











# Great outdoors will take on a whole new meaning when you step into our back yard!







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# The Ouachita Mountains!

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## TALIMENA NATIONAL SCENIC BYWA?

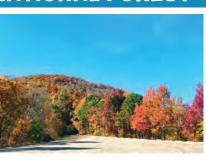


Particularly popular during the Autumn season for its brilliant colors, the drive is enjoyed by thousands each year. Mena serves as the gateway to the scenic byway. It is a gorgeous 54 mile

route which spans one of the highest mountain ranges between the Appalachians and the Rockies. The drive offers lodging, picnicking, camping and trails, and the journey all begins in beautiful downtown Mena.

## **OUACHITA NATIONAL FOREST**

Mena is your basecamp for the splendor of the Ouachitas! The Ouachita National Forest is a vast 1.8 million acre mountainous forest and is the South's largest. The Ouachita Mountains are the



only mountain range running east to west in the continental United States. The forest is noted for its picturesque scenery, clear lakes and rivers, waterfalls, natural springs, untouched wilderness and abundant wildlife.



1309 Highway 71 N. Mena, AR 71953

Reservations: 1-877-394-7477

679-396-7677 | www.suncountryinn.com



## QUEEN WILHELMINA STATE PARK

Located along the Talimena drive just 13 miles northwest of downtown is Mena's crown jewel. Also known as "The Castle in the Sky", Queen Wilhelmina State Park offers spectacular panoramic views, and true to its name, makes guests feel like



visiting royalty! From atop Arkansas' second tallest peak, visitors can enjoy a meal along with a majestic view from the Queen's Restaurant in the newly remodeled Queen Wilhelmina State Park Lodge. Call 800-264-2477 for reservations.

## **COSSATOT RIVER STATE PARK**



Just south of Mena is Arkansas' newest State Park. The park includes 11 miles of one of the most rugged and spectacular river corridors in the central United

States. With over 5,302 acres of rugged wooded slopes, trails, outstanding geological features, cascading water and Class III, IV, and even Class V rapids, the Cossatot is a favorite with skilled canoeists, rafters and kayakers. The challenging waters of the Cossatot is not recommended for beginners.

## **AUBREY D. TAPLEY PARK**



The sports complex includes facilities for soccer, baseball and softball. Facilities also include walking/bike trails, 2 playgrounds, and food concessions with

pavilion. The complex is a popular site for events such as the 4th of July Celebration and also many tournaments throughout the year. (See page 25 for more pictures and information.) For more information call 479-216-8171.

## HISTO<u>RIC JANSSEN PARK</u>

This is no ordinary community park! This brilliant 10 acre park is host to an 1851 log cabin rumored to have been used as a hideout by the notorious Jesse James, besides being used as



a hospital, post office, and city hall during its lifetime. The park also contains 2 spring fed ponds, 2 Mountain Howitzer Cannons, a bronze boy and girl fountain purchased in 1914 among other interesting artifacts. No wonder it is listed on the National Register of Historic Places! Janssen Park is a favorite among the locals and vacationers alike.

#### MENA DEPOT



Reminiscent of 'days gone by', you can almost hear the conductor shouting "All Aboard." The Depot serves as the focal point and most recognizable building in Mena.

Built in 1920, the beautifully restored train depot greets visitors as they travel U.S. Highway 71. It serves as a museum housing local history, artifacts and art, as well as, the Chamber of Commerce and a 1939 restored Dodge police car, fondly referred to by locals a "Flossie."

### **WOLF PEN GAP - ATV & MOUNTAIN BIKING**



Hugely popular with ATV riders is the Wolf Pen Gap Trails. The system offers 41 miles of looping trails that are connected to accommodate riders who want to vary the length of their trips. The trails feature high mountain vistas and

an abandoned mine shaft. Trails range from easy to most difficult and wind through some of the most rugged and secluded areas of the Ouachita National Forest. Open seasonally.

#### LITTLE MISSOURI FALLS

Little Missouri Falls is a stair step fall in a deep gorge that attracts photographers and visitors. The falls can be reached by an all-weather gravel road, and there is a parking



area with restrooms and a paved trail leading to observation sites. Picnic tables and barbecue grills are available for visitors.

### **BOARD CAMP CRYSTAL MINE**



Board Camp Crystal Mine is a day use camp, with an actual native, untapped crystal mine and public dig site. The surface is literally scattered with sparkling quartz crystals of various shapes and sizes. Everyone can find crystals to take home with them!



#### MOUNTAIN GLORY STATION



Panoramic beauty will surround you atop Rich Mountain as you board one of the area's top attractions! The flowers, foliage, wildlife, and clean mountain air will bring you back to us time and again. For seasonal hours

of operation and availability call 479-394-2863 as you plan your vacation in our beautiful Ouachita Mountains!

#### **ANTIQUING & SHOPPING**

Search for the perfect souvenir or your piece of history at one of Mena's many unique antique dealers or flea markets. Where "old" is "new". Explore the fine workmanship of these treasures crafted with such precision! Also



enjoy boutique shopping at one of our downtown shops.

# MENA YOUR SHOP









# **MENA ARTS DISTRICT**



North Mena Street is quickly becoming a hub for the arts in the Ouachitas. Browse the unique art at the Mena Art Gallery and American Artisans; create your own art at Chameleon Arts; and the catch a live show at the Ouachita Little Theatre. Go to www. VisitMena.com for more information about the arts in Mena.

# Mountain Adventures



## RIVERS



Mena boasts five rivers that flow through the surrounding area: the Ouachita, Cossatot, Caddo, Little Missouri, and Mountain Fork rivers. These rivers offer an abundance of fun and relaxation. The natural beauty of our rivers offer guests

opportunities to fish, float, swim, canoe, kayak, camp or take pictures. A number of cabin rentals and lodges offer spectacular views and direct access to the rivers and ATV trails. For more information click our "Stay" button at VisitMena.com.

### LAKES



Lakes offer a variety of recreational activities year round. So whether your idea of the perfect vacation is boating, fishing, camping, swimming, skiing, or personal water craft, we have a lake in our area

that is guaranteed to float your boat! Four lakes are within 45 minutes, or less, from Mena. They include: Wilhelmina, Gillham, DeQueen and Arkansas' largest lake, Lake Ouachita.





## CANOEING / KAYAKING



Defined by the Natural Park Service as "probably the most challenging whitewater rafting float in Arkansas", the Cossatot's waters are not for the casual paddler. The U.S. Army

Corps of Engineers says "It is the most difficult whitewater stream in the state of Arkansas." The river's characteristics give it Class IV/V ratings and it's easy to see why the Indian word Cossatot means "Skull Crusher". The Cossatot River is still crushing things today, but mostly the canoes, ice chests and egos of overconfident paddlers. The stream heads up in rugged Ouachita Mountain country just southeast of Mena. It flows in a southerly direction for about 26 miles before its current ceases at Gillham Lake. Late winter to early spring is peak whitewater season for the river. No outfitter is on site so be sure to pack your own gear. For river stage information from Hwy 246 access, call 870-387-3141.

#### HIKING



The incredible scenery and terrain of the area offers great hiking opportunities. Caney Creek, Athens - Big Brushy, Billy Creek, Wolf Pen Gap and the longest in the state of Arkansas, Ouachita National Recreation Trail. Many trails start in

or near Mena. For maps of local trails, go to VisitMena.com.



#### fishing



With the area's abundant lakes, rivers, and streams, you're guaranteed to get hooked on a Ouachita vacation. Bass fishing can be enjoyed most months of the year and in all the area's lakes

and rivers. Our waters offer a variety of the bass species. Other catches may include crappie, perch, and on the Little Missouri River, cool season trout fishing.

#### CYCLING



Whether you're searching for a phat tire trail, a nice scenic road ride or maybe just wanting to cruise around town, you've just discovered why Mena is popular among cyclists!

We are host to such cycling events as the Ouachita Challenge and Wheel A' Mena Bike Tour. We invite you to come and explore our trails and highways...we guarantee you'll be back to visit us time and again. Be sure and bring your friends!



# MENA YOUR RELAXATION

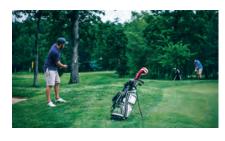
### FALL FOLIAGE



Autumn's changing colors bring the Ouachitas to life! Thousands make the journey here each year to witness the beauty up close. Local and national artists have used our splendid backdrop as the focus of

paintings and photography. Whether you're traveling down an old country road, the middle of our historic downtown, or a scenic mountainous route, you'll be in awe of the bonanza of colors our deciduous trees turn in the Fall season. Peak foliage occurs during late October and early November, but can vary from year to year. For optimum viewing of the color change, it is best to call 479-394-8355 for a current "report of the colors". We encourage you to be prepared with plenty of memory or film for your camera as the photo opportunities are plentiful!

#### GOLF



While enjoying the beautiful Ouachita Mountains be sure and plan a day or two on the Ouachita Golf Course. You are sure to have a "ball". Golf carts are available. Ouachita Golf Course is located just off Hwy 88 E (479-394-5382).

# MENA YOUR ADVENTURES



#### SHADY LAKE



You can find one of the jewels of Arkansas in South Central Polk County. Shady Lake is a scenic 25-acre lake in a remote mountain setting. The Civilian Conservation Corps developed the Shady

Lake Recreation Area in 1937. The Shady Lake Trail traverses Saline River and passes the historic Shady Lake Dam. It continues along the eastern edge of the campground. The trail is ideal for day hiking. Mountain bikers may also use the trail.

This lake is a favorite attraction for visitors and locals alike. So, if you are looking for a unique, historical, secluded and beautiful place for some great outdoor recreation, Shady Lake is a perfect destination.

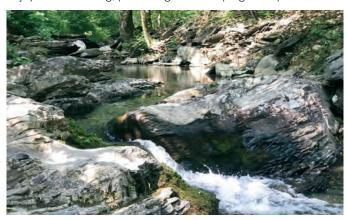
#### BARD SPRINGS



In South Eastern
Polk County is the
beautiful Bard Springs!
Settled deep in the
Ouachita National
Forest, Bard Springs is
a small campground
with Adirondacktype shelters on a
small scenic stream.
The recreation area
provides a good site

for a base camp for hikers in the Caney Creek Wilderness.

The National Registry of Historic Places names several structures within this complex as historic. The historic structures include the bathhouse, two dams and a picnic shelter. The area serves as an enjoyable swimming, picnicking and camping facility.



# (alendar o

#### MARCH

Talimena 13.1 Half Marathon - Janssen Park

#### MAY

Memorial Weekend - Queen Wilhelmina State Park

#### JUNE

Lum & Abner 3 on 3 Basketball Tournament - Mena Armory Lum & Abner Softball Tournament - Aubrey D. Tapley Park Lum & Abner Festival - Janssen Park

Lum & Abner Car Show - Janssen Park

Lum & Abner 5K Run/Walk - Janssen Park

Peak to Peak Poker Run - Queen Wilhelmina State Park

#### JULY

Mena A & P's 4th of July Fireworks Celebration -Aubrey D. Tapley Park

Vandervoort 4th of July Celebration - Vandervoort, AR Annual Butterfly Count - Queen Wilhelmina State Park Small Works Competition - Mena Art Gallery

#### AUGUST

Queen Wilhelmina Rod Run - QWSP and Downtown Mena Ouachita Expression Art Show - Mena Art Gallery Polk County Rodeo - Polk County Fairgrounds

#### SEPTEMBER

Ham Fest - QWSP

Polk County Fair & Livestock Show - Polk County Fairgrounds Rich Mountain Rendevous - Queen Wilhelmina State Park

#### OCTOBER

Art of Heartland National Painting Competition - Mena Art Gallery

CMA "Changing of the Colors" Rally - CMA Iron Mountain Cossatot Half-Marathon Trail Race - Cossatot River State Park Wheel A'Mena Tour to the Top - Janssen Park to QWSP

#### NOVEMBER

Ouachita Arts Celebration - Mena Arts District Fall Craft & Market Festival - Polk County Fairgrounds Fall Foliage - Talimena National Scenic Byway & Mena

#### DECEMBER

Mena Christmas Parade - Downtown Mena Mena A & P's Christmas Festival - Live Music! Fireworks! Official Lighting of Janssen Park!

KCS Holiday Express Train - Mena Depot Santa's Outback Barn - Mena Depot

Community Nativity Festival - First Presbyterian Church

Annual Holiday Play - Ouachita Little Theatre Flame On - CMA Iron Mountain

FOR DATES AND A DETAILED

**EVENTS SCHEDULE, GO TO:** VISITMENA.COM OR





## ESTIVAL



Calling all the young and vouna at heart! Join us the first weekend in June for Mena's signature event that has something for every age group! Events include arts and crafts, food, car show, live entertainment all weekend, Kiddie

Korner, 5K Run/Walk, 3 on 3 basketball tournament, baby crawln' contest, fishing derbies, Lumberiack Show, Outlaw Gunfighters and much more!

#### CHRISTMAS FESTIVAL, FIREWORKS & PARADE



Come experience an explosion of Christmas cheer! The largest evening parade of the year sets the stage for a spectacular firework show. After the fireworks light the night sky, thousands of Christmas lights

illuminate the winter wonderland of Janssen Park. Visit our downtown merchants to select the perfect Christmas gift, enjoy our live Christmas concert, and shop for a locally made craft. Top off a wonderful winter evening with a special Christmas play performed by local actors at the Ouachita Little Theatre.



#### WHEEL A MENA TOUR TO THE TOP



The Wheel A' Mena Bicycle Tour is staged in downtown Mena. Two tour distances are offered of either a 70 mile route or a 30 mile route. This ride provides some of the best scenic views in Arkansas with much of the ride being high

atop the Ouachita Mountains on the Talimena Scenic Drive. The ride also proves to be quite a challenge. Each route takes you through the Queen Wilhelmina State Park.

## TALIMENA 13.1 RUN & RELAY



This race, formerly called the Rich Mountain Classic, was first run in 1986 and continued through 1990. This half marathon is held in March and begins

in Janssen Park in beautiful downtown Mena, follows Talimena Scenic Byway and ends at Queen Wilhelmina State Park. The Byway is called "scenic" for a reason as the drive from Mena to the State Park and Lodge is beautiful with many breathtaking views and overlooks.

#### 4TH OF JULY FIREWORKS CELEBRATION

Celebrate America with a fantastic fireworks display at Tapley Park. In addition to the fireworks, there is live entertainment, great food, and activities for children. Everyone is invited to come enjoy a family friendly night of entertainment to celebrate America and Independence Day! Be sure to bring your lawn chairs.



## QUEEN WILHELMINA ROD RUN



One of the region's top events, this car show draws around 200 top restored classic cars, street rods and muscle cars and is a long standing tradition for car buffs. Cars are

displayed at Queen Wilhelmina State Park by day and downtown Mena at night. Downtown concerts, street dances, are also part of the very popular weekend. The Queen Wilhelmina Rod Run is held annually in late August.

#### **POLK COUNTY FAIR & LIVESTOCK**



Enjoy one of the county's largest events in early September, located at the Polk County Fairgrounds. This event includes a growing midway full of all your favorite rides and terrific food. Stop by and visit the

Commercial Building showcasing many of the local businesses. Other displayed items are local students' art work, fabulous photography, and many will be competing with their home grown vegetables, flowers, jams, and more. Support local FFA organizations and students at the Livestock Show.



# MENA YOUR GET-A-WAY

#### **OUACHITA ARTS CELEBRATION**



In the fall of the year, when the leaves begin to change, artists come from deep in the Ouachita Mountains to share their unique works of art in the Mena

Arts District. Come enjoy and celebrate the talents of many local artists from our area.

### **POLK COUNTY RODEO**



Located at the Polk County Fairgrounds in early August, exciting rodeo events include bull riding, bucking horses, team roping, barrel racing, calf scrambles, muttin' bustin', and

more at one of the largest rodeos in the area! Complete with parade, Queens, Princesses, and the always entertaining rodeo clowns.

# MENA YOUR PLAY





# TOP TEN REASONS TO RETIRE OR RELOCATE IN MENA...

- 1. Plentiful outdoor recreation opportunities such as fishing, hiking, ATVing, etc.
- 2. Pleasant weather that allows you to experience all 4 seasons, but none too extreme.
- 3. Top notch educational community with strong public school system and community college.
- 4. An expansive medical community and facilities.
- 5. Strong spiritual based community offering many different denominational churches.
- 6. Low cost of living.
- 7. Cultural attractions & events such as art, theater and local museums.
- 8. Affordable housing and real estate.
- 9. Many civic clubs and organizations that alllow you the opportunity to get involved and/or volunteer.
- 10. Low crime rate.



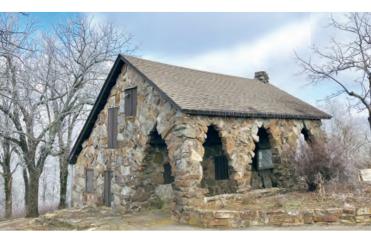


Mena Art Gallery	479-394-3880
Mena City Hall	479-394-4585
Mena Intermountain Municipal Airport	479-394-4077
Mena Police Department	479-394-1212
Mena/Polk County Chamber of Commerce.	479-394-2912
Mena Ranger Station	479-394-2382
Mena Regional Health System	479-394-6100
Mena Visitor Information (A&P Commission)	479-394-8355
Ouachita Little Theatre Info Line	479-243-0186
Polk County Library	479-394-2314
Polk County Sheriff's Office	479-394-2511
Queen Wilhelmina State Park	800-264-2477









21 www.VisitMena.com / 479.394.8355

# Places to Eat

American Artisans 615 Mena St	
Baskin Robbins 901 Hwy 71 N	
Branding Iron Steakhouse & BBQ 623 Sherwood Ave.	
Chicollo's Food Emporium 1308 Hwy 71 N	
Chiquita's Mexican Restaurant 703 Hwy 71 N	479-394-6201
Chopping Block Steakhouse & Seafood	
1156 Hwy 71 S	
Cocina Flores Hwy 71 & Eagle Gap Avenue	
Country Express 1146 Hwy 71 S	
<b>Donut Palace</b> 1321 Hwy 71 S	
James' Supersave Deli 707 7th Street	
Kentucky Fried Chicken/KFC 403 Hwy 71 N	479-394-5482
Kess' Korner 1513 Reeves Avenue	
LaVilla Mexican Restaurant 1100 Hwy 71 N	479-243-0822
Limetree Restaurant 804 Hwy 71 N	479-394-4702
McDonald's 709 Hwy 71 N	479-394-1131
Mizumi Hlbachi Japanese Express 814 Hwy 71 S	479-234-7783
Myers' Cruzzer's Drive In 409 Hwy 71 N	479-394-5550
New China Restaurant 601 Hwy 71 N	479-394-5534
Ouachita Coffee Roasters 821 Mena Street	
Paisano's Italian Made From Scratch 1110 Hwy 71 S	479-385-5055
Papa's Mexican Cafe 1506 Hwy 71 S	479-394-6521
<b>Pizza Hut</b> 703 Hwy 71 N	479-394-5952
Sherwood Bistro 517 Sherwood Avenue	479-394-2385
Simple Simon's Pizza 106 N Morrow Street	479-394-0300
Skyline Cafe 618 Mena Street	479-394-5152
Sonic Drive In 1001 Hwy 71 N	479-437-3001
Southside General Store 1502 Hwy 71 S	479-394-6028
<b>Subway</b> 1325 Hwy 71 S	479-394-2510
& Inside Walmart Supercenter	479-394-7734
Suzy Q's Sweet Creams & Coffee 601 Mena Street	479-216-6770
Taco Bell 403 Hwy 71 N	
The Corner 1100 Hwy 71 N	479-394-1120
Walmart Deli 600 Hwy 71 N	479-394-0025
Wendy's 901 Hwy 71 N	479-394-1572



# Places to Stay

HOTELS & MOTELS	
<b>Budget Inn</b> 1018 Hwy 71 S	479-394-2400
Executive Inn 704 Hwy 71 N	479-394-3710
Limetree Inn 804 Hwy 71 N	800-536-4366
<b>Ozark Inn</b> 2102 Hwy 71 S	479-394-1100
Sun Country Inn 1309 Hwy 71 N	877-394-7477
BED & BREAKFASTS, INNS, &V	ACATION
RENTALS	
ABear's Den 2205 Church Avenue	479-394-8519
Dogwood Place 709 Grandview Heights	479-234-2304
The Carriage House Inn 701 12th St	479-243-0957
The Loft at the Old Bank 812 Mena St	479-385-5067
Janssen Park Place 511 9th Street	479-234-0645
Johnson Manor Bed & Breakfast 600 11th St	214-673-7764
Lottie's Loft 507 DeQueen Street	479-243-7347
Rainey Day Resort 1407 S Reine St	479-234-1273
Sassafras Inn 1201 Reine St S	479-234-7233
Sherwood Forest 111 Sherwood Forest Drive	479-243-7347
CABINS, CAMPSITES, RVS	
Board Camp Campground 110 Polk Rd 62	479-243-0771
CMA Cabins & RV Camping	
4278 Hwy 71 S Hatfield	
Cornerstone Mountain Retreat 255 Polk 30	
<b>Fish Net Lodge</b> 3544 Hwy 71 S	
Heath Valley Cabins 1210 Polk 61	479-243-0911
Karen's Country Cottage on Kates Creek	
922 Big Fork Road	
Kate's Creek Cabins Polk 675	479-234-3654
Mena Mountain Top Motel/Cabins	
141 Cabins Lane	
Mountain Fork River Resorts 156 Polk 38	
Polk County Fairgrounds RV Park Fairgrounds	
Renegade Ranch 3680 Hwy 88 W	
Shady Lake Recreation Area Hwy 246	
Wolf Pen ATV Campground 559 Polk 61	
Wolf Pen Creek Cabins 1314 Polk 61	479-394-1844

# MENA YOUR EXPLORE



# **BUCKET LIST**

# Mena & The Ouachita Mountains

# SO YOU WON T MISS A THING!

- (ast a line in one of our 6 Lakes or 5 Rivers
- Spend a day at one of our 2 State Parks
- Take a hike on one of our trails. We have over 150 miles of them!
- Fly through the trees on a zipline adventure
- Shop in our Historic Downtown
- Rent an ATV (or bring your own) and explore our 46.2 miles of ATV Trails
- Take in the views on the Talimena Scenic Byway
- Visit a restored 1920's train depot and check out Flossie!
- Take a Historic Walking Tour
- Enjoy breakfast at one of the oldest restaurants in Arkansas



# Aubrey D. Tapley Park

This sports complex is a 74 acre park which was started by the Mena Advertising and Promotion Commission in 2003. It was named Aubrey D. Tapley Park in 2009. It currently houses 5 baseball/softball fields, soccer fields, concession facilities including a pavilion, and two playgrounds. The complex is the venue for community events such as the Annual 4th of July Celebration and multiple baseball/softball and soccer tournaments each year.



# FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT WWVW.TAPLEYSPORTS.COM

Photography Credits:

- ·ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF PARKS & TOURISM
- ·DEANA CAGLE
- SAMANTHA MAECHLER
- ·WHITLEY LIND PHOTOGRAPHY





HELLO... THIS IS LUM & ABNER. WE WANT YOU TO KNOW THAT THE LUM & ABNER FESTIVAL IS THE FIRST WEEKEND IN JUNE IN MENA AT JANSSEN PARK!

THE EVENT IS FREE AND FOLKS GET TO ENJOY LIVE MUSIC BOTH NIGHTS. THERE ARE ALWAYS ALL KINDS OF ARTS & HANDCRAFTED ITEMS PROVIDED BY LOCALS AND FOLKS FROM ALL AROUND.

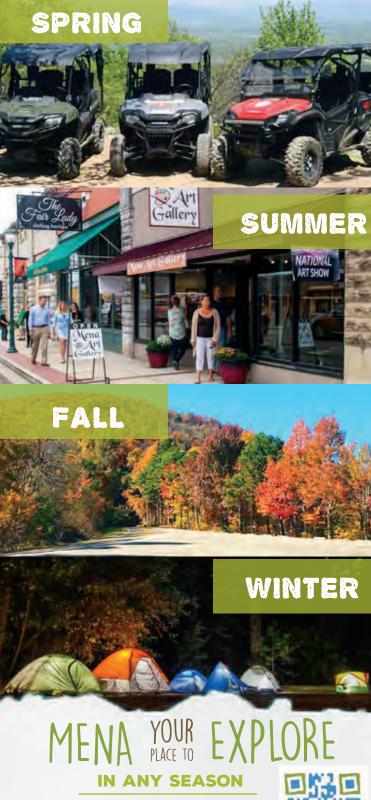


IT ALWAYS SMELLS GOOD AT THE LUM & ABNER FESTIVAL CAUSE OF ALL THE TASTY FOOD BEING COOKED UP BY VENDORS, LOTS OF OTHER ENTERTAINMENT IS HAPPENING TOO, BABY CRAWLING CONTESTS, EATING CONTESTS, FUN THINGS FOR THE KIDDIES, A CAR SHOW, BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT, AND EVEN A 5K RUN,

BRING SOME FRIENDS & NEIGHBORS. BRING GRANDPA, GRANDMA, COUSINS, AUNTS, AND UNCLES. WHY... YOU MIGHT EVEN WANT TO BRING YOUR MOTHER-IN-LAW.

FOR MORE INFORMATION
GO TO WWW.VISITMENA.COM
OR CALL 479-394-8355





WWW.VISITMENA.COM

