Edwardsville Route 66 Attractions Win Multiple Awards

by Dalton Brown, News Reporter
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EDWARDSVILLE – Edwardsville is home to multiple award-winning attractions with ties to Route 66.

Mayor Art Risavy announced at the Nov. 17, 2026 City Council meeting that Edwardsville recently received multiple awards honoring two Route 66-related attractions, including the transformation of a historic building.

The Edwardsville Children's Museum's Route 66 Roadway, featuring a mini speedway for children, a garage and a filling station, received the Centennial Storyteller Award from the Illinois Route 66 Scenic Byway. The award recognizes "outstanding educational exhibits, experiences and tours that bring the history and cultural significance of Route 66 to life," Risavy said.

The West End Service Station at 620 St. Louis St. earned the Heritage "Service with a Smile" Award from the Illinois Route 66 Scenic Byway. The mayor said the award celebrates "historic filling stations that have been successfully preserved, restored or continue to operate as welcoming stops for Route 66 travelers."

The service station was also awarded the 2026 Richard H. Driehaus Foundation Preservation Award for Stewardship from Landmarks Illinois. After first opening in 1927, the West End Service Station was rebuilt in the 1930s; the current structure dates back to 1939 and previously served as a dentist's office for over 50 years.

Cory Jobe, president and CEO of Great Rivers and Routes Tourism Bureau, said in 2023 when the station reopened that he and city officials secured nearly $500,000 in state tourism grant funds to save the formerly vacant building from demolition and reopen it as a free visitor center highlighting the history of the city, service station and Route 66.

At the Nov. 17, 2026 City Council meeting, Risavy thanked each of those involved in the complex renovation project for making the West End Service Station a continued success.

“It would have been really easy to let that building go – there a lot of challenges,” Risavy said. “But I’m so glad that we were able to follow through with it and win that award … kudos to everyone that was involved.”