

2003 Calendar of Events

Rend Lake Water Festival May 6-10
Five days of fun filled excitement including a carnival, food & craft concession. Free concerts on May 9th & 10th and a parade on Saturday. (618) 438-2121

Cruise Night May-August
Second Saturday of each month a Car Cruise is held from 6:30-8:30 p.m. at the downtown Benton Public Square. Food, music and great cars. (618) 438-2121

Taste of Freedom Festival July 4-5
Enjoy two days of food, music and lots of activities the entire family will enjoy. A Grand Finale will be held at dusk which will include music by the Centralia Philharmonic Orchestra choreographed to the area's largest fireworks display. (618) 438-6131

Whittington Gun Creek Days Aug. 5-8
Enjoy quality concessions, gospel singing, horse and tractor pulls, crafts and country bands. (618) 629-2190

Rend Lake Car Show September 6
One of the area's biggest events. This car show features antiques, classics, street machines, race cars & more. Music and concessions. Downtown Benton on the Public Square. (618) 438-2121

Other activities are going on throughout the year in Benton, West City, and Rend Lake area.

Call (618) 438-2121 or
visit our website for more information
www.bentonwestcity.com

For more information, please call:
Chamber of Commerce (618) 438-2121
Economic Development (618) 435-8234
Franklin County Tourism (618) 439-0608
Rend Lake Hotline (618) 629-1828
Rend Lake Visitors Center (618) 439-7430
Rend Lake Conservancy District (618) 439-4321

2003 Benton-West City Area Visitors Guide

Welcome to Benton-West City
Just minutes from Rend Lake!
Exit 71 Off I-57

Restaurants
Lodging
Campgrounds
Museums
Historic Sites
Specialty Shops
Activities
Calendar of Events

Benton-West City Area Chamber of Commerce
211 North Main • P.O. Box 574
Benton, Illinois 62812
Phone: (618) 439-2121 • Fax: (618) 438-8011
Toll Free: (866) 538-8423
Email: chamber@bentonwestcity.com

For the Golf Enthusiasts'...

Benton Country Club— Located just east of Benton on Highway 14. This beautiful, semi-private, 9-hole golf course is perfect for a relaxing day of swinging the clubs. A large driving range, swimming pool, pro-shop plus a meeting and banquet facility are also available. (618) 439-8921

Rend Lake Golf Course— Selected as one of the best golf courses in the Midwest, this 27-hole course is a golfers' delight. Located just off I-57, Exit 77, Rend Lake Golf Course houses a full service dining facility, pro shop and a large driving range. Lodging also available. (618) 629-2353

Memorial & Historic Sites

Franklin County Garage Museum— Built in 1910, this former Ford dealership has been restored to its original condition and features automobiles and memorabilia from that era. (618) 438-2121

Franklin County Jail Museum— This beautifully restored 1905 structure houses memorabilia of the gang era during prohibition, as well as famous Benton natives such as actor John Malkovich, NBA Star & Coach Doug Collins and the 1960's visit by famed Beatle, George Harrison. This museum is also the home of the *General John A. Logan Memorial* and the *Franklin County Civil War Memorial*. (800) 661-9998

Hard Days Nite Bed & Breakfast— Filled with collectibles and memorabilia from the Beatles Star George Harrison. (618) 438-2328

Veterans & Coal Miners Memorials— Located on West Main Street, in front of the Benton Municipal Building. These memorials honor the memory of local citizens. (618) 439-6131

Specialty Shops

Southern Illinois Artisan Shop & Visitors Center
14967 Gun Creek Trail—Whittington (618) 629-2220

Benton Design
601 Public Square—Benton (618) 438-0893

Vickee's Cards & Gifts
204 East Main Street—Benton (618) 435-2449

Community Parks & Civic Center

Benton Community Park— The Benton Park is a most delightful and attractive local site. Open Spring through Fall each year. With activities the entire family can enjoy you will find tennis courts, basketball courts, baseball fields, shelters, picnic areas and playgrounds. The beautiful landscaping of this site is also a botanist's delight. (618) 439-4041

Malkovich Park— Located on the Southwest Corner of the Public Square, this park allows shoppers a relaxing place to rest and enjoy the beautiful landscaping. A gazebo and flowers make it a perfect site for weddings or other outdoor events. (618) 439-6131

Benton Civic Center— This beautiful facility hosts several events throughout the year. Musical performances, quilt shows, arts and crafts shows and seminars. The Civic Center is also the perfect place for weddings, receptions or other type of group parties. For additional event information or reservations call (618) 435-5700.

Benton-West City Sister Cities of Hospitality

Compliments of the Benton-West City Area
Chamber of Commerce (618) 438-2121 and Benton-West
City Economic Development Corporation (618) 435-8234