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BARDSTOWN and Nelson County

Bourbon Capital of the World®

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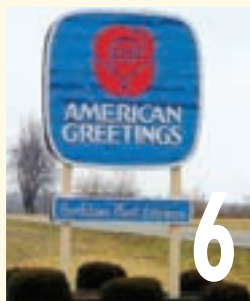
The annual Kentucky Bourbon Festival offers more than 30 events spread across six days

16 Bardstown/Nelson County Annual Events

For more information on Bardstown and Nelson County go to www.visitbardstown.com



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A COMMUNITY PROFILE PUBLISHED BY

The Lane Report

This special advertising report is published
by Lane Communications Group
201 East Main Street, Lexington, KY 40507
859-244-3500 lanereport.com

Cover photo: A walk along Main Street in Downtown Bardstown.

Editorial content provided by the Nelson County Economic
Development Agency was written by Tim Ballard.



The annual Zarb Brothers Street Concert draws thousands to downtown Bardstown and is a highlight of the summer event season.

There's Nothing Small About This Small Town

Dating back to 1780, Bardstown is Kentucky's second oldest city

THERE'S nothing small about this small town. That could well be the motto of Bardstown. Nestled in the heart of Kentucky's rolling hills, Bardstown is a community whose leaders have forged a balance between progressiveness and the historic preservation befitting Kentucky's second oldest city.

The historic Talbott Tavern and the new state-of-the-art Flaget Memorial Hospital embody the blend of tradition and progress that is to be found in Bardstown.

Ever since Stephen Foster immortalized Federal Hill estate in his song "My Old Kentucky Home," Bardstown has been synonymous with a graceful style of living. But it's more than that. It's a place where you can settle in and be welcomed with traditional

Southern hospitality, where people speak to you even if they don't know you – and are glad to welcome you home.

"Bardstown's population continues to grow each year, as does our business community" said **Kim Huston**, president of the Nelson County Economic Development Agency. "From the unique shops in our historic downtown shopping district to the national companies in our retail centers, we continue to be an economically vital area that is the center of retail shopping and dining for a multi-county area."

Dating to 1780, Bardstown is Kentucky's second oldest city. Since that time when log, brick and stone homes rose from the wilds of western Virginia, Bardstown has welcomed travelers from around the world. For more than 225 years its hospitality, fine

"Bardstown has a long and significantly positive record in terms of economic development, tourism and historic preservation. Our accomplishments have been recognized in many national publications. I field numerous requests annually from representatives of other cities looking to make improvements in their efforts. The city's quality of life and the economic opportunities available in Bardstown are something many cities can only aspire to achieve.

—**Bardstown Mayor
Dick Heaton**

restaurants in historic surroundings and accommodations have made those visitors feel right at home.

Bardstown and Nelson County are strong in spirit – that's religious spirit and a little spirit called Bourbon. The area's eclectic shops, cultural and historical heritage blend beautifully with that spirit. Nelson County is home to My Old Kentucky Home and "Stephen Foster – The Musical," vintage trains and museums dedicated to the Civil War, railroads and Bourbon.

The area has benefited from its central location, with easy access to three interstates



Nelson County's economic development efforts are led by Nelson County Judge Dean Watts, Kim Huston, president of the Nelson County Economic Development Agency, and Bardstown Mayor Dick Heaton.

and the Martha Layne Collins Bluegrass Parkway. The Louisville International Airport is only minutes away, while Samuels Field just outside Bardstown has a 5,000-foot runway that can handle most business jets.

With location, modern infrastructure and two industrial parks, Bardstown has continued to attract new industries. Two companies chose Nelson County for major new facilities in the past two years.

"We have new industries making announcements, our tourist attractions continue to grow, new businesses continue to open, and we have a vibrant downtown," Huston said.

Even people who stumble upon Bardstown by chance fall in love with the town, as did Marie and Jim Miskell. They had never heard of Bardstown when they stopped here in 1991 on a vacation celebrating their 30th wedding anniversary. It just happened to be a convenient place to stop. They walked around town and were impressed by the fact that women were

walking alone for exercise in the evening. On their walk back to the motel, they decided to stay a couple of days instead of just spending the night.

The next year, Jim retired. After not being able to find a place in northeastern Pennsylvania that suited them, they returned to Bardstown.

"We just love the people here," Jim said. "We're very, very happy here."

The quality of life offered by Bardstown and Nelson County is as exceptional as the friendliness of the locals who welcome visitors with open arms. The city-county recreation department offers activities for all ages, and the county has four 18-hole golf courses. Music abounds, with the Stephen Foster drama, an annual street concert, concerts in the park, concerts at the recreation pavilion and concerts the third Friday of each month as part of the Third on Third events on North Third Street.

Flaget Memorial Hospital recently moved into a state-of-the-art building and

Best of:

- 100 Best Small Towns in America
- 50 Best Small Southern Towns
- America's Most Charming Towns and Villages
- AAA NY Magazine ranked Bardstown as one of its "Five Favorite Southern Cities"
- Site Selection Magazine named Bardstown one of the "Top 100 Small Towns to do Business" 3 years in a row
- Kentucky's Bourbon Trail, of which Bardstown is the heart, was featured in 1,000 Places to See Before you Die.

Other Communities in Nelson County

- **Bloomfield:** Mayor Ronnie Bobblett, (502) 252-5235
- **New Haven:** Mayor Tessie Cecil, (502) 549-3177
- **Fairfield:** Mayor Tom Trent, (502) 252-5171
- **Boston:** Voices of Boston, Gaines Greene, (502) 833-4863

has been named one of the best hospitals in the country four years in a row. Newcomers with children have their choice of two public school systems and a parochial school system. The county library moved into new quarters in 2007 and has already had to expand. It also has branches in Bloomfield and New Haven and a bookmobile that visits retirement homes and smaller communities throughout the county.

No, there's nothing small about Bardstown – except the small-town atmosphere people love and that continues to thrive while business is booming. ■



The Olde Bloomfield Meeting Hall houses a four-lane bowling alley, a skating rink, pool tables and arcade games. Bloomfield, in northeast Nelson County, was founded in 1790.

"Despite the housing downturn in the national economy, our overall economic future looks great in Nelson County. Our diversity is truly an asset. The economic opportunities in Nelson County are very strong for new industries and for the expansion of our existing industries."

—Nelson County
Judge-Executive
Dean Watts



The Visitor's Center at Bernheim Arboretum and Research Forest in Nelson and Bullitt counties received the platinum award from the U.S. Green Building Council LEED for its design featuring passive and active solar design, geothermal exchange, and the use of recycled building materials.

Bardstown: Southern Charm and a Respect for Tradition

School systems, health care and recreational activities make Bardstown feel surprisingly big

WHEN you call Bardstown home, you'll find a delightful place in which to live. Its Southern charm and respect for tradition are just what you'd expect from a small town. Year after year, Bardstown continues to be honored and included in the elite list as "One of the 100 Best Small Towns in America."

Excellent school systems, sophisticated health care services, and a complete range of entertainment and recreational activities make Bardstown feel surprisingly big.

After spending just a few hours in Bardstown and Nelson County you'll understand why we are nationally recognized as a place people and businesses want to call home.

Roger Dalraine, a native of Herefordshire, England, is one person who decided to

call Bardstown home. Dalraine is a consultant who works on ID and security access control and designs habitability items for the U.S. Navy. The town's easy access to major highways and airports was a big draw.

"There is a small but thriving artistic community and a superb choice of schools, from Montessori to your choice of three high schools. If you are contemplating a move, a visit to Bardstown would be a good investment of your time."

Parks and recreation

There's plenty to keep you and your family busy when you do get here. If you like to golf, Nelson County boasts four 18-hole golf courses (see sidebar on page 5). The course at My Old Kentucky Home State Park hosts the annual Bourbon Open. The May 2009 tournament will be the 64th edition.

"What we have tried to do is make our department more family-oriented, not just for any particular age group," said **Donna Paschal**, director of the joint city-county recreation department.

To that end, the department offers yoga lessons, water aerobics and other activities suited to all ages, as well as the traditional youth leagues in softball, baseball, soccer and basketball.

"People want to improve their quality of life," Paschal said, "and by leading an active lifestyle they can."

The 35-acre Dean Watts Park just outside Bardstown boasts soccer fields, football fields, lighted baseball/softball fields, a paved walking path, playground equipment and picnic tables. Other youth sports take place in town at the

Nelson County's Flaget Memorial Hospital is part of the St. Joseph Healthcare System and has been named a national "Top 100 Hospital" four years in a row.



recreation complex on West Broadway and Jones Avenue. The complex includes the city pool, a gym, tennis courts, a sand volleyball court, skate park and a baseball/softball field. In addition to the sports facilities, the complex has a picnic area with a lighted pavilion, tables, benches and grills.

Park facilities are also available in Bloomfield and New Haven. Bernheim Arboretum and Research Forest nearby welcomes hikers to its 14,000-acre forest that features numerous trails and picnic areas.

Education

The area offers the best of both private and public education. The Bardstown school district operates an early childhood center, primary school, elementary school, middle school and high school. It also provides an adult education program for older students. The Nelson County school district has elementary and middle schools in Bardstown, Bloomfield, Boston, Cox's Creek and New Haven. Nelson County High is just east of Bardstown, and the system is planning a new high school on the growing northwest side of



town. The county system also operates the Nelson County Area Technology Center. The Archdiocese of Louisville offers Catholic education at elementary schools in Bardstown, Howardstown, New Haven and Samuels. Most of the students from those schools go on to Bethlehem High School in downtown Bardstown.

Higher education is readily available in the area. St. Catharine College and Elizabethtown Community and Technical College offer classes in Bardstown. More than two dozen higher education institutions, including the University of Louisville and the University of Kentucky, are within 65 miles of Bardstown.

If you're into broadening your horizons on your own, the Nelson County Public Library recently moved into new quarters in Bardstown, greatly expanding the room available for patrons. The new quarters provide meeting rooms for community functions, and the library has a well-stocked genealogy room for people tracing their ancestors.

Health Care

The library sits on the site of the former Flaget Memorial Hospital, which has moved to a modern facility on KY 245 northwest of Bardstown. Flaget has garnered national attention, having been named one of the best in America each of the past four years by the 100 Top Hospitals Program®. The program rates 3,000 hospitals across the country on the quality of care, efficient treatment at a reasonable cost and how much the community can rely on the hospital. Flaget was one of only 20 small hospitals in the country to receive the award in 2008.

"I could not be more proud of our staff's efforts to make Flaget such a safe, caring and

There are three schools systems in Nelson County – a private parochial system, the Nelson County system and the Bardstown Independent system, which includes Bardstown High School shown here.

financially strong hospital that serves the needs of our community," Flaget President **Bruce Klockars** said. "Our community leaders, management team, physicians, employees and volunteers deserve many thanks for all their hard work and their commitment to excellence."

Flaget provides physicians and surgeons in more than 20 different specialties and offers cardiac and pulmonary rehabilitation, pain management, sleep disorder, trauma, physical therapy and occupational therapy services.

Religion

Flaget Memorial Hospital was founded as a cooperative effort between community leaders and the Sisters of Charity of Nazareth, a religious order that began in Nelson County nearly 200 years ago. It was named for Bishop Benedict Joseph Flaget, the first bishop of the Diocese of Bardstown, which was created in 1808.

Religion continues to play an important role in Nelson County, with congregations representing all the major denominations.

Housing

Whether it's downtown loft living, a golf course community lifestyle or a home in the country, you can find that and more in Nelson County. Based on these factors, including health care, housing, recreation and location, *Best Places to Retire Magazine* has chosen Bardstown and Nelson County as one of the best places to retire in the U.S. ■



Golf Courses

Bardstown Country Club, Maywood:
18 holes, 6,965 yards, par 72

Bardstown Country Club, Woodlawn Springs: 18 holes, 6,532 yards, par 72

Cedar-Fil: 18 holes, 5,938 yards, par 72

My Old Kentucky Home State Park:
18 holes, 6,351 yards, par 71



Over 40 manufacturing facilities in Nelson County produce a diverse range of products from automotive parts to Bourbon.

Bardstown: One of the Top 50 Small Communities in the U.S.

More than 40 national and international manufacturing facilities call Bardstown and Nelson County their 'home'

THERE are several reasons why Bardstown was chosen for three consecutive years by *Site Selection Magazine* as one of the top 50 small communities in the

U.S. to locate or expand a company. A central location, access to major highways and airports, a willing workforce, and excellent quality of life make doing business here affordable and profitable.

From our tradition-rich Bourbon distilleries to our more recently-established automotive component manufacturers, more than 40 national and international manufacturing facilities have chosen Bardstown and Nelson County the place they call "home."

Kim Huston, president of the Nelson County Economic Development Agency (NCEDA), said, "We are proud of our beautifully designed industrial parks that offer the most up-to-date infrastructure, rail service, easy access to major highways, and some of the lowest electric rates in the country."

Louisville, the nation's 16th largest city, is only 35 miles to the north and offers an international airport, the UPS hub, a major university and access to three major interstates. With expansion of the Bardstown airport, new waste treatment and

"We are proud of our beautifully designed industrial parks that offer the most up-to-date infrastructure."

—NCEDA President
Kim Huston



*commitment
to community*

**Salt River Electric wants to be your
partner in economic development.**

Working with Judge Dean Watts of Nelson County Fiscal Court, and Kim Huston of the Nelson County Economic Development Agency, Salt River President & CEO Larry Hicks demonstrates our commitment to the communities we serve. Our commitment to working together attracted Flower Foods as the first company to locate in the new Nelson County Industrial Park in Bardstown.



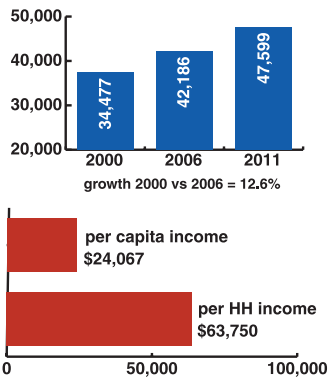
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Judge
Dean Watts
Kim
Huston
Larry
Hicks

Nelson County Population and Income



Source: 2000 U.S. Census and 2006 estimates

water tower facilities, Nelson County continues to improve its infrastructure, keeping up with the demand of this fast-growing county.

NCEDA has scored recently with two big announcements. NPR, a Japanese automotive parts manufacturer, and Flowers Foods, a Georgia-based baking company, have both chosen Nelson County as the location for their newest U.S. ventures. NPR decided in 2006 to come to Nelson County, and was followed a year later by Flowers, whose brands include Nature's Own, Sunbeam and Bunny

Bread. Huston said both plants will eventually have up to 150 employees in their 200,000-s.f. facilities.

When NPR made its announcement, company President Fumiaki Moriya explained why the firm chose Bardstown for

Nelson County economic development leaders were on hand as former Kentucky Governor Ernie Fletcher announced that Nippon Piston Ring (NPR) of Japan will build its newest North American plant in Bardstown.



THOMSON TOP HOSPITALS

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Flaget Memorial Hospital is proud to have earned the "Thomson 100 Top Hospitals" in the nation award **FOUR YEARS IN A ROW!**

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Flowers Foods of Thomasville, Ga., selected Nelson County Industrial Park as the location of its newest baking operation. Flowers Foods brands include Nature's Own, Sunbeam and Bunny Breads.

its third U.S. plant, which will supply automakers in both the U.S. and Japan.

"Having carefully studied the candidate sites in various respects," Moriya said, "We found Bardstown to be head and shoulders above any other community for our requirements."

Flowers Foods also found Bardstown an ideal location and will be the first manufacturing facility in the new Nelson County Industrial Park, which is located adjacent to the Martha Layne Collins Bluegrass Parkway.

"Demand for our baked foods continues to grow as we expand our geographic territory and gain greater share within our existing, core markets," said George E. Deese, chairman, chief executive officer, and president of Flowers Foods. "Bardstown is strategically located at the northern part of our current market territory for fresh baked foods, and this bakery will help serve new markets as we expand northward."

Bardstown and Nelson County offer prospective manufacturers two industrial parks from which to choose, with sites ranging from five to 100 acres. Both industrial parks have a full complement of state-of-the-art utilities and easy access to major highways. It's not unusual for other communities to offer companies those same

Labor Force Characteristics

	NELSON COUNTY	LABOR MARKET AREA
Civilian Labor Force	21,502	542,765
Unemployment Rate	5.8%	5.3%

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From left to right: Les Jarvis, Michael R. Stone, Donald R. Shannon, Lance J. Lawrence (seated on left), Dalton Evans, Allison S. Arnett, John S. Shropshire (seated on right), Patrick M. Riley and David Roberts



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Top Five Industries

TYPE OF INDUSTRY		NUMBER OF EMPLOYEES
American Greetings	Greeting Cards	655
Heaven Hill Distilleries	Distilled Spirits	515
Tower Automotive	Auto Parts	483
American Fuji Seal	Labels and Wraps	400
TrimMasters	Auto Parts	387

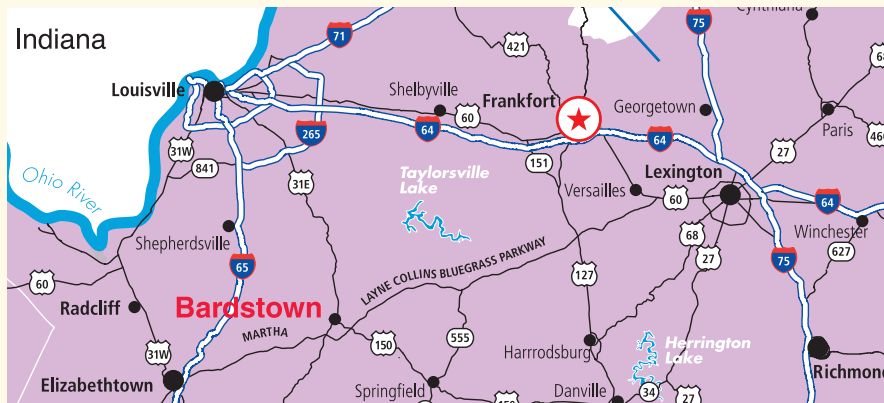
site-selection benefits, so why does Bardstown continue to attract manufacturers? Huston has the answer.

"The beauty, charm, Southern hospitality and pride of community that is shown daily makes Bardstown a place where people want to live and work," she said. "The leadership in Nelson County is proactive in making sure that the amenities and infrastructure needed to operate a successful business are in place for new and expanding businesses."

Along with a dynamic industrial base, Bardstown and Nelson County have a thriving business sector. More than 500 businesses are members of the Bardstown-Nelson County Chamber of Commerce, which is celebrating its 85th year in 2008.

"The chamber provides an opportunity for local business people to share ideas and develop goals. We offer the support businesses need to foster their continued growth and prosperity," Executive Director **Dorothy White** said.

A growing and vibrant downtown Bardstown is inspired by projects like the Third on



Third Street activities, together with revitalization efforts like the Town Meeting Hall in nearby Bloomfield and events like Day Out With Thomas the Train in New Haven.

"We all work to create an atmosphere of positive growth and energy that draws new businesses to our area and forecasts a healthy economic future for Nelson County," White said. ■

"The Chamber provides an opportunity for local business people to share ideas and develop goals."

—Bardstown-Nelson County
Chamber of Commerce
Executive Director
Dorothy White



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Built in 1892, the Old Nelson County Courthouse is now Nelson County's Welcome Center and home to all Nelson County economic development agencies, the Kentucky Bourbon Festival, and Nelson County offices.

takes listeners on a tour of haunted downtown.

In addition to the Ghost Walk, downtown offers carriage rides, street concerts, a farmer's market, trolley rides and Third on Third, when Third Street businesses stay open late on the third Friday of each month with special activities and entertainment.

More than 300 buildings in Nelson County are on the National Register of Historic Places – and nearly 200 of those buildings are in downtown Bardstown. The old Nelson County Courthouse houses the Welcome Center, all the Nelson County economic development agencies, several county

offices, the county judge-executive, and planning and zoning. That's why the Kentucky Heritage Council/State Historic Preservation Office chose Bardstown for its 2008 conference and used the historic buildings downtown as classrooms.

"It will be exciting to be able to show other Kentuckians how committed Bardstown is to the preservation of our heritage and how these buildings are being utilized," Riley said. ■

A Walk Through History

200 buildings in downtown Bardstown are on the National Register of Historic Places

Bardstown's historic downtown is more than just shops and restaurants. It is one of the most visited attractions in Nelson County. "Unlike so many small towns in America, we are not only surviving, we are growing," said **Rita Riley**, Bardstown's Main

Street manager. She works with potential new businesses to find locations to open downtown.

The downtown area houses a diversity of shops, boutiques, galleries and restaurants. Spalding and Sons, a clothing store, is of particular note. It has been owned and operated by the same family since 1856.

And lots of people like to drop into Hurst's Drugstore on the corner for a treat at the old-fashioned soda fountain.

The old county jail, part of which dates to 1819, has been turned into a bed and breakfast, one of several downtown. The adventurous can even spend the night in one of the old cells and read poems written on the walls by inmates.

Next door is the Old Talbott Tavern, which dates to the late 1700s. It is one of the stops on the Ghost Walk, which



Enjoy a captivating experience at the Jailer's Inn Bed and Breakfast. Tours of the original 1819 jail are offered.



Kreso's Restaurant in downtown Bardstown's beautifully restored Arco Theatre is one of many fine dining venues.



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(502) 348-5994
www.stjoselem.org



Basilica of St. Joseph Proto-Cathedral, est.1816

Reverend William D. Hammer, Pastor
(502) 348-3126, 310 West Stephen Foster Avenue, Bardstown, KY 40004



Bethlehem High School

Bethlehem High School is a Christ-centered, college preparatory, co-educational high school that challenges students to develop spiritually, socially, academically, and morally in the Catholic tradition. Established in 1819, the school enjoys a rich history while offering a wide range of extra-curricular activities including many sports and an excellent arts program.

Tom Hamilton, Principal
309 West Stephen Foster Ave
Bardstown, Kentucky 40004
(502) 348-8594
www.bethlehemhigh.org



A Gem in Tourism

Worldwide tourists visit over 25 quality attractions and more than 30 annual events in Nelson County

FOR decades, Bardstown has been a top destination for visitors, many of whom come to Kentucky specifically to visit one of the town's many attractions. And, as with industry and downtown, Bardstown isn't content to remain static in what it has to offer visitors.

"With over 25 quality attractions and more than 30 annual events, Bardstown/Nelson County is a gem in Kentucky's tourism industry," said **Dawn Przystal**, the county's vice president for tourism expansion and marketing.

That gem attracts visitors from all over the world, and has for decades. Queen Marija of Romania visited Bardstown's signature attraction, My Old Kentucky Home State Park, in the 1920s, and people from across the globe find their way to town in ever-increasing numbers more than eight decades later.

"Travel writers keep falling in love with us," Przystal said, "because there are so many things to see and do here."

My Old Kentucky Home State Park offers tours of the historic home of the Rowan family, whose plantation inspired Kentucky's state song. Each summer the amphitheater at the park plays host to "Stephen Foster – The Musical," which celebrated its 50th anniversary in 2008, at least one other Broadway musical and a Monday night concert series that has featured such acts as Herman's Hermits, The Dixie Chicks, The Four Tops and other internationally acclaimed performers. The park also has an 18-hole golf course.

Bourbon, Billy Yank and Johnny Reb

Bardstown is synonymous with Bourbon, and the smooth Kentucky spirit brings many visitors to town. Nelson County is

Re-live the elegance of railcar dining as you travel through Bourbon country on My Old Kentucky Dinner Train.

the heart of the Kentucky Bourbon Trail, and Bardstown hosts the Kentucky Bourbon Festival each September. In 2007, festival attendees came from 40 states and 14 foreign nations.

Bourbon isn't the only spirit that brings tourists to town, though. As the capstone event of the Kentucky WineFest, the Bardstown Rotary Club hosts an annual wine and cheese festival each May on the grounds of historical Spalding Hall, which houses both the Oscar Getz Museum of

"Travel writers keep falling in love with us."

—Nelson County Vice President for Tourism Expansion and Marketing
Dawn Przystal



Federal Hill was the inspiration for Stephen Foster's "My Old Kentucky Home."



For 50 years, "Stephen Foster - the Musical" has delighted audiences with breathtaking costumes, lively dance and the timeless music of America's first great composer.

Whiskey History and the Bardstown Historical Museum. Spalding Hall, originally part of St. Joseph College and Seminary, served as a hospital for both Union and Confederate soldiers during the Civil War.

Bardstown and Nelson County commemorate the history of our nation's gravest period with the Civil War Museum of the Western Theater, one of the four most important Civil War museums in the country, as well as the Women's Civil War Museum. Civil War living history weekends complete with re-enactors are held throughout the year.

The two Civil War museums are part of what is called Museum Row. Other attractions on the Row include Old Bardstown Village, which gives visitors a glimpse of life in the 1790s; the Wildlife and Natural History Museum, with exhibits of more than a hundred life-sized animals; and the War Memorial of Mid America, which pays tribute to America's veterans from the Revolutionary War through Desert Storm.

Religion, railroads and racing

Spalding Hall sits next to the Basilica of St. Joseph Proto-Cathedral, the see of Bishop Benedict Joseph Flaget, who was named head of the Diocese of Bardstown after it was formed in 1808. St. Joe, as locals affectionately call it, is open for tours and displays historic paintings that were the gifts of King Francis I of the Two Sicilies and Pope Leo XII. A few miles south of town is St. Thomas Catholic Church, where the log cabin in which Flaget lived when he first came to Kentucky has been restored.

Other notable religious sites in Nelson County are Nazareth and the Abbey of Gethsemani. Nazareth, just north of Bard-



Culinary Art: Bourbon-Style Cooking School during the Kentucky Bourbon Festival draws sell-out crowds.

stown, is the home of the Sisters of Charity of Nazareth, a religious order founded at St. Thomas in 1812. Meanwhile, the abbey was founded in 1848 by the Order of Trappist Cistercians, who welcome guests at a visitors' center and offer retreats for both men and women. Gethsemani is about a dozen miles from Bardstown in Trappist.

From Trappist it's not far to New Haven, home of the Kentucky Railway Museum.



Bells, lights and steam whistles abound at Kentucky's Official Railway Museum. Take a ride through the historic Rolling Fork River Valley.

The museum is more than a museum, though: it's an operating train station, complete with old No. 152, the state's official steam engine. More than 40,000 people each year visit the small town in southern Nelson County to tour the museum and take a 22-mile, 90-minute train ride from New Haven to Boston and back. Special events are scheduled each year, some in conjunction with the Rolling Fork Iron Horse Festival every September.

Luxurious railway dining à la 1940s is available on My Old Kentucky Dinner Train, which travels from Bardstown through part of Bernheim Forest to Clermont, then returns. Lunch excursions are offered on Saturdays, and special events are scheduled throughout the year, including an on-board murder mystery.

If four wheels are of more interest, the Bluegrass Motor Speedway features late model, open-wheel modified, Bluegrass sportsman and street stock sportsman races each week on a half-mile clay oval track. The speedway is just south of the Bluegrass Parkway at Exit 21 (U.S. 31E).

A local car club, the Whiskey City Cruisers, has a car show the second Saturday of each month from April through October, and horse-drawn carriage rides are available downtown year-round.

For more information about these and other attractions, go to visitbardstown.com. ■

Heaven Hill Distilleries Bourbon Heritage Center is a state-of-the-art visitor center designed to provide the ultimate educational and entertainment experience.

Kentucky is the Home of Bourbon

Bourbon is a distinctive product of the United States. To be considered Bourbon, whiskey must contain at least 51 percent but no more than 80 percent corn. The mash has to be distilled at less than 160 proof, aged at no more than 125 proof and bottled at 80 proof or more. The aging must be done in new, charred white oak barrels for at least two years and the taste cannot be adulterated in any way. After the barrels have been used once, any whiskey aged in them can't be called Bourbon.

jah Craig and Old Fitzgerald. Heaven Hill is home to the world's second largest holding of aging Kentucky whiskey, representing over 16 percent of the world's future supply.

The distillery recently opened its state-of-the-art Bourbon Heritage Center on the outskirts of Bardstown. The center features interactive exhibits, an educational movie, a barrel-shaped tasting room and a gift shop. Visitors can take guided tours of the operation – and can even create a personalized bottle as a souvenir.

Jim Beam has production facilities near Boston in Nelson County and at Clermont, just over the county line in neighboring Bullitt County. The Clermont facility is home to Jim Beam's American Outpost, which commemorates the history of the seven generations of Beams in the Bourbon industry. Visitors can tour the grounds and the Beam family home, view exhibits, sample Bourbon chocolates and browse through the gift shop. The Beam home is on the National Register of Historic Places and houses two centuries of family memorabilia.

In historic Spalding Hall in downtown Bardstown, the Oscar Getz Museum of Whiskey History delights visitors of all ages. Getz's family purchased a distillery in Bardstown in 1944 and named it Barton Distillery, now Constellation Spirits. Getz spent 50 years accumulating a vast collection of historical items pertaining to whiskey, and his wife, Emma, presented it to the City of Bardstown after her husband's death in 1983.

Exhibits tell the story of whiskey and include rare artifacts from colonial days to post-Prohibition, including an authentic moonshine still. Displays also tell about the whiskey connections of George Washington and Abraham Lincoln.

To honor the area's Bourbon heritage, the internationally renowned Kentucky Bourbon Festival was begun as a local effort in 1992, with one event. Today the festival has more than 30 events spread over six days.

"International" is correct. In the past five years media from Canada, England, Australia, Germany, Italy, Spain, Poland,

Nelson County is the World's Bourbon Capital

The annual Kentucky Bourbon Festival in Bardstown offers more the 30 events spread across six days

KENTUCKY has been known for Bourbon for more than 200 years, and Nelson County is the heart of Kentucky's Bourbon Trail, which celebrates America's only native spirit. Nelson County is the home of three distilleries, Jim Beam, Heaven Hill and Constellation Spirits. Maker's Mark, Wild Turkey, Four Roses and Buffalo Trace distilleries are only short drives away.

"With four nearby distilleries producing for the majority of the world's Bourbon and hosting of the Kentucky Bourbon Festival, Bardstown has earned the distinction of the Bourbon Capital of the World," said Dawn Przystal, the county's vice president for tourism expansion and marketing.

Heaven Hill, founded after Prohibition ended, is the largest independent family-owned producer and marketer of distilled spirits and produces such Bourbons as Evan Williams, Eli-



Japan and Russia have come to Bardstown to write about the Kentucky Bourbon Festival. The 2007 festival drew 55,000 people from 40 states and 14 foreign countries.

"Bourbon is growing in popularity worldwide, especially in Asia," said Milt Spalding, the festival's executive director. "The Bourbon business is booming, and the festival is popular because there's something here for everyone."

Events include such favorites as barrel-making demonstrations, hot-air balloons, concerts and dances, a Bourbon cooking school, art made from Bourbon barrels, a

Above: Jim Beam American Outpost allows visitors to explore the rich heritage and modern-day production method of this 200-year-old distillery.

Right: The Oscar Getz Museum of Whisky History in Spalding Hall houses an extensive collection of Bourbon memorabilia from the 1700s to today.

golf tournament, a motorcycle run and a 5K run and walk. Oh, and don't forget The Great Kentucky Bourbon Tasting and Gala, the festival's premier event. ■



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Bardstown/Nelson County Annual Events

BARDSTOWN and Nelson County host annual events that offer something for all members of the family. Those events include:

April

Antique Show and Sale
Spring Plowing at Wickland
Kentucky Bourbon Festival Sampler

May

My Old Kentucky Homecoming
Bourbon Open Golf Tournament
Kentucky WineFest
Rotary's Wine and Cheese Tasting

June

Bardstown Bluegrass Festival
Zarb Brothers' Street Concert

July

Fourth of July Celebration
Sidewalk Days

August

Buttermilk Days Festival

September

Rolling Fork Iron Horse Festival
Old Kentucky Home Bike Tour
Kentucky Bourbon Festival



The Great Kentucky Bourbon Tasting and Gala is a signature event of the Kentucky Bourbon Festival. The black tie gala is a Bourbon lover's dream.

October

Wickland Corn Maze
Bardstown Arts, Crafts and Antiques Fair

November

Holiday Preview
Christmas 'Round Bardstown

December

Christmas 'Round Bardstown
Candlelight Tour of Homes
Santa on the Square

For more information, call 800-638-4877 or go to www.visitbardstown.com.

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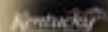
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