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Super Bowl 2012 events are everywhere, not just Downtown Indy



Written by
Star report

No doubt, the heart of Super Bowl weekend will beat in Downtown Indianapolis. But the excitement extends to cities from West Lafayette to Bloomington, where thousands of fans will be staying in hotels and private homes. These 17 "Super Celebration" sites -- as designated by the Super Bowl Host Committee -- are official hosts to visitors, offering welcome centers, housing and special events. They'll also be the showcase sites for the 33 Indy cars -- 32 representing each NFL team and one representing Super Bowl XLVI. For more information, visit www.indianapolissuperbowl.com/super-celebration-sites. Here are some of the highlights:

1. Carmel, Fishers, Noblesville (Northeast)

Highlight: Your own personal cheerleading squad.

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Visitors will likely get their most enthusiastic welcome in these communities northeast of Indianapolis. First, there are those 5,000 "Hamilton County is SUPER excited"

promotional magnets stuck to car bumpers. And "cheer mobs" -- roaming groups that sing, cheer, perform and dance -- are already making their way through restaurants, malls, bars and hotels. Info: www.8GreatTowns.com/BigGame.

One of the county's most popular attractions, Conner Prairie Interactive History Park, is exhibiting "The Science of Football" from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. today through Sunday, 13400 Allisonville Road, Fishers. Also see one of the 33 Super Indy cars. Included with general admission of \$6 and free for ages 1 and younger. (317) 776-6006, www.connerprairie.org.

2. Zionsville (Northwest)

Highlights: Ice skating, art walking, pie making.

Staying in Zionsville? Expect to keep busy. The town is hosting ZBowl, a series of special events today through Saturday. Nashville, Tenn., artists Keegan DeWitt, Roman Candle and Bryan Cates will perform at 7 p.m. today at St. Alphonsus Liguori Catholic Church,

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1870 W. Oak St.; tickets are \$20. Lions Park Winterfest embraces the weather with a synthetic ice rink and Warm-Up Zone. On Saturday, 200 children of all abilities will participate in the Walk & Roll Football Camp from 9 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at Zionsville Middle School.

Other Zionsville activities include carriage rides, a Friday art walk and pop-up chefs at galleries, shops and restaurants throughout the Main Street area. You can even take a class to learn how to make a Hoosier favorite, sugar cream pie. Info: <http://www.zbowl2012.com>

3. Plainfield and Lafayette Square (West)

Highlight: International cuisine.

Plainfield is Hendricks County's official Super Celebration site -- specifically, the Metropolis mall, host to a welcome center, Super Indy car and football video game tournament Friday. On the cultural trail, 15 merchants will offer special attractions, exhibits, dishes and classes today, Friday and Saturday. Info: www.tourhendrickscounty.com.

Indianapolis' Westside is also home to Lafayette Square, a neighborhood known as the city's "International Marketplace" for its cultural diversity -- and incredible ethnic cuisine. There, the Service Center for Contemporary Art and Culture, 3819 Lafayette Road, will host free welcome activities, along with international celebrations from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. today through Saturday. Tickets are \$8; www.facebook.com/servicecenterindy.

4. Franklin (South)

Highlight: Show-your-spirit tailgating.

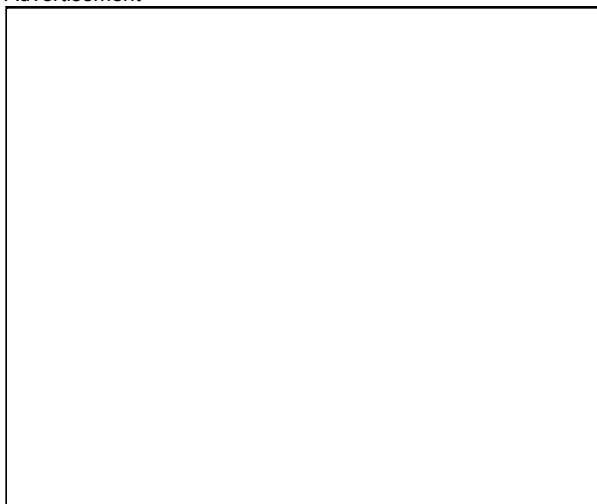
Prepare to park it from noon to 4 p.m. Saturday in this college town 20 miles south of Downtown Indianapolis. Franklin will host a community tailgate party Saturday at the downtown square near the courthouse, 5 E. Jefferson St. Prizes will be awarded for the best tailgate food, team spirit, trivia knowledge and football dance. Registration begins at noon and costs \$15 per tailgating space, or \$10 in advance. Other weekend-long activities include a pub crawl and 5K Run/Walk. Info: (317) 736-3689 or www.franklinparks.org.

5. Greenfield (East)

Highlight: 10,000 square feet of fun

From beer and barbecue to roving magicians and a \$500 karaoke contest, there will be a lot to ingest, see and do at Super Bash on Friday. The party will sprawl across 10,000 square feet and two floors at the Creative Arts and Event Center, 2 W. Main St., in historic downtown Greenfield, about 25 miles east of Downtown Indianapolis. Main-

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floor activities are targeted toward families; tickets are \$10/advance or \$15/door. Upstairs, it's 21 and older only; tickets (\$15/advance or \$20/door) include free beer and wine tastings. Info: www.artsandevent.com, (317) 477-2288.

6. Broad Ripple (North)

Highlight: Cool shops, tent party.

Catch Indiana's boldly bearded frontman -- and his wife on washboard -- when The Rev. P eyton's Big Damn Band plays Friday evening. The funky village of Broad Ripple, packed with eclectic shops, bars and restaurant, has erected a large tent structure featuring live acts at Broad Ripple and College avenues. It's about a 15-minute drive from Downtown Indianapolis. On the schedule: George Clinton and the P-Funk All Stars today, Robert Randolph and the Family Band on Friday and Candlebox on Saturday. \$25; info at www.broadripplesuperfest.com.

7. West Lafayette (Northwest-central Indiana)

Highlights: Bikini ice skating, make-believe Madonna

West Lafayette, the home of Purdue University, will entertain Super Bowl guests and locals with performances by Lady Gaga and Madonna impersonators, polar bear ice skating and a chance to howl at the moon along with real live wolves in a nature preserve. General info: <http://www.homeofpurdue.com/supercelebrationsite.html>

Got a thick skin? Skate in your bathing suit during the Dare to Bear Blitz at Riverside Skating Rink from 7 to 8:30 p.m. Friday. Info: (765) 743-RINK.

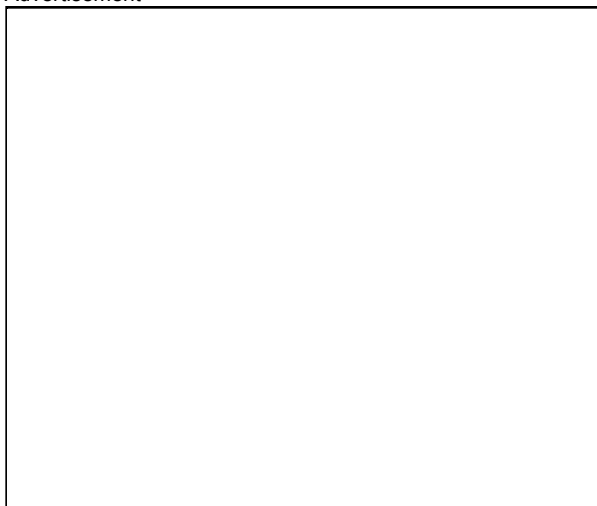
Test your best wolf call and see if it gets a response at 7:30 p.m. Friday at Wolf Park. Info: www.wolfpark.org.

A Lady Gaga impersonator performs at 10 p.m. Friday and a Madonna impersonator at 8 p.m. Saturday, both at The Muse. Info: www.themusevenue.com.

8. Bloomington (Southern Indiana)

Indiana University's hometown -- arguably the state's basketball capital (depending on the year) -- is offering free kids' games, a Super Indy car and a sports memorabilia display at Fountain Square Mall from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. today through Saturday. Hard-core IU fans have these extra options: free guided tours of IU's sports facilities and the Sports Stars of Monroe County exhibit (including photos of IU sports teams from the late 1800s through today) from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. today through Saturday. Info: www.visitbloomington.com/super/activities.

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