



Virden, Illinois Community Profile Itinerary



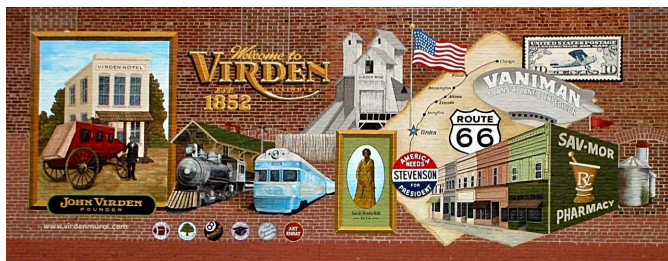
A history of coal mining is a common thread amongst many Illinois cities and towns. Virden, population 3393, rests on a bed of coal and was a profitable mining town. The Mine Battle of 1893 is a significant event in Virden's history, leading then Governor John Riley Tanner to be the first Illinois Governor to support the union rights of the coal miner over the coal company.

ATTRACTIONS



[Virden Miner's Memorial/Central Park](#)

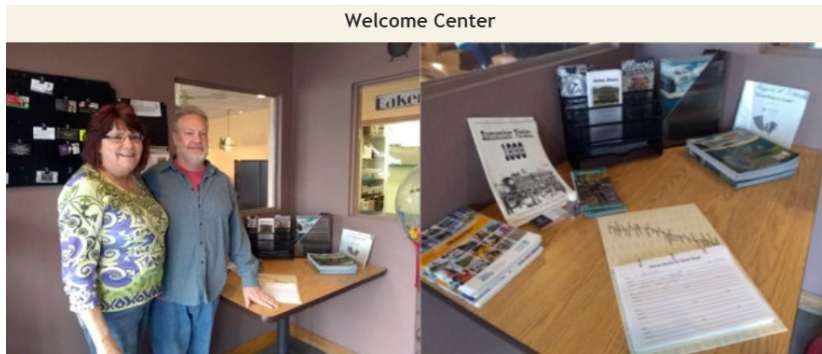
The town's central park has a large granite and bronze three-dimensional memorial depicting the Virden Mine Battle of 1893. The park has a historic bandstand that recalls an era of Saturday night band concerts and ice cream socials. A soldier's monument commemorates local veterans who served in WWI.



[Virden History Mural](#)

A mural on the side of the Sav-Mor Building depicts events in the history of the town, including Route 66. It is currently undergoing a restoration process.

105 East Jackson



[Showtime Lanes](#)

Virden's family-owned destination for fun for over 20 years. Featuring bowling, laser tag, arcade games, birthday celebrations, full-service restaurant and visitors center. Showtime's full service restaurant offers daily specials, variety of soups, sandwiches, and appetizers. Breakfast is served all day every day! Catering services available for small or large parties. 12 lane bowling center features a pro shop that keeps local bowlers up to date on the finest balls, bags, shoes, and accessories. Bowling center is conveniently located just next to the restaurant where families can order a meal and bowl a game at the same time! Bowling alley has a game room and a lounge with a pool table, touch tones jukebox and video gaming machines for adults 21 and up. The bowling center is a great place to host your next birthday party or celebration. Pizzas, nachos, pretzels, and sodas are a perfect addition to your party available at the bar. Our lounge offers seating for meetings as well.

The official Virden Area Chamber of Commerce Visitors Center is located inside the member business Showtime Lanes at the North end of town on Il Rt. 4. Whether you are traveling Historic Route 66, just passing through town, or specifically here to visit Virden we welcome and encourage you to stop in our Visitors Center. Sign our visitors' guest book, pick up information on local history and attractions, and Virden souvenirs.

1515 N Springfield St.

(217) 965-5521

[Showtime Lanes Official Website](#)



[The Sly Fox Bookstore](#)

The Sly Fox is an independent, local bookstore located in Virden, IL. We are primarily recognized as Central Illinois's leading kids bookstore with a wide variety of children's books and a welcoming environment that makes reading fun. The store's long-time roots here in central Illinois are reflected proudly on its shelves, as we are one of the top carriers of Illinois Books and Local Authors. The Sly Fox prides itself on being an active member of the community.

123 N. Springfield Street

(217) 965-3641

[The Sly Fox Official Website](#)



[A Marc Above](#)

Virden based detailing shop, specializing in detailing, paint correction and ceramic coating. Emphasis on exceptional quality results at a fair price. Please contact me via direct message for quotes.

905 Bronaugh St.

Virden, IL 62690

(217) 652-3918

[A Marc Above Official Facebook Page](#)



[Linda Worlow - State Farm Insurance](#)

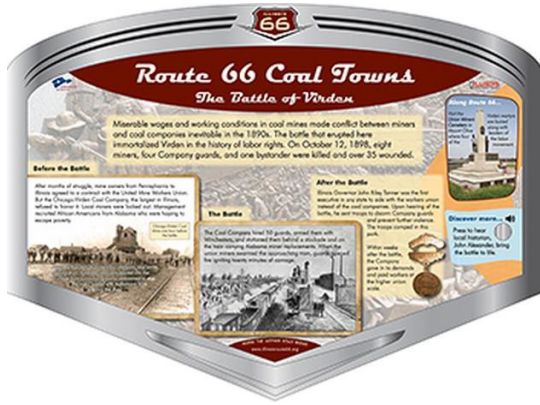
Linda Worlow is Past President of the Virden Area Chamber of Commerce. She has 25 years experience in insurance and the financial industry, serving the Springfield and Central Illinois area. Serving Virden, Girard, Thayer, Auburn and Divernon areas. Also serving Waverly, Palmyra, Nilwood and Farmersville areas. The agency is available 24/7/365. After hours and Saturday appointments available. Call for Free Quotes on Auto Insurance & Home Insurance. Free Notary Service Available in Office. Focusing on Auto, Home, Life and Renters insurance. Linda is a community-involved member of Virden and Girard. Call, Email, Text for Car, Home, and Life quotes - State Farm Agent since 1996. Office located on North side of Virden Square.

111 East Jackson

Virden, IL 62690-1450

(217) 965-4747

[Linda Worlow State Farm Insurance Official Website](#)



[Virden, Illinois Wayside Exhibit](#)
[Route 66 Coal Towns](#)

The Battle of Virden

Miserable wages and working conditions in coal mines made conflict between miners and coal companies inevitable in the 1890s. The battle that erupted here immortalized Virden in the history of labor rights. On October 12, 1898, eight miners, four Company guards, and one bystander were killed and over 35 wounded.

Before the Battle

After months of struggle, mine owners from Pennsylvania to Illinois agreed to a contract with the United Mine Workers Union. But the Chicago-Virden Coal Company, the largest in Illinois, refused to honor it. Local miners were locked out. Management recruited African Americans from Alabama who were hoping to escape poverty.

Armed with pistols, hunting rifles, shotguns, or most, nothing at all, hundreds of miners poured into the village from surrounding towns, determined to stop the trains loaded with Alabamans from entering the mine.

The Battle

The Coal Company hired 50 guards, armed them with Winchesters, and stationed them behind a stockade and on the train carrying Alabama miner replacements. When the union miners swarmed the approaching train, guards opened fire igniting twenty minutes of carnage.

After the Battle

Illinois Governor John Riley Tanner was the first executive in any state to side with the workers union instead of the coal companies. Upon hearing of the battle, he sent troops to disarm Company guards and prevent further violence. The troops camped in this park. Within weeks after the battle, the Company gave in to demands and paid workers at the higher union scale.

AMENITIES



City of Virden
 101 W Jackson St
 Virden, IL 62690
 (217) 965-5805



Viriden Area Chamber of Commerce

P.O. Box 252

Viriden, IL 62690

(217) 965-6139

[Viriden Chamber Official Website](#)

[Viriden Restaurants & Businesses](#)

[CLICK HERE Viriden Google Map](#)



Illinois Route 66 Scenic Byway

Springfield, IL 62705

(217) 414-9331

info@illinoisroute66.org

www.illinoisroute66.org