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FALL 2024



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2024
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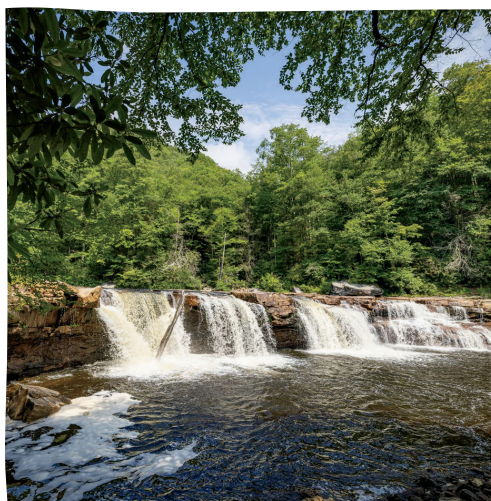


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More Than the Civil War

Exploring Fall in Adams County, Pennsylvania



ABOVE: The Barn Resort is located in the former Boyd's Bear Country Barn. Construction on three floors of hotel rooms is underway, but the resort's Farmhouse Restaurant, Cellar 75 lounge and store gift shop, are open. LEFT: Sachs Covered Bridge dates to 1852 and was used by both Union and Confederate troops during the Battle of Gettysburg. It is on the National Register of Historic Places – and by some accounts, haunted. RIGHT: The Eisenhower farm at Gettysburg National Civil War Battlefield. Photo by Dennis MacDonald/Alamy.

STORY AND PHOTOS BY KATE MCDERMOTT

Sometimes we fail to see what's right in front of us. Like native New Yorkers who've never been to the Empire State Building, I've lived a mere 30 miles from Adams County, Pennsylvania, for three decades. Yet I've never really *been* there. Sure, we take out-of-town visitors to Gettysburg National Military Park, but it turns out that while the famous battlefield may be the area's top attraction, it's hardly the only place in Adams County worth stopping and staying awhile.

Adams' Apples

The "A" in Adams County might as well stand for apples, because apples are big business in the area. The county is home to 20,000 acres of apple orchards and a major supplier to applesauce giants Mott's and Musselman's. Biglerville is home to the National Apple Museum. Housed in a restored 1857 bank barn, the museum's a great place to step back in time to see early apple processing and packaging equipment and other artifacts. Ask to get a look inside the large post office safe on the first floor. The contents are a fun and unexpected surprise. (Hint: It has nothing to do with the mail).

The 60th annual National Apple Harvest Festival will take place at the South Mountain Fairgrounds near Arendtsville on Oct. 5-6 and Oct. 12-13. It's a celebration of all things apple: apple pie, apple cider, apple syrup, apple butter...you name it. There will be orchard tours, tastings, crafts, steam engines, antique cars and live music. Tickets are \$10 for those 12 and older. Children under 12 are free.

The Apple Museum is a stop on the Adams County Crop Hop, a self-guided tour of the area's numerous farmers markets, nurseries and farms. Autumn's a great time to enjoy the harvest of pumpkins, mums and apples (of course), plus much more. Reid's Winery and Cider House in Gettysburg has a covered wine garden where you can sip some of their hard ciders made from the apple harvest or enjoy their handcrafted wines.

Having hopped my way through Adams County's crops, I decamped for the day to The Lodges at Gettysburg. These lovely little cottages offer lots of space and amenities. Mine had an electric fireplace, a deck that looked out over the countryside, a kitchenette and a living room. The property also boasts a tavern for happy hour libations and snacks. Or you can just sit on your porch and take in the bucolic views.

Military History from a Different Era

Civil War history looms large in Adams County—with good reason. Gettysburg National Military Park



HORSING AROUND

BY KATE MCDERMOTT

To fully experience the beauty of Adams County, visit Silvershire Farm in Aspers for a one-hour horse-drawn carriage ride. Bobbie and Bill Kane and their beautiful gentle giants, two shire horses named Markie and Mac, are first-rate hosts. As we strolled beside the 6,000-plus trees in their apple orchards, Bobbie and Bill offered a behind-the-scenes lesson on farming, raising and caring for their shire horses, and even explained how the Battle of Gettysburg played out on the rolling fields we were on. "We love telling people about horses and farming and we are more than happy to share that with others," Bobbie said.

They do a bustling business in the fall, especially during the Apple Harvest Festival. But you don't have to wait for a special event. They offer tours six days a week. I can't think of a more perfect way to enjoy the fall colors.

During the holidays, the Kanes partner with Showers Tree Farm to provide carriage rides during the two weekends after Thanksgiving. Santa always joins in the festivities, which include a visit to the Kane's elks that magically become reindeer for the festivities.

The author with her two new best friends, Markie and Mac, at SilverShire Farm.

attracts 1.5 million visitors annually. The businesses of Gettysburg, such as Battlefield Bed & Breakfast, Blue and Gray Bar & Grill and Four-score Beer Co., happily embrace their interest in that war's history.

But Gettysburg has ties to World War II history, too.

President Dwight D. Eisenhower had deep roots in the area. His ancestors settled in Pennsylvania after emigrating from Germany in the 1700s, and as a young Army officer, Eisenhower trained on the battlefields of Gettysburg during World War I.

The 34th president and his wife Mamie would ultimately make a 189-acre farm amid Gettysburg's rolling hills their permanent home. Like their former residence, the house is white, but similarities to 1600 Pennsylvania Ave. stop there.

The Eisenhower home is anything but pretentious. Granted, there's an abandoned Secret Service office, the remains of a grass helipad and a personal putting green, but a tour of the main house left me feeling like I could've stopped by and joined Ike and Mamie for a cup of coffee and a chat on their sunlit porch, where I'd have found them dining on TV trays.

Just a few miles north of Eisenhower's farm, the World War II American Experience Museum features an impressive collection of WWII memorabilia, from fully restored jeeps and tanks to bullet-pierced helmets and aviators' equipment.

★ ASPERS

Silvershire Farm

BIGLERVILLE

6

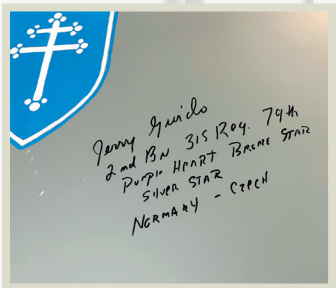
National Apple Museum



The National Apple Museum features exhibits on the picking, processing and shipping of the fruit. It's located in a restored, pre-Civil-War bank barn.

5

WWII American Experience



WWII vets who go to the WWII American Experience Museum are invited to sign the Clubmobile to commemorate their visit—and their service.

GETTYSBURG

4

Reids Winery & Cider House

3

Eisenhower National Historic Site

2

The Lodges at Gettysburg

★ FAIRFIELD

1

Mansion House 157



Homemade biscuits, plum jam and mimosas highlight the brunch menu at Mansion House 1757 in Fairfield.



The "high-tech" equipment (circa 1955) of the Secret Service's office on Dwight D. Eisenhower's farm in Gettysburg.



WWII vets who go to the WWII American Experience Museum are invited to sign the Clubmobile to commemorate their visit—and their service.

A fully restored American Red Cross Clubmobile greets you as you enter. It features the signatures of WWII veterans who have visited the museum. The Clubmobile also pays homage to “Donut Dollies,” the women who staffed the vehicles that sold various sundries that brought “a touch of home” to servicemen on the front.

Located in a spacious new building, the museum plays videos of oral histories collected from World War II vets and hosts special events throughout the year, including WWII reunions, Women’s History Month activities and a 1940s dance in conjunction with the Eisenhower Farm’s annual WWII Weekend event.

All-Weather Fun

Outdoor enthusiasts will find plenty of places to play in Adams County, especially at Liberty Mountain Resort in Fairfield. Thanks to our region’s mild autumn temperatures, golfers can hit the resort’s 18-hole championship course well into November. And when the snow begins to fly, the mountain comes alive with 16 ski trails, 15 snow tubing lanes and two terrain

parks. The Highland Lodge’s soaring lobby fireplace is a great place to warm up after a cool dip in the hotel’s indoor saltwater pool.

Six miles away, Fairfield’s Orvis Hill Country touts itself as “one of the premier sporting clays, upland hunting, and instructional shooting properties in the world.” Having never fired anything other than a water pistol, I can’t attest to that, but I can say that its location on 600 acres seems like a safe and inviting place to try your hand at clay shooting and hunting. They offer private lessons for newbies and guided half-day and European-style hunts.

For those like me who prefer to eat rather than exercise, Mansion House 1757, also in Fairfield, offers farm-to-table fare in a historic tavern. At brunch, I couldn’t decide between the sourdough French toast with apple sauce and maple syrup or the pecan-crusted chicken with maple cream. So I split the difference: I had a brunch mimosa with their house-made biscuits and plum jam and the chicken for my entrée. It was an A+ finish to my Adams County adventures.



ABOVE: The WWII American Experience Museum in Gettysburg features meticulously restored WWII vehicles, including this Sherman tank and a Red Cross Clubmobile. BELOW: A vintage apple butter kettle and vinegar generator are displayed at the National Apple Museum.



MEET KATE MCDERMOTT

Kate McDermott is a freelance writer living in Frederick, Maryland. She’s the author of “From the Brink to Brilliant: The Revitalization of Downtown Frederick, Maryland” and a diehard travel enthusiast.

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THE BAND FEEL: CAN'T FIND THE
BRAKES TOUR**
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CHARLEY CROCKETT
FRIDAY, OCTOBER 18



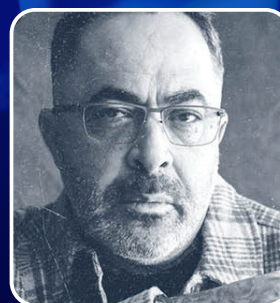
QUEENSRYCHE
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 19



JESSICA KIRSON
FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 1



OLD CROW MEDICINE SHOW
SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 9



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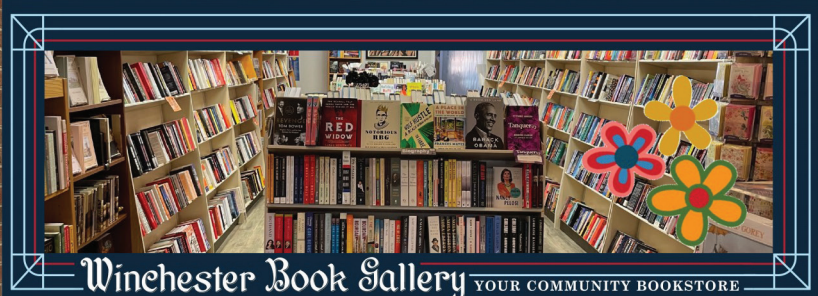


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visitfrederick.org



Museum • Visitor Center • Restaurant • Shops

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Check with us for maps, books and information
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2... Come & Explore!

The museum at the 1848 Edinburg Mill is a treasure-trove
of Route 11 memorabilia, antiques, old equipment
and tools, as well as exhibits featuring Civil War
history, the nation's first CCC camp, the farming
community and so much more! Exhibits are
constantly updated so there's always
something new to discover.

Learn the fascinating story of how the Mill
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3... Stay to eat & shop!

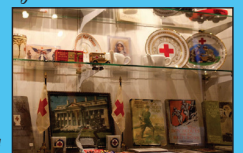
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5 FUN THINGS TO DO THIS FALL

BY ELIZABETH STINETTE

Grab a bite at the Mountain State Apple Harvest Festival.

The West Virginia Panhandle is known for its apple orchards. Experience that history and enjoy delicious treats at Martinsburg's Mountain State Apple Harvest Festival from Oct. 17 to 20. Starting with the coronation of "Queen Pomona," a community service position for a youth, the festival offers a parade, apple-themed competitions, an art fair, and of course, lots of food. It's held at the Berkeley County Youth Fairgrounds.

2419 Golf Course Road, Martinsburg
msahf.com

Dare to enter the Old McDonald's night corn maze.

Old McDonald's pumpkin patch and corn maze only opens for six weeks every year during the autumn season. Known for its inventive corn maze designs that change annually, the farm also offers a unique night maze. Starting at 7:30 p.m., take a hayride and brave your way through it in the dark. While the maze is not haunted (phew!), be sure to bring a flashlight. This year, the maze and pumpkin patch open Sept. 28. The night maze will be open the last three weekends in October.

1597 Arden Nollville Road, Inwood
304-839-2330 • oldmcdonaldspumpkinpatchwv.com



JACKIE DOVE

Pumpkins will be ripe for the picking at Orr's Farm Market, which offers plenty of fun activities for the kids.

Pick some farm-fresh produce at Orr's.

Family-operated since 1995, Orr's Farm Market offers tons of autumn fun. The pick-your-own apple harvest runs through late October every year, and the pumpkin patch and corn maze open in October. Bringing kids? The pumpkin patch has several packages that include outdoor games and a playground. The family-run farm market offers gifts, baked goods and local coffee.

682 Orr Drive, Martinsburg
304-263-1168 • orrsfarmmarket.com

Admire fall foliage at Sleepy Creek Wildlife Management Area.

Whether hiking, licensed hunting and fishing, or leaf peeping is your autumn activity of choice, you'll find it at Sleepy Creek Wildlife Management Area. Nearly 23,000 acres of terrain across Berkeley and Morgan counties capture the wild beauty of West Virginia, with 75 primitive campsites and opportunities for canoeing and kayaking. Dedicated hikers will want to try the 3-mile Devil's Nose Trail, which provides breathtaking autumn views.

304-822-3551 • wvdnr.gov (Search Sleepy Creek.)

Savor autumnal cuisine at Amani Brewing.

For the owners of Amani Brewing, everything comes down to "craft." They make small batches of craft beer, cold brew coffee, and homemade pizza at their rural location. Be sure to try the seasonal cocktails and food specials as you dine on the back patio. The brewery also hosts multiple community events. On Oct. 5, the Dirty Dawg Jeep Fest will provide a family-friendly celebration of Jeeps that raises money for Thin Line Service Dogs, a nonprofit pairing disabled veterans and first responders with service dogs.

654 Ropp Drive, Martinsburg
301-842-4406 • amani-co.com/amani

5 KID-FRIENDLY FALL ADVENTURES

BY ELIZABETH STINETTE

1

Play in nature at the Gateway Children's Garden.

Nestled in Martinsburg's Ambrose Park, the Gateway Children's Garden blends outdoor play with STEM education. Mountain-themed climbing elements, a fossil pit and a hobbit playhouse welcome open-ended play. The ABC garden features plants corresponding to each letter of the alphabet. A butterfly garden and a rope-pump water feature subtly teach children about taking care of the environment.

25404 Mall Drive, Martinsburg
304-264-4842

mbcparks-rec.org/gateway-childrens-garden



AUBREY ERVIN/"THE GEORGE" CHILDREN'S MUSEUM

Children pose as pirates at a For the Kids, By George Children's Museum summer camp. Check out their website for special events and exhibits throughout the school year.

2

Climb aboard for some railway fun at For the Kids, By George Children's Museum.

Reopened this June after being closed for the pandemic, "The George" in Martinsburg was designed to "allow visitors to experience over 300 years of American life on what was once a vital part of the nation's 'first frontier,'" according to its website. It features several interactive exhibits highlighting the area's railroad history. Housed in the historic Caperton Train Station, this museum showcases art installations, rotating exhibits, immersion galleries and a pedestrian bridge, where you might just catch a train thundering past on the track beneath. It's open Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. Check out the website for upcoming events.

229 E. Martin St., Martinsburg
304-264-9977
forthekidsbygeorge.org

3

Experience the past at the Dillon Farm Museum Fall Festival.

While the Dillon Farm Museum in Martinsburg is open for free visits on Sunday afternoons from April through October, it really shines during its fall festival, this year on Oct. 12 and 13. Kids will thrill at the live demonstrations of a blacksmith's shop and sawmill, as well as the extensive collection of antique farm equipment. Hungry? See how homemade apple cider is made before you savor it, and enjoy and iron-pot bean soup. Donations will be accepted to help expand the museum.

3083 Ridge Road S., Martinsburg
304-754-3845 • dillonfarmmuseum.org

4

Relish the magic at Wonderment Puppet Theater.

Entertaining the Martinsburg community for decades with six original shows each year, the Wonderment Puppet Theater caters to young children and their parents. The fun starts before the show, with hands-on activities and silly photo booth cutouts. Kids get free balloons after a show, and can also check out the jump and romp party. Around the holiday season, be sure to catch "Nutty Nutcracker."

412 W. King St., Martinsburg
304-258-4074 • wondermentpuppets.com



CLIMBING NEW HEIGHTS

Test your climbing skills year-round with the bouldering course at Climbing New Heights.

5

Challenge yourself at Climbing New Heights gym.

Indoor rock climbing is catching on as a family-friendly, year-round activity that's great exercise. Martinsburg's Climbing New Heights offers both "bouldering" and "top rope climbing." In bouldering, height doesn't matter—the holds are designed for everyone, with a thick fall pad beneath for safety. In top rope climbing, one person climbs in a harness and the other belays them. The gym recently added an auto-belay so people can climb without a partner, as well as a moon board and hangboards for climbing enthusiasts.

54 General Motors Access Road, Martinsburg
304-240-0587 • climbingnewheightswv.com



EVERYTHING CHEESECAKE

Enjoy a winter treat like this chocolaty cheesecake at Everything Cheesecake in Martinsburg.

3 Things to Do When There's a Nip in the Air

BY ELIZABETH STINETTE

Cold weather doesn't freeze out the fun in Martinsburg. Here are three things to do during the holiday season.

Orr's Farm Market offers family-friendly activities on weekends throughout the entire holiday season, from a Christmas tree lot and hot cocoa booth starting in mid-November to a live Nativity and Santa visit on Dec. 7 and 14. Call 304-263-1168.

On New Year's Eve, enjoy the uniquely Martinsburg tradition of the Apple Drop, this year from 6 to 7 p.m. A crane dangles a huge, lit apple over the town square as visitors ring in the new year with music and free donuts. This event was designed for folks—particularly the little ones—who prefer not to stay up till midnight. Call 304-262-4200.

Finally, what is winter without a decadent treat? Stop into Everything Cheesecake, which boasts more than 60 flavors of cheesecake, baked fresh daily. Five daily featured flavors are sold by the slice; last year, delectable holiday flavors included gingerbread, hot cocoa and Little Debbie Christmas Tree cake. Call 304-350-1567.

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From Potter Magic to Pumpkin Patches: *5 Things for Fall*

BY KAREN GRAHAM

1

Pick apples and pumpkins at Great Country Farms.

In addition to picking your own fall fruit, enjoy freshly pressed cider, the corn maze, apple cider donuts and the cow train. On the weekends, there is live music, marshmallow roasting and cider pressing demonstrations, as well as fresh cider samples. Plus, check out the Family Flashlight Corn Maze Nights. Advance tickets aren't required for weekday visits but are highly recommended for weekends. Great Country Farms is open daily from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

34345 Snickersville Turnpike, Bluemont
540-554-2073
Greatcountryfarms.com

2

Celebrate fall at Leesburg Animal Park.

Fall activities at this popular family destination include slides, pedal carts, a hay maze for kids, petting and feeding animals at the zoo, a kiddie zip line and more. Open daily except Tuesday.

19246 James Monroe Highway, Leesburg
703-433-0002
leesburganimalpark.com

3

Entertain the whole family at Temple Hall Farm.

Enjoy a family outing at Temple Hall Farm picking pumpkins and sunflowers. Ride in the wagon, see the farm animals, romp on the playground, and try out the jumping pil-

lows and slides. Adults will appreciate sampling their Barnhouse Brewery beers. Entry fee per person includes a pumpkin and sunflowers. Tickets are sold at the door. Open Sept. 28 to Oct. 31.

15855 Limestone School Road, Leesburg
703-779-9732 • Novaparks.com

4

Tour historic homes during the 80th annual Waterford Fair.

The village of Waterford, founded in 1733, is a National Historic Landmark, designated as such for its 18- and 19-century architecture. Thus, it seems only fitting that tours of historic homes in town are among the fair's highlights. Billed as "the mid-Atlantic's quintessential fall festival," it also features juried artists, crafts, live entertainment, kids' activities and demonstrations. Check out the gunsmith, perfumer and illusionist! Open Oct. 4 to 6 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

40222 Fairfax St., Waterford
540-882-3018 • waterfordfairva.org

5

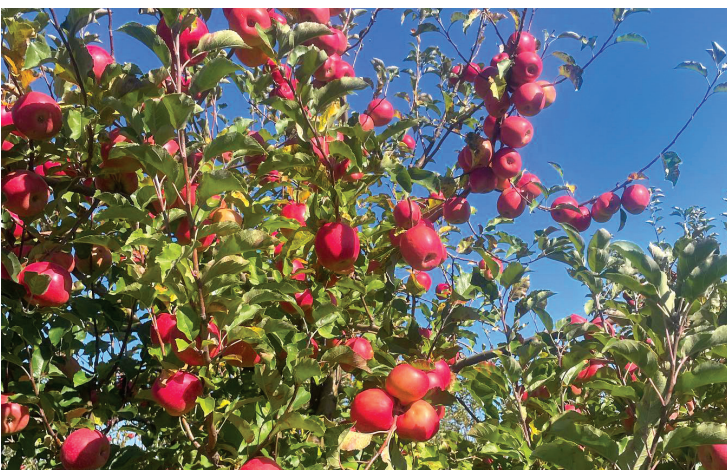
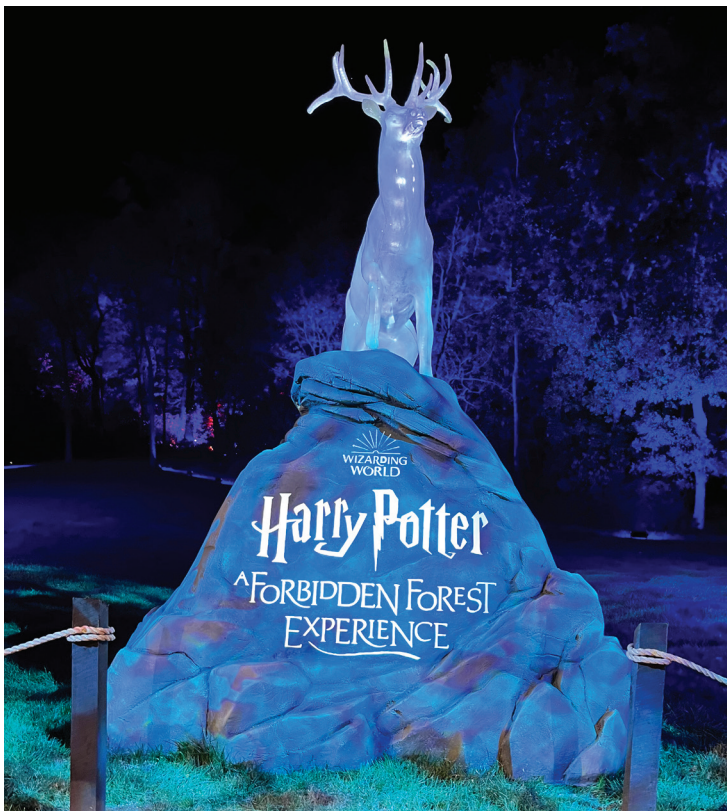
Soak in Harry Potter: A Forbidden Forest Experience

This interactive event at Morven Park features magical moments and wizarding wonders from the Harry Potter and Fantastic Beasts films along a nighttime woodland trail. You'll encounter creatures like Hippogriffs while you attempt to conjure your Patronus. (IYKYK) Open Oct. 26 to Dec. 8 daily 5-11 p.m.

41580 Sunday Morning Lane, Leesburg
hpforbiddenforestexperience.com/
leesburg

PHOTOS BY KAREN GRAHAM

TOP TO BOTTOM: Visitors enjoy last year's Waterford Fair; The Harry Potter Experience opens Oct. 26 at Morven Park in Leesburg; Pick your own apples and pumpkins this fall at Great Country Farms in Bluemont.



3 HOLIDAY AFFAIRS TO CHECK OUT

BY KAREN GRAHAM

Lucketts Holiday House

Each year, this 100-year-old farmhouse at Lucketts Store is decked out with holiday decor to create a memorable shopping destination. The experience also includes artistic murals and vignettes, and an opportunity to enjoy a glass of wine by the fire. The 2024 Holiday House event starts Nov. 7 and is open Thursday through Sunday through Dec. 15. Tickets are required. The store is located at 42350 Lucketts Road in Leesburg. See Lockettstore.com for more.

Christmas in Middleburg

The annual Christmas in Middleburg events kick off Dec. 6 with a tree lighting ceremony and carols at 5 p.m. at 12 N. Madison Street.

On Dec. 7, start the day at 8 a.m. with breakfast with Santa and a silent auction at Middleburg Charter School at 101 N. Madison St.

Located in horse country, the Hunt and Hounds Review—featuring more than 100 horses with riders adorned in their signature red coats as well as dozens of hounds—begins at 11 a.m. and will proceed down Washington Street (Route 50).

The Christmas parade with Santa will begin at 2 p.m. with unique floats, marching bands, community groups, fire trucks and a variety of animals. The Town of Middleburg officials ask that attendees reserve parking online in advance. The Spirits of Middleburg tour follows the parade. It's a progressive experience with food and beverage tastings throughout the town. For more information, visit Christmasinmiddleburg.org.

Leesburg and Purcellville Christmas Parades

Locals line the streets in Leesburg and Purcellville to view annual holiday parades, which will be held this year on Dec. 14. The Purcellville parade begins at noon and the Leesburg parade at 6 p.m.

Both events feature community organizations, bands, fire and rescue vehicles and more, all decorated to celebrate the holiday season. And there's a good chance Santa will be there! Visit Purcellvilleva.gov or Leesburgva.gov for more information.



Where to Catch the Fall Foliage This Year

BY KAREN GRAHAM

Experience the beauty of fall foliage in Loudoun County while hiking scenic trails, sipping craft beer or wine at local breweries and wineries, or visiting farms open for agritourism. Peak leaf-peeping season is generally Oct. 10 through Oct. 31, according to the Virginia is for Lovers Fall Foliage Report.

Here are a few places where you can expect spectacular views.

Spend a day hiking.

Sweet Run State Park officially opened in fall of 2023. The nearly 900-acre park, located on Harpers Ferry Road about 2 miles south of the Route 340 bridge, has 9 miles of equestrian trails, a nature play area, a restored 1840s-era farmhouse, a picnic pavilion and fishing at Gordon Pond. Meander its 11 miles of hiking trails with views of the Blue Ridge Mountains for prime leaf peeping.

11661 Harpers Ferry Road,
Hillsboro
Dcr.virginia.gov/state-parks/sweet-run

Check out the view with a brew.

Bear Chase Brewing Company opened about six years ago on Blue Ridge Mountain Road in Bluemont. Like its neighbor, Dirt Farm Brewing, it has expansive views of the countryside, and in the fall, stunning foliage.

With live music on the weekends, plenty of snacks on the food menu and its award-winning brews on tap, Bear Chase is a popular destination for an afternoon or evening visit. Notably, their German-style Kolsch recently won silver at the Great American Beer Fest in Denver, Colorado.

You might also try Hillsborough Winery & Brewery, where the view from their elevated tasting room overlooks the mountains to one side and farmland below. The tasting room is open daily and offers a nice menu of salads and flatbreads to pair with a variety of wine and beer options.

Bear Chase:
33665 Bear Chase Lane, Bluemont
Bearchasebrew.com

Hillsborough:
36716 Charles Town Pike, Hillsboro
Hillsboroughwine.com

Choose your views—and your pumpkins.

The drive into Wegmeyer Farms, located about 15 minutes outside Leesburg off a gravel road, involves beautiful fall foliage views. Once you arrive, there are more stunning vistas of their sloping fields, where more than 50 varieties of you-pick or pre-picked heirloom and traditional pumpkins grow. There is also a circa-1700s stone barn, a great backdrop for photos. Gourds, cornstalks and mums are available for purchase.

The fields are open the third weekend of September through the weekend before Halloween on Thursday through Sunday. Reservations are required to pick your own.

38299 Hughesville Road,
Hamilton
Wegmeyerfarms.com

PHOTO ABOVE BY KAREN GRAHAM
A fall scene in Western Loudoun County



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FREDERICK COUNTY, MD



KATINA ZENTZ

Cailyn Patras, 16, prepares to climb through an obstacle course during a Fall Fun Fest at Gaver Farm.



VISIT FREDERICK

Vote for your favorite scarecrow during the Scarecrow March Down Main Street in Middletown.

SCHNITZEL, SCARECROWS AND SPIRITS

BY ISABELLA CARRERO-BAPTISTA

Kick off the season with Gaver Farm's Fall Fun Fest.

With more than 60 attractions, this event has something for all ages. Participate in fall classics like navigating a 7-acre corn maze, petting farm animals and picking pumpkins. Go on a free hayride and then try bouncing on two giant jumping pillows.

The Farm Fall Festival will take place daily through Nov. 5 from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. See the website for tickets.

5501 Detrick Road, Mt. Airy
301-865-3515
gaverfarm.com/fall-fun-fest

Party at Frederick's Oktoberfest.

Munch on a schnitzel and sip from a beer stein while celebrating the county's German heritage

at Frederick's Oktoberfest. Go all out and get free admission when you wear an authentic dirndl or lederhosen. Whether you're looking for adult fun or a family outing, Oktoberfest offers it all. A 21+ event will be held Sept. 27 from 6 to 10 p.m. Then, Oktoberfest is open to all Sept. 28 from 11 a.m. to 10 p.m.

Frederick Fairgrounds, 797 E. Patrick St., Frederick
Frederickoktoberfest.org

Marvel at unique creations at the Scarecrow March Down Main Street.

Stroll through downtown Middletown to behold about 60 scarecrows that adorn Main Street, then vote for your favorite. Music, snacks and other Halloween-themed treats are available. This event will take place Oct. 19 from noon to 4 p.m.

19 W. Main St., Middletown
301-371-6171
mainstreetmiddletown.org
(Search events.)

Learn about Frederick's haunted past with Maryland Heritage Tours.

Get ready for Halloween on the Historic District Ghost Tour, which will lead you through sites marked by war, executions and revenge. It lasts about an hour and a half and spans just over a mile in "Historic Frederick — Where The Dead Come Out To Play," according to Maryland Heritage Tours' website. If specters aren't for you, learn about the city's many historical

figures buried in Mount Olivet Cemetery on the Cemetery History & Mystery Tour. Visit the website to book your tour.

Historic District Ghost Tour:
124 N. Market St., Frederick
Mount Olivet Cemetery History Tour:
515 S. Market St., Frederick
301-668-8922
marylandghosttours.com

Catch Catoctin Colorfest.

Billed as one of the top outdoor craft festivals in the United States, this annual event features about 300 juried artisans from across the country. Shop their wares amid Thurmont's spectacular fall colors during this free two-day affair held in the town's Community Park and beyond. This year, it's scheduled for Oct. 12 and 13 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. both days, rain or shine. Colorfest, which began as a nature walk, celebrates its 60th anniversary this year.

19 Frederick Road, Thurmont
301-271-7533 • colorfest.org



FILE PHOTO

Get your creep on for Halloween with Maryland Heritage Tours ghost tours in the city of Frederick.

3 Spots for Leaf Peeping— And More

BY ISABELLA CARRERO-BAPTISTA

With plentiful forests, parks and hills, Frederick County is a perfect spot to behold autumn's red and gold glory as you journey through these prime leaf-peeping spots.

1

Sugarloaf Mountain

Begin with a pleasant morning hike while viewing the colorful red and white oaks that cover the mountain. Sugarloaf Mountain has a variety of trails, perfect for every skill level. Once you're done with your hike, descend the mountain and rest at Sugarloaf Mountain Vineyard. Enjoy wine and snacks as you continue to relish the fall foliage. Call 301-874-2024.

2

Catoctin Mountain Orchard

At our next stop, get your fill of locally grown fruits and vegetables. If you go

in late September, you might be able to catch the fresh peaches, plums, grapes and blackberries before they're out of season. But the star fall fruit in this salad is, of course, the apple. The orchard offers more than a dozen varieties; you can even pick your own while beholding the fall colors. Bite into the popular CrimsonCrisp or take some Cortland apples home to bake later. For more information, call 301-271-2737.

3

Cunningham Falls State Park

Located in the Catoctin Mountains in the Thurmont area, our last stop offers camping through October, so you can sleep among the leaves. Multiple hiking trails range from short and flat to steep and rocky. Call 301-271-7574 for more information, and 888-432-2267 for camping reservations.

FILE PHOTO

Gilbert and Lisa Thurston of Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, traveled to Cunningham Falls State Park in Thurmont and took photographs around Hunting Creek Lake.

3 EVENTS TO USHER IN WINTER

BY ISABELLA CARRERO-BAPTISTA

The cold doesn't have to deter you from joining in the winter festivities in Frederick County. Don a coat and get in the holiday spirit for these three events.

Celebrate a **Traditional Village Christmas in Catoctin Furnace** on Dec. 7. Belsnickel, a Germanic folklore figure, will visit with treats for the good children. Plus, craft your own wreath and other handmade gifts at a European-style holiday market. There are thousands of free items with which to decorate the wreath you purchase. For more information, visit catoctinfurnace.org/events.

Celebrate Frederick, and the upcoming winter season, at **Celebrate Frederick's annual Kris Kringle Procession**, scheduled for Dec. 13. Follow the procession from South Carroll Street to Baker Park as musicians

and "costumed characters" wend their way through downtown Frederick. Don't miss the grand finale at the Baker Park Bandshell featuring holiday carols and the lighting of the city's Christmas Tree. For more, visit celebratefrederick.com and search for the procession.

Set sail for a winter wonderland at **Sailing Through the Winter Solstice**. This festive parade of boats—28 sailing and two landlocked—lights up the night with dazzling displays, transforming historic Carroll Creek into a winter spectacle. The boats arrive at the end of November and the display runs through March. More than just a good time, this community event benefits charitable organizations when you pay \$1 per vote to vote for your favorite boat. Visit coloronthecreek.com/sttw.

RUDY MARSH

The annual Kris Kringle Procession leads to the official lighting of Frederick city's Christmas tree.

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www.franklinparkartscenter.org 540-338-7973

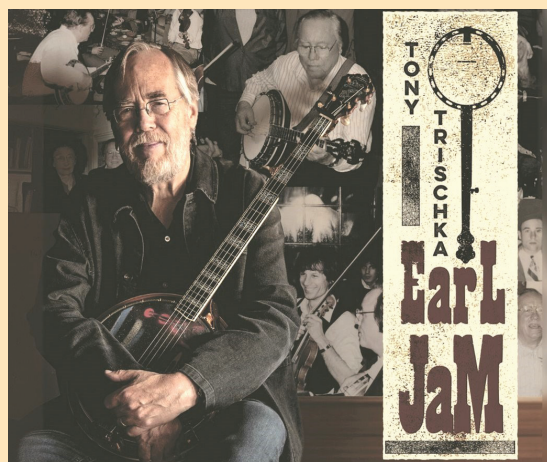


Tony Trischka's EarlJam – A Tribute to Earl Scruggs

Saturday, October 26
8:00pm \$30

Tony Trischka is considered the consummate banjo artist and perhaps the most influential banjo player in the roots music world. For more than 50 years, his stylings have inspired a whole generation of bluegrass and acoustic musicians with the many voices he has brought to the instrument. Tony will be honoring the music of Earl Scruggs, pioneer of the three-finger banjo style and one of the most important musicians in bluegrass, or, in Tony's opinion, in any genre.

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Main Street Chamber Orchestra**
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5 Trails to Hit This Fall

BY TOM MARKLAND

Looking to hit your step count for the day, but the treadmill is too boring? Jefferson County is the perfect place to get out and explore, with hiking trails virtually everywhere you look.

1

Route 9 Bike Path

This 10.5-mile trail, stretching from Ranson to Martinsburg, is great for hikers of all skill levels. It's suitable for people with strollers, dog walkers and bikers alike.

While it predominantly follows the busy Route 9 highway that connects Berkeley and Jefferson counties, hikers can see working farms, woodlands and even a historic orchard. It's also a great spot for geocaching, a popular outdoor treasure-hunting game that uses GPS coordinates to help players find hidden containers. There are several locations along the trail.

Multiple parking lots connect to the trail, including a large lot at the intersection of Currie Road and Charles Town Road, a small gravel lot along Charles Town Road around milepost 9 and a medium-sized paved lot at the intersection of routes 9 and 480.

2

Linda's Loop in Cool Spring Nature Preserve

Located near Summit Point, Linda's Loop is good for beginners, casual hikers, or those who

simply want a leisurely walk with their dog. The 0.9-mile loop typically takes just under 20 minutes to complete.

It's located inside Cool Spring Nature Preserve, a 63-acre area of forest, marsh and meadow preserved by the Potomac Valley Audubon Society. The preserve is designated as a birding hotspot, so you might want to bring binoculars.

Cool Spring Nature Preserve is located at 1469 Lloyd Road in Charles Town.

3

C&O Canal Towpath

One trail that's especially popular with cyclists is the C&O Canal, 2.6 miles of which align with the Appalachian Trail near Harpers Ferry. Because it's fairly flat, it's great for hikers of any skill level, in addition to cyclists.

The total trail runs 184.5 miles, and you can access it through Harpers Ferry's railroad bridge.

Hikers and cyclists alike can take it through Jefferson County to Weverton Cliffs in Maryland, enjoying the wide, tree-lined path with plenty of scenic riverside spots. Leashed dogs are welcome.

4

Jefferson Rock

This large mass of shale rock perched atop a cliff was named for American Founding Father Thomas Jefferson, who had described the view of lower Harpers Ferry and the Potomac River below it in his "Notes on the State of Virginia," published in 1785.

"For the mountains being cloven asunder, she presents to your eye, through the cleft, a small catch of smooth blue horizon, at an infinite distance in that plain country, inviting you, as it were, from the riot and tumult roaring around to pass through the breach and participate in the calm below," Jefferson wrote.

From Harpers Ferry's Lower Town, enter the path to the rock at the steps between the African American History Museum and the Civil War Museum on High Street, near the former Storer College, to see the same vista Jefferson saw.

Jefferson Rock is protected as a cultural resource, so keep in mind that walking on, climbing, ascending, descending or traversing it or its supporting base rock is prohibited. Note that the rock is unstable, according to the National Park Service.

Once you reach Jefferson Rock, you can continue on the Appalachian Trail and even loop back through Harpers Ferry's Lower Town at several points.

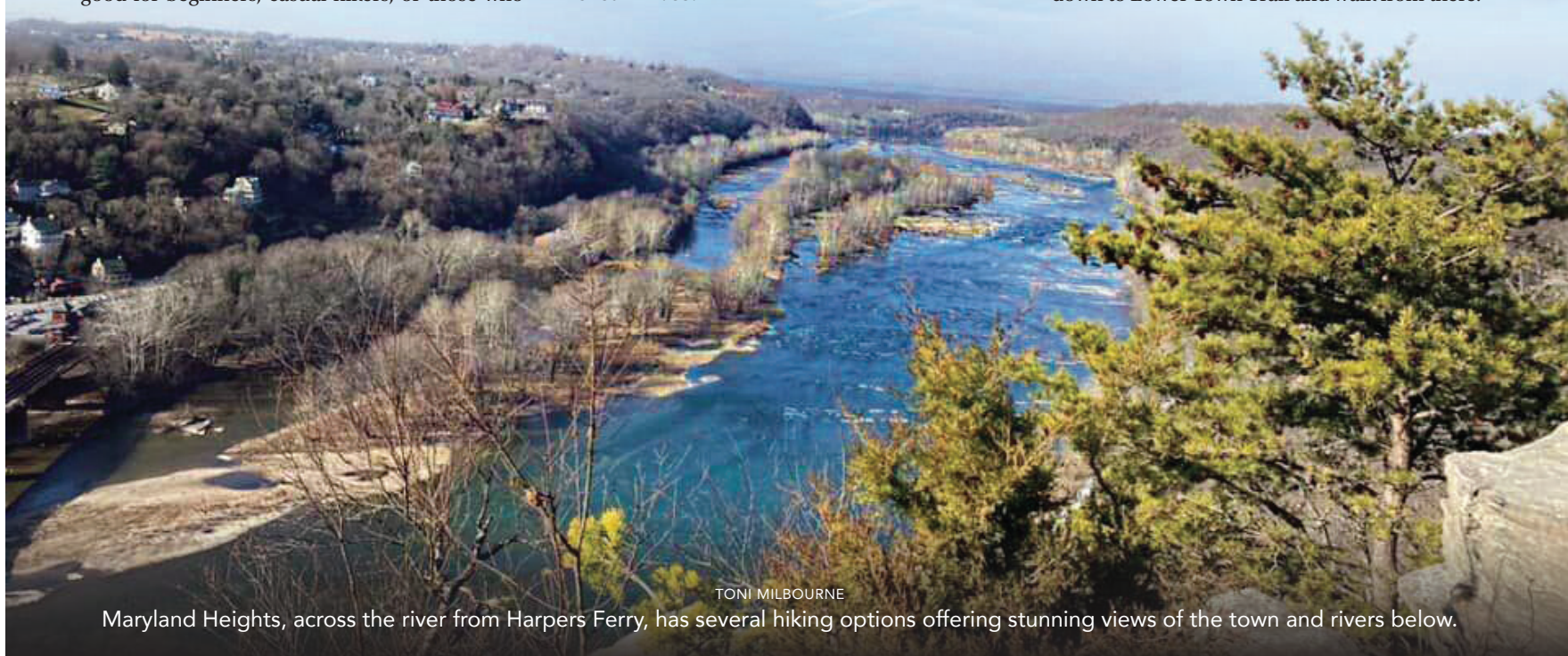
Harpers Ferry National Park recommends that visitors park at the visitor's center, take a shuttle down to Lower Town trail and walk from there.

5

Maryland Heights Trail

While the hike can be difficult, the view is well worth it, because, in the words of Miley Cyrus, "It's the climb." The trail is among the most strenuous hikes on the spectrum, suitable for experienced hikers. The best route to the overlook is a 4.5-mile round trip from the Master Armorer's House in Harpers Ferry's Lower Town.

Harpers Ferry National Park recommends that visitors park at the visitor's center, take a shuttle down to Lower Town Trail and walk from there.



TONI MILBOURNE

Maryland Heights, across the river from Harpers Ferry, has several hiking options offering stunning views of the town and rivers below.

The Perfect Date Night

3 restaurants that promise a little romance

BY TABITHA JOHNSTON

Looking for a special place to celebrate a milestone or simply enjoy a romantic evening? From historic settings to innovative cuisine, these establishments promise to create lasting memories.

In Shepherdstown, enjoy **Bistro 112's** intimate setting. The restaurant's newly renovated historic building, located at 112 W. German St., features charming, French-inspired decor. Before the cold arrives, dine al fresco in the restaurant's back garden area, landscaped so each table has its own semi-private area.

"This was a unique space, and the backyard had a lot of potential, once we reconfigured the space with landscaping," said Bistro 112 owner Jaye Golumbic.

L'Academie de Cuisine alumnus Paul Stearman, who shares ownership of Bistro 112 with Golumbic and her husband Lars, serves as the restaurant's chef. He has curated an American palate-friendly menu of modern French cuisine.

"My training is in the classics, but when you're doing modern French cuisine, you tend to be able to branch out and play with different flavors and things like that," Stearman said. "The menu is pretty classically French — you could see that menu in any city in France."

Visit bistro112.com.

Harpers Ferry residents may find their romance blooming over a meal at **Snallygaster's Cafe and Wine Bar**. The restaurant, located at 1102 W. Washington St., was opened in 2020 by husband-and-wife Chad and Carrie Ellen Gauthier.

"Nothing makes humans more amorous than good food and wine," Carrie Ellen said. "We have wonderful cocktails and wonderful coffee drinks. Our wine selection and wine shop are top-notch and offer something for every palate. There's a little something for everyone foodwise, too—lots of shareable plates."

The restaurant provides the perfect atmosphere for couples to grow closer together, according to Carrie Ellen.

"The setting is unique and lends itself to beau-



COURTESY PHOTO

One of Snallygaster's Cafe & Wine Bar's recent specials was this Summertime Skirt Steak Salad.

tiful memories. We often have engagements here," she said. "Snallygaster's is the perfect place for a first date or a special atmosphere to pop the question."

Learn more at snallygasterscafe.com.

When you're in Charles Town, dine at **Mezzaluna Cafe**. The expansive menu of the regional Italian cuisine served at the 23-year-old cafe, located at 90 Somerset Blvd., ensures that every couple finds a meal that satisfies them.

"My wife and I are big fans of their food at Mezzaluna," said longtime customer David Duarte. "Whatever you want to try or a favorite dish that you had at another place, you will be pleased as to how they prepare [it] at Mezzaluna Cafe."

Visit lamezzalunacafewv.com.

LEAF PEEPING HOT SPOTS

BY TONI MILBOURNE

The changing of the seasons is one of the most appealing aspects of living in or visiting West Virginia's Eastern Panhandle, and Jefferson County certainly demonstrates why. As the leaves begin to turn, the many country roads lead to picturesque landscapes showcasing fall foliage at its peak.

Harpers Ferry is, of course, a superb location to witness this changing of the seasons, whether you walk along the quaint streets of Lower Town or cross the river to walk along the C&O Canal. Head toward Bolivar Heights, a Civil War battlefield in Harpers Ferry National Historical Park, and over to the Murphy Farm Trail. Civil war cannons line gravel paths surrounded by age-old tree lines bursting with color.

Of course, you can venture beyond the national park to see the colors of the season. Traveling along Millville Road, you'll drive along the Shenandoah River and catch glimpses of the Blue Ridge Mountains across the water. Stop in at Moulton Park, sit quietly on a bench along the river, or walk in the extension of the park across the roadway.

Fall foliage can also be pretty spectacular in Shepherdstown as you traverse the narrow town roads where residents take pride in presenting blooming gardens well past summertime. Travel to the town's boat ramp to take in the trees along the Potomac River, as well.

Summit Point and Middleway also give way to quiet country roads lined with beautiful trees amid farmhouses, cattle in the fields and apple orchards. Whether traveling by car or bicycle, adventure awaits those who take the time to traverse the lesser-known roads of the county to enjoy nature's showcase.



TONI MILBOURNE

The view from Bolivar Heights in the fall offers a glimpse of the valley between Civil War cannons.

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FREDERICK COUNTY, VA



JEFF TAYLOR

Visitors enjoy Walking in a Winter Wonderland in Frederick County's Clearbrook Park. The Frederick County Parks and Recreation Department hosts this annual holiday light show.

5 THINGS TO DO WITH THE FAMILY

BY CYNTHIA BURTON

Discover a world of outdoor adventures and cultural experiences that will make your Frederick County visit memorable.

1

Celebrate the apple harvest— and more!

Fall is apple harvest season in Frederick County, and there's nothing better than sinking your teeth into a crisp Virginia-grown apple. On Oct. 20 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., take the family to the Richard's Fruit Market Apple Festival for fun in the country. Live music, outdoor games, farm food, wine and craft beer, and a dessert tent are on tap. Free admission. Let the kids meet animals in the petting zoo or run around until they're exhausted. Rain or shine. There are several other apple festivals in the area as well, including the Rotary Club of Winchester's Shenandoah Valley Apple Harvest Festival on Sept. 21 and 22 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Frederick County Fairgrounds, with all kinds of fun for kids and adults. Check out the Classic Car & Hotrod Show and the pie-eating contests while you're there.

Richard's Fruit Market:
6410 Middle Road, Middletown
540-869-1455

richardsfruitmarket.com

Shenandoah Valley Apple Harvest Festival:
250 Fairground Road, Clear Brook
winchesterappleharvest.com



RICHARD'S FRUIT MARKET

Richard's Fruit Market will host a family-friendly Apple Festival on Oct. 20 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

2

Catch a movie outdoors.

It's back to the future at the vintage The Family Drive-In Theatre near Stephens City, the only drive-in in the Washington, D.C., area. Once kids return to school, the drive-in is open Friday to Sunday (sometimes just Friday and Saturday). The fall season heralds dusk-to-dawn events, Halloween specials and autumn vibes.

4590 Valley Pike, Stephens City
thefamilydi.com

3

Giddyup!

Magic Mountain Farm in Frederick County offers horseback riding lessons, trail rides and pony parties. Beginners and enthusiasts alike are welcome on their hour-long guided trail rides through the scenic Shenandoah Valley. Rides are by appointment only, so call ahead.

151 Magic Mountain Road, Winchester
540-336-4267 • magicmountainfarm.com

4

Get ready for that Thanksgiving turkey.

Get out of the house and burn off a few calories before you gobble down that turkey and pumpkin pie. Frederick County Parks and Recreation's annual Thanksgiving Day 5K & Kids Fun Run will be held Nov. 28. The Kids Fun Run starts at 8 a.m. and 8:15 a.m. The 5K starts at 8:45 a.m.

Sherando Park, 255 Lakeview Circle, Stephens City
540-665-5678

fcva.us/departments/parks-recreation

5

Behold all the holiday lights.

The Walking in a Winter Wonderland light display at Clearbrook Park is a perennial holiday favorite. Twinkling lights set to festive music along a paved path, capped off with hot chocolate and cookies at the end of your journey, are a perfect winter outing for all ages. This year's display is set for Nov. 29 to Jan. 1, according to Jeremy Sanders, marketing director for Frederick County Parks and Recreation. It is closed Christmas Eve, Christmas Day and New Year's Eve. Purchase tickets online at fcprd.net.

Clearbrook Park, 130 Poolside Drive, Clear Brook
540-665-5678

fcva.us/departments/parks-recreation

Try This Wine & Dine Combo

BY CYNTHIA BURTON

New Appalachian cuisine and a bourbon bar with perhaps the best selection in the Shenandoah Valley shine at **Vault & Cellar** at 7843 Main St. in Middletown.

The menu, which changes frequently, features dishes like rabbit hindquarter paired with Carolina gold rice, roasted carrots and braised greens. You'll also find other seasonal items like duck and quail, catfish, wild boar sausage, boiled peanuts and buttermilk biscuits.

For owner Kari Rush, who grew up nearby, the restaurant is a way to stay true to her roots. She uses as many local ingredients as possible in her cooking.

Vault & Cellar's vibe makes everyone feel like family and friends, according to its website. It balances "the elegance and sophistication of a fine-dining experience, while retaining the whimsy and approachability of a food truck."

After the holidays, the restaurant will be in an episode of the PBS cooking show "Lidia Celebrates America" featuring celebrity chef Lidia Bastianich.

Learn more at thevaultandcellar.com or call 540-508-0640.

Valerie Hill Vineyard & Winery invites guests to step back in time at their family-owned winery, anchored by a Federal-style brick home dating to 1807, just south of Winchester at 1687 Marlboro Road.

"Spend time exploring the history of the grounds and the historic home while enjoying views of our Seyval, Vidal, and Norton wines," its website says. Tastings are offered by the glass and bottle, along with light food service.

Monday to Thursday, wine tasting flights are available. They feature your choice of four wines from available selections. No reservations are required.

Friday to Sunday, reservations are highly recommended (and required for groups of six or more) for a traditional guided tasting of 11 wines. Available on the hour and half hour beginning at 11:30 a.m.

Visit valeriehillwinery.com or call 540-869-9567.



JEFF TAYLOR

Norton grapes at Valerie Hill Vineyard & Winery near Stephens City during a previous harvest season



COURTESY OF KARI RUSHING/VAULT & CELLAR

Vault & Cellar serves Appalachian cuisine with a modern twist.



GET OUT!

BY CYNTHIA BURTON

An outdoor jaunt in fall or winter can be invigorating, and Frederick County has several nice spots for hiking, walking or jogging.

Here are three ideas for places to get out and stretch your legs:

• **Third Battle of Winchester Trails** off Virginia Route 7 features 6 miles of trails divided into loops and out-and-back spurs between 2.25 and 2.5 miles long. You can stick to the main gravel paths for exercise on foot or go off the main path to explore grass and dirt trails.

There are three ways to enter the site. One is at the parking lot at Millbrook High School, and another is at the parking lot and Visitor's Center at 541 Redbud Road. You can check out the posted maps and plot your course. There is a third entrance at 170 Getty Land near Marriot Towne Suites. Visit battlefields.org and search Third Battle of Winchester Trails.

• **Rose Hill Park** on Jones Road is a 1.2-mile loop. There are a few shorter spurs and connectors you can add. The main loop is gravel. There are spurs that are dirt/mud. The trail has some gentle inclines and one challenging short hill. It includes field views of the Museum of the Shenandoah Valley's Rose Hill Farm and the surrounding woods. Civil War buffs will surely appreciate signage that provides insight into the final Battle of Kernstown. Visit fcva.us and search for the park.

• **Sherando Park** near Stephens City has 5 miles of trails when you combine them all. There are wooded paths, grass fields and an asphalt trail. Have companions who are not up to a hike? They can check out the disc golf, athletic courts and playground. See fcva.us and search for the park.



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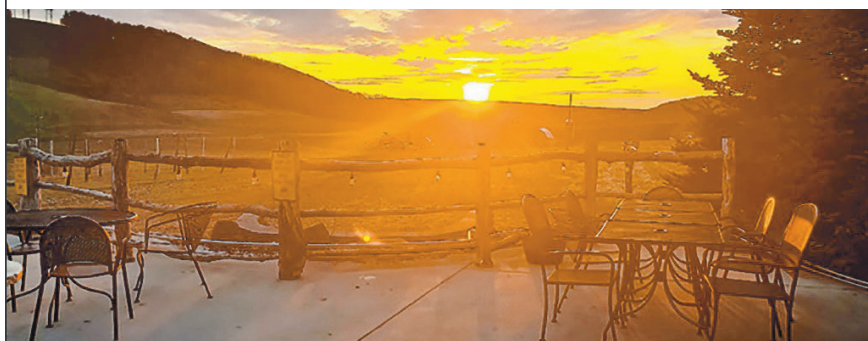
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www.frostburg.edu/events/afestival

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Norton Wine Tour

October 18th - November 10th



We, the Norton Network—a collective of Virginia Norton growers, wine producers, and advocates—are excited to announce the first-ever Virginia Norton Wine Tour, taking place this October through November. This collaborative effort aims to highlight the exceptional qualities of this historically significant native grape across 22 Virginia wineries and vineyards that either grow Norton or feature it prominently in their wines. The tour will span a month, starting the weekend of October 18th and continuing through November 10th.

For the second weekend of the tour (October 25th - 27th), we shine a spotlight on the Central Virginia cluster: Chateau MerrillAnne, DuCard Vineyards, Fifty-Third Winery & Vineyard, and Horton Vineyards. During this leg of the wine tour, these wineries and vineyards will host special events, vertical tastings, or promotions, each offering a unique take on this versatile grape. From robust reds to elegant dessert wines, the Central cluster promises a diverse and exciting experience that showcases the full spectrum of Norton's potential. Join us and discover the richness of Virginia's native gem as you explore the Central Virginia cluster on this unforgettable weekend!

October 25th



October 26th



October 27th



5 THINGS TO DO WITH KIDS WHEN THE WEATHER'S COOL

BY ELIZABETH STINETTE

1

Pick apples in Smithsburg.

Nothing says fall with the kids like visiting an apple orchard—and Smithsburg has two entertaining family-run options. Gardenhour Orchards offers multiple you-pick varieties throughout the season, and in their “packing house,” you can buy homemade canned goods and produce. Not into picking your own? Stop by Ivy Hill Farm to score homegrown apples and other produce from their family’s farm store. While you’re there, try their apple cider, which they press on site every year from mid-September through December.

Gardenhour Orchards
22511 Gardenhour Road, Smithsburg
301-824-7466
Gardenhourorchards.com

Ivy Hill Farm
13840 Smithsburg Pike, Smithsburg
301-824-4658
Ivy-hill-farm.com

2

Let your spirits soar at the Hagerstown Aviation Museum.

The Hagerstown Aviation Museum is home to 23 antique Fairchild Aircraft planes, a company known for building several World War II planes, including the C-119 Flying Boxcar, a military transport craft that dropped cargo and troops by parachute. Airplane enthusiasts of all ages can tour the museum’s hangar on Friday and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., excluding holidays, to see the planes, photos and other artifacts. Kids definitely won’t want to miss Open Airplane Day on Oct. 5, when visitors can actually climb aboard the aircraft.

18450 Showalter Road, Building B, Hagerstown
301-733-8717
Hagerstownaviationmuseum.org

3

Hit the rink at Hagerstown Ice & Sports Complex.

As winter descends, visit the Hagerstown Ice & Sports Complex, a National Hockey League-size rink that hosts ice skating and hockey lessons through-



VISIT HAGERSTOWN

Ivy Hill Farm sells homegrown apples and other produce.

out the year. Check out their online calendar for public skate sessions.

580 Security Road, Hagerstown
301-766-9122
Hagerstownice.org

4

Play a game—or thee—at Tilt Studio.

Too cold to venture outside? Enjoy a day of family fun with loads of games at Tilt Studio. Highlights include an ocean-themed black light mini-golf course, laser tag and mini-bowling lanes, as well as arcade

HAGERSTOWN AVIATION MUSEUM

Children check out an antique aircraft at a Hagerstown Aviation Museum event.

games, bumper cars and a Himalayan bobsled ride. Then, grab a meal at Tilt’s in-house, family-friendly restaurant.

17301 Valley Mall Road, Hagerstown
301-494-8560
Tiltstudio.com/Hagerstown

5

Recapture wonder at the Celebration of Trees.

Kindle the magic of the holiday season at Williamsport’s annual Celebration of Trees. Located inside the Springfield Barn, locals sign up to decorate a tree based on whatever festive theme they’d like. The barn begins preparing for the event in November. Running this year from Dec. 7 to Jan. 1, the celebration features a pre-opening Christmas parade on Dec. 6. Besides admiring the trees, kids will enjoy visits from Santa and holiday-themed treats throughout the month.

12 Springfield Lane, Williamsport
301-573-0459
Williamsportmd.gov/visitors/springfield-farm

3 PLACES FOR A HEARTY MEAL

BY ELIZABETH STINETTE

While finding a meal that's yummy for everyone in the family can sometimes be a challenge, several Washington County restaurants may provide just the ticket!

1. **BuddyLou's** (301-678-6460) in Hancock combines an American-style, family-friendly menu with a down-home antique store. After eating, browse the shop, which specializes in antique glass, artisanal gifts, and charming toys made from 100% re-used materials.

Who doesn't like pizza? Give Hagerstown's **Pretzel and Pizza Creations** (301-733-7795) a try. Known for their soft, Bavarian-style pretzels made with house-blended flour, the owners expanded their menu to include uniquely delicious hot dogs and pizza.

Also in Hagerstown, combine a casual dining experience with family fun at **Seven Ten** (240-347-4710). The restaurant is adjacent to the business's arcade and bowling lanes, designed for all ages. Let the kids create their own pizza while you enjoy the full bar.



SEVEN TEN

Dig in to dinner after you're done knocking down pins at Seven Ten in Hagerstown.

Prime Places for Peeping Leaves

BY ELIZABETH STINETTE

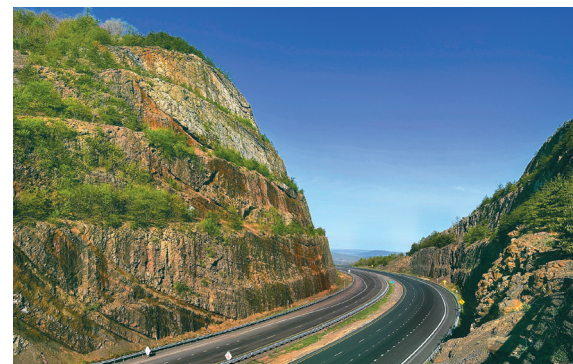
Gorgeous views await photographers and autumn leaf enthusiasts in Washington County, Maryland.

Visit America's other Washington Monument—a rough-hewn stone tower dating to 1827—at **Washington Monument State Park** in Boonsboro. It was built to honor our first president decades before the famous memorial in Washington, D.C., and today you can climb the stone staircase to scope out a gorgeous autumn view of three states. The brief hike to reach the monument is beautiful, as well, lying along the Appalachian Trail. Call 301-791-4767.

Visit dnr.maryland.gov and search for the park for more information.

If you're looking for even more history, try renting a bike for a ride along the **C&O Canal National Historical Park**, which runs through Washington County. Trees branch over the wide paths, and a vast variety of wild and plant life calls the trail home. For a picturesque view of the Potomac River, wend your way to the grounds of Ferry Hill Plantation along the Sharpsburg stretch of the park. Call 301-739-4200.

Prefer to drive? Take Interstate 68 to the **Sideling Hill Welcome Center** near Hancock. This stop offers wild vistas of the Appalachian foothills, as well



VISIT HAGERSTOWN/

The winding roads that lead back to the Sideling Hill Welcome Center cut through the Appalachian Mountains to reveal prehistoric rock formations.

as nearby hiking and biking trails. Along the way, you'll traverse part of the Historic National Road Scenic Byway, which twists and turns up Sideling Hill and boasts views of both gorgeous autumn trees and exposed, prehistoric rock formations. Go to visitmaryland.org and search for the center for more information.



SCOTT CANTNER

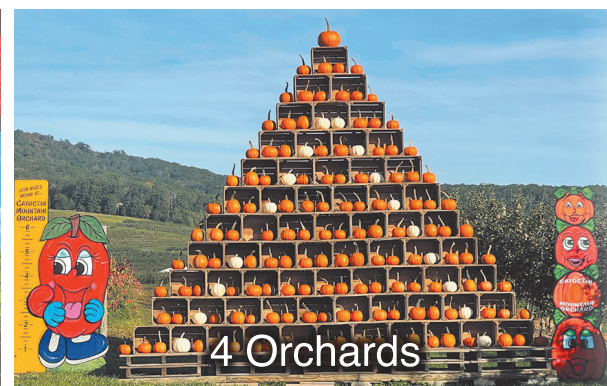
Visit America's other Washington Monument, built in 1827, to soak in a gorgeous autumn view of three states.

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ADAMS COUNTY, PA



Discover Gettysburg's Haunting Secrets

BY JENNIFER FITCH

Gettysburg's history runs deeper than the Civil War. Delve into the town's darker side with these spine-chilling tours that explore the paranormal.

Peek into the past with Farnsworth House's Attic Whispers & Cellar Shadows.

The Farnsworth House, which dates to the early 1800s, sheltered Confederate sharpshooters during the Battle of Gettysburg. One of those sharpshooters is thought to have accidentally killed civilian Jennie Wade. Today, 100 bullet holes remain in the inn's walls.

Take the historic home's Attic Whispers & Cellar Shadows tour to see the attic from which the fatal shot is believed to have been fired, then make

your way into the cellar to see a mirror featured on the show "Kindred Spirits" on the Travel Channel. In addition to other spirits, you might even spy the hour's "ghost cat."

Both areas are frequented by ghost hunters and psychics in addition to the amateur visitors exploring the paranormal.

Check out the website for more haunted tours.

Farnsworth House Inn
401 Baltimore St., Gettysburg
717-334-8838
farnsworthhouseinn.com

Become part of the (ghost) story with After Dark Investigations.

On these small tours, learn about and investigate paranormal activity in the Gettysburg area—and maybe even witness it firsthand. With professional guides, you'll use equipment to try to glimpse and hear directly from the deceased. After

Dark Investigations offers tours in various time slots, including 11:45 p.m. to 2:45 a.m. when "the streets are empty and the spirits are awake!" according to its website. Private tours are also available.

After Dark Investigations
717-451-1070
afterdarkinvestigations.com

Escape a dungeon with Ghostly Images of Gettysburg.

Go inside your choice of two haunted houses on these tours, which are offered with walking or bus options. Visitors can attempt to encounter spirits in the Jennie Wade House or the haunted orphanage, the latter of which had a headmistress who kept troubled children in a basement akin to a dungeon. Then, hop on the "Haunted Bus" to some of the area's creepiest locations.

778 Baltimore St., Gettysburg
877-680-8687
gettysburgbattlefieldtours.com/
ghost-tours

Toast to the paranormal with Gettysburg Ghost Tours.

The several routes offered by Gettysburg Ghost Tours include a "black cat" option with battlefield sites and the makeshift graves that have long been on them. The haunted field hospital option features the Tillie Pierce House and birth home of Jennie Wade, who was killed by a bullet that traveled through two doors in her home during the Battle of Gettysburg, according to The Jennie Wade House website.

Those who enjoy a different kind of "spirits" with their ghost hunting can indulge in the Craft Beer & Spirits tour, which combines libations with a walking tour.

Gettysburg Ghost Tours
47 Steinwehr Ave., Gettysburg
717-338-1818
gettysburgghosttours.com

3 WAYS TO GET INTO THE

Spirit of the Season

BY JENNIFER FITCH

Get into the holiday spirit with these festive events. From bustling community celebrations to intimate historical experiences, there's something for everyone to enjoy this winter season.



MAIN STREET GETTYSBURG
A reindeer elf plays with Santa's herd during a Gettysburg Christmas Festival.

Get jolly at A Gettysburg Christmas Festival.

Main Street Gettysburg Inc. presents a community-wide event for the holidays over the first weekend of December every year. Roads are closed to allow for activities (meet live reindeer!), shopping promotions, performances and food trucks that complement restaurant specials. Designated shuttles for the Dec. 6 to 8 festival will help visitors make their way around town. Walk from Lincoln Square to Steinwehr Avenue to ensure you don't miss a thing.

717-337-3491
gettysburgchristmas
festival.com

Enjoy a show at Gettysburg Community Theatre.

Gettysburg Community Theatre's stage will host "Home for the Holidays" on Nov.

29, "A Children's Christmas Concert" on Nov. 30 and "Finding Nemo Jr." for much of December.

The intimate venue promotes cultural enrichment by accommodating performers and audiences of all ages and backgrounds year-round.

Gettysburg
Community Theatre
49 York St., Gettysburg
717-334-2692
gettysburgcommunity
theatre.org



SHRIVER HOUSE
Five Christmases at the Shriver house will show you what holidays were like before, during and after the Civil War.

Step back in time with Five Christmases at Shriver House.

George and Hettie Shriver spent five Christmases in their beloved home on Baltimore Street in Gettysburg. Candlelight tours of what is today a museum allow docents to explain how the Battle of Gettysburg had ripple effects throughout the family while showing off a candle-adorned Christmas tree, stockings on a mantel and other period décor. The tours begin on Thanksgiving and continue through New Year's Eve. Reservations are recommended.

Shriver House, 309
Baltimore St., Gettysburg
717-337-2800
shriverhouse.org

5 THINGS TO DO WITH KIDS THIS FALL

BY JENNIFER FITCH

Looking for ways to make the most of autumn with your kids? We've rounded up some of the best family-friendly events in the area, from festive festivals to thrilling adventures.

1

Bite into autumn fun at the National Apple Harvest Festival.

From apple art to apple jellies, the 60th annual National Apple Harvest Festival has a full range of apple-related products and activities on tap the weekends of Oct. 5 and 6 and Oct. 12 and 13 at the South Mountain Fairgrounds 9 miles northwest of Gettysburg. Live entertainment is scheduled to include chainsaw carvings, Native American dancers, apple syrup making, music, magic and orchard tours. Proceeds from the festival benefit a number of charitable causes. Tickets are available through the website.

615 Narrows Road, Biglerville
717-677-9413 • appleharvest.com

2

Get lost in Fields of Adventure.

The 2024 corn maze design at Fields of Adventure serves as a nod to its 15 years as a destination for family-friendly fun. Guests who find their way out of the mini or the large maze can then continue the fun with a zip line, wagon ride, pumpkin bowling, human foosball, rainbow climbing tires and more. Families can traverse the pumpkin patch to select their favorite gourds to take home as a reminder of the day.

64 Tree Lane, Aspers
888-677-0093 • fieldsofadventure.com

3

Trick-or-treat at the Olde Getty Place Halloween Parade.

Hosted by Businesswomen Influencing Gettysburg, this event is scheduled for Tuesday, Oct. 22 (rain date Oct. 23). Enjoy free candy and a contest for float design. The parade, which kicks off at 7:15 p.m. in Lincoln Square, provides more fun than fright, and is suitable for all ages.

Facebook.com/GettysburgHalloweenParade

4

Live life in miniature at the Land of Little Horses.

Get nose-to-nose with farm animals—goats, sheep, bunnies and, of course, miniature horses—at the Land of Little Horses, an Adams County



FIELDS OF ADVENTURE

"Farm. Food. Fun." There's lots for the whole family to explore at Fields of Adventure, including tube swings.

fixture for more than 50 years. The park has long showcased a "horse with a human brain" that answers math problems with its hooves for rapt audiences. Land of Little Horses typically closes its season around Halloween. Until then, it puts on a number of regularly scheduled shows like "The Mane Event," which concludes with an appearance from a unicorn named Mystic. Plus, learn more about some of the animals by participating in grooming and feeding them.

125 Glenwood Drive, Gettysburg
717-334-7259 • landoflittlehorses.com

5

Race down a mountain.

Test the powder at Liberty Mountain Resort near Fairfield by skiing, snowboarding and snow tubing. On weekends beginning in January, little ones can participate in the Liberty Kids Academy with instructors before they hit the mountain. The resort offers all the gear you'll need via rentals and sales. Cold after a few runs? Warm up indoors in one of the resort's restaurants, or gather at the firepits around the entrance to McKee's Tavern.

78 Country Club Trail, Fairfield
717-642-8282 • libertymountainresort.com

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 & Art Mart
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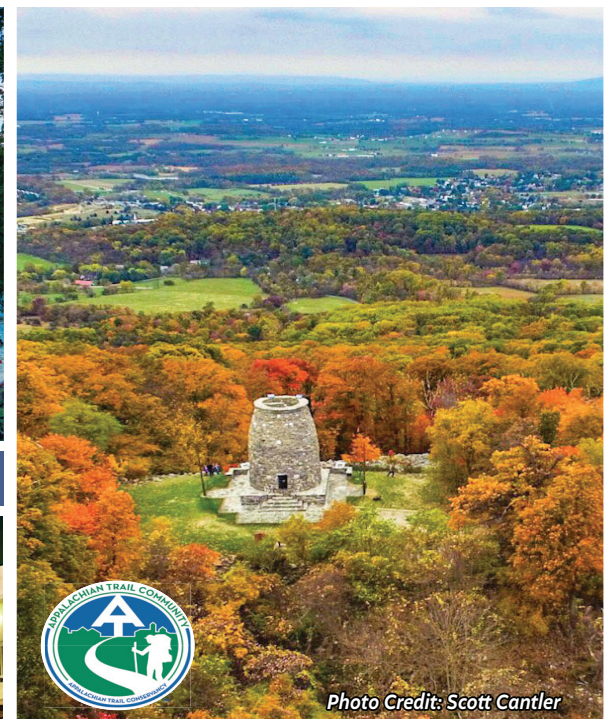
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BY KATE MARSANICO AND GABRIELE PAONESSA

Looking for a getaway to share with your significant other?

Less than a two-hour drive from the Washington, D.C., metro area, Page County is a charming place filled with good food, cultural hotspots and adventurous outdoor pursuits—not to mention romantic bed & breakfasts. It is the perfect spot to get some much-needed rest and relaxation and time with your partner, experiencing all the region has to offer.

Arguably the most famous attraction in the area is Shenandoah National Park, which allows visitors to appreciate the splendor of nature up close. Couples can enjoy an early morning hike on one of the more than 500 trails, which range from easy beginner to ambitiously experienced. There are many spots to stop and enjoy a picnic; either lay out a blanket or shelter under one of many pavilions open to the public for just these occasions. The **Skyline Drive**, the only public road that winds through the park, runs 105 miles north and south

of the crest of the Blue Ridge Mountains and offers pull-offs with stunning views. Take a few minutes to reconnect and revel in the breathtaking vistas or watch the sunset hand-in-hand.

Couples should not miss the Blue Ridge Whisky Wine Loop, which is an amalgamation of exceptional wineries, distilleries, breweries, dining and lodging that surrounds Shenandoah National Park. Family-owned and operated, **Wisteria Farm & Vineyard** is located on the western slope of the Blue Ridge Mountains and is a unique opportunity to relax by a firepit while enjoying a glass of wine—pinot gris, chardonnay, viognier and more. Notably, the wine is made from grapes solely grown at the vineyard. It is also a working farm with chickens and sheep that graze nearby. Call 540-742-5215.

Blue Shepherd Spirits is a distillery known for its small-batch vodka and gin, crafted with local ingredients. The gin is distinctive, made with a hint of juniper and citrus and then run through a special mix of botanicals. Make sure to call first as Blue Shepherd Spirits is the passion project of the own-

er who still maintains a full-time job as a firefighter/paramedic. Call 540-316-0056.

Enjoy a romantic dinner at the inviting farm-to-table **LOCAL Chop & Grill House in Luray**. It prides itself on creating an elevated dining experience with dishes prepared from seasonal ingredients, as well as lovingly crafted cocktails. Call 540-860-5605.

After a long day of hiking, picnicking, drinking and dining, head to the lovely **Shadow Mountain Escape**, a series of cabins featuring traditional European charm mixed with rustic Virginia beauty. Owners Ralph and Karen Riddle have created a haven that captures the essence of traditional European architecture. Shadow Mountain Escape offers special packages for couples celebrating honeymoons or anniversaries.

“One of our newest offerings is our elopement package, complete with an on-site marriage officiant—me!” Karen Riddle said. “It’s perfect for couples looking to start their new chapter in a beautiful, serene setting.” Call 540-843-0584.

SHADOW MOUNTAIN ESCAPE

Tucked away in the picturesque Blue Ridge Mountains, Shadow Mountain Escape offers a unique blend of traditional European charm and rustic Virginia beauty. This authentic timber frame retreat, nestled on a peaceful 15-acre woodland parcel, invites couples to experience a romantic getaway infused with the elegance and craftsmanship of old-world Europe. It offers several romantic packages for those looking to kindle or rekindle romance.



D3SIGN/GETTY

MUST-TRY EATS: 3 LOCAL FAVORITES IN PAGE

BY GABRIELE PAONESSA

After a day of exploring the beautiful Shenandoah Valley, take a break and refuel at one of these family-friendly restaurants.

CIRO'S

Ciro's offers some of the most popular pizza in the Town of Stanley. Craving something else? Try the homemade pasta or the hot or cold subs. Their spacious, family-friendly dining room makes for a relaxed atmosphere, so bring your family and friends. Closed Monday.

558D West Main St., Stanley
540-778-1112

RUDY'S DINER

Rudy's, owned by local firefighters, is another ideal option when you're looking for a casual dining experience that involves hearty comfort food. The diner serves breakfast, lunch and dinner seven days a week. Check out the steak and cheese sub, hand-cut fries, homemade desserts, and much more. And don't miss the waffles!

418 North 5th St., Shenandoah
540-652-2002

POLLOCK DINING ROOM AT SKYLAND

Enjoy views of the Shenandoah Valley while you savor regional farm-to-fork cuisine. Their "Mile-High Blackberry Ice Cream Pie" is a house specialty. Dine al fresco on the terrace, and then hit the Mountain Taproom for a nightcap. Their 2024 season runs through Dec. 1 and they serve breakfast, lunch and dinner.

400 Skyland Upper Loop Mile 42, Luray
877-847-1919

5 Popular Trails (and Trail Rides) to Try

BY GABRIELE PAONESSA

Lace up your hiking boots or saddle up your horse! Shenandoah Valley offers a variety of outdoor adventures for all skill levels. Explore these five popular trails and trail rides and experience the beauty of the region.

1

Clinton Lucas Jr. Trail at Big Gem Park

The Clinton Lucas Jr. Trail is a 1-mile single track ideal for mountain biking beginners. The lake and trail system provides a wonderful opportunity to watch birds, white-tailed deer, a host of native butterfly species and ruby-throated hummingbirds.

736 Fourth St., Shenandoah
540-652-8164
townofshenandoah.com (Search Big Gem Park.)



REBECCA ARMSTRONG

A family fishes along the Hawksbill Greenway in Luray.

2

Luray-Hawksbill Greenway

The Luray-Hawksbill Greenway combines a lush habitat for birds, butterflies, trout and other wildlife. It's home to a 2-mile, 10-foot-wide, paved walking and biking trail accessible for people with disabilities, six convenient parking areas, two modern restrooms, more than two dozen benches along the trail and eight picnic tables. While on the trail, users are only steps away from Luray's vibrant downtown area.

45 E. Main St., Luray
540-669-0318
hawksbillgreenway.org



DANIEL LIN

Murals decorate the Hawksbill Greenway in downtown Luray.

3

Jordan Hollow Stables

Both first-time horseback riders and pros are welcome at Jordan Hollow Stables, a family-owned business that offers guided rides along trails in Shenandoah Valley. Hour-and-a-half rides at a walk or a walk/trot pace—your choice—will lead you past Hawksbill Creek, where you can soak in scenery that includes abundant wildlife. See the website for age and weight restrictions.

657 Pine Grove Road, Stanley
540-778-2623
jordanhollowstables.com

4

Rivers Bend Ranch

If you'd like to ride the trails on horseback then stay overnight, visit Rivers Bend Ranch, which is also family-owned. The rides through this 250-acre dude ranch around the Shenandoah River's South Fork are ideal for novices, and available to the public as well as guests of the ranch. People 7 or older "from every walk of life" may ride.

397 Riverbend Road, Stanley
540-652-1837
riversbendranch.com

5

Massanutten Story Book Trail

This trail may be on the shorter side, but it has some breathtaking views along the way. About halfway into this half-mile stroll, stop at the overlook to behold nearly all of Page Valley. Hikers are permitted to go off-trail on the rocks to explore different views. As it's paved and has a difficulty level of 1, it's considered accessible to all. Begin at the marked wooden footbridge.

US Highway 211, Luray
pagevalley.org (Search the trail name.)



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CLARKE COUNTY, VA



COURTESY PHOTOS

LEFT: Waypoint House B&B in the Clarke County town of Berryville blends modern amenities and old-fashioned hospitality. RIGHT: The beautifully appointed rooms at L'Auberge Provençale Inn & Restaurant will make you feel like you're in France.

Cool Things to Do Two by Two

BY CYNTHIA BURTON

Clarke County's beautiful countryside is the perfect spot for a romantic getaway or a fun date night. Indulge in a gourmet meal prepared with fresh, local ingredients, then snuggle up by the fireplace in a charming country inn for a truly unforgettable experience.

1 Ooh-la-la! Escape to Provence at **L'Auberge Provençale Inn & Restaurant**, a classic French country inn in Virginia's beautiful Shenandoah Valley. The property features 11 unique guest rooms here and another three at their location 3 miles away. It has a chic bar, fireplaces, an award-winning restaurant and wine cellar and French touches.

Cuisine includes herbs, vegetables and fruits from their orchards and gardens. No time to stay the night? Don't let that stop you from dining in their La Table Provençale Restaurant, the perfect spot for dinner or to sip a cocktail.

13630 Lord Fairfax Highway, White Post
540-837-1375 • laubergeprovencale.com

2 Imagine enjoying a glass of Virginia wine in the foothills of the Blue Ridge Mountains on a glorious autumn day at **Veramar Vineyard**. Founded 24 years ago by the Bogaty family, the vineyard is near the Shenandoah River with expansive mountain views. Cabernet franc, chardonnay, albariño and malbec are among the many wine grapes grown on the property's 28 acres. Veramar's rustic yet elegant tasting room is open year-round, seven days a week, starting each day at noon. There's also a terrace to enjoy.



COURTESY OF VERAMAR VINEYARD

Have fun stomping grapes at the annual Rock the Grapes Festival at Veramar Vineyard on Oct. 12.

If you're looking for something a little more spirited and want to stomp some grapes, check out Veramar's Rock the Grapes Festival on Oct. 12 from noon to 5 p.m., where you'll catch live music, delicious bites from local food trucks, a beer tent, and kid-friendly activities, too. Tickets required. Prospective grape stompers should arrive early to sign up, as spots are limited.

905 Quarry Road, Berryville
540-955-5510 • veramar.com

3 If you've visited one lovely vineyard, why not visit two? **Twin Oaks Tavern Winery**, in the Bear's Den Rural Historic District along the Clarke/Loudoun line, is located in one of the stone houses built high atop the Blue Ridge Mountains between 1890 and 1920. At that time, there were several inns around Bluemont, as the

cooler mountain temperatures attracted city dwellers to the area.

The Evers family purchased Twin Oaks in 1998. Since their first grape harvest in 2002, Donna Evers has been the winemaker, and in 2008 their first two wines were offered to the public: Chardonnay and Raven Rocks Red. Enjoy a bottle on the deck of this charming boutique winery, which boasts panoramic views. Light fare is available, or you can bring a picnic. Open Friday to Sunday.

18035 Raven Rocks Road, Bluemont
540-554-4547 • twinoakstavernwinery.com

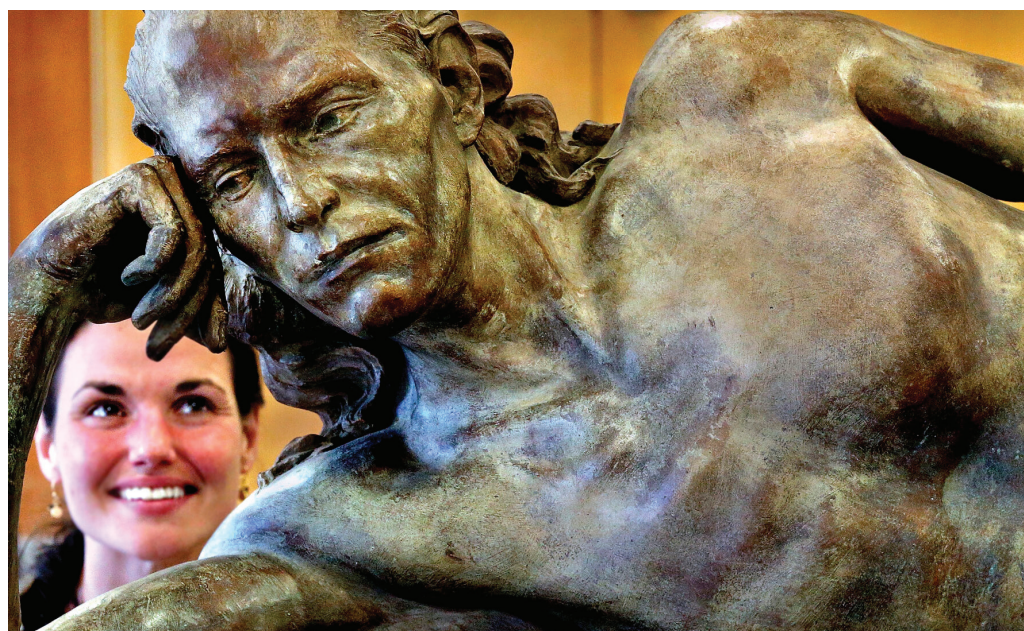
4 Enjoy a luxurious stay on a working family farm at **Smithfield Farm Bed and Breakfast**, situated near the Shenandoah River, the Blue Ridge Mountains and the Appalachian Trail. The innkeepers' family has received guests in the historic manor house for 200 years. Today, that family has been farming the property as well for 20 years; when you visit, see where your food is grown. There's also a walking trail that's open to the public.

568 Smithfield Lane, Berryville
540-955-4389 • smithfieldfarm.com

5 Berryville's pet-friendly **Waypoint House B&B** offers modern amenities and old-fashioned hospitality. It's a great starting point for exploring the Virginia countryside, and it's pet-friendly. Built in 1884, it has a quaint atmosphere with modern amenities.

211 S. Church St., Berryville
540-955-8218 • waypointhouse.com

Weather Woes? TRY THESE INDOOR ACTIVITIES.



COURTESY PHOTO

Martha Reynolds, executive director of the Barns of Rose Hill, is shown with "Sculpture of Greg" by Clarke County artist Malcolm Harlow, which is part of an exhibit there through Oct. 19.

BY CYNTHIA BURTON

When the rain is falling or the wind is howling, escape to the Barns of Rose Hill in Berryville to catch some live music or Blandy Experimental Farm at the State Arboretum of Virginia near Boyce for a workshop or class.

Barns of Rose Hill is a nonprofit performing arts venue and community center located in two reimagined dairy barns. Throughout the year, it offers a variety of programs for people of all ages. In addition to live music, there are exhibits, educational workshops, art classes and more. It's open to the public Tuesday to Saturday from noon to 3 p.m.

On Nov. 22 and 23, Virginia Museum of Fine Arts (VMFA) on the Road will bring "Love, Laughter, Tears: An Artist's Guide to Emotions" to the Barns. Paintings, prints, photographs and film by artists such as Kiyoshi Sait, Stephen Shames, Gabriel Sunday Tenabe, Nell Blaine and others will be on display.

Want to get your toes tapping? The

Barns' performance venue has great acoustics. Folk, jazz, classic, Celtic, and country are on the schedule this fall and winter. **Djoukil Swingtet**, from France's thriving music scene, will perform on Oct. 11 from 7 to 9 p.m. Their music blends the catchy rhythms of swing with the improvisational quality of jazz. Learn more at barnsofrosehill.org or call 540-955-2004.

While there's plenty to do outside at the expansive **Blandy Experimental Farm**, you can also find things to do inside.

For kids ages 1 to 6, the new **Junior Naturalist Series** is hosting drop-in programs from September to December from 10 a.m. to noon on the third Wednesday of the month. They and their adult can work through activity stations that explain things about the natural world, such as how animals prepare for winter.

A holiday tradition, the Foundation of the State Arboretum (FOSA) offers wreath-making workshops the first weekend in December, where you can create your own holiday wreath using fresh greenery, pinecones, seed pods and other natural adornments. Instructors help guide you through the steps.

Visit blandy.virginia.edu or call 540-837-1758.

3 Places for a Satisfying Meal

BY CYNTHIA BURTON

Pull up a chair at these family-friendly restaurants and you won't leave hungry.

1

If you're in the mood for Mexican fare, try **Camino Real Mexican Restaurant** in Berryville. They serve hearty portions and also offer a kids' menu. Check out their Taco Tuesday specials, Margarita Monday specials, and happy hour deals from 3 to 7 p.m. daily.

In a hurry? Camino Real guarantees your lunch will be served in 15 minutes. Visit caminorealdining.com.

2

NIK's (Neighborhood Italian Kitchen) in Berryville is a traditional New York-style Italian restaurant known for its generous servings of authentic Italian cuisine. The menu boasts everything from pizza to pasta to deli sandwiches and desserts "just like Mamma used to make!" according to its website. Fresh mozzarella is made on-site, and garlic bread is served with every entree. Finish your meal with homemade cannoli, New York-style cheesecake or tiramisu. American fare is also available. Dry-aged steaks are, too. See niksitalian.com.

3

You'll find creative comfort food at the **Lone Oak Tavern**, which has been feeding locals and travelers for over 90 years. Gourmet Black Angus burgers are the house specialty. If you want a cold beer, they've got you covered. Eat here once and you might become a regular. See loneoaktavern.com.

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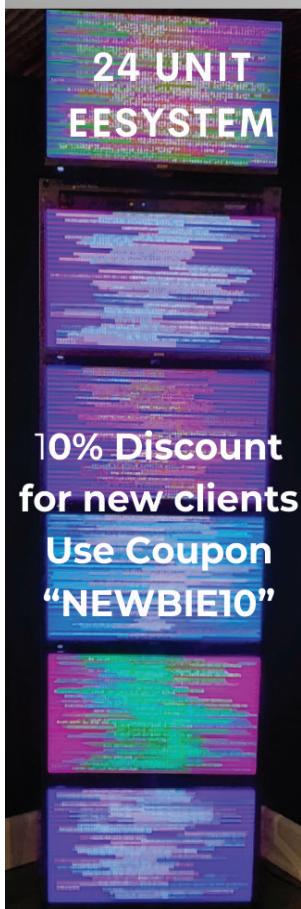
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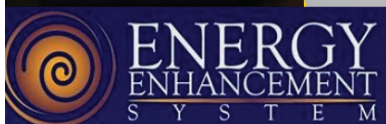
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CHARLES TOWN

It's Festival Season!

BY GARY BENNETT

If you long to be “far from the madding crowd,” as Thomas Hardy famously wrote, then Hardy County is the fall and winter destination for you. With just about 15,000 residents in the entire county, you’ll have plenty of room to stretch out and rediscover small-town America. And when you’re ready to mingle, check out these fall festivals.

Hardy County Heritage Weekend Festival

The Hardy County Tour & Craft Association sponsors this countywide festival, which will be held from Sept. 27 to 29. This celebration of the rich history and rural life of Hardy County showcases delectable foods, music and arts, craft shows, car shows, home tours, walking tours and Civil War encampments.

Now in its 71st year, the festival began as a way to raise funds for the public library, and Hardy County has continued that proud tradition. Each year, a historic home is chosen for immortality by placing its image on a decorative tile for display at the library. This year the honored home is the Lost River General Store.

The festival’s Americana-inspired house tour will include historic homes and buildings that represent an event in Hardy County history.

For more information on Hardy County’s Heritage Weekend Festival, visit heritageweekend.com or call 304-530-0280.

Wardensville Fall Festival

Tucked away in the northeast corner of Hardy County, just 20 miles from Route 81 near Winchester, lies the charming village of Wardensville. Their fall festival will be held Oct. 11 to 13 and is set to feature more than 100 vendors, a parade, crafting demon-



HARDY COUNTY CONVENTION AND VISITORS BUREAU

This late 18th-century historical cabin will be open to the public during Heritage Weekend in Mathias.

strations, artists painting, a car show, performances, bingo, fire truck rides, a cookout and the crowning of the parade marshalls. All proceeds benefit the Capon Valley Volunteer Fire Company.

For more information, call 304-874-3424.

Check out Visit Hardy’s website, visithardyywv.com, throughout the fall for updates on other festivals that weren’t confirmed by press time, like the WV Turkey Festival & Pageant in Mathias.

Moorefield’s Holidays on Ice

In early December, you can enjoy the town of Moorefield’s Christmas Tree Lighting and Parade on Main Street, sponsored by the Moorefield Lions Club. Then, keep the fun going and strap on those ice skates at Moorefield’s Town Park for free ice skating.

Beginning around Thanksgiving, Moorefield’s “Holidays on Ice” highlights their cozy winter wonderland. Each weekend through early February, the town provides a new batch of activities to keep the holiday spirit alive. A concession stand run by a different community organization each week plies visitors with tasty hot dogs, pepperoni rolls, popcorn, desserts, and hot cocoa as patrons while away the hours on the ice.

Some skating sessions are geared toward teens with disc jockeys blasting out popular tunes, while others cater to the younger set with arts and crafts, such as make-your-own snowman or Christmas tree.

The Moorefield Town Park is at 220 Spring Ave. For more information, visit mfldparks@hardynet.com or call 304-530-6142.



3 SPOTS FOR FAMILY-FRIENDLY BITES

BY GARY BENNETT

O’Neill’s Restaurant

O’Neill’s is a great place to grab dinner if you like generous portions and affordable prices. Homemade soups, salads, burgers, steaks and seafood round out the menu. Sandwiches have charming names of nearby locations like The Mill Island, The Cross Knob, The Wardensville, The Old Fields and The Dolly Sods.

614 W. Main St., Moorefield
304-530-2727

Mack’s Bingo Kitchen

Mack’s Bingo Kitchen is an American restaurant that incorporates seasonal ingredients from their organic farm and other nearby purveyors in their meals. The restaurant also serves as a living classroom for their Junior Crew, local Appalachian youth participating in a program to learn about restaurant operations.

155 W. Main St., Wardensville
304-454-5500

Lost + Found Pizza and Provisions

In addition to pizzas popular with locals, Lost + Found offers ‘provisions’ in the form of a beer and wine shop with snacks, sweets, gourmet coffee and apparel.

13357 WV-259, Mathias
304-897-6012

HARDY COUNTY CONVENTION AND VISITORS BUREAU

Mack’s Bingo Kitchen in Wardensville serves as a living classroom for local Appalachian youth participating in a program to learn about restaurant operations.



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5 Festive Things to Do This Fall

BY JUSTIN GRIFFIN

As summer's warmth gives way to autumn, Morgan County transforms into a haven of fall colors and crisp air. The rolling hills and mountainsides, once lush with green, ignite a spectacle of red, orange and gold hues, creating a breathtaking backdrop for leisurely drives along country roads or hikes through Cacapon State Park.

Berkeley Springs, nestled at the foot of these vibrant hills, exudes a quaint charm that perfectly complements the fall season. The historic downtown, lined with unique shops and inviting cafes, bustles with activity as visitors and locals alike embrace the change of season.

Fall in Morgan County isn't just about the visual spectacle; it's also a time for community and celebration. The Apple Butter Festival, a beloved annual tradition, fills the air with the sweet scent of simmering apples and spices, while local farms and orchards offer a bounty of fresh produce, including crisp apples, juicy pears and pumpkins.

Here's a list of can't-miss fall activities to enjoy in Morgan County this year.

1

Party at the Apple Butter Festival.



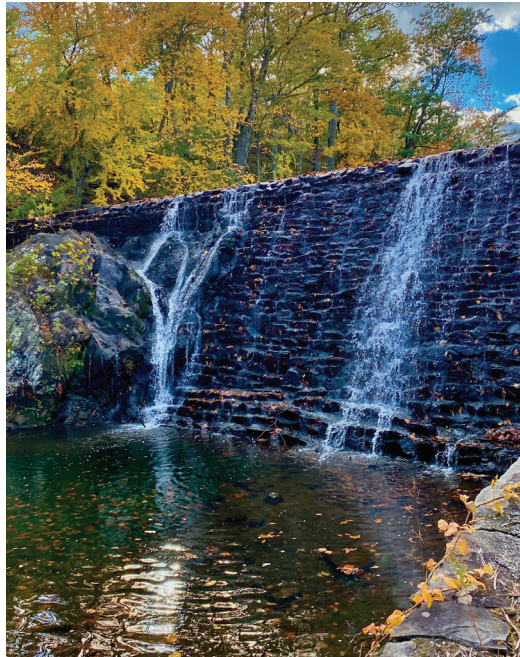
TRAVEL BERKELEY SPRINGS

The Apple Butter Festival attracts thousands of attendees each year to Berkeley Springs while celebrating the region's rich apple heritage.

The 49th annual Apple Butter Festival welcomes the changing season with sweet aromas and festive cheer in Berkeley Springs on Oct. 12 and 13. This beloved festival attracts thousands of attendees each year, celebrating the region's rich apple heritage with demonstrations of traditional apple butter making, live music, craft vendors and a variety of food. Visitors can witness the process of simmering apples over open fires, creating the thick, flavorful spread that has become a fall staple. The festival also offers a vibrant atmosphere with activities for all ages. Local artisans showcase their crafts, musicians perform on multiple stages, and children's activities provide entertainment for the younger crowd. Warm up for the weekend at the Beer Garden Party Oct. 11 featuring axe throwing and a DJ.

Berkeley Springs
304-258-3738

facebook.com/AppleButterFestivalWV



TRAVEL BERKELEY SPRINGS

The spillway at Cacapon Resort State Park can be a lovely place to take in fall colors.

2

Explore the paranormal on a Healing Springs Strolls' Spooky Stroll.

As Halloween nears, embark on a spine-tingling adventure through downtown Berkeley Springs. This guided tour from Healing Springs Strolls will lead you through eerie woods and historic sites, where chilling tales and perhaps even paranormal encounters await. Expert guides will share local legends and folklore, revealing the secrets of Berkeley Springs' haunted history. As you traverse the dimly lit paths, keep your senses sharp for unexplained phenomena. Will you hear a disembodied whisper or witness a fleeting shadow? Whether you're a seasoned ghost hunter or simply curious about the paranormal, this guided tour will leave you with chills and memories to last a lifetime. Tours are by reservation.

Bath/Berkeley Springs
469-999-3620 • tinyurl.com/Haunted-Trail

3

Check out the farmers market.

Attending the Berkeley Springs Farmers Market during the fall months is a delightful experience for anyone seeking fresh, local produce and a taste of community spirit. The market, held every Sunday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., showcases the bounty of the region's harvest, with vendors offer-

ing a vibrant array of seasonal fruits and vegetables, homemade baked goods, artisanal crafts and more. As the leaves change color, the market transforms into a festive gathering place. Visitors can stroll through the stalls, engage with local farmers and artisans and savor the flavors of fall. From warm cider to freshly baked pies, it offers a feast for the senses. The market is usually open through October, weather permitting.

Corner of U.S. 522 and Fairfax Street in downtown
Berkeley Springs
bsfmmanager@gmail.com
farmfreshwv.com/wv-markets/berkeley-springs-farmers-market

4

Go leaf peeping.

Morgan County offers breathtaking vistas for leaf peepers in fall, with vibrant foliage transforming the landscape into a virtual painter's palette. One prime spot is Cacapon Resort State Park, boasting panoramic views from its mountaintop lodge. Hiking trails wind through the park, showcasing the colorful canopy of oaks, maples and hickories. Sleepy Creek Wildlife Management Area provides another picturesque option, with scenic drives along winding roads revealing a tapestry of fall colors. The historic town of Berkeley Springs itself provides a charming backdrop for leaf peeping, with its tree-lined streets and picturesque parks. For more information of leaf peeping, contact Travel Berkeley Springs.

Travel Berkeley Springs
800-447-8797

Cacapon Resort State Park
304-258-1022

Sleepy Creek
304-822-3551
berkeleysprings.com

5

Take a drive through history.

The Washington Heritage Trail, a National Scenic Byway, winds through Morgan County. Starting on West Virginia Route 9 in Paw Paw, the drive offers views steeped in history and natural beauty. Following the path of George Washington's early explorations, the trail showcases landmarks like Berkeley Springs State Park, where the nation's first president is believed to have bathed in the warm mineral springs. The route rolls through picturesque countryside, offering glimpses of farmland, quaint villages and the majestic Cacapon Mountains.

Travel Berkeley Springs
304-258-9147
washingtonheritagetrail.com

Take a Hike or Ride a Bike

BY JUSTIN GRIFFIN

There are plenty of places to get off the beaten path in Morgan County. Sleepy Creek Wildlife Management Area or Cacapon State Park are both good places to hike. For cyclists, the C&O Canal Towpath is perfect for a fall ride with its flat surfaces and well-kept trails.

Sleepy Creek Wildlife Management Area: This expansive area features a network of trails catering to various skill levels. The High Rock/Shockeys Knob loop is a popular choice, offering breathtaking views of the surrounding valleys and forests ablaze with autumn colors. This area also offers big game hunting and fishing.

304-558-6200
tinyurl.com/Sleepy-Creek

Cacapon Resort State Park: The Cacapon Ridge Trail is a moderate 1.2-mile loop trail, perfect for a quick hike with scenic views. There's some rocky terrain and some elevation gain, but it's manageable for most hikers. Looking



TRAVEL BERKELEY SPRINGS

The Ziler Loop is a 3.3-mile trail that includes steep climbs, rocky terrain and a breathtaking view from the top of the mountains.

for more of a challenge? Try the Ziler Trail. This 3.3-mile hike includes steeper climbs, rocky terrain, and a breathtaking view from the top of Cacapon Mountain.

818 Cacapon Lodge Drive,
Berkeley Springs
304-258-1022
wvstateparks.com/
cacapon-resort-state-park

C&O Towpath biking: Enjoy a serene escape into nature and history. The flat, well-maintained path follows the Potomac River, providing picturesque views of the water, lush forests and remnants of the historic canal system. Cyclists can enjoy a leisurely ride, choosing their own pace and distance. The towpath is ideal for families and casual riders, with ample opportunities to stop and explore historic landmarks or simply relax by the water. For added convenience, Smalleys Taxi offers a bicycle transport service, allowing riders to enjoy a one-way journey without the hassle of returning to their starting point. This service is particularly convenient for those staying in Berkeley Springs, eliminating the need for a round-trip ride. canaltrust.org

Smalleys Taxi
304-223-9700
smalleystaxi.com



3 Wintertime Events

BY JUSTIN GRIFFIN

1

Hometown Holidays in Berkeley Springs

It's hard to overlook Christmastime in a picturesque small town like Berkeley Springs. The first big weekend starts on Dec. 6 with the town's annual Cocoa Crawl, where you'll discover different cocoa treats in each local shop you visit. Then catch the Christmas parade on Dec. 7 beginning at sundown. To attend the Cocoa Crawl, simply visit the website provided below for a map. For the Christmas parade in downtown, no tickets are required; just find a cozy spot along the parade route and enjoy the show.

Downtown Berkeley Springs
304-258-9147
[facebook.com/
HometownHolidaysinBerkeleySprings](https://facebook.com/HometownHolidaysinBerkeleySprings)

2

Bath Christmas Market

The Town of Bath (also known as Berkeley Springs) transforms into a charming Christmas Market from Dec. 12 to 15. Visitors will be delighted by twinkling lights adorning historic buildings, festive market stalls offering unique gifts and crafts, and the aroma of seasonal treats filling the air. Youngsters will enjoy the Elf Christmas Village—and seeing Santa.

Downtown Berkeley Springs
410-428-3516
tinyurl.com/Bath-Christmas-Market



3

Berkeley Springs International Water Tasting

Since its founding in 1991, more than 735 distinct waters have been judged at this prestigious event, billed as the "longest-running water tasting in the world" on its website. Over the years, all but three states have been represented, and entries have been received from as far away as Greece, New Zealand, Tajikistan and Japan. The public is invited to watch the judges sample, and can also vote for the People's Choice award for best packaging. Laura Smith of Travel Berkeley Springs confirmed that the 2025 contest will be held Feb. 20 to 23 at The Country Inn of Berkeley Springs.

110 S. Washington St., Berkeley Springs
304-258-9147
berkeleyspringswatertasting.com

The Maryland Theatre presents

The Vampire Circus



Wednesday, October 23, 2024

The Vampire Circus has been called a mix of circus cabaret and theater and is the result of a fusion of Tim Burton and Cirque Du Soleil. Enjoy a phenomenal night of live entertainment, based on the multidisciplinary skills of International performers showcasing theater, dance, and gymnastics. This amazing show pushes the physical boundaries of human performance and leaves audiences amazed, astounded, and astonished. Come meet the Vampires. We will leave the lights off for you!!

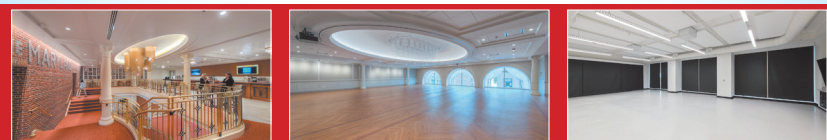
Wild World of Animals

Friday, January 31, 2025

Born in Lancaster, PA and reared in Miami, Grant Kemmerer became an enthusiastic animal advocate early on. Living so close to the ocean and Everglades, Grant became a certified scuba diver, and then began guiding tours into the captivating Everglades, introducing people from all over the world to the ecosystem and its monarch, the alligator. Grant has performed live animal programs in 37 states, trained animals for TV, and is a guest lecturer for one of the leading eco-tourism companies in the world, often traveling to the Amazon and Galapagos Islands. In this live stage show, audience members will learn about exotic animals from around the world and engage in fun audience participation.



For more information visit mdtheatre.org or call the local box office at 301-790-2000!



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SHENANDOAH VALLEY DISCOVERY MUSEUM

5 PLACES TO FACE YOUR FEARS

BY ASHLEY MILLER

Get ready to get spooked! This fall, the Shenandoah Valley comes alive with thrilling haunted houses and chilling ghost tours. From terrifying encounters at American Celebration on Parade to interactive lantern tours at the New Market Battlefield, there's something to scare everyone.

1. American Fright Night

Shenandoah Caverns presents American Fright Night, held at American Celebration on Parade during weekends in October. The 40,000-square-foot building might just be one of Virginia's most terrifying attractions as it twists through themed areas like Patriotic Chaos, Clowntown and Creepy Christmas. Set up and staged among 20 full-sized floats, ghosts and ghouls are sure to add to the frightful encounters.

397 Caverns Road, Quicksburg
540-477-3115
shenandoahcaverns.com

2. Strasburg Scarecrow Stroll

New to downtown Strasburg, the Scarecrow Stroll scheduled for Oct. 26 is a local shopping incentive where businesses are encouraged to creatively decorate a scarecrow for their window/shop. Get your scarecrow "passport" stamped for a chance to win local swag and gift cards. Passports will be available at the Strasburg Visitor and Information Center or Town Office to pick up and drop off.



COURTESY OF NEW MARKET BATTLEFIELD

Explore the New Market Battlefield after hours and step back in time with its annual lantern tour. The "Spirits of New Market" celebrates the indomitable spirit of those whose lives were impacted by the Battle of New Market.

Visitors Center: 33229 Old Valley Pike, Strasburg
540-465-5884
Town Office: 174 E King St., Strasburg
540-465-9197

3. Spirits of New Market

Explore the New Market Battlefield after hours and step back in time with their annual lantern tour program "Spirits of New Market," celebrating the indomitable spirit of those whose lives were impacted by the Battle of New Market. Follow a guide on a lantern-lit tour of the battlefield where you'll encounter living historians portraying the soldiers, townsfolk and the Bushong family, owners of the farm where the battle was fought. While interacting

with the characters, guests can give aid to the wounded, ask questions and experience the battlefield in a whole new way. The event will be held at Oct. 12 at 6 p.m.

8895 George Collins Parkway, New Market
540-740-3101
vmi.edu/newmarket

4. Halloween on Court Square

Come one, come all kids and their families in costume to Woodstock's annual Halloween on Court Square at 11 a.m. Oct. 26. Admission is free. Enjoy family fun for all ages, including trick-or-treating at businesses. Children ages 5 to 12 are encouraged to register for a chance to win the honor of lighting the town Christmas tree with the town's mayor in December.

Court Street, Woodstock
540-459-3621
woodstockva.gov

5. Fear Forest

The darkness is starting to come alive. The monsters are waking from their slumber. A full immersion Halloween experience awaits those willing to enter if they dare. Fear Forest takes your nightmares to a whole new level with three attractions: Fear Forest, Fear Crops and Fear Factory. The latter is, come to find out, "where your worst fears are manufactured."

6340 Oak Shade Road, Harrisonburg
fearforest.net

HARLEIGH CUPP

Skeletons tower over a path cut through the haunted corn maze at Fear Forest.



WHERE TO SKI, SKATE AND SLED

BY ASHLEY MILLER

While the Shenandoah Valley is known for its lush greens and vibrant orange hues, winter transforms it into its very own wonderland. Winter whites create an extraordinary playground for those looking to hit the snowy slopes for a day trip or long weekend.

Try ice skating at Bryce Resort (540-856-2121), and skiing at Massanutten Resort (540-289-9441), where you can hit some of the best slopes in Virginia.

Sledding and tubing are especially popular with youth in Woodstock and around Shenandoah County. There's nothing quite like this popular winter pastime, especially as laughter can be heard for miles as sleds run up and down the hills overlooking Central High School and W.O. Riley Park. Don't forget that helmet, mittens and scarf. For more information on locations and restrictions, call the town of Woodstock at 540-459-3621.



DANIEL LIN
Skiers make their way down the slopes at Massanutten Resort.

A Fall Festival Fit for Royalty

Immerse yourself in the vibrant, down-home atmosphere of **Autumnfest**, set for Oct. 5 at the Shenandoah County Fairgrounds. This annual extravaganza promises a day of fun for the whole family, filled with delicious food, live music and exciting activities.

Indulge your taste buds with a mouthwatering whole hog barbecue demonstration and tasting. As the savory aromas fill the air, sip on some of the region's finest craft brews, wines and spirits. And don't miss the exhilarating Flippin' Chicken contest, where skilled competitors battle it out to create the most mouthwatering barbecued bird.

For the little ones, there's plenty to keep them entertained. Watch in awe as skilled artisans demonstrate the art of apple butter making, or cheer on contestants in the thrilling log-splitting contest.

For a touch of equestrian excitement, catch the Shenandoah Downs harness racing and place a bet on your favorite horse.

As the day unfolds, explore the diverse offerings of local vendors, showcasing their unique crafts and



COURTESY PHOTO

Shenandoah Autumnfest features a Flippin' Chicken cook-off in which teams compete for the title of best barbecued chicken.

delicious treats. There will also be music throughout the day.

Gates open at 11 a.m. Note no pets or coolers are permitted. Learn more at shenandoahvalleyproductions.com/autumnfest or call 540-459-2542.

3 STOPS FOR A Family-Friendly Meal

BY ASHLEY MILLER

Sure, a fuzzy sweater or cup of coffee might do the trick, but there's nothing quite like a big bowl of chili or a hearty steak and baked potato after a cold day out exploring the Shenandoah Valley.

Known for their cozy atmosphere, **Strasburg Diner** dishes up breakfast, lunch and dinner. They offer a variety of classic and daily specials, as well as homemade desserts, so there's something for everyone on the menu. Visit strasburgdinerva.net.

Try **Southern Kitchen** in New Market if you're looking for some of the best fried chicken in Shenandoah County. Enjoy other menu favorites like slow-cooked ribs, seafood and beef liver in a nostalgic setting warmed with Southern hospitality. Open daily for breakfast, lunch and dinner. Visit southernkitchenva.com.

Family-owned for over 20 years, **Spring House Tavern** is popular with Woodstock locals. With vegetarian and gluten-free options, this American tavern offers soups and salads, sandwiches and burgers—including a rodeo burger that's topped with barbecue sauce, bacon strips, cheddar cheese and onion rings. See springhousetavern.net.

COURTESY OF SPRING HOUSE TAVERN

Spring House Tavern in Woodstock serves up a hearty burger.



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ROCKINGHAM COUNTY FAIR

EMBRACING COMMUNITY



The Rockingham County Fair holds its market lamb show Monday.

David Lin / DNR



David Lin / DNR

Past Rockingham County Fair President Jeff Germon leads the antique tractor parade through the fairgrounds on Monday.

Tractors On Parade

By LEE ZION
Daily News-Record

Greg Coffman of Grot-two rides his 1949 Farmall H that his grandfather bought new over seven decades ago.

"My uncle got it after his passing," Coffman said. "Then, my dad got it after his passing. And now I've got it."

He doesn't use the tractor for farming anymore. Instead, he gives rides to his grandkids and brings it out for antique shows and parades.

on Monday afternoon at the Rockingham County Fair. This is the fourth year of the tractor parade, which will happen again with a tour of the fairgrounds at 4 p.m. Wednesday.

Coffman doesn't have any childhood memories of the tractor. But when, at the age of 16, he shot his first deer, his uncle used the tractor to help pull it out of the woods.

"It was a 10-pointer. And at a young age like that, you kill a 10-pointer, everybody's happy to kill a 10-pointer," he said. "Bape-



David Lin / DNR

Rockingham County Sheriff Bryan Hutcheson, left, talks with Corporal Shawn Morris and investigator Bobby Royston outside the command post Monday at the Rockingham County Fair.

Focusing On Safety

By LISA LANDRAM
Daily News-Record

Safety is at the forefront of the Rockingham County Fire and Rescue, as firefighters can focus on having a good time.

Chief Jeremy Holloway said that most personnel have emergency radios and can call for assistance from first responders if needed.

Holloway said the fair has an EMS room to help those in need.

"Every day, a paramedic is on site," said

directly connect them with someone from Rockingham County Fire and Rescue on site.

People can also contact the volunteers at the fair in an emergency.

Holloway said that most personnel have emergency radios and can call for assistance from first responders if needed.

Holloway said the fair has an EMS room to help those in need.

"Every day, a paramedic is on site," said



David Lin / DNR

Seniors show their lambs during Monday's market lamb show at the Rockingham County Fair.

Lambs On Display

By ANYA SZCZERZENIE
Daily News-Record

Rockingham County Fair's week of livestock shows kicked off Monday with the Market Lamb Show, where kids and teenagers got the chance to show off the animals they had raised along with their showmanship skills.

The show was divided into senior, intermediate and junior levels, ranked by age.

The senior division — those 16 and older — must first be

niors.

Emily Hammer, 17, won first place in the senior division with her male lamb, Sparky.

"It feels really good. I spent all summer on the road with my lamb, and no one has won a lot of jackpots," Hammer said. "But this one has earned the most because it's my home county fair, and this is his last before I sell him."

Hammer said it took a lot of preparation to prepare the

Daily News-Record



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Where to Enjoy the Snow This Season

BY CODY ELLIOT

As the mercury drops and the landscape transforms into a winter wonderland, snow-filled activities beckon. Whether you're a seasoned pro or just starting out, Rockingham County and its surrounds are the place to be. From the majestic slopes of Snowshoe Mountain to the family-friendly fun at Massanutten Resort, there's something for everyone to enjoy.



DANIEL LIN

Snow tubers race down a hill at Massanutten Resort.

1. Massanutten Resort

This resort is located just out of Harrisonburg and is an accommodating option for all ages.

Massanutten Resort offers skiing, tubing and an outdoor skating rink during the winter months and includes a variety of slopes and trails suitable for all skill levels. Lodging is available, and dogs are welcome for an extra fee.

1822 Resort Drive, Massanutten
540-289-9441
massresort.com

2. Wintergreen Resort

This "snowy playground" has plenty of lodging and dining accommodations to enjoy after a day on the slopes. Whether your preference is snowboarding, tubing, skiing or all of the above, you'll find a slope to suit your skill level. Accommodations include three-bedroom condos and homes.

39 Mountain Inn Loop, Nellysford
434-325-2200
wintergreenresort.com

3. Bryce Resort

Located in the Shenandoah Valley, this is one of the area's most popular four-season resorts.

During the winter, skiing, snowboarding and snow tubing are popular options, but there are plenty of other activities ranging from a par-71 golf course to ice skating to dining and shopping. During fall, reserve a spot to dine outdoors on top of a mountain.

1982 Fairway Drive, Basye
540-856-2121
bryceresort.com

4. Snowshoe Mountain

One of the most popular options around, Snowshoe Mountain is a family-friendly destination that caters to all age groups. With "plenty of runs groomed with the same attention paid to top show dogs," according to their website, the skiing and snowboarding here offer some incredibly scenic routes. Snow tubing is also a popular choice. Dining and lodging options abound.

10 Snowshoe Drive, Snowshoe, W. Va.
877-441-4386
snowshoemtn.com

5. White Grass Ski Touring Center

Nestled in the heart of Canaan Valley, West Virginia, White Grass Ski Touring Center offers what promises to be an unforgettable cross-country skiing experience. It features groomed trails ranging from beginner-friendly to challenging. Enjoy the stunning landscapes of Canaan Valley while fueling up at the on-site cafe. Venture off the groomed trails for backcountry skiing adventures or explore the surrounding wilderness.

643 Weiss Knob Ski Road, Davis, W. Va.
304-866-4114
whitegrass.com



DANIEL LIN

Skiers and snowboarders arrive at the bottom of the slopes at Massanutten Resort.

3 CAN'T-MISS SEASONAL EVENTS

BY ANYA SCZERZENIE

As fall turns to winter, there are plenty of events in and around Harrisonburg where travelers can celebrate the season.

The Westover Holiday Craft Show will be held Oct. 26, at the Cecil F. Gilkerson Community Activities Center in Westover Park, Harrisonburg. The show will feature fall and winter-themed crafts and holiday gifts. It will take place from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. and is a great place to get your holiday shopping done early. Visit harrisonburgva.gov/westover-holiday-craft-show.

In downtown Harrisonburg, Winter Wonderfest, hosted by Harrisonburg Downtown Renaissance, is a free event scheduled for Dec. 7. HDR calls it "the most magical day in Downtown Harrisonburg" and promises this year it will be "bigger than ever." Kids can take photos with Santa, while people of all ages can enjoy carriage rides, performances and downtown shopping. A nighttime parade downtown will follow. Visit downtownharrisonburg.org and search Winter Wonderfest.

The Christmas Parade, an annual tradition in the town of Bridge-water, is also planned for Dec. 7. It will start around 4 p.m. and wend along the town's main street. Besides the floats, enjoy the antique cars and marching bands. Call 540-908-4212.



SUBMITTED

Rhinestone Productions occasionally hosts drag shows at Mashita, a restaurant in downtown Harrisonburg.

Popular LGBTQ+ Friendly Hangouts

BY RICHARD H. HRONIK III

Set in the heart of Rockingham County, Harrisonburg has several spots that can be the perfect place to catch a queer-friendly event. Whether it's a drag show, an open mic night hosted in partnership with the Friendly City Safe Space, or concerts with queer performers, these four bars are among the most welcoming in the Friendly City.

The Golden Pony

A bar and grill located on North Main Street in downtown Harrisonburg near the Kavanaugh apartment building, The Golden Pony frequently hosts a wide variety of shows and events, including several genres of music and weekly karaoke nights.

Paul Sommers, owner of The Golden Pony, said LGBTQ+ patrons could look forward to the Virginia folk trio Palmyra performing at the Pony on Nov. 7. Tickets and information on more events are available at The Golden Pony's website.

540-901-2628 • goldenponyva.com

Mashita

If you're looking for a drag performance or an open-mic night, Mashita might be the place for you. The

restaurant, located in downtown Harrisonburg at the intersection of North Liberty and Elizabeth streets, features a Korean-inspired menu including kimchi fries, steamed buns, spicy japchae with pork belly, and beer, wine and sake.

The restaurant features a full bar and a free arcade. It periodically hosts open mic events with the Friendly City Safe Space, a gathering space for the local LGBTQ+ community. In addition, the restaurant occasionally hosts drag shows organized by Rhinestone Productions. The Summer Drag Knight series was held at the restaurant this year.

540-810-1875 • eatmashita.com

The Ridge Room

Located on top of the Hyatt Place Harrisonburg on Evelyn Byrd Avenue in the city's eastern portion, The Ridge Room rooftop tavern offers elevated small-plate dishes and a full-service bar. Patrons can enjoy occasional drag brunches and a stunning view of the mountains.

540-442-3966 • ridgeroom.com

Ruby's Lounge

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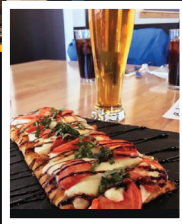
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franklincountyfarmbureau.com

Waynesboro Market Day
October 5, 2024 | 9AM-4PM
mainstreetwaynesboro.org

AppleFest
October 19, 2024 | 9AM-4PM
discoverchambersburg.com

Shippensburg Pumpkin Festival
October 26 & 27, 2024
shippumpkinfest.com

Corn Mazes & Pumpkin Patches
ExploreFranklinCountyPA.com/events



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5 Things to Do With the Kids

BY LAURA RUBY

Whether you visit Warren County in the fall for its famous vibrant leaves and picturesque vistas or seek out a peaceful retreat in its countryside during winter, the small town offers a bounty of activities for families. These five activities are sure to entertain all ages.

1

The 52nd Annual Festival of Leaves

This free, long-running festival will feature more than 200 vendors, crafters and artists, musical acts on three stages, a kids' zone, historical demonstrations by the Warren Heritage Society, and a beer, wine and mead garden in Front Royal's historic downtown. Gates open at 6 p.m. Oct. 11, and the festival kicks off with Dancing Downtown from 7 to 11 p.m. On Oct. 12, it runs from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

414 E. Main St., Front Royal
540-635-5788
festivalofleaves.org



RICH COOLEY

Making apple butter is a staple of the annual Festival of Leaves in Front Royal.



RICH COOLEY

Fall in Warren County is a magical time for families with its giant pumpkins, vibrant leaves and picturesque vistas. Soleen Barker, 3, of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, balances herself on a giant pumpkin outside the gazebo on East Main Street in Front Royal.

2

Tales from the Trails

In its inaugural year, this mini Appalachian Trail Town Festival will feature authors telling colorful tales about their hiking experiences, as well as trail and outdoor vendors, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Nov. 16. The event will also include guided hikes.

414 E. Main St., Front Royal
703-907-9662
discoverfrontroyal.com (Search events calendar.)

3

Spooky Saturday

Looking for a laid-back, traditional small-town Halloween? Check out Spooky Saturday in downtown Front Royal. Kids are invited to dress up and visit Main Street merchants and other members of the business community who will hand out candy around

the gazebo from 3 to 5 p.m. Oct. 26. Vendors will offer a variety of interactive options like face painting, crafts and carnival games—and there will be plenty of space for kids to burn off their sugar-fueled energy.

414 E. Main St.
540-635-5788
discoverfrontroyal.com
(Search events calendar.)

4

Christmas on Main

Speaking of small-town celebrations, Front Royal's Christmas on Main celebration is set for Dec. 7. The parade steps off at 4 p.m. along the idyllic commercial avenue, marching to the Instagram-worthy gazebo where family fun awaits.

414 E. Main St.
540-635-5788
discoverfrontroyal.com
(Search events calendar.)



GETTY

5

Mac's Roller Rink

Located just north of Front Royal, Mac's Roller Rink comes to the rescue on cold or rainy days, offering family fun in the form of roller skating, billiards and arcade games. Open Friday through Sunday for public skating, the rink has skate walkers for those learning the skill.

5030 Front Royal Pike, White Post
540-823-0856
macsrollerrink.com

Blaze a Trail in Warren County



RICH COOLEY

Located along the Shenandoah River in Front Royal, Eastham Park offers a mile-long paved pathway with a slight incline.

BY LAURA RUBY

There's nothing better than soaking up nature's beauty on a crisp autumn hike. With miles and miles of trails, you're sure to find your perfect trail in Warren County—whether it's a climbing challenge or a more leisurely stroll.

Located along the Shenandoah River in Front Royal, **Eastham Park** offers an easy, paved, mile-long pathway with a slight incline. The lovely foliage is reflected in the river to the west, while a dog park and playground offer fun for the whole family. Call 540-635-1021 for more information.

Skyline Drive in Shenandoah National Park offers myriad hiking options along the route. Get out of your car and check out the 3-plus-mile **Snead Farm Loop**, located across from the Dickey Ridge Visitor Center on the Skyline Drive. The mostly flat terrain leads to the abandoned Snead family barn, which is still standing and in good repair, and the foundations of the family home. Get more information about the property and the trail, including options for longer

hikes, and take in the mountain views from the visitors' center. Call 540-999-3500.

Located at the edge of the George Washington and Jefferson National Forests, **Buzzard Rock** is a 3.6-mile, moderate trail that features a stunning fall panoramic vista overlooking Fort Valley and Passage Creek. The overlook is the perfect place to recover from the steep incline getting there. Very popular with both locals and visitors, this out-and-back trail—meaning it begins and ends at the same location—offers some shade, rock scrambles and small creek crossings—although the trail has been dry this year due to a drought. Parking is limited. Call 540-265-5100.

Looking to push yourself with a challenging hike? Hop on the **Appalachian Trail** where it passes through Front Royal. From the trailhead near Lake Front Royal on U.S. 522 South, travel southwest into Shenandoah National Park. The trail parallels the Smithsonian Institute's Conservation and Research Center with a steep incline near the trailhead that takes you into the old forest. At about 3.5 miles, you'll find Possums Rest Overlook, and another 3 miles will take you to more amazing views at Compton Peak. Call 304-265-5100.

Hoist a Glass

BY LAURA RUBY

A pair of inaugural events—and a new tavern—celebrate the joy of a good brew in Front Royal's historic district.

The Front Royal-Warren County Chamber of Commerce will host **Something's Brewing Beer Fest** from noon to 5 p.m. Sept. 21 at the Main Street gazebo in Front Royal, featuring beer tastings, live music, crafters and food trucks.

Honey & Hops Brew Works at 212 E. Main St. will host its first Mead Mile and Festival starting at 10:20 a.m. Nov. 2. Following the race, enjoy live music, food, drinks and craft vendors. See honeyandhopsbrewworks.com/mead-mile for more.

It'll seem as though you've stepped into an old English pub when you visit **Chester Street Tavern** at 12 Chester St. in Front Royal. Set in a restored 1806 home, it boasts hand-hewn beams and plank floors. Enjoy beer on tap and live music in this intimate setting. Visit chesterstreettavern.com.



RICH COOLEY

Jim Justice, owner of Chester Street Tavern, fills a glass of his most popular beer, Irish Red, inside his tavern in Front Royal.



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SAVANNAH ADVENTURE
Sunday-Friday October 27-November 1 \$1599 per person (double occupancy) 6 day/ 5 nights Savannah Adventure includes five nights lodging, 10 meals Billy Graham Library, tour of Jekyll Island (including tram), tour of St. Simons Island, informative tour of Savannah, Low Country Tour, free time on River Street, show at the Savannah Theatre, storyteller in Mount Airy, tour of Mount Airy, and Andy Griffith Museum!



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LAS VEGAS
5 Days/ 4 Nights, Monday -Friday November 11-15 \$879 per person (double occupancy) Includes: Round-Trip Motorcoach to BWI, Round-trip non-stop air to Las Vegas, Round-trip Airport to Hotel Transfers, 4nights accommodations at the fabulous Excalibur Hotel & Casino.



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Sunday-Wednesday December 15-18 \$2019 per person (double occupancy). includes roundtrip airfare, roundtrip bus to BWI, 3 nights lodging at Gaylord Opryland Resort., 6 Meals, four shows including Christmas Dinner show in ballroom at Gaylord Opryland (Entertainer TBD) Amy Grant & Vince Gill at the Ryman, General Jackson Showboat Luncheon Cruise with entertainment., Grand Ole Opry, Country Music Hall of Fame, guided city tour of Nashville, Delta Flatboat ride, Treasures for the Holidays, Ice



KEY WEST, FLORIDA
Monday-Thursday January 20-23, 2025- \$2079 per person (double occupancy) round trip air from Dulles to Key West, round trip transportation to Dulles Airport, round trip trolley transportation to and from hotel. 3 nights in Key West at Florida Keys and Key West Lodging Association's "Property of the Year", the Doubletree Grand Key Resort located a mile from the airport. Complimentary transportation from hotel to Duval Street and the beaches.



NEW ORLEANS PRE MARDI GRAS 2025
Monday February 24- Friday February 28, 2025 \$2099 per person (double occupancy) Roundtrip airfare from Baltimore to New Orleans, 5 days , 4 nights accommodations in French Quarter 7 Meals New Orleans School of Cooking, comprehensive city tour of New Orleans, Mardi Gras World Museum, National World War II Museum (including 4D film), Steamboat Natchez Harbor Cruise, Louisiana Swamp Boat tour, and reserved parade bleacher seating for four parades in New Orleans.

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Saturday November 30
Saturday December 7
Saturday December 14
Saturday December 21

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