

Hancock County Bucket List

Don't let the cold weather blues get you down - get out and about and enjoy all that Hancock County has to offer this Fall and Winter! Cold weather is not an excuse to hibernate, there is just as many activities and attractions for you to enjoy in the cold as well as the warm. Stop by our Welcome Center located on 123 E. Main Cross St. for all things Hancock County! Use #VisitFindlay to chronicle your adventures!

Enjoy time with Fido this Fall!

Take advantage of the last vestiges of warm weather by spending time with your dog! The Riverbend Dog Park is an obvious place to start, let your best friend run until his heart is content while you soak in the Fall colors. For dog lovers and dachshunds alike, don't miss the Doxie Downs on September 24 at Riverside Park. This National Dachshund Race is fun whether you want to bring your dog to race or just observe, and the Weenie Martini Party the night prior is fun for all.

Take in the countryside

There is no better time to explore Hancock County's countryside than the Fall! Enjoy a drive throughout Hancock County on a self-guided tour of our Barn Quilt Trail. These beautiful hand-painted squares are located in every township in Hancock County.

Celebrate Hancock County's heritage at Oktoberfest

Celebrating its second year in Downtown Findlay, Oktoberfest Findlay! will feature authentic German food and libations, live polka music and dancing, different competitions, kids activities and so much more on September 24!

Run a themed 5K

Running a 5K is fun but, like anything, a theme makes it extra fun! Don your pink and run for a great cause on September 24 by joining in the Komen Race for the Cure. Get in the Halloween spirit, support HYL and race against the pumpkin on October 22 for the Pumpkin Run! Kick off Thanksgiving by burning all the calories you're sure to consume by running in Women's Resource Center's Turkey Trot! And, celebrate the holiday season on December 17 by participating in the Jingle Bell Jog. Make sure you dress in style for your run!

Get artistic this season!

Let the weather inspire you! Chalk-a-Walk on September 24 is a great event where teams or individuals of all ages can decorate a square of sidewalk for all to enjoy as long as Mother Nature allows! Showcase your work during the Findlay Art League's 70th anniversary show, which will run from November 21 - December 30. Or, attend one of the many art classes at Awakening Minds Art or the Gaslight Studio!

Take advantage of the local talent on stage at Fort Findlay Playhouse!

Findlay is home to some great talent, see it showcased on stage during a Fort Findlay Playhouse production. The 2016-2017 season features dramas, musicals, comedies, no matter what you choose to see you are sure to have a great time!

Have some Fall Fun

A Fall Tradition for many is to visit Geckle Orchard and Homestead Fall Farm...and if it isn't yours it should be! Stop by Geckle Orchard to pick up your supply of homegrown apples and other apple treats. Then head down the road to Homestead Fall Farm for your pumpkins and gourds. During the two farm's Open House weekends enjoy a plenty of extra Fall fun like hay rides, tours, and more!

Celebrate Hometown Pride this Fall and Winter

Summer may be over but the community festivals that celebrate the heart and soul of Hancock County are not! Check out the Bluffton Fall Festival on September 24 at several locations throughout Bluffton, Apple Butter Fest on October 8 in Van Buren, the Bluffton Blaze of Lights on November 26 in Downtown Bluffton, and Christmas in the Village on December 3 in Mt. Blanchard!

Get spooked this Halloween

Halloween brings around many great things in Hancock County, add getting spooked one of them! The Hancock Historical Museum will be hosting Spirits & Boos on October 15, a walking tour and pub crawl of Downtown Findlay, allowing you to learn the good, bad, and haunted spots of days gone by. The Haunted Ghost Town returns to Hancock County and has events for guests of all ages each weekend.

Enjoy a growler from Findlay Brewing Company

Findlay Brewing Company is preparing for their big move, but that won't stand in the way of you getting your growler filled! Bring your growler or purchase one there Fridays 5 - 7 p.m. and Saturdays 1 - 3 p.m. Check their facebook and see what is on tap this weekend.

Go pumpkin picking!

Fall means one thing - pumpkin spiced everything. It also means it is time to pick out the perfect pumpkin for your jack o'lantern! Luckily, there are many spots in Hancock County to do just that! Take a ride on the Pumpkin Train at Northwest Ohio Railroad Preservation, Inc. weekends from September 24 - October 23! Pumpkins are also ready to be picked at Homestead Fall Farm, Wolfe's Produce, and Brinkman's Country Corner as well!

Catch a show at the Marathon Center!

The 2016-2017 season looks like it will be a great one at the Marathon Center for the Performing Arts! What shows will you attend?

Enjoy the Fall colors of Hancock County

The Fall foliage is many people's favorite part of the season and for good reason! Take a walk on one of Hancock Park's great walking trails to see them on foot, book a Fall Color Hay Ride or head to Triple T Western Ranch and see the colors on horseback!

Get a great spot for the Halloween Parade

Halloween is a big deal in the City of Findlay because of one thing - the Halloween Parade! On October 25 you will want to head Downtown to catch an early dinner and then stake out the best spot along Main Street. Plus, don't forget about the City of Findlay Trick-or-Treat a couple days later on October 27!

- Stroll Downtown during ArtWalk**
November 4 bring a favorite event to Downtown Findlay-ArtWalk! Check out the different art galleries in Downtown and enjoy extended hours and specials, live music, and art displays as well as art demonstrations peppered throughout Downtown shops and businesses!
- Pick up a Kathy's Korner Pie**
There are many delicious dishes you can enjoy at Kathy's Korner, but be the star of any holiday gathering by bringing a Kathy's Korner Pie! If pie isn't your jam then luckily Hancock County is home to many awesome bakeries that will allow you to bring a sweet treat to any party, check out the whole list on VisitFindlay.com!
- Take advantage of Small Business Saturday**
Make your list and check it twice - and then head to local businesses participating on Small Business Saturday on November 26! This is your opportunity to get a lot of holiday shopping done, support local business owners, and save some money while you're at it!
- Take a ride on the North Pole Express**
It may be cold outside, but it is never too cold for a ride on the North Pole Express! This family friendly train ride is affordable and will be open weekends following Thanksgiving to New Year's, including both Christmas Day and New Year's Day!
- Attend WinterFest and Kiwanis Santa's House**
Kick off holiday fun by attending the City of Findlay Tree Lighting Ceremony on November 25 at 6 p.m. in Dorney Plaza. But the Tree Lighting Ceremony also marks the beginning of WinterFest and Kiwanis Santa's House! Taking place every Friday and Monday from 6 - 8 p.m. bring your family to St. Andrews UMC to meet Santa, go on a wagon ride in Downtown Findlay, and enjoy holiday treats!
- Go Cross Country Skiing**
Snow on the ground does not mean you have to stay indoors! Head to the Raccoon Run Winter Sports Center at Riverbend weekends December through March when there is a 4-6 inches base to rent skis and give it a try or attend one of the Beginner Cross-Country Ski workshops and learn the basics. Once you have it mastered then you can even participate in a Night Ski for a special event!
- Decide on a favorite Findlay Restaurant**
This winter is a great opportunity for you to get out of the house and try out all the great local restaurants Findlay has to offer. No matter if your taste is adventurous or if you prefer food a little safer there is a restaurant that will satisfy your taste bud's needs. Try several restaurants at once check out the United Way's World of Downtown Restaurant Tour on November 10! Sample foods from several of your favorite Downtown restaurants and maybe even discover a new favorite!
- Get into the Holiday spirit**
It is easy to get in the Holiday spirit in Hancock County! Check out the Christmas Open House at the Hull House for 1890's holiday fun with live music and crafts. There are also several opportunities to take in a holiday show. Check out The Ultimate Christmas Show, Boston Brass Holiday show, Sandi Patty's Christmas Blessings or The Nutcracker at the Marathon Center for the Performing Arts or A Christmas Story: The Musical at Fort Findlay Playhouse. You can also take in Christmas in the Village in Mt. Blanchard for a parade, live nativity and music, and plenty of fun for the whole family.
- Ice Skating at The Cube**
What says 'wintertime' more than ice skating? Luckily for you, you can even do it inside at The Cube! There is skate rentals also available and if you are interested in learning how to skate like a pro consider signing up for skating lessons as well!
- Go Sledding and enjoy The Fern**
Okay, maybe sledding says 'wintertime' just as much as ice skating, but in Hancock County you can do both! Head to the Reservoirs for sledding and then make a new winter tradition by heading to The Fern for a comfort food meal of a meatloaf sandwich and cheeseballs!
- Pick out your Christmas Tree**
A holiday tradition for many is making the trek in the snow to pick out a Christmas tree and a favorite place of many is Kaleidoscope Farm in Mt. Cory! Owned and operated by the Reese family, Kaleidoscope Farm has 26 acres of trees in several varieties of Fir, Spruce, and Pine. At the 2016 Ohio State Fair Kaleidoscope Farm was awarded Reserve Champion Christmas Tree as well as the People's Choice!
- Visit Hancock County Museums**
Hancock County is home to some really great museums, use this fall and winter as your opportunity to visit all of them! Plus, make sure to check out the Hancock Sports Hall of Fame, now in a permanent location at Legends Steakhouse and Sports Bar in Downtown Findlay. Check out the placards and memorabilia that adorn the walls to learn more about the athletes who competed in Hancock County.
- Practice for the Ice Bowl**
Who says Disc Golf is just for warmer weather? Don't let snow slow you down, disc golf can be played in all four seasons. Get out and practice and prepare for the disc golf tournament that takes place February 5, the Ice Bowl!
- Listen to tunes during Winter Blues Fest**
Plan on an evening of great music, time with friends, delicious food and cold brews at this year's Winter Blues Festival! Taking place at Alexandria's, you will want to get your tickets early for this great event! Keep checking our event calendar for more information!
- Take in a UF Basketball Game**
Winter means plenty of things and basketball watching is at the top of many people's lists, don't miss your chance to catch a University of Findlay game! The Men's team as well as the Women's team have plenty of home games for you to catch and enjoy this season. Go Oilers!
- Warm Up with a bowl (or ten) of chili**
A chili aficionado's favorite event is back on February 11 - the annual Chili Cook-Off! Brought to you by Cancer Patient Services, local teams compete on who can come up with the best chili while raising money for a great cause. Make sure you get to cast your vote!

Learn more about all of these events, and many others, as well as see what restaurants and shops you and your family can enjoy at VisitFindlay.com! Don't forget to use #VisitFindlay to share your Fall and Winter adventures!