



ILLINOIS. MILE AFTER MAGNIFICENT MILE.

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AMERICA URGED TO JUST SAY “D’OH!” FOR SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS

As voting starts on USATODAY.com to select a Springfield for one of THE SIMPSONS MOVIE premieres, the Illinois city reveals startling parallels with the Simpsons’ hometown

SPRINGFIELD, Ill. – Kicking off its effort to win a special July 26 “Hometown Premiere” of THE SIMPSONS MOVIE, the City of Springfield, Ill., encourages voters to choose Illinois as the “real” home of the popular television cartoon.

As part of THE SIMPSONS MOVIE Challenge contest from Twentieth Century Fox and USA TODAY, Springfields across the nation have submitted short films showcasing their community’s “Simpsons Spirit” to vie to host a screening of the movie. Americans can vote for their favorite video on www.thesimpsons.usatoday.com between now and July 9.

“We believe that our city has what it takes to win this competition,” says Tim Davlin, Mayor of Springfield. “The similarities between our Springfield and that of The Simpsons are uncanny...except that we don’t have a corrupt, bumbling mayor, of course.”

Homer Simpson once said that “facts are meaningless. You could use facts to prove anything that’s even remotely true!” Courtesy of Tim Farley, executive director of the Springfield Convention and Visitors Bureau, below are some facts that reveal truths about the two Springfields that are stranger than fiction:

- Abraham Lincoln is the City of Springfield’s favorite son and Jedediah Springfield is the founder of Springfield. There’s a statue of each in their respective city centers.
- The house across the street from the Simpsons is identical to the Lincoln Home in Springfield.
- Both Springfields have a power plant next to a Lake Springfield. Todd Renfrow, general manager of our plant, bears a remarkable likeness to Montgomery Burns that can only be described as “*eeeeexcellent.*”
- Both towns have publications called the *Springfield Shopper*.
- Both are close to a Shelbyville. A sign on the Simpsons says that Shelbyville is 50 miles away – Springfield, Ill. is the only Springfield with a Shelbyville that close.
- Local broadcaster Don Hickman looks like Simpsons news anchor Kent Brockman

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- Springfield, Ill. has Mel-O-Cream Donut Factory; the Simpsons have Lard Lad Donuts
- The Simpsons have Moe's Tavern. Springfield, Ill. has the Alamo, often called Mo's by locals.
- Monty Burns once ran for office and kicked his campaign off from Lincoln Depot. President-elect Abraham Lincoln bid farewell to Springfield from the Great Western Depot, now named Lincoln Depot.
- Aerosmith has rocked out in both Springfields.
- Both Springfields have a medical library, university, Catholic hospital, bartender named Moe, zoo, botanical garden, water park, armory, Christian Science Reading Room, bus depot, train station, House of Pancakes, natural history museum and drive-in theater.

"We're proud of our city. It's a great place to eat a donut, grab a beer, grow a gigantic beehive hairdo, and enjoy family life," says Farley. "We hope that voters feel the same way – we'd be honored to roll out the yellow carpet for the premiere of THE SIMPSONS MOVIE here this July."

"This contest is a great opportunity to showcase Illinois to a national and international audience," said Jan Kostner, deputy director, Illinois Bureau of Tourism. "By naming Springfield, Ill. as the real home of The Simpsons, we hope to increase travel to attractions in Springfield and surrounding Illinois communities."

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To get travelers started on their Springfield travel plans, the Illinois Bureau of Tourism offers additional information on one-of-a-kind attractions, events, accommodations and bookable 3-Day Getaways through the Bureau's Web site, www.enjoyillinois.com or its travel counselors at **1-800-2CONNECT**.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Media materials and downloadable images are available on the Illinois Bureau of Tourism online media center at www.illinoismediacenter.com. Additional photography, available electronically, may be obtained by contacting Alexa Gunther at alexa.gunther@edelman.com or 312-616-1657.

The Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity, Bureau of Tourism manages industry efforts that result in sustainable and significant economic and quality-of-life benefits for Illinois residents.