

Palestine, Illinois ... *building on the past - looking to the future*

Palestine is said by some to be the oldest town in the State of Illinois. In 1678 John Lamotte, a member of the LaSalle expedition, looked upon the area and remarked that it reminded him of the land of milk and honey - Palestine.



Other settlers came into the area in the 18th century and by 1812 Fort Lamotte had been constructed on the site. Palestine became a bustling center for commerce featuring a U.S. Land Office, grain milling, and it served as the county seat until 1843. Later, as tracks were laid through the area Palestine became a hub of rail



Downtown Palestine boasts a vibrant retail community with a growing emphasis on specialty shops. Antique stores, fine art galleries, gift stores, a winery, and crafters are intertwined with the local grocery, hardware, home furnishing, and other traditional businesses.

A fifteen acre campground is located just east of Palestine in beautiful Leaverton Park. Electric and water hookups are available along with restroom and shower facilities. The campground is open year round. Advance reservations are only required during Labor Day weekend

Special events help to add a spark to the quiet lifestyle of Palestine. Fine art fairs, a wine festival, and black powder events are three recent additions to the community's list of activities.

Recently, a referendum set the stage for the construction of a new Elementary/Junior High School. The new school is expected to be completed in the fall of 2005.

Palestine is home to the Pioneer City Rodeo, a PRCA/WPRA sanctioned event held Labor Day weekend in the Pioneer City Arena located next to Leaverton Park Each year thousands of visitors take part in this great, annual celebration.

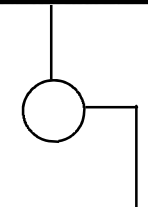


The Fife Opera House is home to many annual events including the Teeny Tiny Tea Party, Young Abe Days, and a Christmas Debutante Ball. The circa 1900 building also serves as the home of the Palestine Preservation Projects Society, local museum, a community center, and banquet hall.



Several civic organizations play an active role in the community. Included are summer sports programs, a veterans group,

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