

# Urbana Day Drinking

## McCarty Party 2026

There comes a time in every man's life when he looks in the mirror and asks the big questions:

- Who am I?
- Why am I here?
- Who took my shirt?
- And why did I wake up with a receipt for falcon leasing, a half-finished cult manifesto, and three YouTube tutorials on card tricks?

For M.D. "Doc" Ireland, that time came shortly after turning 40, which experts tell us is the moment when the Happiness Curve stops being a sociologic chart and starts looking more like a field sobriety test. As Doc once put it, "It's not about how many times you fall. It's about how many times you get back up." To which the officer replied, "That is not how field sobriety tests work, sir." Which, frankly, felt judgmental.

Doc was told he was going through a midlife crisis. But Doc became confused because he thought they said **midwife crisis**, and he didn't know nothin' about birthin' no babies. He just knew that his spirit felt restless, his judgment was as bad as his morals, and his soul was tugging him back toward the one place in America where a man can still find himself by losing all remaining credibility before sunset.

That place, of course, is Urbana, Ohio.

Not the fake Urbana (of Illinois). Not the one with pretensions. The real one. The capital of Champaign County. The ancestral homeland of poor decisions with excellent follow-through. The sacred ground where the McCarty boys first proved, way back in 1982, that if you put enough beer in one place, history will eventually show up and take its bra off. The same hallowed acreage where hundreds once camped in tents like feral visionaries and where, in 2026, many of those same pioneers will bravely return to "rough it" in RVs equipped with satellite TV, orthopedic mattresses, and a suspicious amount of prescription cream.

And so it came to pass that Doc began his homeward journey. This was no ordinary trip. This was a pilgrimage. A stampede of destiny. Because as we all know, the original Buffalo Trace led directly to the Urbana Beer Trail. Scholars may dispute that. Historians may ridicule it. But scholars and historians are, almost by definition, people who were never invited to the really good parties.

On the drive back, Doc tried to prepare himself mentally. He thought to himself, "What do you call those things you blow on and make a wish?"

"A dandelion?"

"No."

"A birthday candle?"

“No.”

“A conch shell?”

“No.”

After a long silence he remembered, “A breathalyzer? That’s it... that’s the one.”

You see, Doc had spent too much time listening to advice, and advice is what you look for when you know the right answer but wish you didn’t. The right answer, in this case, was not to buy a sports car like every other bored, declining suburban gladiator. No. McCarty Party teaches a higher form of self-destruction. Don’t be boring with your midlife crisis and buy a Corvette. Go hard. Learn magic. Lease a falcon. Start a cult. Will people worry about you, yes, but it will also make them a little curious. That’s branding. That’s leadership. That’s the kind of irrational confidence that built this great republic and at least three of Dale’s more questionable structures.

And what do you get when you gene-splice **Jimmy Buffett**, **Little Big Town**, and the capital of Champaign County, Ohio, then pour the whole mess over ice before noon?

Why, **Urbana Day Drinking**, that’s what.

That, my friends, is not just a theme. It is a diagnosis. It is a philosophy. It is a return to first principles. The moral of the story is that you may not know who you are, or who to believe in anymore. Hell, half the country can’t agree on lunch. But everybody knows a good time when they see one. And if they don’t, we can point it out to them with both hands and a cooler.

Now let us speak plainly of Doc’s credentials.

He was conceived at McCarty Party Three, the 1984 Olympiad, which means his origin story is less “immaculate conception” and more “bronze medal in logistics.” He received the initials **M.D.** because he was supposedly named after his favorite “uncles,” the McCarty brothers, though to this day it remains unclear whether his father was actually a doctor or merely played one on TV. His mother was obviously a Sports Illustrated swimsuit model, but then again, in the 1980s most of our female party guests looked like they had wandered in from a beer-commercial casting call and decided to stay for the weekend. He was raised by wolves, but Mr. and Mrs. Wolf were a very nice couple down the block, and by all accounts did an admirable job considering what they were up against.

So, when Doc rolls back into Urbana this summer, the old place will speak to him.

It will say: “Welcome home, handsome.”

And yes, before any of you start writing letters to the editor, we know a threesome involves sex with three people and a twosome involves sex with two. That’s exactly why we’ll call him handsome. Because English is a rich and mysterious language, and also because nobody at McCarty Party has ever let grammar interfere with a perfectly good joke.

What Doc will find at the farm is not nostalgia. Nostalgia is for cowards and people who alphabetize family recipes. What he’ll find is **continuity**. The beer is still cold. The games are still stupid. The hosts are still questionable. But the spirit of the thing is still gloriously intact. The names may be older, the backs

may be weaker, the livers may now require subcommittees and strategic planning, but the mission remains undefeated: you gotta fight for your right to party.

And this year, the farm fires back.

Because after all the miles, all the detours, all the divorces, all the pandemics, all the bad knees and worse decisions, the McCarty Party comes thundering home to Urbana for the 45th annual gathering of the faithful, the doubtful, the over-served, the under-supervised, and the alarmingly enthusiastic.

Also joining this year's festivities: **The Menu**, one of the region's true crowd-commanding institutions, appearing as part of their farewell run and giving Urbana Day Drinking exactly the kind of soundtrack it deserves: loud, joyful, theatrical, a little sweaty, and vastly more competent than the audience will be by that point.

So, if you have ever looked around at modern life and thought, *I was told there would be a handbasket*, good news: there is. And we are all going there together. But we're doing it in the daylight, with friends, on the family farm, with a charitable purpose, an unreasonable amount of beer, and a regional band good enough to make you briefly forget your cholesterol medication. This, then, is your invitation.

Come back to Urbana.

Come back to the place where legends were made, tents were pitched, shirts were lost, and dignity was always considered optional. Come see old friends who somehow look exactly the same and completely different at once. As one veteran of these affairs recently observed, "I don't remember you looking any better, but then again, I don't remember you." That is not an insult. That is heritage.

Come help Doc Ireland finish what middle age started.

Come for the charity.

Come for the golf.

Come for the beer games.

Come for The Menu.

Come because what goes around comes around. (That's Karma.)

Come because if you miss it, you will spend the rest of the year explaining to people why you voluntarily skipped Urbana Day Drinking, and no jury in this country will acquit you.

Be there or be talked about.

*Dale & Mike*

<https://mccarty.party>

**McCarty Party 2026: Urbana Day Drinking**

**Because beer is good, charity is noble, and adulthood has clearly failed**

## Summary Information: McCarty Party 2026

**Theme:** Urbana Day Drinking  
**When:** 3:00 pm Saturday July 18<sup>th</sup>, 2026  
**Where:** The Highlands (136 Ault Rd. Urbana, OH)  
**Music:** The Menus  
**Food:** Food Truck  
**Beverages:** Beer Trailer  
**Charity:** Tunnels to Towers  
**Events:** Please go to <https://mccarty.party/events/> for the full schedule of events  
**Golf:** 5pm Friday July 17<sup>th</sup> (bus from Camp McCarty at 3pm)



## Irrelevant Information

**Rain Date:** Sure. But you can bring a date if it's sunny too. Remember, in case of natural disasters (hurricanes, earthquakes, mudslides, firestorms, Anheuser-Busch on Tik-Tok, Soccer hooligans) we will still have a party and drink beer. We do, however, expect a strong beer front to move across the area. We believe as the storm surges you will be able to notice some Coors Lightnings on the horizon. Most importantly, remember that you are still responsible for your own companionship.

**Other Stuff:** We provide beer, entertainment, and a guaranteed good time (okay, still not a *money-back* guarantee, but we mean what we say). If you want anything else, bring it along. (Please, no dogs, fireworks, nuclear weapons, anyone under the legal drinking age, or marsupials (except koala bears, they're adorable). We have enough to worry about.)

**Please accept this invitation as our yearlong greeting card. Therefore:**

Happy Birthday, Congrats, Merry Christmas, Happy New Year, Get Well Soon, Thinking of You, Please Do Not Bend, Spindle or Mutilate, Have a Nice Day, Don't Slap Pandas, Nuke the Whales, Go Bucks!, Go Pack!, Go Big or Go Home

## Detailed Information

### Twelve Things You Need to Know about McCarty Party 2026, before you get here

**1) Charity:** While McCarty Party is a free party (other than the food truck, as discussed below), it is also a charity event. A charitable donation of \$20 or \$30 (or whatever you would normally spend on a Saturday out carousing) is suggested. But more is better, as this year's beneficiary is [Tunnels to Towers Foundation](#) in support of our veterans and first responders. It seems only appropriate on America's birthday. Your donations, as always, are deeply appreciated. You have my personal thanks!

**2) Good Beer:** Of course, (almost) all beer is good, but some of it just better than others. And obviously we'll have lots of good ole fashioned American macrobrews (and a few of those new-fangled wine spritzers). But again, this year beer master **Mike McCaffrey** has prepared something special. We're giddy with excitement. They're not doing this in Moscow.

**3) Swimming Pool:** So... there is no swimming pool in Urbana, but there is a pond. As we learned during McCarty Party Two (on the farm, with a pond and some inner tubes), water and the McCarty Parties don't mix well (kind of like the

Kardashians and professional athletes). Accidents at a party should be carnal (ask Doc), and not of a paramedic nature. The pond **will not** be used during the festivities.

**4) Parking:** All parking will be on the **left-hand** side of Ault Road, just follow the signs. There is also an area for staff, buses, shuttles, Ubers, etc. But that is not for you. And you know who you are.

**5) Food:** A wise man once said, “A man drinks like that and he don’t eat... he gonna die.” Which is why we thought food might be a good idea. So, bring your hunger and an extra few dollars. The food truck will be located next to the Beer trailer. We think you’ll find it.

**6) T-shirts:** Want a McCarty Party T-shirt? Of course, you do! Then win one of our time-honored events like Stupid Beer Tricks, the Lager Relays, Taking the Bras off the Debutantes, Beer Drinking for Time and Distance, or Flip Cup. The 2026 version is already an instant classic. You can’t buy T-shirts... you must earn them. Good luck. Please, no wagering.

**7) Golf:** If you are a man and plan to play golf with us on **Friday the 17<sup>th</sup>** (or just ride around in a golf cart and drink beer) you must let us know. If you are good (as beer is), you have already done this. If you are a weasel (as the French still are), we await your call, email, or text. We provide transportation to and from the golf course from Bellbrook. Rendezvous point is Camp McCarty **at 3pm**. Tee times begin at 5pm at Woodland Golf Course, just 2 miles from the farm. Plan to spend \$50 for 9 holes and a cart (\$25 for golf and \$25 for transportation and beer, as we must buy our beer from the course). FYI – our beer bunnies are happy to accept your tips (hint, hint). Course details can be found at: <https://www.golfwoodland.com/>

**8) Accommodations:** We’re headed back to Urbana, so we expect to see some tents. There will also be RV parking, which we are accommodating on a first-come first-serve basis. But if for some reason you aren’t roughing it or staying up all night (recommended) some folks are staying five miles away at the [Cobblestone Hotel](#). We plan to be running a shuttle to and from the party.

**9) Body Painting:** Yes **ladies**, we will again have a professional body painter, available from 9pm till midnight. For examples, go to <https://vesselsartstudio.com/body-painting-at-fantasy-fest/>. Please try to keep your designs simple, so we can get as many folks (**ladies**) painted as possible. An amateur division can be made available after midnight. This is how finger painting evolved.

**10) Law Enforcement:** For those of you who will be arriving after dark or leaving before daybreak, don’t be alarmed by the law enforcement officers on the property. They work for us and are there to prevent under-age, would-be drinkers from crashing the party... and over-age, over-served patrons from driving when they shouldn’t. In short, they are here to help keep people and property safe... so plan accordingly! Remember... if you walk down the road naked, they have body cams.

**11) Facilities (Bathrooms):** You may not be aware of it, but alcohol is a diuretic (i.e., it makes you pee a lot). As we all remember the well and septic system in Urbana can’t keep up with the demands of a McCarty Party. So again, this year we’ll have shiny clean porta-potties for the ladies and plenty of trees for the gentlemen to address their calls to nature. Thank you for recycling (of fluids) back to mother earth.

**12) The Menus** Yep. Saving the best for last. Our musical guests for McCarty Party 2026 are the one and only [“The Menus”](#). We’re a stop on their farewell tour and are honored to have them join our history. They start at 7pm.

**More Information:** For more information on these and other hot topics, please go [here](#) for our **Frequently Asked Questions**. See you soon!

**You may not know who you are. But everybody knows a good time when they see one.**