

# THE GREAT NORTH AMERICAN ECLIPSE TIMES

## CLARK COUNTY, ILLINOIS 2024

### Clark County prepares for huge influx of visitors on Eclipse weekend

By **Gary Strohm**  
Publisher

April 5-8, Clark County will host more visitors than ever before. Imagine the crowds from the county's largest annual events - the Marshall Autumn Fest, Clark County Fair, Martinsville Ag Fair, Casey Popcorn Festival, West Union Independence Day Celebration and Westfield Homecoming all gathering on the same weekend and more - a lot more.

All because of the 2024 Great North American Eclipse, which will occur at about 2 p.m. on Monday, April 8 and the fact that our communities are welcoming visitors with many pre-Eclipse events.

Those in Clark County will have the opportunity to see the full eclipse for more than three minutes at about 3 p.m. on Monday, April 8.

There was a total eclipse that was visible in deep southern Illinois on August 21, 2017 and prior to that, the last two total solar eclipses visible from Illinois were on August 1, 1869 and June 16, 1806. The next total solar eclipse to be visible from Illinois will be on October 17, 2153. According to Marshall eclipse event organizer Tim Sanders, a full eclipse will not be seen in our area for another 375 years and a partial eclipse will not occur for another 20 years.



Mr. Sanders has been working with a group of Marshall-area volunteers for months to prepare create local events surrounding the April 8 eclipse.

"We want to make a fun time for everyone to enjoy. We want to show that Marshall's a great place to live and raise a family.

He added, "This is a great opportunity for our local restaurants and businesses to shine."

A great number of people would travel to Clark County regardless of the local efforts. However, Marshall and Clark County is on the radar of people across the country as the place to be for the 2024 eclipse.

Clark County's first responders - the Police and Sheriff's Departments, Clark County Ambulance Service and Fire Departments, along

with the Illinois State Police - have met several times in preparation for eclipse weekend.

According to Ambulance Director Chace Bramlett, the Ambulance Service will have two First Aid tents at the soccer fields

Saturday evening, April 6 for the drone and fireworks show, and they will have ambulances there in case of emergencies.

Mr. Bramlett is especially

worried about the traffic on Interstate 70 becoming distracted during the drone and fireworks show, since the soccer fields are so close to the interstate.

All the county's ambulance and police personnel will be on call throughout the weekend.

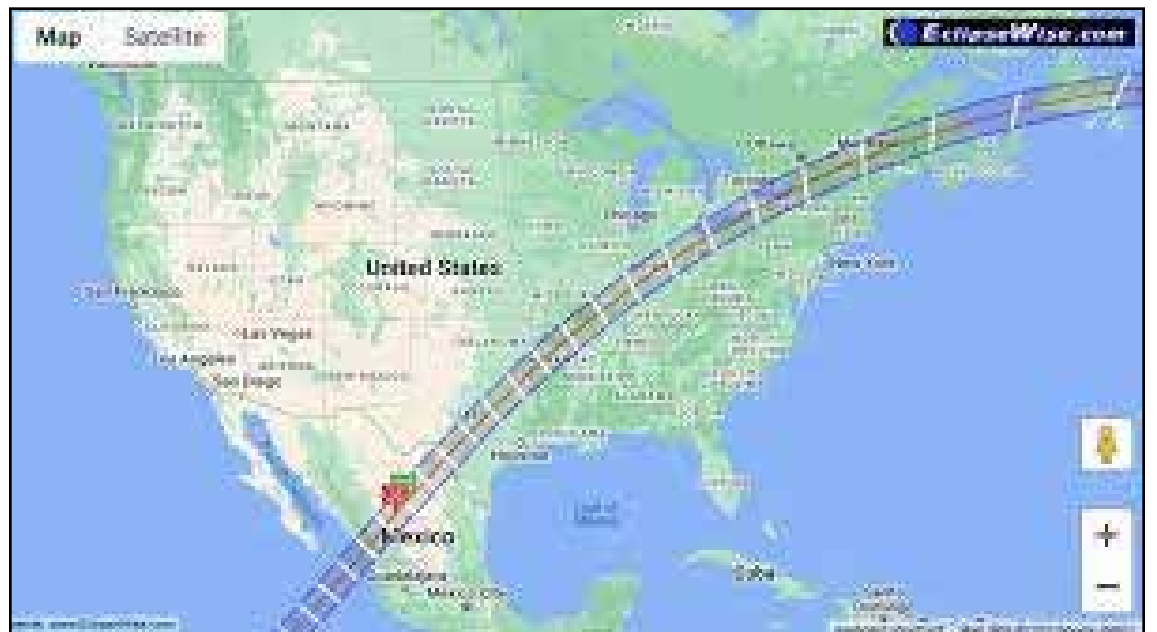
Clark County board member Jim Bolin shared that he and his wife Diane traveled to southern Illinois for the 2017 eclipse. They visited family near Anna for the day. There were cars along both sides of the state highways as they traveled south on Route 1 to Crossville and Simpson and then headed west to Anna. People were sitting in the

nearby fields in their lawn chairs.

The eclipse was in the early afternoon, and they stayed a couple more hours at their relatives' home in the country. Coming back home, the traffic was very, very slow. It took about five hours to make the drive back to Casey.

In spite of the slow traffic, Jim said that the eclipse was a "neat experience." He remember that it got dark slowly and was totally dark for 3-4 minutes - about the darkness of a half-moon moonlit night. During totality, the crickets began to chirp and all the automatic outdoor lights came on.

We welcome all the visitors to Clark Co. for eclipse weekend. There are many attractions and good restaurants for all to enjoy, along with the eclipse events. If we're all patient and thoughtful - visitors and locals alike - it'll be a fantastic, safe weekend.



Trajectory of 2024 Eclipse. Source: EclipseWise.com.



Run alongside WTWO's Chief Meteorologist Jesse Walker at the Solar Eclipse 5K Glow Run. Secure your spot today to ensure you receive a shirt and medal. Don't miss this chance to celebrate the solar eclipse in a memorable way.



Eryn Andrews, the brilliant NASA engineer and captivating voice over talent, will be the official voice of the firework and drone show on Saturday, April 6 in Marshall. With her expertise and charm, we know she'll make this event truly unforgettable.

## Welcome to Marshall

The Eclipse of 2024 is a once-in-a-lifetime event. The city of Marshall welcomes the many visitors who are spending this event with us. Where better to gaze at the splendor of God's creation but in Marshall?

While you are looking up to the vastness of space, look around, too. Marshall is a quiet little community where families know their neighbors and feel comfortable walking the streets.

Whether this is your first or fifteenth visit to Marshall, we hope you come back and visit again.

**John Hasten**, Mayor  
City of Marshall

## The Apollo Experience

ed Apollo 11 memorabilia

The primary objective of Apollo 11 was to complete a national goal set by President John F. Kennedy on May 25, 1961: perform a crewed lunar landing and return to Earth. On July 16-24, 1969 Apollo 11 was the first American spaceflight

that landed humans on the Moon. Commander Neil Armstrong and Lunar Module Pilot Buzz Aldrin landed the Apollo Lunar Module Eagle on July 20, 1969. Armstrong was the first to step onto the Moon's surface on July 21, 1969. Experience authentic and curat-

with the traveling exhibit "The Apollo Experience" at Marshall Public Library from April 1st through April 30th during normal library hours. The library is located at 612 Archer Avenue, in Marshall, Illinois, and is handicapped accessible.

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# Clark County Eclipse Schedule

## MARSHALL

### Friday, April 5

- 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. Totem Pole Creation at Fried Green Tomatoes
- 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. The Apollo Experience: Marshall Public Library
- 5:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. Gaslight Art Colony: Sun, Moon, Star Exhibit
- 5:30 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. Trivia and Art On The Square
- 7:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. Glow 5KRun/Walk: Running Towards Totality. Starts at log cabin
- 8:30 p.m. - 9:30 p.m. Glow Kayaking: Lincoln Trail State Park at the dam boat launch

### Saturday, April 6

- 7:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m. Breakfast at Harlan Hall by Clark County Antique Power Club and Marshall FFA
- 9:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m. Yoga At the A-Frame
- 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. Totem Pole Creation at Fried Green Tomatoes
- 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. The Apollo Experience: Marshall Public Library
- 12:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. Howl At The Moon: Location at the Gazebo or Harlan Hall with inclement weather
- 1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. Mill Creek Park: DJ, Food, Bounce Houses, Euchre Tournament and Cornhole
- 5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. Gaslight Art Colony: Sun, Moon, Star Exhibit
- 5:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m. Cosmic Bowling (Glow Bowl) at Marshall Bowl
- 6:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. Performance by Country Music Star Caitlin Mae. Location at I-70 corridor
- 6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. Concessions At The Soccer Fields by Boy Scout Troop 276: (BBQ, Snacks, Drinks)
- 7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. Hot Air Balloon Glow: Location at Soccer Fields
- 7:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. Firework/ Drone Show: Located near the Soccer Fields

### Sunday, April 7

- 10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. Church Worship Service At The Gazebo
- 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. Totem Pole Creation at Fried Green Tomatoes
- 11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. Solar Eclipse Metal Wall Hanging Class
- 12:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. Gaslight Art Colony: Sun, Moon, Star Exhibit
- 12:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. Kids Day: Bounce houses and games around the courthouse
- 2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. Free Movie (Pixar Up) and Popcorn: Harlan Hall
- 6:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. Yoga at the A-Frame
- 7:30 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. Telescope Viewing /Astronomy Exploration at The Springs

### Monday, April 8

- 10:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m. The Apollo Experience: Marshall Public Library.
- 1:58 p.m. - 2:06 p.m. The Solar Eclipse Duration : (2:35 minutes)
- 5:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. Gaslight Art Colony: Sun, Moon, Star Exhibit

**The Clark County Fair is inviting eclipse visitors to camp at the Clark Co. Fairgrounds in Marshall.**  
**MARTINSVILLE**

The Martinsville Ag Fair is welcoming eclipse visitors to camp at the Martinsville Ag fairgrounds.  
 The University of Illinois Extension will be bringing a giant telescope to the fairgrounds and projecting the prog-

ress of the eclipse onto a giant screen. There will also be plenty of food available.

## CLARKSVILLE

Mill Creek Park will be having a deer jay, food, bounce houses, corn hole and a euchre tournament 1-5 p.m. on Saturday, April 6.

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City Hall will be closed for the eclipse on Monday, April 8.  
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# Sun Moon and Stars exhibit now open at Marshall's Gaslight Art Colony Gallery

thirty-seven artists range in age from 9 to 75 years. The pieces in the exhibit

By **Brenda Bender**

You have been seeing signs around town and announcements in all kinds of



Artist Annie Cunningham.

places about the upcoming eclipse, including a count-down sign at the log cabin. It is coming up soon! – Monday April 8th. Seeing a total eclipse of the sun is a pretty rare event. The average likelihood of a total eclipse of the sun at any given location on Earth is about once every 360-410 years. This eclipse will start from Mexico's Pacific coast and cut diagonally across the U.S. from Texas to Maine and exit through eastern Canada.

A solar eclipse is when

the Sun, the Moon, and Earth are aligned in that order, the Moon directly between the Sun and Earth casts a shadow on earth. The shadow of the Moon will be moving at more than 1100 mph. The length of the eclipse in Marshall is 2 minutes 35 seconds beginning at 2:04am. For a complete listing of events in Marshall and information about special guests at some of the events, go to [www.EclipseOf2024](http://www.EclipseOf2024).

It is because of this rare and amazing event traveling over Marshall and surround-



Artist Marilyn Talbott

ing areas that many exciting plans have been made for our community.

To kick off all these wonderful opportunities, Gaslight Art Colony opened an Art Show on March 16th called Sun Moon & Stars. There are 90 pieces of art with the sun, lunar, and stellar themes. The

range in the styles of paintings, metal and clay sculptures, handmade jewelry, felt-ing, photography and stained glass, crayon, ribbon, and glass etching.

You are invited to visit the Gaslight Art Colony to see this unique and beautiful exhibit. The hours are Tuesday 10 a.m. – 1 p.m., Wednesday 10 a.m. – 1 p.m., Thursday 10 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. and Saturday 10 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Special hours of openings the weekend of the eclipse are Friday April 5 – 5-8 p.m., Saturday, April 6 – 5-7 p.m., and Sunday, April 7 - 12-5 p.m.



Sculpture by Julie Davidson



Artist of photographer Rhonda Yocum

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# Caitlin Mae to perform

Country music star Caitlin Mae will perform from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. at the I-70 corridor.

Caitlin Mae is a singer/songwriter and acoustic guitarist with an energizing and charismatic stage presence. Having sung with American Idol winner Carrie Underwood at just 17 years old, Caitlin Mae continues to delight the crowds at the ven-



ues she performs at across the UK as well as in Nashville, Tennessee where she has already toured twice

this year with a third tour scheduled for the Fall.

Having already debuted four original songs at the iconic Bluebird Cafe, Nashville (virtually due to lockdown), Caitlin Mae

fulfilled her wish of performing there live and in person, not once, but twice in 2022.

With a number 1 hit singles under her belt since she began releasing her original mu-

# Fantasy Drone Show

Drone shows are great for community festivals, concerts, weddings, or public sporting events. They create extraordinary performances of all types and sizes, perfect for any type of event.

...sic, and her debut EP, "PERSPECTIVE", also taking the top spot in the iTunes charts, Caitlin Mae was thrilled to see her latest single "Li'l Black Dress", which she recorded at the Sound Kitchen Studios in Franklin, Tennessee, debut on CountryLine Radio.

Having amassed over 36,000 followers across social media platforms since the global pandemic hit, Caitlin Mae is proud to watch her army of Dreamers grow in numbers.

Fantasy Drone Shows uses only the most technologically advanced light-show drones to create stunning visuals in the night sky.

Safety is number ONE... The stability and accuracy of all drones in flight is paramount to not only safety, but putting on a great show. The ability to hold a solid formation, even in cross winds, is an important aspect that makes a drone light show really stand out.

Safety is their number one priority, and they ensure every system has a back-up and fail-safe to the greatest extent possible with our technology. Multiple soft and hard geo-fences as well as a maintained safety zone are specified for every show.



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**Wabash Coffee House:** 101 N. Main

## MARSHALL

**American Legion Post #90:** 302 S. 8th; **Arby's:** 1803 State Highway 1; **Chava's Mexican Grill:** 1609 IL Hwy. 1; **Church's Chicken,** 2003 IL Highway 1; **Corner Tavern & Bistro:** 424 Archer; **Crossroads Cafe:** 2002 N. Highway; **Dairy Queen:** 1213 N. Michigan; **Gypsy Queen Coffee Bar:** 522 Archer; **Happy China:** 624 Archer; **JP's Pub & Gaming:** 606 Archer; **Lion's Den Pizzeria:** 402 Archer; **Los Tes Cami-**

**nos:** 1802 N IL Highway 1; **Marshall Family Restaurant:** 701 Archer; **McDonald's:** N. Highway 1; **Millcreek Restaurant:** 11489 E. Clarksville; **Moes on Main:** 613 Archer; **Rosie's Pizzeria:** 710 Archer; **Sam's Steakhouse:** 105 W. Trefz Dr.; **See-Food BBQ,** Lincoln Trail St. Park; **Subway:** 935 N. IL Highway 49; **Taco Bell:** 15808 E. 1850th Road; **The Silo:** 212 N.

Michigan; **VFW Post #5975:** N. 5th Street; **Wendy's:** N. IL Highway 1; **VFW Post #5975:** 112 N. 5th Street

## MARTINSVILLE

**Morgan's Cafe:** 31 W. Cumberland; **Moonshine Store:** 6017 E. 300th Rd.; **The North Place:** 28 W. Cumberland

## WESTFIELD

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# Recent eclipses were news stories – but not like 2017 and now

By **Tom Emery**  
Freelance Historical Writer

The upcoming total solar eclipse on April 8 has created a frenzy with parts of central Illinois gearing for a tourism boom and special “eclipse glasses” flying off the shelves.

The amount of excitement during the total solar eclipse of August 21, 2017 was comparable. The eclipse was visible in a narrow corridor across the U.S. and ran through deep southern Illinois.

The instant of greatest duration of totality along the entire track was just 12 miles southeast of Carbondale, Illinois. The central line covered a distance of 75 miles across Illinois, and the width of the path of totality was 71 miles across Illinois. The average central line duration of total-

ity was 2 minutes, 40 seconds across Illinois.

Other recent eclipses were also news stories – but not at that level.

There was a partial eclipse on May 10, 1994, when much of southern and central Illinois and surrounding states were cast into partial darkness. That scenario was defined as an “annular solar eclipse,” when the moon blocked out much of the sun, leaving a brilliant light circle that some call the “ring of fire.”

The 1994 eclipse was 90 percent visible in New York, 80 percent in Washington and Los Angeles, and 50 percent in Miami and Seattle. It was first visible in the continental United States at 10:07 local time in El Paso.

The eclipse began at 10:24 a.m. in Chicago, and blocked

out 94 percent of the sun at 12:04. It was the most complete solar eclipse in the city since June 16, 1806. One precocious five-year-old in Wauconda was quoted as saying “it looks like Cookie Monster took a bite of the sun.”

The temperature on the lakefront dropped eight degrees in an hour. Many schools kept students inside, fearing vision damage. Reports of blurred shadows on the ground were noted across the area.

In Rock Island, a three-year-old girl viewed the eclipse at John Deere Planetarium at Augustana College and enjoyed her look at “the bright yellow thing.” She was one of several hundred Quad City residents that stood in line for a look of several seconds through the scope.

One Augustana senior described the eclipse, which lasted for three

hours, twenty-five minutes in the Quad Cities, as “cool because it’s light out and dark out at the same time.”

The *Alton Telegraph* reported the fascination with the 1994 eclipse under the headline “humans gape in awe at lunar dance.” Clear skies in central and southern Illinois aided the spectacle.

Fifteen total eclipses have been recorded somewhere in the continental United States in the last 150 years. One that was visible as a partial eclipse in this area was a rare winter event on Feb. 26, 1979.

In another, on March 7, 1970, the American Association of Ophthalmology report-

ed that 145 cases of burned retinas were treated nationwide.

Some twenty-three solar eclipses of varying visibility have occurred in the Springfield area in the last half-century. Not all involve the moon crossing over the sun. The path of the planet Venus caused a transit event in front of the sun on June 5, 2012, while Mercury caused the same phenomenon on May 9, 2016.

Several lunar eclipses have also been visible in the area in recent years, including one on Feb. 20, 2008 that captivated stargazers across the region.

*Tom Emery is a freelance writer and historical researcher from Carlinville, Ill. He may be reached at 217-710-8392 or ilcivilwar@yahoo.com.*



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# Marshall students receive solar eclipse glasses

Marshall Public Library received a grant from STARnet Community and SEAL (Solar Eclipse Activities for Libraries)

for 2500 solar eclipse glasses in anticipation of the upcoming Total Solar Eclipse. Marshall area citizens picked up

1200 free solar eclipse glasses from the library while 1300

pairs were distributed to Marshall Community School and Lion's Tribe Academy students. Director, Alyson Thompson, said: "One of the greatest assets to our community is our students... And,

we wanted to provide them with a safe solar eclipse viewing experience."



Marshall North Elementary Principal Ellen Lake with students.



Marshall South Elementary Principal Jill Sisson with students.



Lion's Tribe Academy Executive Director and Teacher Carrie Miller with students.

memorabilia curated by Kentucky resident James Jones. The exhibit will be on display at the library the month of April.

All public glasses have been distributed and were available on a first-come, first-serve basis with a limit of 2 pairs per family.

In conjunction with the Solar Eclipse, the library will be hosting "The Apollo Experience" a self-made traveling Apollo 11 exhibit featuring authentic Apollo



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## THRU THE YEARS WITH PRIDE

Marshall has something for everyone from local downtown shopping to dinners on the lake! We offer many shopping and dining opportunities, parks, hiking trails, camping, band concerts, bowling, a golf course and beautiful community pool. Gather around the Courthouse Square in the summer to enjoy Marshall's Farmers Markets! We have a Marshall Autumn Fall Festival with great food, music, vendors, a car show, and a parade that attracts locals and many visitors. During Halloween we have a large trunk or treat event and frolic contest. Plus, come experience a hometown Christmas in Marshall with Hometown Holly Days where we will have shopping, food trucks, Santa and more! You will want to see our popular murals, the world's largest gavel, and lion statues located around town that represent our school mascot.

*Marshall is a great place to live or visit!*



HOMETOWN HOLLY DAYS

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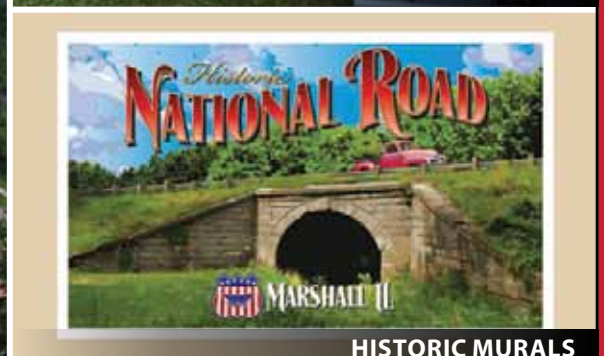
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