

Welcome

TO LEE COUNTY



ELEVATE

your experience...

Welcome to Lee County—situated along the Mississippi River, Lee County offers the perfect balance of small-town charm, rich history, and forward-looking opportunity. Home to the cities of Fort Madison and Keokuk, the county is a thriving region where historic river towns meet modern living.

Fort Madison, with its strong ties to trade and tourism, boasts scenic parks, historic landmarks, and a vibrant local business community. Keokuk complements this with its scenic riverfront, family-friendly values, and a diverse, growing economy. Both communities are known for their welcoming spirit, excellent schools, and low cost of living.

From arts and entertainment to outdoor recreation, healthcare, and education, Lee County delivers a high quality of life without the big-city hassles. With its strategic location in the tri-state area, a robust transportation network, and a proud sense of community, Lee County is more than a place to visit—it's a place to belong.

“ I left Keokuk to pursue my photography career, but I came back because I realized this is where I wanted to build it. The support, connection, and pride in our community make Lee County the perfect place to grow both personally and professionally.”

Doug Ewing, Local Photographer



“ My favorite part of Lee County is that it's a safe space to raise a family, and its beautiful all seasons! I love our little river communities and the people that make them.”

Lexy, Life Long Lee County Resident

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“

Lee County has always been home. It's where I grew up and where I knew I wanted to start my business—a way to give back to the community that raised me.

Taking the leap from a home business to a brick-and-mortar was a big decision, but I felt confident knowing the community I was moving into. The incredible support I've received from this community has made it all worthwhile.”

**Amy Hobb, Owner of Blue Umbrella Bakery
412 Main St. Suite B, Keokuk**

This publication is brought to you in part by:



Lee County, Iowa



Lee County is unique because it is the only county in Iowa that has two county seats: Fort Madison and Keokuk

Location

- Lee County is the southeastern most county in Iowa
- Situated along the Mississippi River
- Amtrak Rail ([Virtual Railfan](#)) with daily trips to Chicago
- Close proximity for air travel to St. Louis or Chicago for a day trip

Demographics

- Population is 32,565 (2023)
- Density is about 62.0765/sq mi
- Median Age is 47
- Average Household Income is \$59,803
- Regional Population is 125,000

Opportunities

- Low cost of living
- Short Commutes
- Variety of different employment opportunities
- Safe location for families
- Community involvement

Growth

- In the last 2 years, Lee County has opened approximately 50+ new businesses
- A variety of successful projects coming to life including industry expansions, health center expansions, riverfront revivals, and so much more!



Fort Madison

PHOTOGRAPHY BY DOUG EWING PHOTO

Fort Madison offers the best of small-town living—affordable, welcoming, and full of opportunities. Our historic downtown continues to grow, with restored storefronts and upper-story living adding to its charm. Along the Mississippi River, the newly enhanced marina and riverfront invite both boaters, visitors and locals to enjoy the water. Recreation is a priority here, from scenic trails and parks to the Baxter Sports Complex and the Fort Madison Family YMCA. Education is strong, with Fort Madison Community Schools expanding career and technical programs, Central Lee focusing on agricultural education, and Holy Trinity providing a faith-based learning experience. The Fort Madison Public Library supports lifelong learning, and our local hospital ensures access to quality healthcare close to home. Whether you're raising a family, launching a career, or enjoying retirement, Fort Madison is a community where life is full, connections run deep, and opportunity is always within reach.



Keokuk

PHOTOGRAPHY BY DOUG EWING PHOTO

The City of Keokuk offers a relaxed pace of life with the kind of small-town charm that makes visitors feel instantly at home. Our thriving downtown blends historic architecture with unique shops, local dining, and lively events that bring neighbors and newcomers together. Just steps away, beautiful housing options and welcoming neighborhoods make it easy to imagine yourself settling in. Life here flows with the river. From sunrise fishing and boating with friends to watching barges pass through the largest working lock and dam on the Mississippi, the riverfront is the backdrop for daily life. Keokuk also boasts a number of community parks, including Rand Park with flower gardens, playgrounds, a music pavilion, and sweeping river views. Outdoor enthusiasts will love the new pickleball courts, disc golf, and trails, while families can enjoy concerts, festivals, and year-round community celebrations. Surrounded by natural beauty and fueled by a strong sense of community pride, Keokuk offers more than just a place to live—it offers a lifestyle. Whether you're drawn to the river, the parks, or the warm welcome of our people, you'll find a quality of life here that's hard to match.

Donnellson

With around 900 residents, this rural town is known for being home to the Lee County Fair which boasts as the “Oldest Fair West of the Mississippi”. Small but mighty, this community is beaming with pride and has a lot to offer.



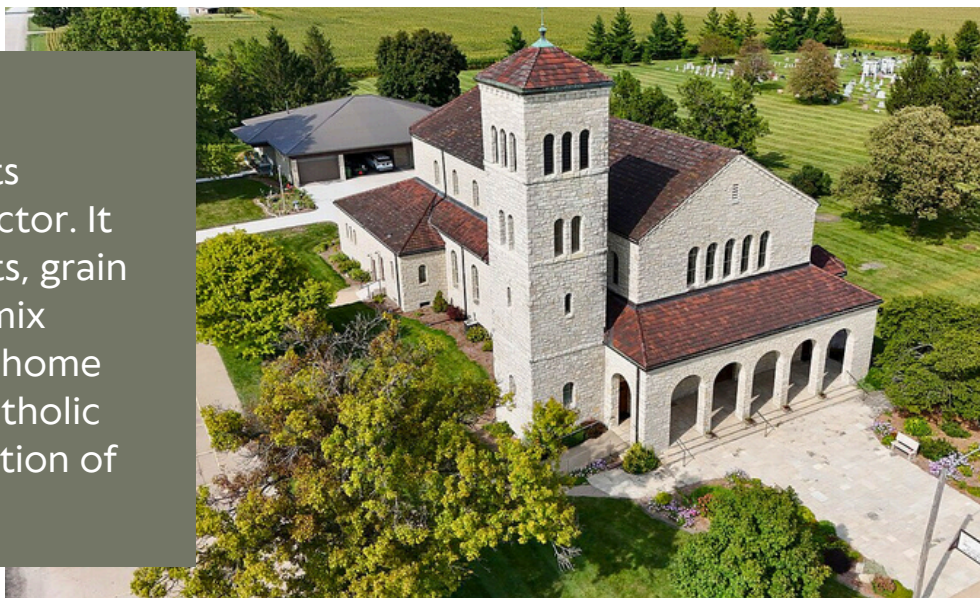
Franklin

Franklin is a small historic town in Lee County, known for its rare Federal-style architecture. Founded in the 1830s and named after Benjamin Franklin, it has a population of 131 and remains a charming part of Lee County.

MORE TO EXPLORE

Houghton

Houghton is known for its strong manufacturing sector. It produces plastic products, grain storage bins, and ready-mix concrete. The city is also home to St. John the Baptist Catholic Church and has a population of 141 as of 2020.



LEE COUNTY

Montrose

Montrose is a small, historic river town in Lee County along the Mississippi River. Made up of about 738 residents, Montrose offers scenic views, Riverview Park, and local festivals that highlight its welcoming, small-town charm.



St. Paul

St. Paul is a small Lee County community of about 103 residents. Founded in 1866, it covers just 0.38 square miles and is known for its rural charm and St. James the Less Catholic Church. Local education is served by Fort Madison Community Schools and Holy Trinity Catholic Schools.



West Point

Is a historic community with a strong German heritage and nearly 1,000 residents. It sits on a hill nine miles from the Mississippi River. Surrounded by rich farmland and former Sauk and Fox hunting grounds, West Point is a charming and welcoming town with deep historical roots.

Welcome Home.

Lee County offers more than just great career opportunities — it's a place you can truly call home. Whether you're drawn to riverfront views, small-town charm, historic neighborhoods, or vibrant downtown living, there's a place here for everyone.



Cornerstone Lofts - Keokuk



Jefferson Square Apartments - Fort Madison

The Cornerstone Lofts and Jefferson Square Apartments are just two new housing opportunities in Lee County. Each with their own unique charm, they provide a sense of modern living with the small town feel!



Click Here!

Looking for more resources? Check out the local chambers websites!

“ I really can't imagine calling anywhere else home other than Lee County. It has been the perfect place to raise a family, grow professionally and give back to the community where I grew up. I moved away after college and then came back after living in several large cities. The ability to get involved in community organizations, be active in the schools and develop lifelong relationships is so much easier in our smaller communities. I'm proud to live here and look forward to what the future holds.”

Matt Morris, President & CEO of Connection Bank



Education in Lee County



Primary Education

- [Central Lee Community Schools](#)
- [Fort Madison Community Schools](#)
- [Holy Trinity Catholic](#)
- [Keokuk Community Schools](#)
- [Keokuk Catholic Schools](#)
- [Keokuk Christian Academy](#)

Higher Education Institutions

- Southeastern Community College
 - [Keokuk Campus](#)
 - [West Burlington Campus](#)

PRIMARY EDUCATION

Lee County, Iowa offers quality education through several well-supported school districts, known for strong academic programs and community involvement. With dedicated educators and a focus on student success, the county provides a solid foundation for lifelong learning and future career paths.



Leading in LEE

Lee County, has several networking and professional development programs to help you get connected with other *LEE*ders in the area!



Chamber Ambassador Club Ribbon Cuttings

The Ambassador Club serves as the “welcome wagon” extension of the Chamber. From welcoming new businesses to celebrating growth and longevity in existing businesses, this group keeps their hand on the pulse of changes in our businesses. The group also provides volunteer assistance at many community events.



Lee County Intern Connect

This program is designed to immerse participants in the wonderful benefits of living and working in Lee County and the Tri-States. This program allows us to connect prospective employees with community assets and resources, gives interns the opportunity to network with other young people who are engaged in the area, and it promotes the vibrancy of our community and the benefits of choosing to live, work and play in Lee County.

Leading in LEE



Lee County Leadership

Participants will benefit from gaining a comprehensive understanding of community leadership and its significance, developing core competencies linked to resilience, and acquiring practical tools and techniques to address pertinent community issues and harness potential opportunities.



Lee County CEO

Creating Entrepreneurial Opportunities is a class that seeks to prepare people, especially youth, to be responsible, enterprising individuals who become entrepreneurs or entrepreneurial thinkers and contribute to economic development and sustainable communities. The CEO program is much more than a textbook course. Rather, students are immersed in real life learning experiences with the opportunity to take risks, manage the results, and learn from the outcomes.

ActiveLee

OUTDOORS



GOLF COURSES

GREEN ACRES GOLF COURSE
& RESTAURANT

SHEAFFER MEMORIAL GOLF
COURSE

ELKS FAIRVIEW GOLF CLUB



BAXTER SPORTS COMPLEX

FORT MADISON, IA

A 16 acre multi-field complex featuring baseball/softball, soccer, football, and sand volleyball, supporting youth and adult sports.



LEE COUNTY CONSERVATION

MONTROSE, IA

Manages 30 parks, trails, historic sites, and water access points across 2,796 acres in Lee County. Enjoy camping, hiking, fishing, kayaking, and more—plus fun, hands-on environmental programs for all ages!



SHIMEK STATE FOREST

DONNELLSON, IA

A 9,448 acre park across five forest units. The Donnellson unit is 1,330 acres with a campground, 2 fishing lakes, picnic areas, a nature and hiking trails.



RAND PARK

KEOKUK, IA

A 57 acre park featuring river views, outdoor entertainment pavilion, picnic shelters and areas, playground equipment, flower garden, tennis court, basketball court, kiddie play area, reflection pond, disc golf course, restrooms and walking trails.



LIST OF MORE LEE COUNTY PARKS

OUTDOORS



Florida of Iowa Aerials and Photography



Carolyn and I moved to Fort Madison in 1975 to begin our health care careers. We moved here for the business potential and for the beautiful Mississippi River setting. We stayed because of the people! Over the years, we have had the opportunity to work alongside some amazing Fort Madison residents in clubs, organizations and on projects that have had very positive impacts on the quality of life in our community. After we retired, we could have moved anywhere, but we chose to stay because of the many friendships that were developed over the years, and because of the many opportunities that “small town living” provides. Fort Madison is our home, and we love it!!!”



Larry D Smith
Retired Optometrist
Community Volunteer



FORT MADISON MARINA

FORT MADISON, IA
Recently revitalized, this major project redeveloped Fort Madison's waterfront to make it safer, more accessible, and economically stronger. The Marina offers river access with slip rentals and a new walking path.



KEOKUK YACHT CLUB

KEOKUK, IA
This club is easily accessible by car or boat from nearby communities, with fuel and refreshments at the dock. Enjoy live bands, great food, and refreshing drinks.



SOUTHSIDE BOAT CLUB

KEOKUK, IA
Striving to provide the best services for its members, the boating community, area citizens, and all visitors who enter the doors and dock on Keokuk's shores.



PORT OF FORT MADISON

FORT MADISON, IA
A 10+ mile system of recreational trails through Fort Madison.

CREATIVE *Lee* ARTS



GRAND THEATER

KEOKUK, IA

Recently celebrating 100 years, this live-performance theater provides quality entertainment and an event space for the benefit of the tri-state area.



GREAT RIVER PLAYERS

KEOKUK, IA

Community theater group that offers live performances and creative opportunities for all ages.



OLD FORT PLAYERS

FORT MADISON, IA

Community theater group that provides local residents with opportunities to participate in and enjoy live theatrical productions.



FORT MADISON AREA ART ASSOCIATION

FORT MADISON, IA

Promotes visual and cultural arts through exhibitions, classes, and community events.



THE LOST CANVAS

KEOKUK, IA

Coffee shop, art gallery, and gift shop offering drinks, local artwork, art supplies, and painting parties.



KEOKUK ART CENTER

KEOKUK, IA

Located in the lower level of the Keokuk Public Library, the Keokuk Art Center offers classes for all ages, and hosts art shows, exhibits, and more!



Historic Lee

HISTORY



Jay Scott



KEOKUK- HAMILTON DAM MUSEUM

KEOKUK, IA

Highlights the history of the Keokuk-Hamilton Dam, once the world's largest hydroelectric facility. It features exhibits on the dam's construction, impact on energy, and local history.



GEORGE M. VERITY RIVERBOAT MUSEUM

KEOKUK, IA

This museum on the riverfront showcases a 1927 paddleboat originally built for river transport. After serving on the Ohio River, it was retired and donated to the city in 1961.



SHEAFFER PEN MUSEM

FORT MADISON, IA

This museum was established to showcase the company's achievements and to take pen enthusiasts through the continuous innovation in writing instruments. It features more than 25 display cases with Sheaffer writing tools and items from the past.



KEOKUK NATIONAL CEMETERY

KEOKUK, IA

Established during the Civil War, this is one of the oldest national cemeteries in the U.S. It serves as the final resting place for veterans and honors those who served in the nation's armed forces.



NORTH LEE COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

FORT MADISON, IA

Housed in the Old Santa Fe Depot Complex, this museum showcases the area's rich history through exhibits, artifacts, and sites like the Old Lee County Jail and Brush College.



KEOKUK HISTORY CENTER

KEOKUK, IA

Home of the Miller House Museum, KHC preserves history while educating visitors and members of our community about the past.



LEE COUNTY EVENTS

Lee County offers a variety of fun events all year long for all ages, making it a great place to enjoy community activities no matter the season

SPRING

MARCH

APRIL

MAY

Community Clean Up
April in Fort Madison

Paint-A-Thon
April in Fort Madison

Annual Earth Day Fair
April In Keokuk

Back Alley Band Fest
May in Keokuk

Keokuk Farmers Market
Saturdays in May-September

Rand Park Pavilion Music
May through September in Keokuk

Montrose Farmers Market
Tuesdays in May-August

Pen City Cruiser Car Show
May in Fort Madison

SUMMER

JUNE

JULY

AUGUST

West Point Farmers Market
Sundays in June- October

Fort Madison Farmers Market
Mondays in June-September

Downtown Summer Market
June & July in Fort Madison

Music In Old Settlers Park
June - August in Fort Madison

Denmark Heritage Days
June in Denmark

Fireworks Display
July in various Locations in Lee County

Music In Central Park
June & July in Fort Madison

Lee County Fair
July in Donnellson

Sweet Corn Fest
August in West Point

Watermelon Festival
August in Montrose



LEE COUNTY EVENTS



Fort Madison
Event Calendar



Keokuk
Event Calendar



FALL

SEPTEMBER

OCTOBER

NOVEMBER

Keokuk Labor Day Parade
Labor day

Tri- State Rodeo
September in Fort Madison

Mexican Fiesta
September in Fort Madison

Porchstock
September in Fort Madison

Big Dam Street Fest
September in Keokuk

River & Rail Weekend
September in Fort Madison

Geode Family Fest
September in Keokuk

Trick or Treat/Beggars Night
October in Lee County

Fort Madison Wine & Beer Walk
November in Fort Madison

Parade of Lights
November in Fort Madison

Mistletoe on Main
November in Fort Madison

WINTER

DECEMBER

JANUARY

FEBRUARY

City of Christmas
Thanksgiving to New Year's Day
in Keokuk

Puttin On the Glitz
December in Keokuk

Light Display In Central Park
December in Fort Madison

Bald Eagle Appreciation Days
January in Keokuk

Spirit Of Keokuk Awards
February in Keokuk

Fort Madison Annual Chamber Dinner
February in Fort Madison

Fun Facts



Lee County Fair

Donnellson is home to Iowa's oldest county fair which settled in 1878



John Wayne Homeplace

Keokuk was once the home of the famous actor John Wayne



Southernmost Point

Lee County holds the distinction of being the southernmost county in Iowa



National Cemetery

Keokuk is the home to Iowa's first and only national cemetery



Toll Bridge

Fort Madison is home to a rare double-decked, swing-span bridge over the Mississippi River connecting Fort Madison, Iowa and Niota, Illinois



First County

Lee County was one of the first counties established in Iowa even before Iowa became a state in 1846



Abraham Lincoln

Abraham Lincoln visited Keokuk in 1859, giving a speech that drew thousands





Explore The Opportunities of Lee County

