History Comes Alive – A Living History Program.”** Bob McCue, speaker at the July 16 Elkhart Historical Society dinner lecture, will be performing as a re-enactor for this new program about Springfield as Lincoln knew and loved it. Re-enactors, musicians and theatre performers (even Mr. Lincoln himself!) will be at the historic downtown Springfield and Lincoln historic sites this summer. You can find more information at www.nps.gov/liho/index.htm and <http://www.alplm.org/> .

On Friday, July 16, from 5:30 – 8:00 p.m. at The Wild Hare Cafe at 104 Governor Oglesby Street in historic downtown Elkhart, the **Elkhart Historical Society’s dinner lecture series** will feature “Lincoln’s Life on the 8th Judicial Circuit” and “DAR 8th Judicial Circuit Markers.” Dinner begins at 5:30 p.m., with the talks from 7:00-8:00 p.m. Reservations and pre-payment are required, and space is limited. Cost is \$17.99, and reservation deadline is Monday, July 12. For information and the online, printable reservation form, see www.elkharthistoricalsociety.org .

If you plan to enjoy the lecture and all the activities on July 16 and 17, overnight accommodations for Elkhart are available at the **Best Western Hotel** in Lincoln, just minutes north of Elkhart on historic Old Rt. 66 (<http://bestwesternillinois.com/hotels/best-western-lincoln-inn/index.html>) . Mention your visit to Elkhart and receive a discount on the regular room rates. The Best Western Hotel is home to the Railsplitter Covered Wagon, the largest covered wagon in the world. It is featured in the Guinness Book of World Records. The wagon weighs five tons and measures 40 feet long, 12 feet wide and 24 feet tall. Abe Lincoln, seated in the front of the wagon reading a book, weighs 350 pounds and measure 12 feet tall. The wagon was recently voted by Reader Digest’s “Best of America: Readers’ Choice 2010” as the number one Best Roadside Attraction in America.

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PHOTOS ARE AVAILABLE FOR THIS PRESS RELEASE

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