

# 2025 Burlington Jamboree



Rides, games, food,  
fun and more!



A publication of the  
Burlington Standard Press



# HISTORY OF THE Jamboree

Following Burlington's successful Centennial Celebration in August 1935, the Chamber of Commerce discussed making Fourth of July celebrations and a water carnival into annual events.

For 1936, the American Legion and the Knights of Columbus made plans for a three-day celebration for July 3-5. From a large number of names suggested for the celebration, the general committee selected "July Jamboree".

The 1936 July Jamboree, which was centered in Echo Park, included a huge street parade and a drawing for a new automobile. So, the first Jamboree was in 1936. The "last" year for the Jamboree on record was in 1985.

In 1987, the weekend after Mother's Day, Chocolate City Festivals debuted. It was later re-named 'ChocolateFest in 1999, moved to Memorial Day weekend in 2005, and ran through 2019.

The coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic put the brakes on everything in 2020; causing ChocolateFest to cancel after a 33-year run.

Following that challenging year in 2020, other factors besides COVID-19 faced ChocolateFest as 2021 approached. Not wanting to "let COVID-19 win" and knowing people wanted to get back to living, a few diehard volunteers from ChocolateFest decided the Burlington community needed something to begin feeling normal again.

With very limited financial resources, as well as the volunteer help to run a festival, it was decided to provide a simple carnival with games and food. Looking back in history, it was decided to revive the name: The Burlington Jamboree.



On April 6, 2021, the City of Burlington Common Council gave approval for The Burlington Jamboree to be held over Memorial Day weekend.

The 2021 Burlington Jamboree opened on Friday, May 28, with cool, damp weather, but improved with warmer and sunny skies as the weekend continued. Attendees appreciated the free admission and the ability to get out and socialize with their family and friends.

Considering the relatively short time-frame to produce an event, and the fact we were

still coming out of a pandemic; the revised Burlington Jamboree was a modest success.

In 2022, the Jamboree expanded on the entertainment, including more live music, pig, goat and duck races, and Circus Shane Hansen's acrobatic acts. Sunday morning featured a church service and made-to-order omelet breakfast.

With rain occurring about a third of the time, the 2024 event was a challenge but the spirits of the volunteers never dampened.

Source: [burlingtonjamboree.com](http://burlingtonjamboree.com).

## Burlington Jamboree Mission Statement

"The Burlington Jamboree exists to serve as a conduit for civic groups, charities, and non-profit 501(c)(3) entities, to join forces on a large playing field with the ability to generate revenue that will benefit their particular purpose or cause."

Every person that serves on the Jamboree Committee is a true volunteer. There is no paid staff. When it comes to workers, such as parking vehicles, or trash removal, the Jamboree enters into an agreement with non-profit and civic groups. The non-profit groups provides the manpower and raises its own revenue. Many of these groups depend on the Jamboree as a key revenue source when establishing their budget.

"Dedication" – is one of the words which describes the people who serve on the Jamboree Committee, and their dedication doesn't have an off-season. They know that the time, effort, and the dedication will pay off. When confronted with a challenge, they search for a solution rather than an escape.

It is also a team effort. Coming together is a beginning. Keeping together is progress. Working together is success.



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## Burlington Jamboree 2025

A publication of  
Southern Lakes Newspapers LLC  
and the Burlington Standard Press

1102 Ann St., Delavan, WI 53115  
(262) 728-3411

[www.myracinecounty.com](http://www.myracinecounty.com)

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**on the cover:** Four days of family entertainment at the Burlington Jamboree includes pig, duck and goat races, which are presented by Pleasure Valley. See more about the family fun lined up for this year's Jamboree on page 4.

RACHEL LUKAS PHOTO Burlington Jamboree 2025

**above:** The Burlington Jamboree will return for four days of fun Memorial Day weekend, Friday to Monday, May 23-26. The event features a carnival, live music, food vendors, a breakfast, a church service, a variety of family-friendly activities and shows, and more.

FILE PHOTO Burlington Jamboree 2025

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# Burlington Jamboree 2025: 'Let the good times roll'



The Burlington Jamboree will run Friday, May 23, through Monday, May 26 on the Jamboree grounds at 681 Maryland Ave.

While the Jamboree, which replaced ChocolateFest in 2020, will be holding its fifth event this year, the festival name dates back to 1936, when the city held a July Jamboree.

The 2025 Jamboree will again feature several live bands daily on the Lions Club Main Stage: May 23 – Hindsight and the Lunchmoney Bullies; May 24 – Shades of Gray, Weird Science and The Lonely Ninjas; May 25 – Jessie Marie and the Rippers, The Britins and Jonny Lyons & the Pride; May 26 – Doo Wop Jukebox and Twin Rivers Band.

See more information about the live music, including a schedule, on page 7.

## More happenings

- Community Fun Sale – on Saturday and Sunday, May 24 and 25, a community fun sale (crafts, antiques, old items, new items, handmade items, knickknacks, etc.) will be held noon to 6 p.m. A 10x10-foot space is \$30 for both Saturday and Sunday; limit of 50 booths. For more information, contact Gail Boydston at 262-234-1682 or gail33052@yahoo.com.

- Breakfast – Sunday morning, May 25, will include a made-to-order omelet breakfast, served with pancakes, sausage and hashbrowns) from 8 to 11 a.m. Adults are \$12, kids 11 and younger are \$5.

- Bike Blessing – the Tri-County Riders will host a bike blessing Sunday, May 25. Registration will open at 8 a.m., the

## If you go...

**WHAT:** Burlington Jamboree

**WHERE:** 681 Maryland Ave.

**WHEN:** Memorial Day Weekend, May 23 to 26

**COST:** Free admission

**INFO:** 262-661-1951 or [burlingtonjamboree.com](http://burlingtonjamboree.com)

blessing will take place around 9:30 a.m. and at 9:50 a.m., it will be kickstands up for a poker run. For more information, visit Tri-County Riders on Facebook.

Faith Chapel Evangelical Free Church will lead a church service at 10 a.m.

## Chocolate City 5K

Join a beautiful run along the Fox River in Burlington at 10:30 a.m. in the newly named event, which donates a portion of its proceeds to the Jamboree.

The Chocolate City 5K (formally the Chocoholic and Kringle Krush 5K/10K) is a professionally timed and live event.

"Run at your pace or take your sweet time. After the event enjoy carnival rides, games, and food at the Burlington Jamboree," race organizers said.

Start at Riverside Park, 517 Congress St. (packet pickup will begin at 9:15 a.m.).

Swag will include an optional t-shirt, finishers medals for all, 1st-3rd place awards for overall male and female, 1st-3rd for 5-year age groups.

Fees are \$30 for the 5K in Burlington, \$25 for the remote runner option.

For details and to register, visit 5kevents.org, enter 53105 in the zip code box and click on "show races" then select the Chocolate City 5K event.

## Food options galore

Food vendors at the Jamboree this year, along with an overview of their offerings, include the following:

Boy Scout Troop 334 – walking tacos, nachos, soda and water

Bistro Italiano – Italian beef, Italian sausage, chicken parmesan, meatball sub, Italian breaded steak, fresh cut fries, chili fries, loaded fries, fried ravioli, mac & cheese bites

Emma's Cookie Kitchen – cookies, cookie dough sundae, cookie sandwich, deep fried cookie dough, hot fudge sundae, cashew sundae, rootbeer or orange floats and cones

Haack's Concessions – pizza, pretzels, nachos, sweet corn, Philly cheese steaks, burgers, fries, brats, gyros and hot dogs

Happy Times Barbecue – slow-smoked meats from tender brisket to succulent ribs

International Foods – gyros, Greek salads, fries, chicken kabob with rice, seafood paella with rice, Philly steak, chocolate covered New York cheesecake

Hawgz Dogs & Sandwiches (hot dogs and Italian beef)

Jammin Concessions – Philly cheesesteak, chicken Philly, gourmet fries, chicken or steak quesadillas, gyros, burgers, brats and polish

Java Twist – cold brewed coffee infused with 100% fruit juice and chocolate lemonade

Mr. Tacomex Grill – burritos, tacos, nachos, tamales, quesadillas, tostadas and churros

Pizza Ranch – pizza by the slice, mac & cheese bowls, cheesy ranch sticks

Spudsters Baked Potatoes – large variety of baked potatoes, loaded classic, broccoli & cheese, chili, chicken bacon ranch, BBQ pulled pork, nachos, soda, lemonade and water

Tak Yee – eggs rolls, crab Rangoon, fried rice, sweet and sour chicken dinner

Wisconsin Fried Cheese Curds – fried and raw cheese curds, grilled cheese sandwiches, slushes and smoothies.

## Hours and more

Festival hours will be 4 to 11 p.m. Friday, May 23; noon to 11 p.m. Saturday and Sunday, May 24 and 25; and noon to 6 p.m. Monday (Memorial Day), May 26.

The Veterans Memorial Day Parade on Monday, May 26 will step off at 9 a.m. and follow Kane Street to Milwaukee Avenue, ending with a ceremony in Echo Park at 11 a.m.

As a friendly reminder, pets, bikes, skateboards, weapons, carry-ins, grilling, and foul language will not be allowed.

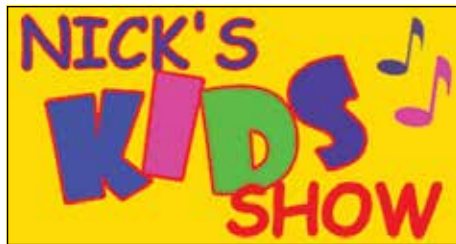
For more information, call 262-661-1951 or visit [burlingtonjamboree.com](http://burlingtonjamboree.com).

Among the many fun rides and activities for kids at last year's Jamboree was bumper boats. This year's festival will be May 23-26.





Granpa Cratchet



Pleasant Valley Races

# Fun for the entire family

*Four-day event offers shows, duck races, a carnival and more*

There will be plenty of entertainment suitable for families throughout the entire weekend of the Burlington Jamboree including a variety of children's activities.

Here are a few highlights families will be able to enjoy:

- Granpa Cratchet is scheduled for May 23 at 4:30 and 6:30 p.m.; May 24 and 25, at 12:30, 3 and 5 p.m.; May 26, at 12:30 and 3 p.m.

- Pleasure Valley will present Pig, Goat & Duck Races May 23 at 5 and 7 p.m.; May 24 and 25 at 1, 3:30 and 5:30 p.m.; May 26 at 1 and 3:30 p.m.

- Brenden Trojan Magic Show will take place May 23 at 5:30 and 7:30 p.m.; May 24 and 25 at 1:30, 4 and 6 p.m.; May 26 at 1:30 and 4 p.m.

- Nick's Kids' Show can be experienced May 23 at 6 and 8 p.m.; May 24 and 25 at 2:30, 4:30 and 6:30 p.m.; May 26 at 2 and 4:30 p.m.

Additional family entertainment – located in the carnival area – Kiddie Land, will include:

- Magical Bubbles – a fun and interactive experience for people of all ages
- Petting Zoo
- Casady's Critters – a primate zoo where you can have your photo taken with a baby kangaroo.

There will also be laughing dog studio, Uke's Harley Davidson and Touch of the Wild.

## Midway/Carnival

North American Midway Entertainment will provide the carnival rides and games.

Rides require 6-15 tickets per person. On site ticket prices for rides are: one ticket for 50 cents; 20 for \$10; 65 for \$30; 140 for \$60 or 240 for \$99.

A pre-sale special price for wristbands is \$30 and can be purchased online at [burlingtonjamboree.com](http://burlingtonjamboree.com). At the top of the page under 2025 Entertainment Schedules and Fair Specials, select "Midway Specials," scroll down and click on "Purchase Now" or scan the QR Code.

On site wristband specials for unlimited rides will be available for \$35. Note that wristband sales will stop one hour prior to

close to ensure patrons receive value. Pre-sale specials will expire at midnight, May 22.

Ride enthusiasts can also consider purchasing a Mega Pass for \$75, which will allow them to ride the entire weekend. The Mega Pass will only be sold on site at the Jamboree.

Note that the ticket will be valid for a wristband for unlimited rides, good only on one regularly scheduled wristband day: Friday, 4 p.m. to close; Saturday and Sunday, noon to close; Monday, noon to 6 p.m.



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# RIDIN' AT THE Jamboree



The Burlington Jamboree, a four-day event held Memorial Day weekend, offers free admission and is loaded with fun including numerous carnival rides and games from North American Midway Entertainment. The event also features an array of music genres via bands performing on the Lions Club Main Stage, and of course, food vendors sure to satisfy any craving.

FILE PHOTOS Burlington Jamboree 2025





# Memorial Day to include parade, ceremony

Burlington will once again host a Memorial Day parade followed by a ceremony on Monday, May 26.

Organized by Anderson-Murphy VFW Post 2823, Ross Wilcox American Legion Post 79, the Marine Corps League of Burlington and Disabled American Veterans, the parade

will include a variety of floats, police and fire vehicles, school marching band, veterans from all branches of the military and more.

The parade will step-off at 9 a.m. from Robert and Kane streets and work its way to Milwaukee Avenue and continue to Echo Park. All veterans are invited to march in the parade and do not need a uniform to do so.

At Echo Park, a memorial ceremony will be held following the parade to honor those who died in service for their country.

Included as part of the ceremony are a 21-gun salute and the playing of Taps.

Following the ceremony at Echo Park, veterans continue to the City of Burlington Cemetery, St. Mary's Cemetery, and St. Charles' Cemetery, to again honor veterans who died in service of their country.



FILE PHOTOS Burlington Jamboree 2025

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Hindsight



The Britins



Twin Rivers Band

# Live music at the Jamboree

Burlington Jamboree features free, live music throughout the weekend, with a variety of bands performing Friday through Monday on the Lions Club Main Stage.

The 2025 schedule of musical acts will include the following:

## Friday, May 23

**4 to 6:30 p.m.**  
Hindsight (classic hits)

**7:30 to 11 p.m.**  
Lunchmoney Bullies  
(rock, reggae, funk, country, pop)

## Saturday, May 24

**Noon to 2:30 p.m.**  
Shades of Gray (classic rock)

**3:30 to 6:30 p.m.**  
Weird Science  
(80s music – extremely high energy rock n' roll that's fun!)

**7:30 to 11 p.m.**  
Lonely Ninjas (country)

## Sunday, May 25

**Noon to 2:30 p.m.**  
Jessie Marie and the Rippers  
(favorites from the 80s, 90s and today)

**3:30 to 6:30 p.m.**  
The Britins (Beatles tribute band)

**7:30 to 11 p.m.**  
Jonny Lyons & The Pride  
(50s, 60s and 70s R&B)

## Monday, May 26

**Noon to 3 p.m.**  
Doo Wop Jukebox (50s and 60s)

**3:30 to 5:30 p.m.**  
Twin Rivers Band (country/western)



Jessie Marie and the Rippers



Jonny Lyons & the Pride



Lunchmoney Bullies



Weird Science



Shades of Gray





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