Southern Illinois Steel Guitar Show every April, which features some of the best steel guitar players in the world as well as amateur players. Call (618) 218-2517 for more information.

PawFest held the second Sunday in June is a celebration of pets at Veteran’s Memorial Park in Mt. Vernon. Bring those furry friends and celebrate with them! Demonstrations, adoptables, contests and more! Email tourism@mtvernon.com or call (618) 242-3151 for more information.

July 4th Salute to Freedom is always held on July 4th at the Mt. Vernon Outland Airport. Food vendors, entertainment, kid zone, fireworks and more. Free to attend. Email tourism@mtvernon.com or call (618) 242-3151 for more information.

Cedarhurst Center for the Arts is the place to be for the Annual Cedarhurst Art & Craft Fair each September. After a special preview party on Friday night, the fair is open from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Saturday and Sunday. More than 100 exhibitors from throughout the country will be on hand to demonstrate and sell crafts. Each year crafters bring jewelry, metal work, pottery and more for collectors to enjoy and purchase. Live entertainment can be found in the beer tent and a huge children’s area is tons of fun for your littles. Admission $5 adults, children under 12 free. Hotel packages are available for this event. Call (618) 242-1236 for more information.

Midwest Light Sport Aircraft Expo, also in September, at the Mt. Vernon Outland Airport. The event was created to sell LSA’s, LSA Ancillary Equipment and LSA related services, but everyone enjoys visiting and learning about the aircraft technology. For more information contact (618) 242-7016.

Cedarhurst again opens its gates late September as the host of Ironclad Art: The Motorcycle. You’ll see firsthand why our slogan is “Creativity: Redefined!” when you see the works of art found in more than 100 bikes from all makes, models and generations! For more information call (618) 242-1236.

Fall Fest, the last weekend of September, is celebrated in the streets of downtown Mt. Vernon. Live music, free kid’s zone, the DMDC Cruise In & Car Show, vendors marketplace, amazing food court, a 100+ entry parade, 5K Race and more! For more information contact (618) 242-3151 or tourism@mtvernon.com.

The Heritage Festival at the Jefferson County Historical Village the first weekend in October is an interactive take on history. See how a blacksmith works, grind some corn, listen to folk music and enjoy the sites. Free admission. For more information call (618) 246-0033.

The Annual Downtown Christmas Parade and Tree Lighting is held the first Saturday of December each year. Enjoy the Christmas Light Parade at 5:00 p.m. which will be followed with a tree lighting on the east side of the courthouse, singing, cookie decorating, crafts, refreshments and more! Don’t forget to stop by Santa’s Cottage while you are there too! For more information contact (618) 242-3151 or email tourism@mtvernon.com.

Visit www.enjoymtvernon.com for a complete listing of Festivals and Events in Mt. Vernon where we are living Creativity: Redefined! through our passions in life!