

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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OTTAWA— This year's Burgoo festival in Utica, Illinois, is bigger and better than ever before. On Sunday, October 9th, more than 250 vendors of arts and crafts will line the streets of this charming village to sell their handcrafted clothes, pottery, art and woodworking and offer a dizzying variety of festival food—from organic treats to steaming bowls of the famous Burgoo stew.

Burgoo means business for the village and fun for out-of-town guests. It also means traffic and lots of it. Thousands of visitors from around the state will descend on Utica to listen to the live music, search for unique items at the vendor stands, dine in the outstanding local eateries and lodge in the delightful nearby hotels.

In an effort to make their stay as safe and pleasant as possible by reducing traffic congestion in the construction zone of Exit #81 on Interstate 80, a coalition of state and local law enforcement and fire officials, along with IDOT engineers, have developed an alternate route traffic safety plan to help visitors get to Downtown Utica for the annual Burgoo Festival. Westbound Exit #81 for Utica on Interstate 80 will be closed from 9am to 1pm on October 9, 2011. Remote parking has been set up along US 6, and the Historical Society is providing continuous shuttle service to the festival, which will be available for \$5 per car at JC Whitney and Celebrations 150 on US 6, just west of IL 178, and at The Village Gift Shop (formerly Bennett's Garden Center), located just north of the intersection of US 6 and IL 178.

- **Westbound travelers on Interstate 80 are encouraged to exit at IL 71 (exit 93/Ottawa) and take IL 71 westbound to US 6, continuing on US 6 to the intersection of US 6 & IL 178 in Utica.**
- **Westbound travelers who miss Exit #93 on Interstate 80 may exit at IL 39 southbound (exit 79A/Bloomington-Normal) and take US 6 eastbound (exit 57/LaSalle) toward Ottawa, continuing on US 6 to the intersection of US 6 and IL 178 in Utica.**
- **Starved Rock State Park visitors traveling on Interstate 80 are encouraged to exit at IL 71 (exit 93/Ottawa) and take its scenic southern route westbound to Utica/Starved Rock. IL 71 jogs southbound through downtown Ottawa, then turns west at the stoplight on the south side of Veterans' Memorial Bridge.**

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