

Big Anniversaries

- **Original Kentucky State Parks: 100 Years**

Old Fort Harrod, Natural Bridge and Pine Mountain State Resort Parks — 100th anniversary: Three of Kentucky's original state parks mark a century of welcoming visitors in 2026. Established in the mid-1920s as part of the Commonwealth's first generation of parks, Old Fort Harrod preserves Kentucky frontier history, while Natural Bridge and Pine Mountain showcase the state's distinctive natural landscapes and outdoor recreation. <https://parks.ky.gov/history>

- **Ruth Hunt Candies to celebrate 105 years in business** - Founded in 1921 in Mt. Sterling, Kentucky, Ruth Hunt Candies began in the home kitchen of founder Ruth Tharpe Hunt, who initially served homemade confections to her local bridge club. Enthusiastic praise quickly turned her hobby into a thriving business known for iconic treats like cream candy, bourbon balls, and the famous Blue Monday bar. Approaching 105 years in business, the company still proudly crafts its time-honored, quality confections in Mt. Sterling.
<https://www.ruthhuntcandy.com/aboutus>

- **Keeneland holds events in honor of 90th anniversary celebration during fall meet** - Keeneland Race Course marks its 90th anniversary, honoring nine decades of world-class Thoroughbred racing and equestrian tradition since opening in 1936. The landmark season culminates during the Fall Meet, October 2–24, featuring 22 stakes worth a record \$10.7 million. The meet precedes the Breeders' Cup World Championships which take place October 30-31.
<https://www.keeneland.com/media/news/keeneland-turns-90-fall-meet-stakes-schedule-worth-107-million>

- **Pennyroyal Area Museum marks 50 years in Hopkinsville** - Discover rich local history at the Pennyroyal Area Museum in Hopkinsville. Housed in a 1915 federal post office, this museum showcases Christian County's culture and history, from dark-fired tobacco production to the establishment of Fort Campbell to clairvoyant Edgar Cayce. Step inside as the museum proudly celebrates 50 years of preserving stories. <https://visithopkinsville.com/listing/pennyroyal-area-museum/>

- **Historic organization to celebrate 90th annual horse show at Kentucky Horse Park** - The Lexington Junior League Charity Horse Show kicked off its landmark 90th year at the Kentucky Horse Park, celebrating a rich legacy of equestrian tradition and community impact. Founded in 1937, the event has grown into the world's largest outdoor American Saddlebred show and serves as the prestigious first leg of the Saddlebred Triple Crown. Drawing roughly 1,000 top competitors annually, the historic weeklong showcase continues to raise millions of dollars for local charities throughout Central Kentucky. <https://www.wymt.com/2026/07/07/lexington-junior-league-charity-horse-show-kicks-off-90th-year-kentucky-horse-park/>

- **10th anniversary of Muhammad Ali's passing — June 3:** Louisville honors the enduring legacy of Muhammad Ali, "The Greatest," 10 years after his death on June 3, 2016. Beyond his accomplishments as a three-time heavyweight champion, Ali remains an international symbol of courage, conviction and humanitarian service; the Muhammad Ali Center commemorated the milestone with a day of service in his hometown. <https://alicenter.org/the-greatest-remembered-10th-anniversary/>
- **Arc Encounter celebrates a decade** - The Ark Encounter in Grant County, Kentucky, is celebrating its 10th anniversary, marking a decade as a major tourism driver. Opened in July 2016 by Answers in Genesis, the life-size replica of Noah's Ark stands 510 feet long and has drawn over nine million visitors. Featuring a zoo, 4D theater, and 2,500-seat center, the 850-acre faith-based attraction continues to boost local hospitality, regional employment, and economic growth across Northern Kentucky. https://www.pmg-ky3.com/grantco/news/the-ark-encounter-celebrates-10-years/article_1a6c897b-2a1e-553b-b445-01335ca39b77.html
- **Ale-8-One — 100th anniversary:** Kentucky's signature soft drink turns 100 in 2026. Created by Winchester bottler G. L. Wainscott and launched on July 13, 1926, Ale-8-One—pronounced "A Late One"—is a distinctive ginger-and-citrus beverage that remains bottled in Winchester and is the only Kentucky-invented soft drink still in existence. <https://www.kentuckytourism.com/explore/ale-8-one-bottling-plant-5847>
- **Historic Wigwam Village No. 2 turns 90** – Historic Wigwam Villiage No. 2 in Cave City, Kentucky, stands as a cherished piece of roadside Americana. Built in 1937, the unique motel features concrete, teepee-shaped cabins designed to offer motorists a memorable lodging experience near Mammoth Cave National Park. As one of only three remaining original Wigwam Villages in the United States, ongoing preservation efforts aim to restore its vintage charm, protecting nearly 90 years of historic character for modern travelers. <https://www.wnky.com/historic-wigwam-village-in-cave-city-preserving-nearly-90-years-of-history/>
- **Louisville Slugger Museum celebrates three decades** - The Louisville Slugger Museum & Factory in downtown Louisville celebrated its milestone 30th anniversary, marking three decades as an iconic sports tourism destination. Since opening on July 16, 1996, the downtown facility—anchored by its famous 120-foot giant baseball bat—has welcomed millions of baseball fans worldwide. Visitors explore historic memorabilia, watch authentic bat production on guided factory tours, and leave with a souvenir mini-bat, preserving baseball history right where the legend continues. <https://spectrumnews1.com/ky/louisville/news/2026/07/16/louisville-slugger-museum-celebrates-0-years-in-downtown-louisville>
- **Jeff Ruby's in Louisville turns 20** - Ruby's Steakhouse in downtown Louisville stands as a premier upscale dining landmark, celebrating 20 years on West Main Street. Opened in 2006 as the brand's first expansion outside Cincinnati, the high-

end venue at Waterfront Plaza blending prime steaks, fresh sushi, and Southern-inspired flavors with vibrant, opulent atmosphere. Renowned for top-tier hospitality and deep ties to local sports and equine culture, it remains a quintessential centerpiece of Louisville's thriving culinary scene. <https://leoweekly.com/food-drink/food-news/the-ruby-family-celebrates-20th-anniversary-of-jeff-rubys-in-louisville/>

- **Stephen Foster's 200th birthday — July 4:** The bicentennial of songwriter Stephen Collins Foster, born July 4, 1826, offers a moment to recognize his lasting connection to the Commonwealth. Foster wrote "My Old Kentucky Home," Kentucky's official state song, and is celebrated at Bardstown's My Old Kentucky Home State Park through the long-running outdoor
- **Airheads Candy — 40th anniversary:** The iconic Airheads candy brand celebrates 40 years in 2026, with roots in Erlanger, Kentucky. Introduced there in 1986 by Van Melle—now Perfetti Van Melle—Airheads grew from a Kentucky-made candy experiment into a nationally recognized fruity taffy brand; the company continues to produce it in Erlanger.
- **Mammoth Cave National Park — 85th anniversary — July 1:** Mammoth Cave National Park celebrates 85 years since its official establishment on July 1, 1941. The south-central Kentucky landmark protects the world's longest known cave system and a landscape shaped by thousands of years of human history, making it one of the Commonwealth's most significant natural and cultural destinations. <https://www.nps.gov/macac/learn/management/statistics.htm>