In 1827, the first framed structure in Jersey County, known as the Little Red House, was completed on property originally recognized as Hickory Grove. In 1834, a post office was added to the modest settlement consisting of the Little Red House and 3 other cabins. At this time, the town officially became known as Jerseyville. In honor of the first settlers who came to the area from Keokuk, Iowa, Jersey County officially broke away from Greene County to gain an identity of its own, and Jerseyville was named the county seat.

Eventually, the tiny frame house was later incorporated into the main structure of what we now recognize as the Cherry Mansion, one of the most famous landmarks in our town. This historic home is located at 637 North State Street, and now houses the Jersey County Historical Society. During the era of slavery, many Jersey County residents were sympathetic to the plight of the slaves and felt it was their duty to assist however they could. Many years later, it was discovered that the basement of the Cherry Mansion had been turned into a stop for the Underground Railroad.

Business began booming in Jerseyville, and by 1900 Jerseyville had a public water works, electric light plant, telephone system, public school, and a modernized courthouse, an opera house, a second class post office, two railroads, nine churches, and over 100 other businesses ranging from home and personal care to industrial fabrication and production. Over the course of the next century, numerous businesses have come to call Jerseyville home, ranging from local family run operations to large scale corporations.

Jerseyville’s historic downtown is currently being revitalized to its original booming economy as we are welcoming new companies and attractions. The introduction of several new eateries and places to gather has begun to take us back to a time when it was second nature for people to park their car and use the evening to visit a number of establishments, each with its own tale on a new idea of Jerseyville nightlife. Each of these establishments add to the unique experience of a night out in downtown Jerseyville, where you can catch glimpses into both the past and future of our charming town. The partnerships that have been created display an endless amount of possibilities to be offered to both residents and tourists. We are a prime example of American’s hometown, striving to make our community safe for all visitors. Have dinner, see a movie, and finish the evening with ice cream or a drink, depending on your preferences. There is no shortage of options for your next trip to Jerseyville.

Looking for some family fun? There’s no shortage of options throughout the year. Everyone is welcome at the Jersey County Fireworks for the 4th of July, and the event is sure to come back a week later as you don’t miss the excitement of the Jersey County Fair at the same location. The six-day event kicks off each year on the Tuesday after July 4th with the annual Far Palooza down historic State Street. This exciting tradition brings out all the county residents and thousands of visitors who look forward to watching our local businesses and organizations put their best foot forward with intricate floats and endless amounts of food and gooddes. The rest of the week is filled with the talent show, fair queen pageant, truck and tractor pull, demolition derby, animal and vegetable displays, and numerous rides, games, and other activities for the entire family.

In September, join us for the annual St. Francis Holy Cross Harvest Festival located on the grounds of St. Francis church and school at 506 South State Street. Each year, a wonderful representation of our community comes together for three days for kids games, petting zoo, live entertainment, basket raffles, bingo, and a range of food choices that is hard to beat! The festival is concluded on Sunday evening with the raffle drawing grand prize of $10,000. With numerous activities for any age, it is an attraction that you shouldn’t miss.

October brings the Apple Festival, which is held on the grounds of the Jersey County Historical Society’s Cherry Mansion. It offers everyone an opportunity to experience some of the fascinating history of Jerseyville through tours of the historic structures located on the Cherry Mansion grounds. There are also many local vendors who set up to show off an array of arts and crafts, delicious food and gift items for purchase.

In November, Jerseyville is proud to host the Downtown Christmas Festival, a celebration of childhood memories from the Riverside region. Located in historic downtown the Saturday after Thanksgiving, the town is transformed into a celebration to kick off the holiday season. Featuring over 50,000 lights, there is no shortage of activities for people of all ages throughout the streets, sponsored by our local businesses, churches, and organizations. Attractions include games for the kids, photos with Santa, Elf School, Mrs. Claus’s Bake Shoppe, entertainment by the school district and local bands, and a free holiday movie at Stadium Theater. Jersey County Catholic Youth Ministries Christmas Craft Bazaar and an Elvis trivia test, and most importantly the lighting of the city tree.

What an awesome way to kick off the holidays! If you hear of anything else happening in Jerseyville and want more information, there are numerous options to contact for all the details. Call the Atton Regional Convention & Visitors Bureau at 605-738-4444, contact Jersey County Business Association at 618-439-3333, or visit the City of Jerseyville website at www.jerseyville-il.us, which is smartphone compatible, to check out the monthly calendar of events. Our goal is to provide the best quality of service to both residents and those visiting our community to experience everything we have to offer.

Remember to EXPLORE Jerseyville, Illinois...Close to the crowd...But not in it!