

June 27-28  
2025

The  
**Chamber**  
Excelsior Springs Area Chamber of Commerce



# WATERFEST

EXCELSIOR SPRINGS, MO

## 2025 EVENT GUIDE



Endless  
Family **FUN**

[ESWaterfest.com](http://ESWaterfest.com)

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# SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

## FRIDAY, JUNE 27

- QUILT SHOW Hall of Waters . . . . . 10 am - 4 pm
- FESTIVAL BOOTHS OPEN Map on Pages 10-11. . . . . 2 pm - 9 pm
- KIDS SPLASH ZONE / GAMES Marietta Parking Lot . . . . . 2 pm - 8 pm
- BEER GARDEN OPENS Downtown . . . . . 2 pm - 11 pm
- LITTLE MISS & MR WATERFEST Rite-Way Main Stage . . . . . 5:00 pm
- REMAX HOT AIR BALLOON RIDES Piburn Ballfield. . . . . 6:30 - 8 pm
- "JD & THE CHASERS" LIVE MUSIC Rite-Way Main Stage . . . . . 7:00 pm
- FIREWORKS DISPLAY Downtown . . . . . 10:00 pm

## SATURDAY, JUNE 28

- FESTIVAL BOOTHS OPEN Map on Pages 10-11. . . . . 9 am - 9 pm
- KIDS SPLASH ZONE / GAMES Marietta Parking Lot . . . . . 9 am - 8 pm
- WATERFEST PARADE See Route on Page 7. . . . . 9:30 am
- QUILT SHOW Hall of Waters . . . . . 10 am - 4 pm
- CUSTOM CAR & TRUCK SHOW Hall of Waters Circle. . . . . 10:30 am
- MOTORCYCLE SHOW Marietta St . . . . . 11:00 am
- BEER GARDEN OPENS Downtown . . . . . 11 am - 11 pm
- ZUMBA with THERESA & PAM Rite-Way Main Stage . . . . . 11 am
- JESSE HARRIS LIVE MUSIC Rite-Way Main Stage . . . . . Noon
- WATER FIGHT WITH ROTARY Hall of Waters Lawn . . . . . 1 pm
- "SUMMER JAM" LIVE MUSIC Rite-Way Main Stage . . . . . 7:00 pm

*Schedule is subject to last minute changes prior to event. Visit ESWaterfest.com for possible changes.*



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# LIVE MUSIC



7 - 11 PM

## FRIDAY • JUNE 27

Start your Waterfest weekend with a bang as local favorites JD & The Chasers take the main stage on Friday night! Formed in 2007, this Excelsior Springs-based band is renowned for their high-powered blues, raucous funk, and genre-bending sets that blend blues, country, soul, R&B, and bluegrass influences. Their energetic performances have made them a staple in the local music scene, drawing crowds of all ages.

Led by Jacob Duncan on vocals and guitar, with Marie Mawby on vocals, Robert Mawby on bass, and Jason Martinez on drums, JD & The Chasers deliver crowd-

pleasing sets that keep audiences dancing all night. Their original album, *DB Cooper and The Lost Cash*, showcases their versatility and is available on all streaming platforms.

Known for their dynamic live performances, JD & The Chasers have graced stages across the region, including notable venues like Wabash BBQ's Blues Garden. Their ability to connect with audiences through both covers and original songs has earned them a dedicated following. Whether it's a soulful ballad or an upbeat groove, their music resonates with fans and newcomers alike.

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# LIVE MUSIC



7 - 11 PM

## SATURDAY • JUNE 28

Get ready to rock! Saturday night at Waterfest brings an unforgettable tribute concert featuring four powerhouse acts in one epic show. From 7 to 11 p.m., the stage will come alive with high-energy performances celebrating the music of Styx, The Doobie Brothers, Steve Miller Band, and John Cougar Mellencamp.

The Styx Illusion recreates the sound and spectacle of a 1983 arena rock show—flashing back to the glory days of Styx with incredible attention to detail.

The Doobies KC bring the legendary Doobie Brothers' hits and deep cuts to life with precision and passion, showcasing

the vocals and musicianship that made them a Midwest favorite.

The John Cougar Project delivers the ultimate tribute to the heartland rock of John Mellencamp, celebrating small-town anthems with energy and authenticity.

The Steve Miller Experience rounds out the night with all the classic Steve Miller hits you know and love—from "The Joker" to "Fly Like an Eagle."

Thanks to Rite-Way Auto, this concert is completely free to the public! Bring a lawn chair, grab a drink, and settle in for a night of unforgettable music under the stars.

# LIVE MUSIC

Sat • June 28 • Noon



Kick off your Saturday at Waterfest with the soulful sounds of Jesse Thomas Harris & The Murder of Crowes. Excelsior's own Jesse Thomas Harris is a reclusive Americana singer-songwriter known for his heartfelt lyrics and authentic storytelling. His music blends elements of blues, country, and folk, creating a rich tapestry of Americana that resonates with audiences.

Jesse's journey in music began as a teenager, inspired by the blues at Kansas City's iconic BB's Lawnside BBQ. After a hiatus to focus on family and his landscaping business, he's returned to the stage with The Murder of Crowes, bringing fresh energy and passion to his performances.

Don't miss this opportunity to experience a local talent who embodies the spirit of Americana. Bring your lawn chairs, relax, and let the music of Jesse Thomas Harris & The Murder of Crowes set the tone for a memorable day at Waterfest.

Enjoy your day at **WATERFEST**  
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# PARADE

Saturday  
June 28 • 9:30 AM

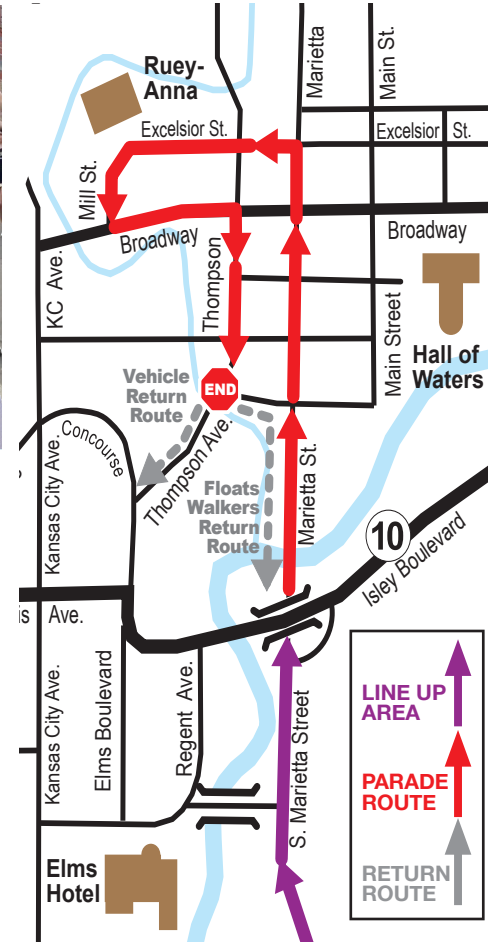


Sponsored by: **Bank Midwest**  
A Division of NIB Bank, Member FDIC

Excelsior Springs' beloved Waterfest Parade returns Saturday, June 28 at 9:30 a.m., bringing color, excitement, and community pride to the downtown! This year's "Summer Splash" theme sets the stage for a joyful procession filled with festive floats, energetic dancers, playful clowns, firetrucks, and local fan favorites like the Tigerettes and the NJROTC Color Guard.

At the heart of the celebration is Grand Marshal Jesse Hall—legendary coach, athletic director, and community leader—who has spent over 40 years shaping the spirit and character of Excelsior Springs. Coach Hall's dedication to students and service is unmatched, making him a fitting symbol of the strength and heart of our town.

The parade route begins near the Oaks Apartments on Marietta Street and winds through the heart of downtown, giving spectators plenty of great viewing spots along the way. Whether you're cheering on your favorite float or just soaking in the summer magic, this year's Waterfest Parade is a splashy celebration you won't want to miss!



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# KIDS' SPLASH ZONE

2024's favorite

After rave reviews last year, the Waterfest Kids' Splash Zone is back and better than ever! Designed with families in mind, this special area is packed with fun and excitement for preschool and elementary-aged children.

Lakeside Bounce returns with an entire parking lot full of inflatable fun—featuring wet and dry slides,



# SPLASH ZONE

attraction returns for 2025

bounce houses, and epic obstacle courses. The area also includes shaded family seating, cooling stations, and oversized lawn games like corn hole, 4-in-a-row, and giant Jenga for hours of entertainment.

Thanks to the generous support of Tray Harkins, Flat Branch Home Loans; the Remax Manley Home Team; Kalyn Goode; and Lakeside

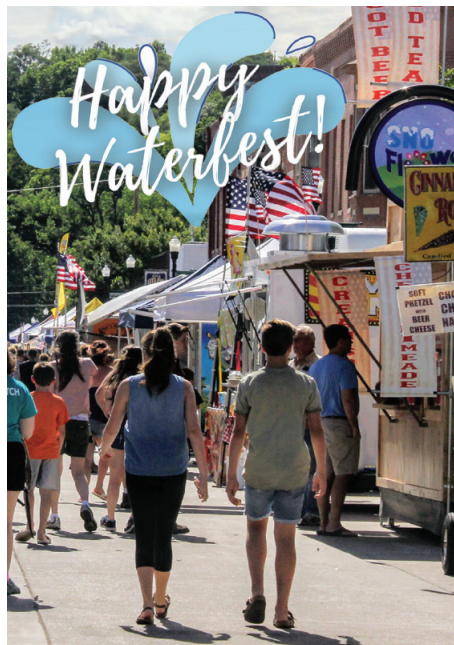
Bounce, admission remains just \$5 per child, per day—or \$20 for families of five.

New for 2025: We now accept debit and credit cards, making it easier than ever to join the fun!

The Kids' Splash Zone will be open Friday from 2 to 8 p.m. and Saturday from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. Share your adventure with us using #ESWaterfest!



**Kalyn Goode**



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Scot Tipton (from left), Amy McNary, Tim Tipton, Chloe Rothove

**Timothy D. Tipton & Robert Scot Tipton**

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**The Chamber**  
 Excelsior Springs Area Chamber of Commerce  
 Festival Info : 816-630-6161

- **INFORMATION/FIRST AID BOOTH** is at the western edge of the festival
- **FREE WI-FI AVAILABLE** courtesy of United Fiber Internet
- **NON-EMERGENCY** police dept. number is : **816-630-2000**

- **FESTIVAL ALCOHOL** must stay within the festival boundaries
- **RECREATIONAL SCOOTERS** are not permitted in the festival
- **ADA RESTROOMS** in the main stage area and Hall of Waters

**WATERFEST VENDOR DIRECTORY**

Find a directory of our Waterfest 2025 vendors at [bit.ly/Waterfest25Vendors](https://bit.ly/Waterfest25Vendors) or by scanning this QR code:





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A beloved Waterfest tradition, the Little Miss and Mr. Waterfest Contest is open to boys and girls ages 4 to 11. Join the fun on the main stage Friday at 5 p.m. as contestants show off their charm, creativity, and festive spirit. Participants are encouraged to dress according to this year's theme, "Summer Splash."

The \$10 entry fee includes a medal, a small gift, and a weekend wristband for unlimited access to the Kids' Splash Zone. Winners will receive crowns, sashes, a 15-minute photo session courtesy of Lani Michelle Photography, and a featured ride in Saturday morning's Waterfest Parade!

Register in advance online at [bit.ly/LittleWaterfest2025](http://bit.ly/LittleWaterfest2025) or call Kayln at 816-267-0303.

No walk-in entries will be accepted. Once registered, contest sponsor Kalyn Goode will provide all the details you need.

# L'il WATERFEST CONTEST

Friday • June 27 • 5 PM



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# CUSTOM CAR & TRUCK SHOW

Saturday • June 28

Sponsored by:  
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Calling all gearheads, collectors, and fans of all things fast and flashy—Waterfest's Custom Car, Hot Rod & Truck Show is roaring back into the Hall of Waters Circle and surrounding streets! With more than 75 stunning rides expected, this is a must-see event for motor lovers of all ages.

Competitors will vie for Top 20 Trophies, including fan-favorite awards like Best of Show, Chamber's Choice, Best Paint, Best Interior Trim, Best Engine, Best Work in Progress, Best Rat Rod, Most Original and more.

Registration opens at 10:30 a.m. on

Saturday, June 28, immediately following the parade. The \$25 entry fee puts your wheels in the spotlight and your name in the running. Awards presented at 2:30 p.m., hosted by Jones Custom & Collision Center.

Enjoy music, giveaways, raffle drawings, a 50/50 pot, and more throughout the afternoon. Bring your lawn chairs, bring your cameras, and bring your love for chrome and horsepower!

Don't forget to tag your photos with #ESWaterfest and show off your favorites to the world.

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# FESTIVAL ATTRACTIONS:

Enjoy fireworks Friday night at dusk, plus these



## BIKE SHOW

Boopy Locks Bike Show returns and is open to everyone. It runs 11 a.m. - 2 p.m. Saturday, June 28. Trophies will be awarded to men and women in 3 different classes. Registration is \$10.



## QUILT SHOW

Calico Quilters are hosting their annual quilt show in the Hall of Waters from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Friday and Saturday. The show will feature a large display of quilts, a boutique and a raffle for a free quilt.



## BALLOON RIDES

Bring the family and enjoy a free hot air balloon ride, courtesy of Remax Area Real Estate, in Piburn field Friday from 6:30 - 8 p.m., weather permitting.

# FUN FOR EVERYONE

events and attractions throughout the festival



## SMASH CAR

Andrew's Salvage & Recycling is back with not one, but two cars to smash on Waterfest weekend. Look for them on the east end of Broadway. \$5 gives you all-you-can-hit bang-em-up action!



## WATER FIGHT

All ages are invited to the Hall of Waters front lawn Saturday at 1 p.m. for a free Waterfest water fight with Rotary! Bring your super soakers, water balloons and anything else to cool off on this hot summer afternoon.



## DUNK TANK

Look for Wood Heights Fire on the east end of Broadway for some fun dunk tank action. Proceeds benefit the Fire Protection District's community service and volunteer programs.

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 EXCELSIOR SPRINGS, MO  
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**Excelsior Springs MISSOURI**  
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 Reggie St. John, Mayor Pro-Tem  
 Councilmen  
 John McGovern  
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 Molly McGovern, City Manager  
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 www.cityofesmo.com

# OUR MINERAL WATER

Waterfest is Excelsior Springs' annual celebration of its mineral water heritage. Full of fun and excitement, our festival showcases the very best our community has to offer. From striking architecture to our remarkable collection of mineral springs, Excelsior Springs tells a story that continues to captivate visitors and residents alike.



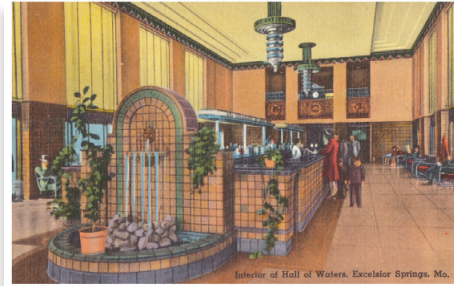
The city's origin dates to the 1880s, when an early settler, Travis Million, used local spring water from property belonging to Anthony and Elizabeth Wyman to treat a skin condition afflicting his child. When word of the child's apparent "cure" spread, it reached the ears of Rev. John Van Buren Flack, a circuit-riding minister from nearby Missouri City. Inspired by the water's potential, Wyman and Flack partnered to establish the town on Sept. 1, 1880. Excelsior Springs was incorporated in July 1881. From the very beginning, the story of Excelsior Springs has been the story of water.

As visitors flocked to town in search of healing, numerous wells were dug and spring waters with varying mineral contents were named and sold. Four

Excelsior Springs  
Museum & Archives

**101 East Broadway • Open During Waterfest**  
**Rummage Sale at 218 South Street June 27-28**

# HERITAGE Why Excelsior Springs celebrates Waterfest



primary types of water were identified: ferro-manganese, sodium bicarbonate, saline and soda combined, and sulpho-saline. With four iron-manganese springs discovered in the area, Excelsior Springs is believed to have the largest concentration of such springs in the world.

To unify the city's growing health tourism

industry, the Hall of Waters was constructed in the late 1930s as a grand Public Works Administration project. Completed in 1937, the Art Deco landmark was designed to bring 10 of the city's mineral waters under one roof, offering visitors a single destination for healing, recreation, and hydrotherapy. At its height, the Hall featured a water bar with taps for 10 of its springs, a spa, therapeutic pools, and a bottling plant. It became a centerpiece of Excelsior Springs' identity and a symbol of how mineral water transformed a small valley into a nationally renowned health destination.

Learn more about our mineral water story inside the Hall of Waters, at the Excelsior Springs Museum, and by visiting the Friends of the Wells tent during Waterfest.

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**Service Times**

**Sundays:**

- Sunday School: 9:00 am
- Corporate Worship: 10:15 am
- Life2Gather Groups: 6:00 pm

**Wednesday Evenings:**

- A.W.A.N.A.: 6:30 pm (Aug. - April)
- Students: 6:30 pm

1.5 miles east of Excelsior Springs on Highway 10  
816-630-5121 | [www.pisgahbc.org](http://www.pisgahbc.org)



**Save Our Springs**



Join Friends of the Wells at Waterfest and learn exciting developments in restoring our mineral waters!



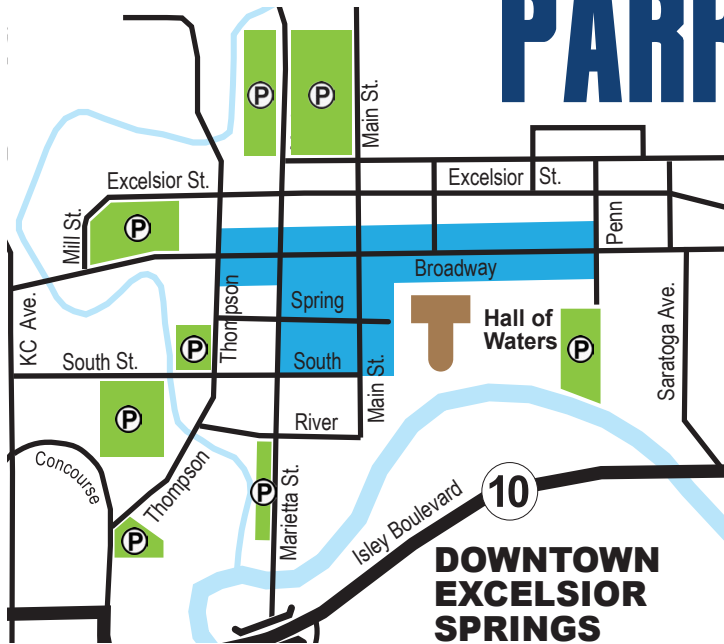
**We Need YOU!**



**Do you want to be a part of restoring our mineral waters?**  
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Please make a donation in any amount to help support our next project!

# PARKING



There are no vehicles allowed in the festival area (designated in blue on the map).

The city has several public parking lots within walking distance to help your visit downtown more enjoyable.

Gravel lots north of the festival on Marietta St. are also available as is Piburn Ball Field, SE of the Hall of Waters.

**DOWNTOWN EXCELSIOR SPRINGS**

## THANK YOU TO OUR FESTIVAL SPONSORS

Waterfest's free music, fireworks and other attractions were made possible with the support of these 43 local businesses and individuals. We are grateful for their contributions.

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WATERFEST EVENT GUIDE  
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## THE STANDARD

PO Box 70 • Excelsior Springs, MO  
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**Production Staff:**

Sharon Donat, General Manager  
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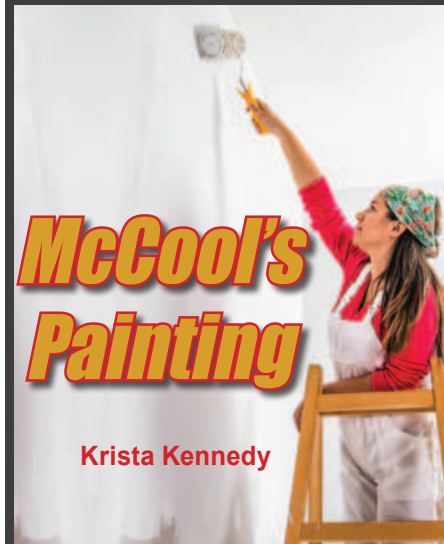
## TROLLEY RIDES

Skip the downtown traffic and ride to Waterfest in style—free, thanks to Liberty Hospital!

The trolley will run hourly from 4 to 9 p.m. on both Friday and Saturday, making stops at westside shopping centers, Price Chopper, and Walmart. Visit ESWaterfest.com for the full schedule and details.

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