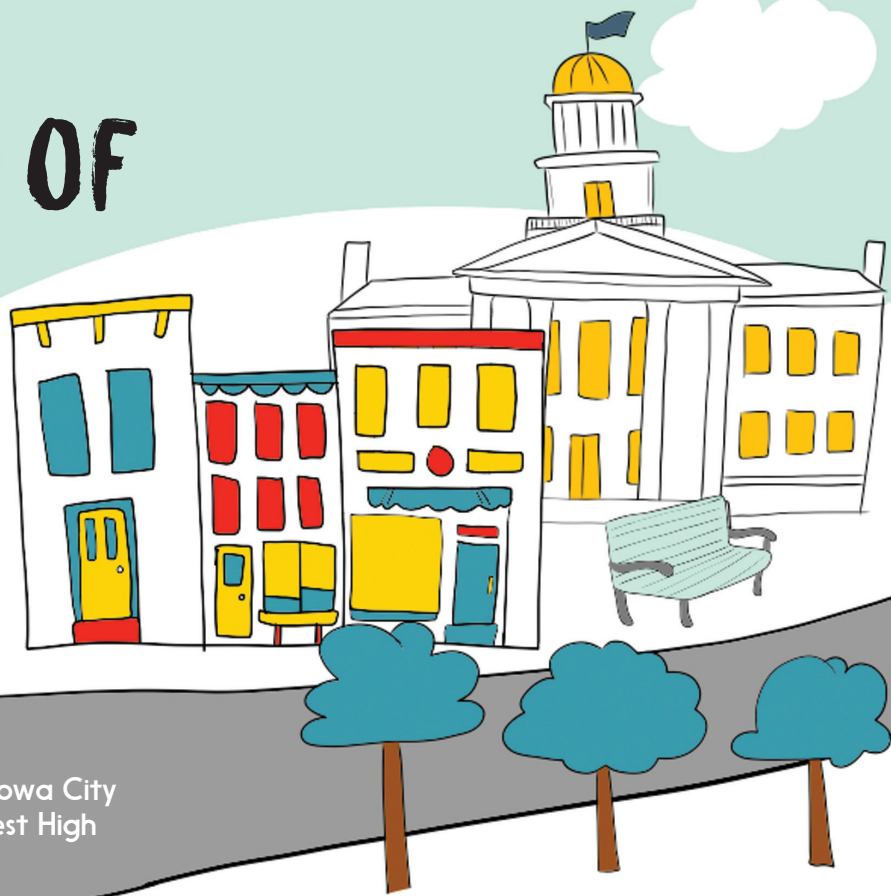


THE BEST OF



From festivals to trails, the Iowa City area has plenty to offer. West High students and WSS staffers recommend and review the best of Iowa City.

WATERWORKS PARK

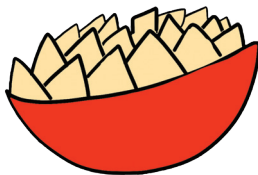
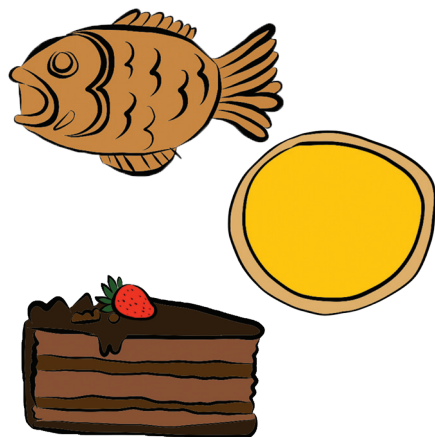
Waterworks Prairie Park is located on Dubuque Street just past I-80. It consists of a wide asphalt trail that loops through prairie grass, wildflowers and small trees as it makes its way around a pond. Along the nearly three mile trail there are several signs with QR code scanners for various exercise moves you can try out. Additionally, several benches line the trail and there is a small dock on the pond, perfect for a nice picnic. The trail also connects to the Iowa River Corridor Trail, Iowa City's largest trail network.

SQUIRE POINT

Located off of Dubuque Street in North Liberty, Squire Point is a popular hiking and recreation trail. It is a dirt trail that is a bit hilly and overlooks the Iowa River. The trail can add up to six miles when combined with the Woodpecker Trail System, but it also offers shorter distances. Bethany Schillinger '17 visits at least once a week and sometimes more depending on the season. Schillinger frequently sets up her hammock in the trees and then does anything from just hanging out to homework. "I like that it gives me some time away from school and everything. I just like to be out there and enjoy the nature and it's so peaceful out there. I can just have some time to myself," Schillinger said.

LE GOURMET

Located in the Old Capitol Mall, Le Gourmet is a small, elegant pastry shop and take-out restaurant that offers a wide selection of cakes, Korean-inspired baked goods and breakfast and lunch options. Although the shop has a respectable savory menu, what makes Le Gourmet stand out is their variety of desserts. With a glass display at the orderings station, it's easy to see the array of pastries available. From simple and not-too-sweet Korean breads to raspberry chocolate mousse garnished with fondant, any choice is sure to please.



LA REGIA

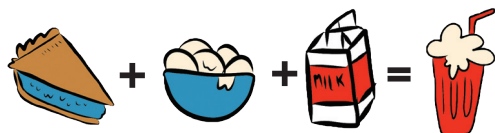
La Regia is a hole-in-the-wall Mexican restaurant and market on Highway One that offers authentic food prepared in the style found in the state of Michoacán, Mexico. From tacos to tortas, La Regia serves up a host of traditional foods. Now a four-time winner of the Press Citizen's Best of the Area award, Jose Garcia, owner of La Regia, has transformed his business from a weekend taco truck to a full-time restaurant with an avid following. Using his mother's recipes, some of Garcia's favorites are the lengua, steak and carnitas tacos.

SHEBREWS COFFEE



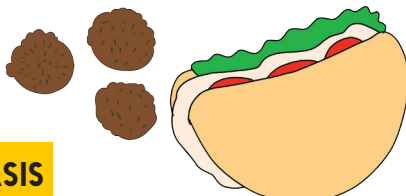
This recent addition to Iowa City's thriving coffee culture offers a unique atmosphere along with carefully-crafted coffee. Located off 2nd Street in Coralville, SheBrews Coffee was founded by Yune and Kwang Song earlier this year. With a range of coffee made with beans sourced from Ethiopia to Costa Rica and ground in small batches throughout the day for optimal freshness, SheBrews is committed to quality and emphasizes the importance of the process of making coffee. "[Yune] really wanted to create this kind of space for people who love coffee and people who appreciate the art of coffee-making," said Hankyeol Song, West High alum and daughter of SheBrews owners. "It's something she can pour her creative energy into and share with other people." With all the care and affection put into the coffee at SheBrews, a visit here is sure to satisfy all of your caffeine cravings.

MORNING, NOON AND NIGHT



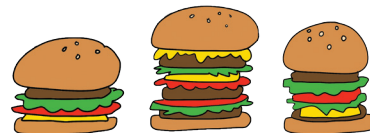
HAMBURG INN NO. 2

This intimate downtown eatery is an essential stop on any foodie's tour of Iowa City. A favorite among politicians along the campaign trail, the Hamburg Inn is famous for hosting the Iowa Coffee Bean Caucus to gauge support for presidential candidates. Other than its celebrity visits, this old standby of the Iowa City food scene is known for having the best breakfast in town. Offering choices such as pancakes, omelettes and their signature "pie shakes," the Hamburg Inn serves breakfast all day long.



OASIS

Founded by friends Ofer Sivan and Naftaly Stramer, Oasis Falafel has become a cornerstone of Iowa City's cuisine, providing Mediterranean staples for over 12 years. As its title suggests, this cozy, casual lunch spot is known for its falafel. However, its menu extends far beyond its namesake. From tabbouleh to shawarma to babba ganoush and more, Oasis truly offers a taste of the near East. And fear not, there are chalkboards describing all of their delicacies in detail at its Linn Street locale.



SHORT'S BURGER AND SHINE

This downtown bar and burger joint is one of your best bets for a burger in the home of the Hawkeyes. With corn-fed black Angus beef from less than 30 miles away, freshness is a priority at this establishment. Right across from the Pentacrest on Clinton Avenue, Short's Burger and Shine is right in the middle of downtown Iowa City. Boasting 20 beef burgers along with chicken and black bean options, a meal at Short's Burger and Shine is a perfect way to end a night out downtown.

JAZZ FESTIVAL

As a college town that comes to life during the school year, Iowa City is a rather idle place in the summer. The Jazz Festival works to change that. Taking place during the Fourth of July weekend, **the Jazz Festival features professional, sometimes Grammy-winning musicians** such as the Neville Brothers or Poncho Sanchez. In addition to the concerts, the festival gives opportunities for local high school and college students to learn about jazz and play on the main stage. Ned Furlong '17 summed up the event as being pretty crazy.

"There's a constant stream of music going and some really big jazz artists come out for it."

ARTS FESTIVAL

As the name implies, the Iowa Arts Festival is a three day festival in downtown Iowa City that celebrates local and national artists. However, the art featured at the festival isn't just visual. Not only do painters and drawers display and sell their art at the Art Fair, but musicians get to perform on the Main Stage and the Family Stage and chefs gather at the Culinary Row to make multi-ethnic food for the Iowan crowd. **The festival is one of the most celebrated events in Iowa City, being named "Best Festival" by the Press Citizen in 2012.**

BOOK FESTIVAL

Iowa City is one of only 11 UNESCO Cities of Literature in the world, so it's not a surprise that the city has a week-long festival in October to celebrate books. The Book Festival features public book readings, visits from famous authors and panels on writing style and technique, all of which take place throughout the University of Iowa and downtown Iowa City. This year, the Iowa City Book Festival featured a visit from Rick Riordan, author of the Percy Jackson series, and a public reading of "Crime and Punishment" by Fyodor Dostoyevsky, a historical novel that criticized Russian radicalism in the 19th Century.



JOHNSON COUNTY FAIR

As a state known for its farmers and corn, the Johnson County Fair is a popular attraction for agriculture fans in the area. Taking place at the Johnson County Fairgrounds in Iowa City, **the fair features agrarian-themed events**

such as the children's tractor pull contest, the beef chili cook-off and the agriculture-themed arts contest. There are animal weigh-ins and judging contests for the 4-H and FFA student. The fair also includes an Ugly Cake Contest

for which the rules include "no mold may be on the cake" and "a real cake must be used." With events like these, the Johnson County Fair celebrates the farmer spirit that lurks in even the artistiest city in Iowa.



TO THE THEATER

ENGLERT THEATRE

The Englert Theatre is Iowa City's **last remaining historic theater**, as it has since graced Iowa City with daily performances from a variety of groups and speakers since its opening in 1912. Recent performances over the past few months have included a mix of national tours and local annual events like the annual Nolte Academy production of "The Nutcracker." With the help of community support, the Englert is sure to remain an Iowa City treasure that will enhance opportunities of residents within the area.

FILM SCENE

Film Scene is a small theater in the Pedestrian Mall that began in 2011 with the goal of bringing "movie magic" back. FilmScene **now screens over 200 feature films and receives more than 32,000 viewers per year**, enriching Iowa City culturally and artistically. The theater shows a variety of cinematography, from first-run films to classics and offers film education and media literacy programs. Through the cinema, FilmScene hopes to provide the Iowa City community with entertainment in an animated, welcoming environment.

HANCHER AUDITORIUM

Since 1972, Hancher has brought music, dance and theater groups to Iowa City from all over the world, including prestigious names such as the Joffrey Ballet Company, Yo-Yo Ma and Book of Mormon. Hancher prides itself **as the main cultural hub of the University of Iowa**. Following its reopening on Sept. 9 in a new, more modern facility, Hancher has worked vigorously to continue its mission of fostering artistic freedom and promoting creativity by bringing the world's finest performers to the community.

WHITE RABBIT

Located in downtown Iowa City, **White Rabbit is a local art and apparel store** that was opened in 2006 as a means of selling handmade goods. Carrying a wide variety of merchandise from custom screen-printed t-shirts to vintage clothing to paintings, the store sells products from over a hundred local consignors. White Rabbit also holds a monthly art show in order to showcase the work of talented artists from around the Iowa City area. For those looking for an aesthetically pleasing, unique shopping destination, White Rabbit is worth a visit.

THE HAUNTED BOOKSHOP

Carrying more than 50,000 publications in over 80 sections, the Haunted Bookshop is a beloved Iowa City treasure not only known for the spooky stories found there, but for the special residents found within the shop. Set in an 1847 Greek Revival architecture

home, **the bookshop is home to two cats, Nierme and Logan, that are more than willing to assist book shoppers**. The old-fashioned, cozy feel to the shop makes the Haunted Bookshop a nice contrast to all the modern architecture found in Iowa City today.

