



# Hello, Frederick

52 FUN THINGS  
TO DO IN FREDERICK  
& BEYOND

The Frederick News-Post





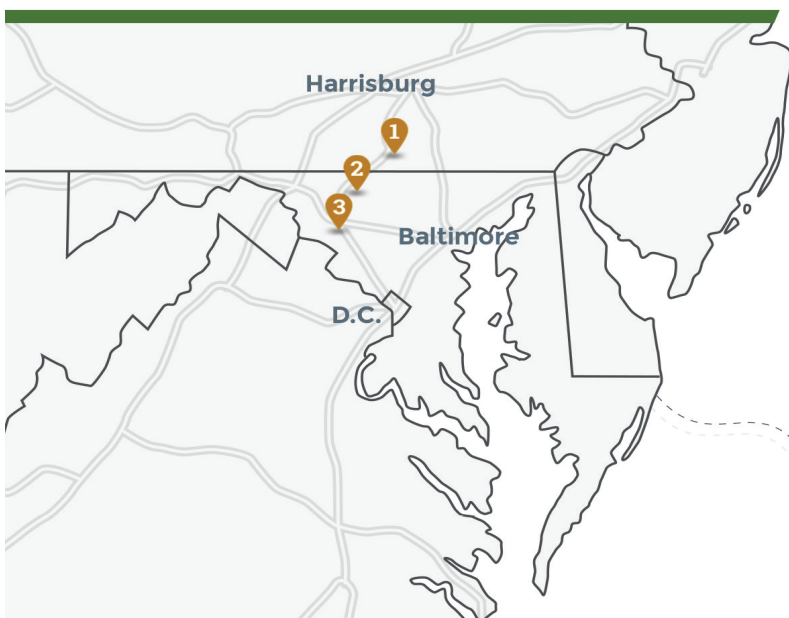
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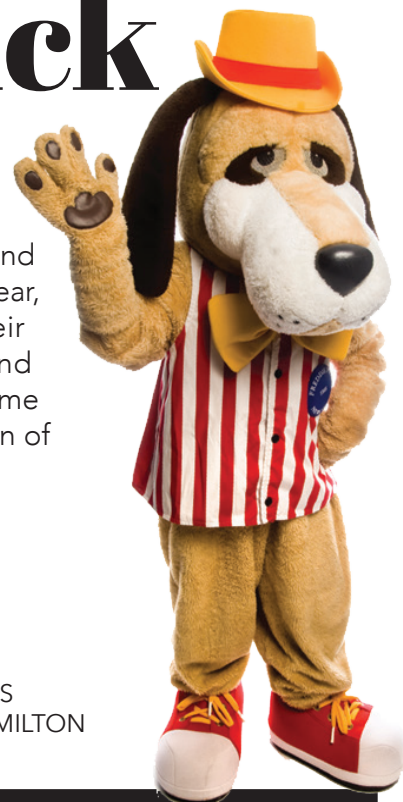
# Hello, Frederick

**52 FUN THINGS  
TO DO IN  
FREDERICK &  
BEYOND**

"Hello, Frederick" is published annually by The Frederick News-Post. It is distributed free inside the paper and to locations throughout and surrounding Frederick County. This year, we asked our readers to submit their favorite things to do in Frederick and beyond. We are sure you will find some "fun" things to do in the 2024 edition of Hello, Frederick. Enjoy!

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Roddy Road Covered Bridge, built around 1956 just north of Thurmont and off U.S. 15.

# TOUR THE COUNTY'S COVERED BRIDGES

Take a 15-mile drive to see Frederick County's three historical covered bridges. **Utica Covered Bridge** is the farthest south, moved to its current location on Utica Road in 1889. The original bridge, which crossed the Monocacy River, was washed away during a flood. Residents salvaged remains and moved them, then rebuilt the bridge to its current 101-foot-long glory. The **Loy's Station Bridge** is on Old Frederick Road, south of Md. 77. It was built around 1880. The bridge was rebuilt after a fire in 1994. The wood shingles are signed by those who helped pay for the reconstruction. The third bridge, farthest north, is the **Roddy Road Covered Bridge**, built around 1956 just north of Thurmont and off U.S. 15. To plan a driving tour, go to [visitfrederick.org/things-to-do/tours/historic-covered-bridges-driving-tour](http://visitfrederick.org/things-to-do/tours/historic-covered-bridges-driving-tour).



## HIT THE LINKS AT ONE OF THE MANY GOLF COURSES

Frederick County has several golf courses with picturesque views, challenging holes and event venues. The courses are sprinkled throughout the county, including **Clustered Spires Golf Course** in Frederick, **Musket Ridge Golf Club** in Myersville and **Whiskey Creek Golf Club** in Ijamsville.



# 3 : UNWIND AT ONE OF THE MANY CRAFT BREWERIES AND DISTILLERIES



Frederick is home to a vibrant and expanding craft brewery and distillery scene. **Breweries and distilleries** line parts of Carroll Creek and offer outdoor seating that is ideal for taking in a summer night downtown. The craft beverage scene along the creek is a short walk from the city's restaurants. A number of the county's breweries partner with food trucks to get a taste of the local flavor. The county's more rural areas and farmlands are home to craft breweries that offer splendid mountain views and a breath of fresh air to go with your drink of choice. For a list of breweries visit: [visitfrederick.org/eat-and-drink/breweries](https://visitfrederick.org/eat-and-drink/breweries) and [visitfrederick.org/eat-and-drink/distilleries](https://visitfrederick.org/eat-and-drink/distilleries) to find distilleries.

## 4 Go for a **hike**

Lace up your hiking boots! Whether you want to explore rock formations on **Catoctin Mountain**, take in breathtaking views of the Middletown Valley or observe wildlife in its natural habitat, Frederick County has something for every nature lover. Experience history by hiking through **Monocacy National Battlefield** or **South Mountain State Battlefield**. Other popular trails are at **Gambrill State Park**, **Cunningham Falls State Park**, **Catoctin Mountain Park** and more.





Photo by Graham Cullen  
2022 High Wheel Race

# 5 HIGH WHEEL RACE

Penny farthing bicycle racing in Frederick is the wheel deal. With their large front wheel and small rear wheel, these bicycles are memorable. **The National Clustered Spires High Wheel Race** held each summer in downtown Frederick bills itself as the only race of its kind in America. Watch racers, often wearing period clothing, pedal furiously as they navigate a 0.4-mile loop – first in qualifying heats, then in the final race. Sidewalks around the perimeter of the race course are lined with fans hollering and cheering on the competitors, who come to Frederick from as far as Europe. The 2024 event is July 13.



# 6 GO DOWNTOWN FOR A GHOST TOUR

If you're walking around in Frederick at night and feel a tap on your shoulder, but find no one there, it might have been a ghost. In Frederick, dubbed Maryland's most haunted city, you can tour all of the haunted places in the city itself or the graves, crypts and monuments in Mount Olivet Cemetery. You can also face the paranormal in a group tour if you need others around you. Tickets for children age 8 through 12 are \$10, and adult tickets are \$16. Buy tickets online and see dates at [marylandghosttours.com](http://marylandghosttours.com).



Photo by Ric Dugan  
Jefferson Carnival

# CARNIVAL SEASON



**Walkersville, Urbana, Thurmont, oh my!** Carnival season is at its peak during the summer months. Various volunteer firefighter companies host carnivals for their towns. The events are full of food, games, and rides for the whole family to enjoy. Most carnivals last about a week. Some have presale tickets that are less expensive than tickets at the door. Ticket prices vary for each carnival, and funds go toward supporting the host fire department.





Catoclin Furnace in Thurmont

## VISIT A HISTORIC SITE

Where to begin? At the northern tier of the county, the **National Shrine of Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton** pays homage to the first American-born saint. Visit two homes where she lived and gaze upon the Altar of Relics in the Basilica, where her remains are buried. Then head south to Thurmont and step into the **Catoclin Furnace** living history village, which tells the stories of free and enslaved people, ironworkers and European immigrant laborers. In Frederick, the **Monocacy National Battlefield** represents a critical chapter of the Civil War. At the **Barbara Fritchie House** downtown, learn about a spirited citizen whose defiance of Confederate troops inspired an 1863 poem by John Greenleaf Whittier.

9

## VISIT ONE OF THE LOCAL CREAMERIES



South Mountain Creamery

Nothing tastes better on a hot day than ice cream. And ice cream is as good as it gets at Frederick's local creameries, where it's made from cows on local farms. **Rocky Point Creamery** in the Tuscarora area uses milk from its 175 cows to make ice cream right in the creamery. **South Mountain Creamery** near Middletown has 500 cows on the Sowers and Brusco family farm that are milked to make ice cream. Beyond those two locations, keep an eye out for the **Glamourview Creamery** truck. Glamourview, which has a farm near Walkersville, serves ice cream at various events.

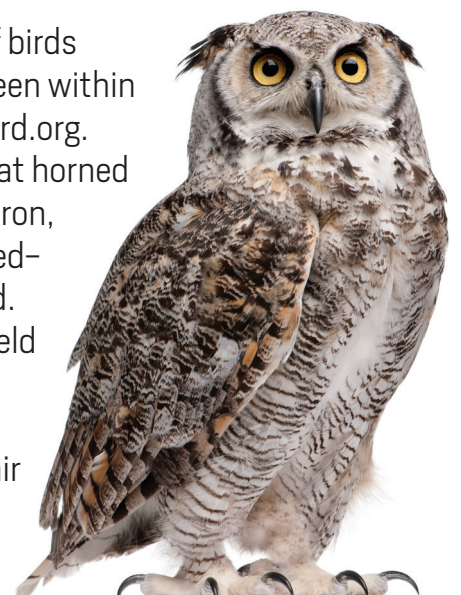


FREDERICK IS FOR THE

10

BIRDS

Frederick has 314 species of birds registered as having been seen within its borders, according to ebird.org. Among that count? The great horned owl, black crowned night heron, hermit thrush, bald eagle, red-tailed hawk and gray catbird. Monocacy National Battlefield is a popular destination for birders, as is Rainbow Lake near Emmitsburg. Grab a pair of binoculars and join the ranks of the birders.





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# 11

## VISIT YOUR FAVORITE ANIMAL AT CATOCTIN WILDLIFE PRESERVE

Animals from Africa, Latin and South America, Madagascar, Eurasia, Australia and other parts of the world can be found at the **Catoctin Wildlife Preserve**. There are numerous opportunities for guests to get up close with animals. Take a safari ride past zebras and ostriches, feed fish at the Japanese koi pond, pet goats or talk to one of the parrots. Food and drink options for humans are limited, so bring a cooler and snack at picnic tables in the shade. The preserve typically opens for the season in March, depending on the weather. Visit [catoctinwildlifepreserve.com](http://catoctinwildlifepreserve.com) to stay up to date on hours. Single-day admission costs \$18.50 for children ages 3 to 12 and adult tickets cost \$27.50. There are discounts for senior citizens and members of the military.



## 12 CATCH A RODEO

Despite its agricultural heritage and background, Frederick County bears little resemblance to the Wild West. But visitors looking for bucking broncos and bull riding can have their fun, too. The **J Bar W Ranch** in Johnsville offers bull riding events on the first and third Saturdays of the month from June through September. The family-owned operation has more than 850 head of livestock.



## 13 SNAP A SUN-FILLED SELFIE AT A SUNFLOWER FESTIVAL

Take a guess — how tall was the tallest sunflower in the world? According to Guinness World Records, one flower grown in Germany in 2014 reached a height of a little more than 31 feet. You probably won't find one quite as towering in Frederick County, but there is still a bounty of sunny blossoms to explore. Check out the sunflower festival at **Summers Farm** or the one at **Valley View Acres**. Both farms are in Middletown.





Photo by Acacia Bowens

14

## BREAK STUFF. FEEL GOOD.

Frederick's **Crash and Catharsis Rage Factory** describes itself as a safe space for your rage. Individuals and groups are invited to smash glassware, television screens, dishes and more. It's up to you whose face you envision on the mannequin. Explore the offerings at [ccragefactory.com](http://ccragefactory.com).



## VISIT AN AREA CIVIL WAR BATTLEFIELD

Frederick County has rich Civil War history, with several battles fought in and around the county. Monocacy National Battlefield was the site of "the battle that saved Washington, D.C." The battlefield has tours and events. Antietam, Gettysburg and Harpers Ferry, the site of other battles, are within a short drive. For another angle on history, visit the National Museum of Civil War Medicine in downtown Frederick.



16

## PICK FRUIT FROM AN ORCHARD

The rich agricultural heritage of rural Frederick County provides plenty of opportunities for visiting farms and orchards to find fresh fruits and produce. From cherries and blueberries in the early summer to peaches, apples, and pears in the late summer, visitors can find a wide variety of fruit either picked on their own or bought at the fruit stand.

Favorites such as **Catoctin Mountain Orchard** or **Pryor's Orchard**, both in the Thurmont area, can satisfy anyone's search for the perfect piece of fruit. Or, customers can sample the products of various Frederick County farms and orchards by visiting **McCutcheon's Apple Products** in downtown Frederick, for a wide variety of jellies, preserves, honey, hot sauces, cider, and other products.





Photo by Bill Green

# 17

## THE GREAT FREDERICK FAIR

The fair is a go-to place for food, rides, animals, music, hundreds of vendors and so much more. This year's **Great Frederick Fair** will run Sept. 13 to 21. Entrants of all ages compete in categories that show off crops and animals they raise, as well as their art, crafts and skills in many miscellaneous categories. Reithoffer Shows is back to run the carnival rides for the 30th consecutive year. There are various individual and group promotions throughout the fair for discount prices for rides. The excitement ramps up for musical acts, such as the Beach Boys and Casting Crowns, and on demolition derby and truck/tractor pull nights. For more information and details, visit [thegreatfrederickfair.com](http://thegreatfrederickfair.com).

## 18 TAKE IN A FREDERICK KEYS BASEBALL GAME

Take your family out to a **Frederick Keys** ballgame while in the city. The city's local baseball team is a part of the MLB Draft League, offering a chance to see young talent prove why they should go to the major leagues. Frederick's other professional baseball team, the Spire City Ghost Hounds, is on hiatus for 2024 with plans to return in 2025. If you're not watching a game at Harry Grove Stadium, you can buy food, drink and merchandise. A Keys game is a good place for kids, with plenty of activities and game interaction. Buy tickets at [mlbdraftleague.com/frederick](http://mlbdraftleague.com/frederick).



Photo by  
Katina Zentz



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# DC NEWS NOW MORNING NEWS

WEEKDAYS 5-9A

NOW STREAMING





# 19

# 20

# 21



PHOTO BY BILL GREEN

Andy Fale, lead guitarist with the band Radio Hero, plays a lick for the large crowd at Alive @ Five on Carroll Creek.



PHOTO BY BILL GREEN

The 2022 Summer Concert Series at the bandshell area in Baker Park. Folks enjoyed the sounds of a disco and '70s dance band.



PHOTO BY KATINA ZENTZ

27th Annual Frederick Festival of the Arts in Carroll Creek Linear Park.

## CATCH A SHOW ON THE CREEK WITH **ALIVE @ FIVE**

From May to October, downtown Frederick's **Alive @ Five** lets people get a jump on their weekends. Every Thursday evening, the outdoor happy hour along Carroll Creek features music, beer, and food from some of Frederick's hottest restaurants and food trucks. Although rain is always a possibility, the events provide a fun way to get out into the summer sunshine and enjoy some of the best that downtown Frederick has to offer. Go to [downtownfrederick.org/upcoming-events/aliveatfive](https://downtownfrederick.org/upcoming-events/aliveatfive).

## END A SUNDAY WITH THE **SUMMER CONCERT SERIES**

June through August, Sunday nights in Baker Park are a musical delight. Starting at 7 p.m., people can enjoy free concerts from many kinds of musical genres – oldies, Afropunk, bluegrass and more – at the Baker Park Bandshell. Professional musicians from various backgrounds have taken to the bandshell over the years. The 2024 lineup includes Rays of Violet, Dupont Brass, Six One Five Collective and the Frederick Symphony Orchestra.

## CHECK OUT ART ALONG THE CREEK DURING THE **FESTIVAL OF THE ARTS**

Downtown Frederick's Carroll Creek Linear Park is host to a wide variety of events throughout the year. But few things bring people to the Creek like the **Frederick Festival of the Arts**. Held over a weekend in June, the festival features local and visiting artists to display jewelry, painting, sculpture, leather work, wood, photography and other media. Admission to the festival, which draws more than 100 artists, is free. Visit on June 8 and 9 in 2024.



22

23

24



PHOTO BY KATINA ZENTZ  
Participants run along West Patrick Street in the 2024 Frederick Running Festival's Half-Marathon in early May.



PHOTO BY ANDREW SCHOTZ  
Children enjoyed giant bubbles on one corner at In the Streets in downtown Frederick.



PHOTO BY GRAHAM CULLEN  
A pyro dancer spins fire-covered wands as a large crowd enjoyed a show in the Carroll Creek Amphitheater during the Fire in Ice festival.

## GO FOR A LONG, LONG RUN AT THE FREDERICK RUNNING FESTIVAL

It depends on your definition of “long.” During **Frederick Running Festival** weekend, the twilight 5-kilometer run is held Saturday evening. The 13.1-mile half-marathon race happens Sunday morning. People can join together for a two-person relay team for the half-marathon. Or they can take on the “nut job challenge,” which is the 5K on one day and the half-marathon the next. There’s also a kids fun run. The event is held in early May. For details, go to [frederickrunfest.com](http://frederickrunfest.com).

## VENTURE DOWNTOWN FOR IN THE STREETS

When Market Street closes to vehicle traffic one day each fall, from All Saints to 7th, the downtown belongs to those on foot. The city of Frederick estimates that more than 75,000 people turn out for **In the Streets**, which is scheduled for Sept. 14 this year. The day has a fast start with multiple heats of the Market Street Mile for men, women, youths and families. Watch for blocks with different themes, including sports (basketball, roller derby), art (make a comedy and tragedy mask, learn dance combinations), history (Jewish heritage, the Civil War, churches), and health and wellness (massages, acupuncture, growing organic mushrooms). More than 15 bands will perform on four stages. Go to [celebratefrederick.com/events/in-the-street](http://celebratefrederick.com/events/in-the-street).

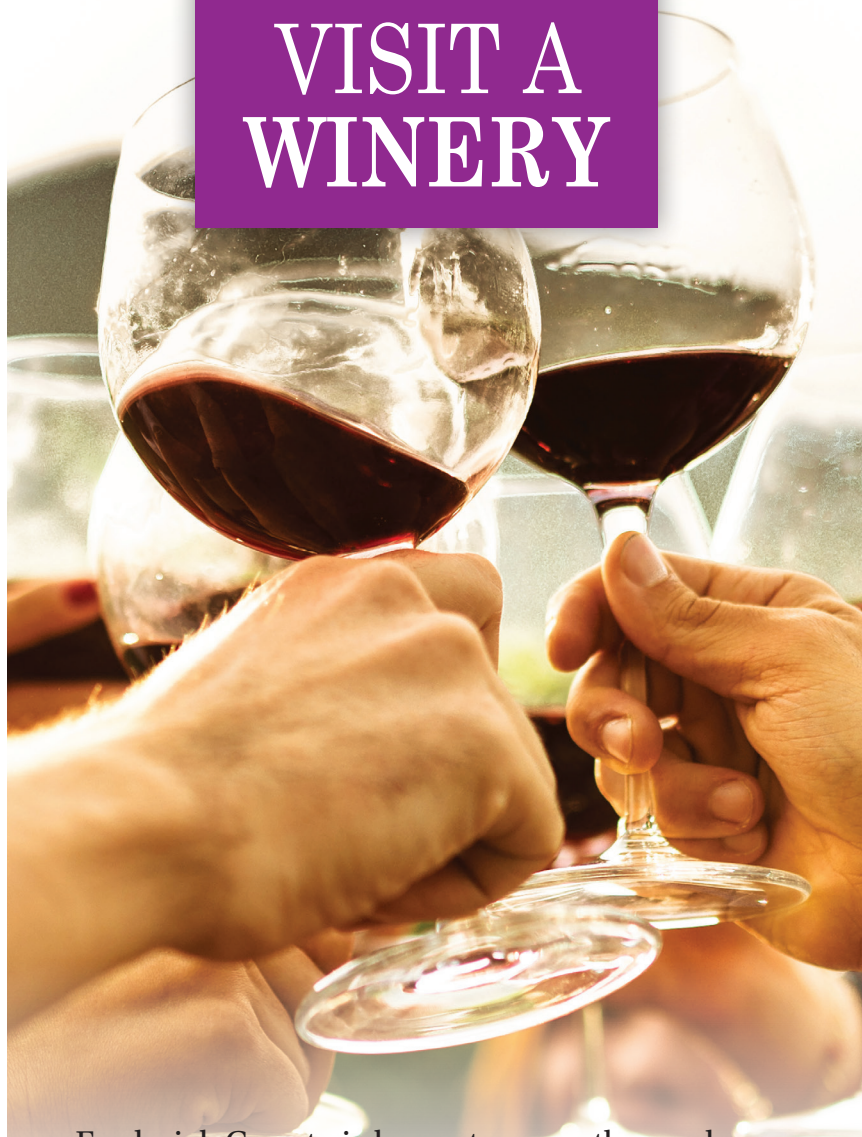
## STAY WARM AT FIRE IN ICE

On the first Saturday of every month, special events bring visitors to downtown Frederick. One of the biggest First Saturday events each year is February’s **Fire in Ice festival**, bringing more than 14,000 visitors in a typical year. Each year, downtown businesses display custom-made ice sculptures and stay open for extended hours to accommodate crowds that fill the streets. Along with the statues, there are fire pits and s’mores stations, fire dancers, and other events featuring dazzling flames to sparkle among the reflections of the ice.



# 25

## VISIT A WINERY



Frederick County is home to more than a dozen wineries. Take in the scenic views at **Catoctin Breeze Vineyard** near Thurmont, which features food trucks and live music on the weekends. In Middletown, guests can taste the boozy effects of honey and grapes at **Orchid Cellar Meadery and Winery**. For those in the Frederick area, **Hidden Hills Farm & Vineyard** offers a wine drinking experience on the grounds of a 100-acre horse farm. The family behind **Loew Vineyards** in Mount Airy has roots in winemaking dating to the mid-1800s. To experience the full bounty of the county, try embarking on the self-guided Frederick Wine Trail.

# 26

## Sample new fares during **Frederick Restaurant Week**

So many flavors, so little time. The event, known as **Bites & Bevs**, has returned as a two-week experience.

For week 1, downtown restaurants will have special prix fixe menus. For week 2, food and beverage establishments join forces. Go to <https://downtown-frederick.org/bitesandbevs>



PHOTOS BY BILL GREEN  
Firestone's in downtown Frederick

# 27

## FORGET VIRGINIA. **FREDERICK IS FOR LOVERS.**

Frederick County is home to dozens of wedding venues that can accommodate everything from intimate affairs to the wedding of the century. Businesses like **Gateway Flower Shop** in Thurmont and **Colonial Jewelers** in Frederick will help you find new ways to express your feelings, while **10 Clarke Place** provides a bed-and-breakfast setting within a historic Victorian house in Frederick.



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# 28

## MAKE A BEAUTIFUL NOISE (TOGETHER!)

Founded in 1967, the **Frederick Catoctones Barbershop Chorus** welcomes new members who enjoy a cappella music covering classics ranging from the early 1900s to the sounds of Frank Sinatra, Elvis, Billy Joel and more. The chorus participates in divisional and district competitions, and performs across the region. It performs the national anthem at sporting events. Learn more at [catoctones.com](http://catoctones.com).

## 29 LIGHT WINTER'S DARKNESS

In December, downtown Frederick's churches and houses of worships participate in a candlelight tour augmented by nativity scenes, special programs and angelic choirs. Historic sites and museums come together for **Museums by Candlelight**. Bundle up and light the night.



## 30 EXPLORE BLACK HISTORY

The self-guided driving tour about **African American** history helps participants learn about the communities, churches, plantations and industries that contributed to the Black experience. The 11 stops include one at Catocin Furnace, where metalworkers forged cannonballs and other ironworks. African Americans not only changed the course of Frederick County's history, but also the nation's as well. View a map at [visitfrederick.org/things-to-do/tours/african-american-history-driving-tour](http://visitfrederick.org/things-to-do/tours/african-american-history-driving-tour).





## 31 BE SLICK ON THE ICE

Open year-round, **Skate Frederick** offers public skating sessions via sign-ups divided by month. It also hosts learn-to-play programs for hockey and figure skating. Rental skates are available. Want to compare your skills against friends and family? Rent the whole rink for a special occasion.

PHOTO BY GRAHAM CULLEN  
Jolene Saylor, of Walkersville,  
descends the wooden slide at  
Mount Tabor Park in  
Rocky Ridge.



# 32



## MEET FIRST RESPONDERS AT NATIONAL NIGHT OUT

**National Night Out** is held annually on the first Tuesday in August. The community-building campaign links police, firefighters and other first responders with the neighborhoods they serve. Residents can learn about crime and drug prevention while children enjoy demonstrations, face painting, live music and various activities.

# 33

## GO FOR A SLIDE ON THE BIG WOODEN SLIDE

Built by volunteers in 1950, the Big Slide has delighted children big and small for more than 70 years. Zip down the 40-foot-high covered slide and land in a pile of sawdust. The free attraction is owned by Mount Tabor Lutheran and United Church of Christ in Rocky Ridge.



## 34 SUMMERFEST FAMILY THEATER

Bring the whole family to the Baker Park Bandshell during the summer to enjoy kid-friendly music, theater, or magic shows. Each week, Celebrate Frederick hosts a new guest to entertain children. Spread out a blanket on the grassy fields and have a picnic, or sit in the audience seats and relax. Tickets are free. The shows are a great way to meet people, get kids active, and have a great time as a family. Parents and children alike can bop along to music from artists including The Great Zucchini and Guava Jelly. For more information, go to [celebratefrederick.com/events/summerfest-family-theatre](https://celebratefrederick.com/events/summerfest-family-theatre).

## 35 MAPLE SYRUP FESTIVAL

In late winter, Maryland park rangers and a sizable crowd at Cunningham Falls State Park gather around a massive cast-iron pot over a wood-fire flame to boil maple tree sap until it becomes the viscous syrup poured over pancakes and waffles. The park's annual **Maple Syrup Festival** features live music, demonstrations of simmering sap to syrup, and treats drizzled with maple syrup.



PHOTO BY RIC DUGAN

The 2023-24 Sailing Through the Winter Solstice display is reflected in Carroll Creek. The ships are on display from November to March.

## TAKE IN THE BOAT LIGHTS ON CARROLL CREEK

When the temperature drops, be sure to wander down to Carroll Creek after dark to experience a nautical light show. From November through March, the nonprofit Color on the Creek sets sailboats adrift in the channel that winds through downtown Frederick. Local businesses design and sponsor the boats, which turn into elaborate light installations after sunset. Vote on your favorite by donating to the affiliated local charity – each dollar donated is one vote. The 2023-2024 **Sailing through the Winter Solstice** season raised about \$124,000 for 29 charities in Frederick County. Read more at [visitfrederick.org/sailing-into-the-winter-solstice](https://visitfrederick.org/sailing-into-the-winter-solstice).

## 37 TAKE IN THE SIGHTS AND SCENTS OF A lavender festival

Thousands flock to the Thurmont-area Springfield Manor for the **annual lavender festival** in June each year. Enjoy picturesque views — with plenty of photo opportunities — plus live music, food trucks, craft demonstrations, and glasses or bottles of wine. The 2024 dates are June 22 and 23.







## GO ZIPLINING

Zip on over to **Tree Trekkers Aerial Adventure and Zipline Park** on Old National Park in Frederick. With 16 unique trails, more than 250 obstacles, more than 40 ziplines and obstacles as high as 50 feet above the forest floor, Tree Trekkers has options for a wide range of ages and experience, including eight difficulty levels. The park spans 30 acres of protected forest and is a fun spot for birthday parties, groups, scouts, team bonding, family fun, corporate picnics and date nights. For more information, visit [treetrekkersmd.com](http://treetrekkersmd.com).

PHOTO BY KATINA ZENTZ

Susanna Daley participates in a ziplining course at Tree Trekkers Aerial Adventure and Zipline Park

# 39

## DRINK RESPONSIBLY IN MOUNT AIRY

Your cup runneth over in Mount Airy, which is home to a number of breweries and wineries. Among them are **Liquidity Aleworks**, **Linganore Winecellars**, **Frey's Brewing Company**, **Milkhouse Brewery at Stillpoint Farm**, **Black Ankle Vineyards** and **Elk Run Vineyards**. Many offer non-alcoholic beer and mocktails. Make a day of the experience by enjoying farm-to-table food at some of the stops.

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# 40

## GET THE WHOLE FAMILY OUTDOORS

Mount Airy boasts 10 parks, including **Watkins Park**, which has a handicapped-accessible playground and pump track for skateboard and biking enthusiasts. The 20-acre park provides easy access to the Rails to Trails and popular downtown. Watkins Park is open from dawn to dusk and features a one-mile paved trail for those seeking to meet their fresh air and fitness goals.



## 41 GO TO ONE OF FREDERICK'S OKTOBERFESTS

With a strong German heritage, Frederick knows how to do **Oktoberfest**. The city is home to multiple celebrations, at the Great Frederick Fairgrounds and at the Schifferstadt Architectural Museum. The Fairgrounds event offers free admission to anyone wearing an authentic dirndl or lederhosen, and offers tents serving such German staples as bratwurst, strudel, pretzels, and schnitzel. The Schifferstadt event is hosted at one of Frederick's most historic buildings, and features a German band, as well as German culinary favorites. The stone house, built in 1758 by Elias Brunner on the site of his parents' log cabin, is named after the family's home village in Germany. The event is Sept. 27 and 28 this year. Go to [frederickoktoberfest.org](http://frederickoktoberfest.org).



PHOTO BY KATINA ZENTZ  
Owner Tina Harper poses for a portrait in a splatter room at Dream Free Art.

# 42

## UNLEASH YOUR INNER ARTIST

Dream Free Art's splatter room in Frederick lets you go beyond the canvas. Step into the room, customize your experience with options like black lights, throw paint at the walls and get messy while relieving stress. Tackle the experience on your own or sign up a group like a bachelorette party. Start getting splattered by visiting [dreamfreeart.com](http://dreamfreeart.com).

## Catch a show AT A DOWNTOWN THEATER

# 43

**The Weinberg Center for the Arts** in Frederick began offering live theater in 1978, though its history extends back to 1926, when it was called the Tivoli. Orchestras, comedians, Broadway shows, dance, bands and more have graced its stage. **Maryland Ensemble Theatre** offers live performances plus ensemble classes for children and adults. There's a summer camp, too.

## 44 SHOP LOCAL

Frederick County has shopping options for every gifting occasion and price point. For example, the Toy Exchange in Mount Airy sells vintage toys, The Pasta Palette in Frederick offers imported and gluten-free pasta, Corn Crib Boutique in Walkersville carries clothing and accessories, and Gladhill Furniture in Middletown displays wares signed by the craftsman who made it. **Small Business Saturday** is the Saturday after Thanksgiving.



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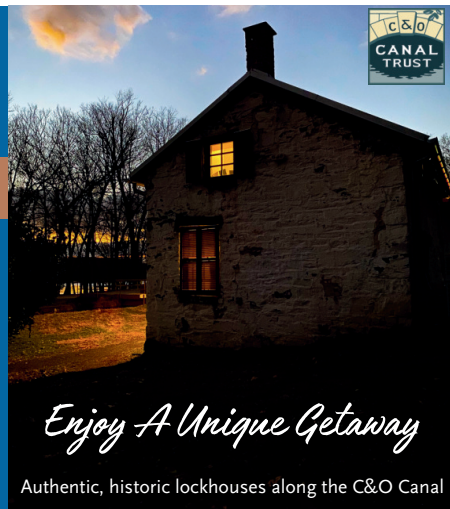
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# 45 : CATCH A PERFORMANCE : AT **SKY STAGE**

Enjoy music, drama and more under the stars at **Sky Stage**, an open-air public theater in downtown Frederick. The Revolutionary War-era building at 59 S. Carroll St. suffered a major fire in 2010, leaving it without a roof. For years, the structure sat empty, but now, you can catch programming there almost any night of the week. Check out open mic nights, performances by local artists, plays, or salsa and yoga classes. Frederick Arts Council oversees the theater's operations.



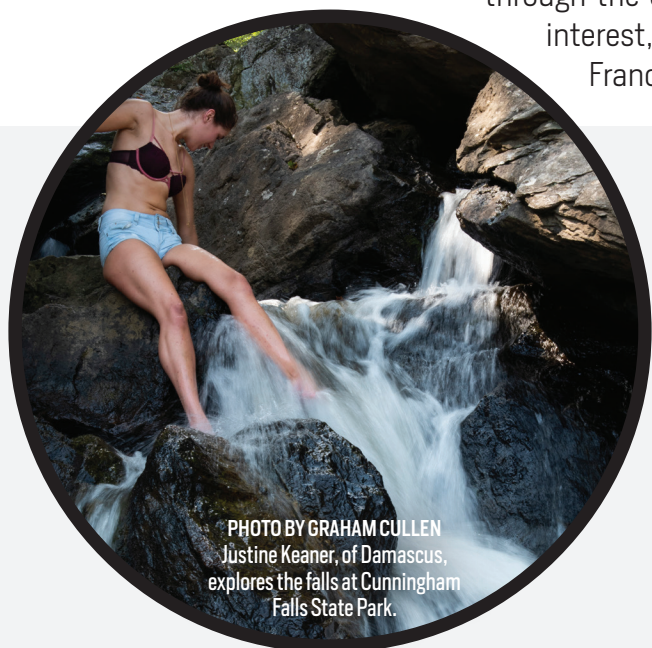
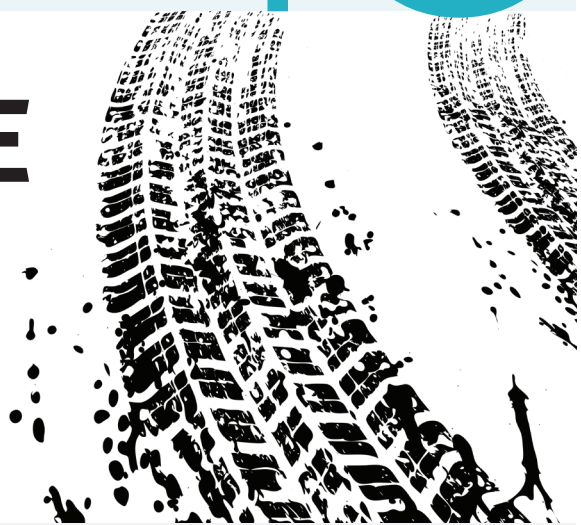
## WELCOME FALL DURING COLORFEST IN THURMONT

Thurmont swells in size each year when tens of thousands of people spend the weekend there for **Colorfest** – a mix of food, hundreds of artisans, and other types of vendors. The activity and energy of the annual fall celebration consume the town and the surrounding area. It's a boon for many community groups that hold fundraising food and drink sales during the two-day evening. [Watch for the apple dumplings.] The scenery of the Catoctin Mountain region is beautiful that time of year. This year, Catoctin Colorfest will be held Oct. 12 and 13. Visit [www.thurmont.com/2236/Colorfest](http://www.thurmont.com/2236/Colorfest).

# 46

## 47 GO FOR A **BIKE RIDE**

Frederick County offers trails for every type of cyclist, from the seasoned mountain biker to the casual road pedaler. Visit the Frederick Watershed for challenging mountain biking routes, or relax among the trees as you pedal along the flat C&O Canal Towpath. For a historical adventure, ride the Frederick History Bicycle Loop, which crisscrosses through the city and features stops at 21 points of interest, like the Barbara Fritchie House and the Francis Scott Key monument.



## 48 VISIT THE FALLS AT CUNNINGHAM FALLS STATE PARK

Need to cool off on a hot day? Go for a swim at **Cunningham Falls State Park** near Thurmont. A short drive from Catoctin Mountain State Park, Cunningham Falls is home to hiking trails, Maryland's highest cascading waterfall and Hunting Creek Lake, a popular swimming spot in the summer. The Annual Maple Syrup Festival takes place at the park every second and third weekend in March. Plan to arrive early – the park often reaches capacity early in the day. For more information, visit [dnr.maryland.gov/publiclands/pages/western/cunningham.aspx](http://dnr.maryland.gov/publiclands/pages/western/cunningham.aspx).





49

PHOTO BY GABRIELLE BIENASZ  
Brandon Seyfried shovels coal to power the train on a Walkersville Southern Railroad ride

## RIDE THE RAILS WITH WALKERSVILLE SOUTHERN RAILROAD

Take in Monocacy Valley scenery in a new way – aboard a train. The **Walkersville Southern** has vintage 1920s passenger cars and an open flatcar. A dining car can seat 40, with a bar and a player piano. Meals are catered by the Carriage House Inn in Emmitsburg. Dinner trains run May to November. The trip, south from Walkersville, goes past a 100-year-old lime kiln that the Frederick County Parks Department restored and crosses the Monocacy River. The ticket office is in a turn-of-the-century railroad station built by the Pennsylvania Railroad in the late 1800s. A small tool house from the same period is next to the station. For more information, go to [wsrr.org/ws](http://wsrr.org/ws).

## 50 VISIT THE MONOCACY AQUEDUCT

Get up close and personal with a civil engineering wonder by visiting the **Monocacy Aqueduct**, the largest of 11 aqueducts along the C&O Canal. Construction on the 516-foot structure started in 1829 and was finished four years later. It features seven arches, each measuring 54 feet. After the C&O Canal National Historical Park helped restore the aqueduct in 2005, visitors can view it in the state it was originally constructed. See the aqueduct at the mouth of Monocacy Road, off Md. 28, near the Frederick County and Montgomery County line. Read more about the aqueduct's history at [nps.gov/choh/learn/historyculture/themonocacyaqueduct.htm](http://nps.gov/choh/learn/historyculture/themonocacyaqueduct.htm).

## CHEER AT A BASKETBALL GAME

Frederick has a new professional basketball team. **The Frederick Flying Cows**, who are in The Basketball League, play at Woodsboro Bank Arena on the Hood College campus. Some alumni of the league make it to the NBA. For more information, visit [goflyingcows.com](http://goflyingcows.com).



PHOTO BY RIC DUGAN  
Replica of the Point of Rocks train station, part of Railroad Days at the Heritage Museum in Brunswick.

## 52 BRUNSWICK'S RAILROAD DAYS

During the first full weekend of October, enjoy **Brunswick's Railroad Days**. Brunswick is one of the hubs of the B&O Railroad, which has past and current connections to the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal. Under rain or shine, you can enjoy the festival throughout the city, with food, drink, music, entertainment, crafts, vendors and more. Peruse train-themed exhibits and buy tickets for a train ride to Shenandoah Junction, West Virginia. More information can be found as the event gets closer at [brunswickrailroaddays.org](http://brunswickrailroaddays.org).





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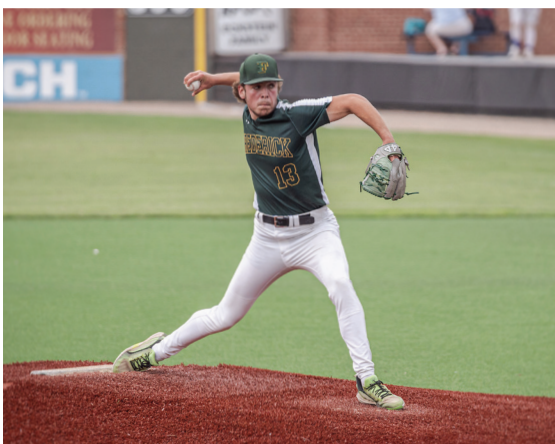
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