

Shop till you drop: Dozens of area boutiques participating in Vintage Shop Hop this weekend

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This year's Vintage Shop Hop will be a weekend of firsts, lasts, changes and lasting memories.

For some shop owners, like Jeff and Mara Metzger of Antique Treasures of DeKalb, this year's Vintage Shop Hop will be their first.

For others, like Leslie Ann Snyder of Antiques Vintage Collectables & Gifts, 134 E. Lincoln Highway in DeKalb, it will be their last. Snyder's Antiques Vintage Collectables & Gifts will be closing May 15.

For Sandy Spier of Poppy Seed Primitives, 223 E. Lincoln Highway in DeKalb, it will be her last year in her current location. The shop will be moving to 255 E. Lincoln Highway in DeKalb at the end of March.

For James and Ann Tucker of Sycamore Antiques, 320 W. State St. in Sycamore, it will be their fifth year participating in the event.

The fifth annual Vintage Shop Hop will take place Friday and Saturday at more than 450 vintage shops, boutiques, barn sales, oddity shops and home décor stores throughout northern Illinois and southern Wisconsin.

There will be 31 DeKalb County stops participating in the event, including eight in DeKalb, one in Genoa, one in Hinckley, one in Kingston, 13 in Sandwich and seven in Sycamore.

Ann Tucker of Sycamore Antiques describes the weekend as a way to get out and shop for vintage treasures.

"We've been participating in the event since it began, and during the weekend, we get quite a few people shopping for vintage, unique and one-of-a-kind items," Tucker said.

Debbie Armstrong, executive director of the DeKalb County Convention and Visitors Bureau, described the weekend event as a way to bring hundreds of people to the area.

"Our goal is to make more people aware of the unique and wonderful shopping opportunities in DeKalb County," Armstrong said. "The Vintage Shop Hop is not only for visitors, but also for members of the community to shop local. It's a fun way to get ready for spring and redecorate."

Jana Nowak, owner of Blu Door Décor, 209 E. Lincoln Highway in DeKalb, said she hopes the Vintage Shop Hop will not only make DeKalb County a destination, but also be an opportunity for shop owners to showcase their wares.

"Some people have never been to DeKalb before, and the event is a way to show them that we have a lot of appealing shops with many unique items," Nowak said. "Not all the shops participating are vintage. The shops sell antiques, handmade items, secondhand goods, candles, clothing, jewelry, painted furniture and a large variety of décor."

Participating shops will feature various promotions, including discounts, raffles, free giveaways or craft demonstrations.

As part of the weekend and "Hello Spring," a teal blue vintage 1965 Chevy truck, nicknamed "Emmett," will be parked in front of the Egyptian Theatre for photos. DeKalb stores also will offer discounts, raffles and giveaways, with participants receiving an entry at each participating store. The grand prize, a girls getaway weekend, includes a \$200 dinner and drinks gift card

to Tapa La Luna, four tickets to see the show “Chefs: A Sizzling Kitchen Showdown” at the Egyptian Theatre and a one-night stay at the Hampton Inn in DeKalb.

Sycamore stores also will offer discounts, giveaways and a punch card raffle.

Friends and neighbors Marina Papini and Suzanne Warber of Sycamore were shopping at Whimsical Perspectives, 366 W. State St. in Sycamore, on Feb. 23, and said the Vintage Shop Hop’s additional discounts and raffles will give them a reason to shop together again this weekend.

“We love unique items, not necessarily vintage, though,” Warber said. “Mixing modern items with vintage home décor is really popular right now, probably because of all of the home remodeling shows on TV. We just like looking at all of different types of items for sale and shopping local.”

Jennifer Danowski of Sycamore said that if the weather is good, she shops weekly for vintage items, visiting one of her favorite shops, Poppy Seed Primitives in DeKalb.

“We bought a new home two years ago, and I love decorating the house with vintage items: upholstered furniture, cabinets and knickknacks,” Danowski said. “For me, it’s relaxing, both shopping vintage and having vintage items in the house. It’s comfortable, warm, cozy. It makes me remember the past and what was.”

For information about the Vintage Shop Hop or to view a complete list of participating locations, visit www.vintageshophop.blogspot.com.

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