

MILES OF POSSIBILITY: THE EDWARDSVILLE ROUTE 66 CONFERENCE

“Miles of Possibility: The Edwardsville Route 66 Conference” will be held in Edwardsville, Illinois, on Thursday-Saturday, October 29-31. Sponsored by the Illinois Route 66 Blue Carpet Corridor Coalition and hosted by the City of Edwardsville, the primary venue for the conference is the beautifully-restored historic Wildey Theatre on N. Main Street, just two blocks off Edwardsville's Route 66. www.wildeytheatre.com

Conference sessions will include presentations, panel discussions, and workshops by nationally- and internationally-known experts on Route 66 history, travel, preservation, and marketing. The complete conference schedule, as well as online registration, can be found on the conference webpage, www.bluecarpetcorridor.org/rt66conference.

Conference attendees arriving early on Thursday, October 29, will find plenty of activities. Check-in begins at noon in the Wildey Theatre, where attendees can also enjoy an afternoon tour of the 1909 Wildey Theatre. Also running from noon until 5:00 pm on the half-hour will be tours of Edwardsville's historic districts and segment of Route 66. Thursday evening's pub crawl will include historic Route 66 taverns plus a Main Street brewery.

On Friday evening, the Wildey Theatre will host a catered dinner for conference attendees followed by a concert in the Wildey auditorium. The concert, featuring America's Route 66 band, the Road Crew, will fill the theatre with music from the Route 66 era, and at the Wildey there's always room for dancing in the aisles!

On Saturday, the conference sessions will end in time for attendees to find a good spot to watch Edwardsville's annual Halloween parade, an institution in the city since 1924. The two-hour parade draws crowds in the tens of thousands to downtown Edwardsville to see the floats, marching bands, cars, and creative costumes. The parade this year is borrowing the Blue Carpet Corridor's official theme: “Mobsters, Miners and the Mother Road.”

After the Saturday evening parade, a “Route 66 Roadie Bash” will be hosted by Dr. Nick Gerlich of Amarillo, Texas, and Roamin' Rich Dinkela, of St. Louis, Missouri, at Edison's Entertainment Complex. Route 66 author/historian and long-time St. Louis radio personality Joe Sonderman will DJ. Costumes optional!

The Blue Carpet Corridor Coalition was formed in November 2013 to promote the section of Illinois Route 66 from Chatham to Collinsville. Blue Carpet Corridor Coalition President Cheryl Eichar Jett is serving as Conference Director.

Conference information and updates can also be found on Facebook at www.facebook.com/Route66Edwardsville and on Twitter at [@Rt66Edw](https://twitter.com/Rt66Edwardsville). Email rt66conference@gmail.com or call (618) 307-5049 with questions.

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