



**For Immediate Release:** September 19, 2014

## **Looking for a Unique Fall Getaway?**

### ***DeKalb County Offers Beautiful Scenery, Fun Activities, Harvest Festivals & Educational Tours***

(DeKalb, Ill.) The trees are already beginning to change color, with the promise of crisp weather ahead – just right for taking advantage of the unique outdoor activities available in DeKalb County! Located just 60 miles west of Chicago, the area is ideal for anyone looking for a full day of relaxation or a special getaway. And it's only a short drive away.

### **Apples, Pumpkins and Mazes... Oh My!**

Both **Jonamac Orchard in Malta** and **Kuipers Family Farm in Maple Park** offer unique opportunities to enjoy the outdoors while creating special memories to last a lifetime.

#### **[Jonamac Orchard](#)**

"We are celebrating our 30<sup>th</sup> year as a business," Kevin McArtor, Jonamac's owner, said. "We've got lots of activities that use the apples and pumpkins we grow on this family farm. There's a new building with a petting zoo featuring farm animals that is open every day of the week, an expanded kitchen where people can watch us make the donuts and bakery items, as well as live music every Sunday afternoon. We invite you to celebrate the harvest with Jonamac!"

Featuring a 65-acre site with 14,000 apple trees and a pumpkin orchard, Jonamac offers fun for everyone during this time of year. Enjoy horse-drawn hayrides, a 10-acre corn maze (which transforms into a unique Haunted Corn Maze in October), different events each weekend and an abundance of activities –like "cannons" that shoot apples as cannon balls, a children's play area (corn bin, hay piles) and duck races. If a bonfire sounds particularly nice, just reserve one of the six campfire sites for an evening get-together. Visitors can also sample apple wine (a first this year!), as well specialty doughnuts, pies and breads made from apples and pumpkins grown on the farm. Plus, you can pick your own apples and pumpkins to enjoy when you get back home! Be sure to check the site ([jonamacorchard.com](http://jonamacorchard.com)) to see what apples are currently being picked and in the store, as well as the events planned throughout the season. Jonamac also has plenty going on in November – the corn maze is still open and there are educational tours available.



### [Kuipers Family Farm](#)

Co-owned by Wade and Kim Kuipers, this unique Midwest farm offers 230 acres of entertainment, with an apple orchard, pumpkin harvest and more. Pick your own apples, enjoy apple cider doughnuts and other home-baked goodies or check out the Maize Corn Maze. There's are many ways to get a taste of ag culture on this family farm!

"We're a real working farm," Kim Kuipers said. "Visiting Kuipers is a great way to remember – and see – where your food comes from. Whether you enjoy picking apples or selecting a pumpkin, you can choose your food and skip the 'middle man'! You'll see what a real farm is all about because everything we offer is about experiencing a true family farm. When people leave here – especially kids – they have found fun, healthy ways to expend their energy and create some memories to discuss when they get back home."

Kuipers has things to do when the harvest is over – starting November 22, you can "put a lil country in your Christmas" by purchasing a pre-cut Christmas tree... or pick and cut your own to start a new tradition!

### **A Taste of Agri-Culture**

DeKalb County features a variety of [festivals](#), family farms, orchards and farmers' markets, with events centered around the area's agriculture and bountiful harvests, including...

- **Honey Hill Orchard in Waterman** – pick your own or make your purchases at the roadside market, where you will find apples, raspberries, pumpkins, apple juice, donuts, pies and candy.
- **Johnson's Family Farm in Sycamore** – purchase locally grown fall produce at the pumpkin stand and experience eight acres of corn mazes.
- **Larson's Family Farm in Sandwich** – participate in the season by picking your own pumpkins and finding gourds and squash or enjoy hayrides and an evening bonfire.

Check out the **Cortland Fall Fest (October)**, where you can enjoy a parade, fun in the park, a "mutt strut," beer garden and live music. The **Pumpkin Festival in Sycamore (Oct. 22-26)** displays its historic downtown area, decorated with hundreds of carved and painted pumpkins, and features a huge parade, craft shows, a carnival and the **Pumpkin Fest Historic Tour of Homes (Oct. 25)**.

Depending on the day and the weather, you could take advantage of the **Harvest of Quilts (Oct. 11-12)**, or visit the exhibits at the **Sycamore History Museum** and **Kishwaukee Valley Heritage Museum** in Genoa. You might even enjoy watching the [Huskies](#) play football at Northern Illinois University!

### **Spirited Fun**

If you're looking for adult fun, sample some [wine](#) at **Prairie State Winery in Genoa** or **Prairie on State Wine Cellars in Sycamore**. If beer is your choice, taste a variety of craft beers at the soon-to-open [Cademon Brewing Co.](#) in Genoa.

On the other hand, if you seek something more spirited, try one of the many ghostly happenings occurring as part of the [Trail of Terrors](#). Among the many events that are featured at the historic [Egyptian Theatre](#) in DeKalb is its annual [Amenti Haunted House](#). Talk about scary *and* unique! One of the most popular events in the DeKalb area, more than 3,000 people experience the horrors of Amenti each year and you could be among the privileged... if you dare! And don't forget the [Jonamac Orchards Haunted Corn Maze](#)!



### **Timing is Everything**

DeKalb County offers many other opportunities to enjoy during fall, as well as in the coming months – check [DeKalbCountyCVB.com](http://DeKalbCountyCVB.com) for more information and dates. Or call 877-335-2521 for assistance planning travel for groups and families.

### **About DeKalb County**

Nestled in the heart of Illinois (just 60 miles west of Chicago), DeKalb County is rich in history, shopping, arts and culture, dining and recreation for all four seasons. Cortland, DeKalb, Genoa, Hinckley, Kingston, Kirkland, Lee, Malta, Maple Park, Sandwich, Shabbona, Somonauk, Sycamore and Waterman, Ill. are the communities included in the DeKalb County area.

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***For more information or an interview, contact:***

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– or –

check the media/galleries at: <http://dekalbcountycvb.com/media/>.