

# Why Macomb is a Great Place to Live!

The following five page outline was prepared for an interview with Gordy Taylor on Channel 3, *Across the Miles* record in 2013. The "Vol." references are for 25 photo albums I have accumulated of photographs of activities we have enjoyed since moving to Macomb from southern California. Further information about each activity can be obtained via an internet search or contacting me.

## **What's so great about our community!**

~Driving/Shopping in Macomb vs. Big Cities. What took many hours of travel in southern California takes minutes in Macomb. I save time every day, time that I can get involved in activities of interest.

~ Small enough to get involved in what you want and large enough to be more than just a small town. One can experience true mid-western America living here.

~ Something most every day at WIU , (check out *WESTERN COURIER & UNIVERSITY E-MAIL*) music, plays, lectures, sports. I challenge anyone to find a subject of interest that isn't provided through WIU. You can find just about any area of interest from the arts to cosmology. Attend one and meet people with same interests - often leads to groups meeting at Sullivan Taylor Coffee House or Old Dairy Restaurant.

~WIU's Performing Arts Association/Bureau of Cultural Affairs. Amazed at the great entertainment we have and after performance you often get to meet the performers--never in LA 1. Penn & Teller at our home (Vol. 4) Cosby, Olivia Newton John. Dress up for Wine Tasting/Gala (Vol. 1 & 24)

~ WIU's "Life, Learning is Forever" program - everything from Beginning Ukulele to Shakespeare

~ WIU/Tri States Public Radio, 91.3FM [tristatesradio.com/](http://tristatesradio.com/) ( THE PULSE) programs & announcements of area-wide entertainment.

\* Jazz on Saturday night with Jeff Holtz.

\* Classical in the morning, Opera on Sunday afternoons

~ *VOICE newspaper*- dining, activity & entertainment listing.

~ Channel 3. WIU station provides examples of what is available in entertainment as well as academic subjects.

~ Get beyond your own occupational group (Education, Government, Medical, Business, Manufacturing, Farming). There is a great mix of people living here.

+ Lorraine & Ken Epperson, Garry & Marilyn Johnsons, helped us in this regard.

## Local Activities

### Special Locations

~ Jerry Barber Shop (Vol. 4 & 20) 10 W Carroll St, Macomb, IL (309) 833-3877 . More than a haircut--our center for quality of life conversations, plus interesting books and magazines on just about every subject.

~ BareFoot Gardens (Vol. 15 & 17) (West Adams)

[www.barefootgardens.org/](http://www.barefootgardens.org/). Get your organic vegetables and meet for great social interchange ounce a week.

~ Dawg Haus (Vol. 20) 11068 N 950th Rd Macomb, IL 61455-7997  
Phone(309) 836-3333. A five star dog hotel with doggy beds. couches and flat screen TV's.

~ Vino & Vinyl at Shilols (Vol. 24) (In the Square) [shilohsbistro.com/](http://shilohsbistro.com/) First Thursday of month. Wonderful social interchange.

~ Sam Parker's Art Studio (Vol. 25) (Behind the Square on Washington) + Sam Parker has a Rock and Rolls program on Friday 6pm, 106.3

~ Mel Kerr's Car Exhibits (Vol. 20) (Washington St, North of Town), largest collection of restored American cars from Model T on.

### Christmas Season

~ Christmas: Dickens in the Square (Vol. 14& 15), Festival of Trees (Vol. 1)  
WIU Horn Field Campus Christmas Programs (also summer concerts) (Vol. 3) & home parties Kerr's (Vol. 1 & 25) Epperson's (Vol. 25), Mayor's (Vol. 25). Really experience the Christmas spirit!

### Other Seasonal Events

~ WIU International Bazaar during Spring Semester (Vol. 6) Students from more than 25 countries provide their culture and food in the Grand Ball Room.

- ~ Balloon Festival in September (Vol. 4 & 20), Thousands of people from all over attend. The "Balloon Glow" is a delight!
- ~ Barnocopia (Vol. 26) Vintage barns. Summer: Shakespeare, entertainment.
- ~ WIU February Jazz Week (Vol. 3). Great Jazz all week at the university.
- ~ AL Sears Jazz Festival Weekend (Vol. 14, 22) In Sept., one of the top jazz festivals in the nation.
- ~ Arts in the Park (Vol. 22) In Sept., local art & food in Chandler Park.
- ~ WIU Fall Scholarship Concerts. University singers, Jazz Studio Orchestra, Symphony Orchestra and Wind Ensemble. (Vol. 24) You get to hear them all!
- ~ WIU Sporting Events and Before Game Activity (Vol. 17). A great place to meet friends.

### WIU International Students

- ~ Be a host. We have enjoyed the interchange of cultures with students from all over the world. We have a Foreign Student Garden in our back yard with plaques for the students from 17 countries who have visited us. (Vol. 3, 18), Mexican Neighborhood Potluck (Vol. 10 & 13) where all our neighbors joined in.

### Dining

- ~ Cotillion Club dinners, dancing & receptions (Vol. 23) A great way to meet new friends.
- ~ Macomb Country Club. [mccgolf.org](http://mccgolf.org). One of our three 18 hole golf courses. (Vol. 11 & 12). Can join as a social member if you are not a golfer- excellent food and a great place to meet friends.
- ~Bistro and Gourmet Clubs (Vol. 24 & 25). Friends form groups and prepare fine food for each other. Sometimes hire a chef from WIU/Sodexo to prepare (fraction of cost as compared to LA).

### Sharing Reading Experiences

- ~ New Copperfields, in Macomb Square [www.newcopperfields.com](http://www.newcopperfields.com). books and a community center.

~ Book Post, in Macomb Square (Vol.7)

<https://www.facebook.com/TheBookPost> One of the best used books anywhere.

~ Friends of the Macomb Library- book clubs, used books and DVDs (Vol. 23)  
Another opportunity to meet people with same interest.

### Parades

~ Heritage Day Parades & Festival in June (Vol. 4) You can feel the community spirit.

~ WIU Home Coming Parades in October (Vol. 11 & 17) You can get involved in the university spirit.

## **NEARBY ATTRACTIONS**

### Lake Activity

~ Argyle Lake (Vol. 14), boating and hiking.

~ Spring Lake (Vol. 17), boating and picnicking.

### Mississippi River

~ Nauvoo Historic Center & Bronze Statue Garden (Vol. 1)  
[www.historicnauvoo.net](http://www.historicnauvoo.net). An Excellent place to see our 150 old history reenacted..

~ Hannibal. Mark Twain's home town. [www.marktwainmuseum.org](http://www.marktwainmuseum.org). (Vol.12)  
Great place to have kids visit Tom Sawyer's cave and exhibits.

### Springfield

~ Lincoln Museum (Vo. 18) [www.lincolnlibraryandmuseum.com/](http://www.lincolnlibraryandmuseum.com/). **The best animated museum in the nations. Kids and adults love it!**

~ Lincoln Home and tour (Vol. 19)  
[www.abrahamlincolnonline.org/lincoln/sites/springfd.htm](http://www.abrahamlincolnonline.org/lincoln/sites/springfd.htm). Very informative.

~ Lincoln's New Salem Historic Village (Vol. 1) [www.lincolnsnewsalem.com/](http://www.lincolnsnewsalem.com/).  
**Where Lincoln grew up, restored and acted out.**

### Galena

~ Historic Town & General Grant's History (Vol. 8). Fun to explore.

~ Skiing at Chestnut Lodge (Vol. 1 & 3) [www.chestnutmtn.com/](http://www.chestnutmtn.com/) My favorite skiing area! No waiting in long lines as in California.

## Davenport

~ Annual Bix Jazz Festival in July (Vol. 14) Brings people from all over the world.

## Galesburg

~ Orpheum Theater (Glenn Miller Band) & Restaurants (Vol. 17). Many excellent performances in this vintage theater. Some good restaurants.

## Chicago

~ Amtrak Ride to & From (Vol. 1) Friendly service, even gave a birthday party for my wife in the Café care.

~ Hotels, Restaurants, Museums, Architecture Tours and Sites (Vol. 15) Where to get the "big town" experience just a few hours away.

~ Culinary tour (Vol. 16) [www.chicagofoodplanet.com/](http://www.chicagofoodplanet.com/). Got to see where the gourmet restaurants go to get their food and even cooked my entrée.

## Rushville

~ Peace of Earth Lodge & Cabins plus B&B (Vol. 24, 25) [www.peaceofearth.net/](http://www.peaceofearth.net/) my get-away cabin.

~ Historic Courthouse (Vol.3) A trip in history & architectural beauty.

## Peoria

~ Restaurants and Shopping with our Bistro Club (Vol. 24). Excellent food and shopping.

## New York

~ WIU Former President Goldfarb's Annual Tour in June (Vol. 13) Best way to see NY and experience Broadway shows.

Amish Village (Vol. 21) diving tour nearby.

AND MANY MORE ----