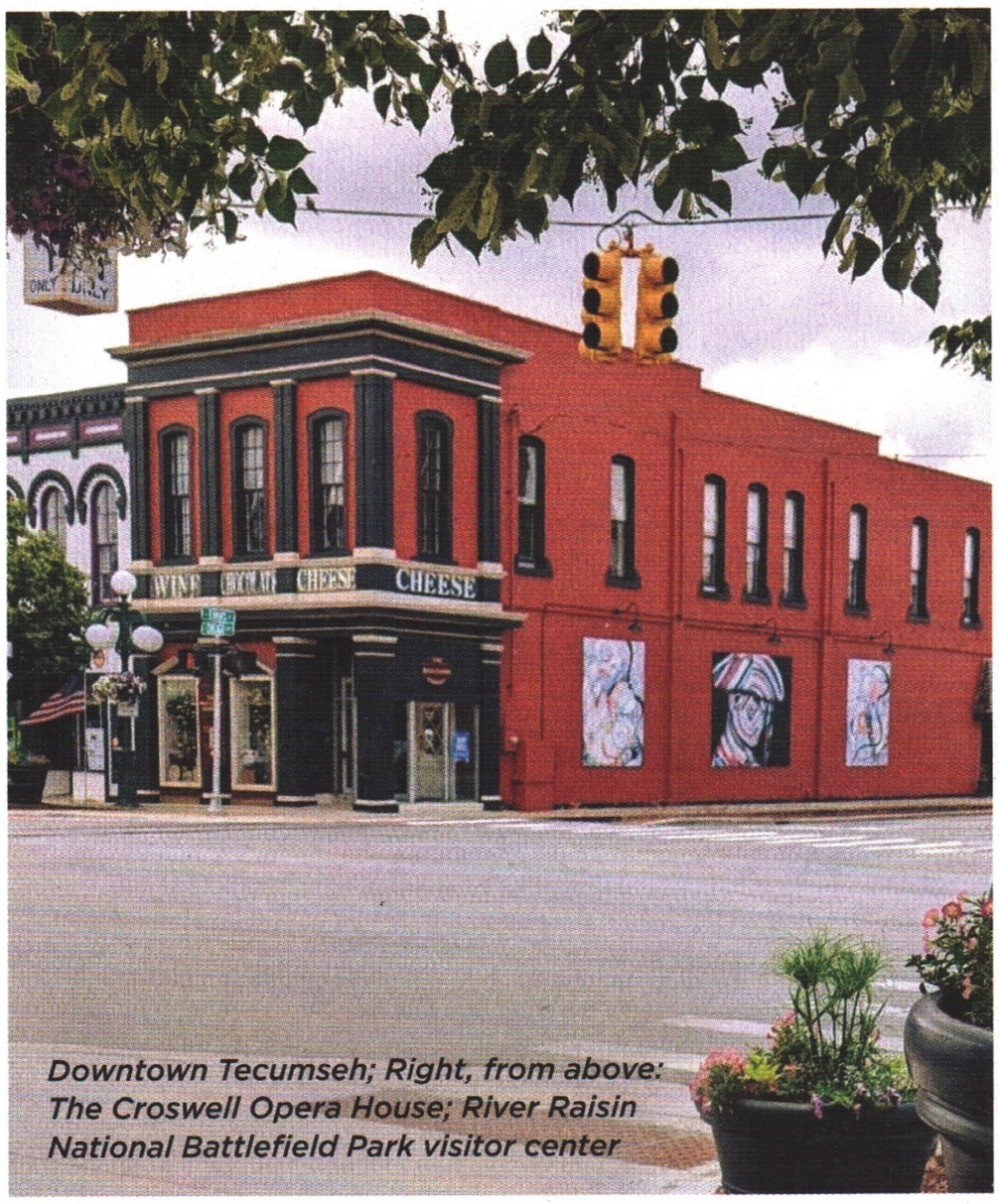





Downtown Tecumseh; Right, from above: The Croswell Opera House; River Raisin National Battlefield Park visitor center

Southeast Michigan Hospitality

Monroe and Lenawee counties offer authentic venues, plus one-of-a-kind event experiences **BY DIANNA STAMPFLER**

Even before Michigan became a state in 1837, the communities of Adrian, Dundee, Monroe, and Tecumseh established themselves as commercial, residential, and cultural hubs between Detroit and northern Ohio. Today, Monroe and Lenawee counties collectively boast more than 1,400 square miles of off-the-beaten-path opportunities for attendees to connect with nature, discover intriguing history, and more.

VIBE: "Positioned directly on the shores of Lake Erie, Monroe bridges the gap between Michigan's rich agricultural history and its serene natural beauty," notes Mya Gregory, sales consultant at Explore Monroe. "It's in a region that doesn't just host meetings, it gives attendees a sense of place, standing out as a relaxed, scenic alternative to busy metropolitan centers."

Similarly, Visit Lenawee Director of Marketing Jenna Salazar says, "Lenawee County is the kind of destination where attendees can step away from the pace of everyday life and genuinely connect with colleagues, nature, and the community."

TRANSPORTATION: Commercial air service is available via Detroit Metropolitan Wayne County Airport. The city of Monroe is near Interstate 75 and some 23 miles from the airport, and Lenawee County is about 35 miles west of Monroe.

HOTELS: The full-service Quality Inn & Suites Monroe features multiple breakout rooms and flexible options for 200 attendees, while TownePlace Suites by Marriott Monroe accommodates groups up to 150. The Clinton Inn in Lenawee County has a 40-person banquet room, as well as a ballroom that holds up to 100. The 1,224 square feet of meeting space at Comfort Inn & Suites Adrian comfortably accommodates up to 60 attendees.

VENUES: River Raisin National Battlefield Park in Monroe, an important site during the War of 1812, offers battle reenactments and demonstrations. Its event center provides flexible, indoor arena-style space totaling 21,600 square feet. Michigan International Speedway in Brooklyn hosts large-scale events, including options to get on the track for a hot lap. Other notable venues include the restored Adrian Armory Events Center and Croswell Opera House, both in Adrian.

RESTAURANTS: Public House Food + Drink in Monroe has a semiprivate dining area accommodating up to 40 attendees, with full buyouts for 100 also available. The banquet room at Hooligans Grill in Adrian hosts up to 80.

MUST-SEES & -DOS: Celebrate Monroe County's legacy as the birthplace of Michigan's wine industry with a visit to St. Julian Winery & Distillery's Dundee location, or by exploring the River Raisin Wine Trail with four distinct tasting rooms. Get out into nature at the 1,300-acre William C. Sterling State Park on Lake Erie, where hiking, biking, wildlife viewing, and water recreation are popular. Tipton's 755-acre Hidden Lake Gardens includes a conservatory, walking trails, and an elevated Sky Canopy Walk, with room rentals available on a limited basis.

exploremonroemi.com
visitlenawee.com

PHOTOS (CLOCKWISE FROM LEFT) Visit Lenawee (2), Explore Monroe