

LAKE COUNTY ECONOMIC UPDATE | JULY 2017

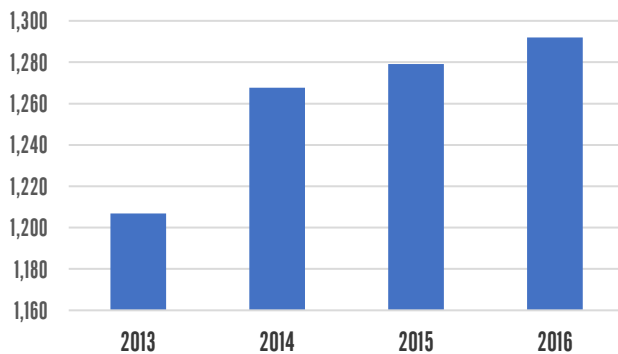
FUN EDITION



TOURISM IS BIG BUSINESS IN LAKE COUNTY

Domestic tourism expenditures in Lake County neared \$1.3 billion in 2016, and has been growing steadily over the last few years. This makes Lake County the third largest tourism county in Illinois. (*U.S. Travel Association*)

ANNUAL TOURISM EXPENDITURES IN LAKE COUNTY



TOURISM JOBS AND PAYROLL ON THE RISE

Tourism in Lake County supports more than 10,790 jobs each year, which accounted for at least \$300 million in payroll—a number which has grown roughly 16% since 2013. (*U.S. Travel Association*)

THE GREAT OUTDOORS IN LAKE COUNTY

With nearly 31,000 acres of forest preserve land, 550 miles of trails and bikeways, 650 local parks, 6 state parks, 46 golf courses, and more than 100 beaches, people in Lake County play as hard as they work. In total, there is nearly a quarter of an acre of public open space for each household in Lake County.

(*Lakecountylife.org*)

LAKE COUNTY HOSPITALITY PROPERTIES UNDERGO MAJOR RENOVATION

Several Lake County hotels are undergoing major renovations including the Hyatt Regency in Deerfield's \$14 million in upgrades, and a \$22 million investment in the Marriott Lincolnshire Resort to transform the guestrooms, add two new restaurants, and create a new spa. The Illinois State Beach Resort in Zion has been added to the Best Western Premier Collection of hotels, and the Key Lime Cove resort has been acquired by national waterpark leader Great Wolf Lodge. The Gurnee waterpark hotel is closed for the season to accommodate a \$65 million renovation including a 20,000-square foot expansion of the indoor waterpark, a new outdoor waterpark, and more. (*Visit Lake County*)

NEW COASTER HAS RIDERS SPINNING

Six Flags Great America in Gurnee debuted its 15th roller coaster this spring. The new free-spin coaster, which is called The Joker, brings its riders up 12 stories high on a 90-degree lift, and then flips them in circles six times during their ride. The investment in the new coaster comes along side other upgrades including a new immersive and interactive show called EFX 360°, as well as new dining options, and the park will be staying open into November—later into the season than ever before. (*Six Flags*)