

Signature Events in Fairfax County, Virginia

www.fxva.com

**all events and dates are subject to change; check website for details.*

February

Black History Month Observed at Mount Vernon

In observance of Black History Month, February 1 through 28, Mount Vernon interpreters highlight at the slave quarters the lives and contributions of the slaves who built and operated the plantation home of George and Martha Washington every day from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Black History Month activities usually take place every day in February except Presidents Day.

www.mountvernon.org

George Washington's Birthday Celebration at Mount Vernon

George Washington's favorite breakfast was "hoecakes, swimming in butter and honey." Join "General Washington" for a sample of this meal (while supplies last) from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. New this year: the cavalry comes to town! The Second Continental Light Dragoons will ride throughout the estate on horseback. Join characters from the 18th century as they help visitors surprise General Washington with rousing birthday cheers! At "George Washington's Surprise Birthday Party," the first president will be presented with gifts which he will describe and react to during a speech to his birthday visitors.

www.mountvernon.org

March

City of Fairfax Chocolate Lovers Festival

Among the events planned each year are the Taste of Chocolate, featuring chocolate vendors selling their wares; the Chocolate Challenge, an arts extravaganza where the medium is chocolate; the Kiwanis Pancake Breakfast featuring chocolate chip pancakes; historic re-enactments; children's activities; open houses at historic buildings; and much more.

www.chocolatefestival.net

April

National Cherry Blossom Festival – Fairfax County Self Guided Garden Tour

The area's broad mix of flowering trees, sprouting bulbs and native blooms fuels months of color in world-class gardens. Tour 25 acres of landscaped beauty along the Potomac River at River Farm. Once owned by George Washington, this gem is now home to the prestigious American Horticultural Society. It just doesn't get better than this. Just past an enclave of trees, a secret garden reveals itself at Green Spring Gardens. This hidden wonder is a gold mine of information and inspiration for the home gardener. Meadowlark Botanical Gardens, a 95-acre complex, is like a year-round walk through a beautifully illustrated textbook of native plants, birds and butterflies.

www.nationalcherryblossomfestival.org



Fairfax County, Virginia
Connect with America

Connect with *Fairfax County*

Bull Run Regional Park Annual Bluebell Walk

Come join us for this traditional walk that has been taking place for more than 30 years. All ages are welcome and there is no cost. Participants will engage in an interpretive walk down the Bull Run Blue Bell Trail lead by NVRPA Rangers.

www.nvrpa.org/park/bull_run

May

McLean Day

Spend the day outside with the McLean Community (nonprofit groups, crafters, local businesses) and enjoy carnival rides, live entertainment and delicious food.

<http://www.mcleancenter.org/special-events/upcoming>

Viva! Vienna!

The Rotary Club of Vienna sponsors the Viva! Vienna! event, in which The Town of Vienna celebrates the unity and strength of the Vienna community and honors Memorial Day with craft and food vendors and entertainment for the whole family.

www.vivaviennava.org

Great Grapes! Wine, Art and Food Festival

Over 200 Great Virginia Wines, Over 20 Virginia Wineries, 2 Big Days at Reston Town Center. Great Live Music, Wonderful Food and Crafts.

www.uncorkthefun.com

Mount Vernon Spring Wine Festival and Sunset Tour

Celebrate the history of wine in Virginia with candlelit tours of the Mansion, including the rarely-open basement where Washington stored his wine, and live jazz on the east lawn overlooking the scenic Potomac River.

www.mountvernon.org

Sunset Celebration at Mount Vernon

Historic Mount Vernon invites visitors to an unprecedented evening experience! Sunset Celebration at Mount Vernon, a new event over Memorial Day weekend offers a rare opportunity to visit Mount Vernon after the daytime crowds have departed.

www.mountvernon.org

Wolf Trap National Park for the Performing Arts Summer Season Blast Off!

“The President's Own” United States Marine Band comes to Wolf Trap National Park for the Performing Arts’ summer season kick off with a program of concert band favorites. A fireworks display follows the concert. This event is the traditional kick off event for Wolf Trap’s world-renowned summer concert series and is free to the public but fills up fast and the park closes at capacity.

www.wolftrap.org



Northern Virginia Fine Arts Festival

The Northern Virginia Fine Arts Festival, produced by the Greater Reston Arts Center, is a top-rated annual juried outdoor street festival held in the heart of the elegant and bustling Reston Town Center. The two-day event attracts over 50,000 patrons and provides an interactive experience to view, purchase, and experience art directly from the unique and talented artists who have created it.

www.restonarts.org

June

Herndon Festival

Carnival rides, entertainment, fireworks, food and craft vendors and more come to downtown Herndon in this four day community festival.

www.herndonfestival.net

Celebrate Fairfax!

Celebrate Fairfax!, Northern Virginia's largest community-wide celebration, arrives every June and hosts tens of thousands of visitors during the three-day run. The 25-acre site is magically filled with fascinating sights and sounds of more than 300 exhibitors, food vendors, crafters and interactive activities. Celebrate Fairfax! showcases live concerts on seven stages, ExxonMobil Children's Avenue, a petting zoo, the Fairfax County Karaoke Championship, carnival rides, and great festival foods. Nightly fireworks are a highlight of the festival, and one of many great family programs.

www.celebratefairfax.com

Sully Historic Site Antique Car Show

On Father's Day, over 400 vintage cars and trucks converge at Sully Historic Site from as the Fairfax County Park Authority and the Model A Ford Club of America hosts it's annual antique car show. There are Model-T take-apart demonstrations, food for sale, and 1950s-style music. Combined with Pilot Family Day and Aviation Display at the Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum Steven F. Udvar-Hazy Center, this event is part of a "Wings and Wheels Weekend."

www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/sully

Annual Become a Pilot Family Day and Aviation Display

See 50 visiting vintage, recreational, military, and homebuilt aircraft, on display outside the Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum Steven F. Udvar-Hazy Center for one day only. Talk to pilots and find out what skills are needed to fly. Inside the Center, test your piloting skills in flight simulators, talk to aviation experts, and enjoy story time and hands-on activities with the kids. Combined with Sully Historic Site's Antique Car show, this event is part of a "Wings and Wheels Weekend."

<http://becomeapilot.si.edu/>



Vintage Virginia

This event is a cornerstone of the East Coast wine festival season, located at Bull Run Regional Park, and featuring a one-stop shopping environment for wine collectors and enthusiasts, as well as a unique opportunity to interact with winemakers, movers and shakers, cultivating your own understanding of what makes a quality vintage.

www.vintagevirginia.com

Historic Town of Clifton Wine Festival

Held amongst quaint historic buildings and shady oaks, the Clifton Wine festival features great wine, delicious food, arts and crafts vendors and small town splendor.

www.cliftonwine.com

July

Independence Day Celebrations

Many towns and cities in Fairfax County host a number of Independence Day parades, festivals, fireworks shows and special events to correspond with our nation's birthday. Take a look at the website for details of all the celebrations happening in the area.

www.fxva.com

An American Celebration at Mount Vernon

Historic Mount Vernon, the home of George Washington, salutes our first commander-in-chief with a dazzling display of made-for-daytime fireworks during its annual Independence Day event!

Visitors will be treated to spectacular smoke fireworks in patriotic colors fired over the Potomac River.

www.mountvernon.org

August

4-H Festival at Frying Pan Farm Park

The Fairfax County 4-H Fair and Frying Pan Park Farm Show is for visitors of all ages. Two days of horse shows, livestock and rabbit judging, dog and pet shows, food, kiddie rides, free entertainment, old-fashioned games, goat milking, a pie-eating contest, demonstrations, 4-H Fashion Show, crafters, and much, much more. Fairgoers will also enjoy the fantastic Frying Pan Park Farm Show and Fairfax County Park Authority's 1920s-era Kidwell Farm. Activities include hayrides, cow milking, blacksmith and farrier demos, animal washing and grooming, sheep shearing, and lots more!

4hfairfax.org



Sully Historic Site Civil War Days

Federal and Confederate troops recreate Civil War daily life as re-enactors demonstrate the varied work of the army. Skirmishes each day include infantry, artillery and cavalry. Visit the weekend encampment and discover a soldier's lifestyle during this turbulent time in America's history. Enjoy live music and a fashion show. House tour includes artifacts rarely on exhibit belonging to the Haight family, mid-19th century residents at Sully.

www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/sully

September

Town of Herndon Labor Day Wine and Jazz Festival

Celebrate summer's end at the Herndon Labor Day Festival on the Town Green. Renowned musicians, Virginia wines, microbrews, a fine arts show - all are part of the festivities.

www.herndon-va.gov

Town of Clifton Labor Day Chili Cookoff and Antique Car Show

See muscle cars, antiques, classics, motorcycles, and enjoy food and music, as well as door prizes, "Participant Pick" awards, Dash Plaques to the first 250 show vehicles, and trophies.

cliftonva.us/

Virginia Indian Festival at Riverbend Park

This event includes eight Virginia and Washington, DC area tribes including the Rappahannock dancers and drummers. Indian crafts, pottery and music for sale. Enjoy live demonstrations, talks by tribe members, tool-making experts and local archaeologists, plus bow-and-arrow shooting and spear throwing with an atlatl. Help build an authentic dug-out canoe.

www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/riverbend

Mount Vernon Fall Wine Festival and Sunset Tour

Enjoy live blues and spectacular views of the Potomac River while sampling wine from 16 Virginia wineries. Visitors learn about the successes and failures of our Founding Father's wine endeavors, enjoy live blues music, and meet "George and Martha Washington" on the Mansion's piazza.

www.mountvernon.org

Sully Historic Site Quilt Show

This event features speakers, music, new and antique quilts, other fiber arts, quilt-related merchandise, antique linens, antique sewing tools, books and fabric. Northern Virginia Quilters Unlimited members provide quilting demonstrations and lectures. Hayfield Country Quilters provide a beautiful door prize quilt. Show includes children's activities, quilt appraisals, quilted door prize, and food. Show is held rain or shine. A house tour is included in the admission price.

www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/sully



Mount Vernon Colonial Market and Fair

The annual Colonial Market & Fair at Mount Vernon features dozens of America's finest craftspeople and plenty of family fun! Colonial-attired artisans demonstrate 18th-century crafts and sell traditional wares. The event also features lively 18th-century entertainment including music, fire-eating, sword-swallowing, puppet and magic shows, plus hearty specialty food for sale onsite.

www.mountvernon.org

Great Grapes! Wine, Art and Food Festival

Over 200 Great Virginia Wines, Over 20 Virginia Wineries, 2 Big Days. Great Live Music, Wonderful Food and Crafts.

www.uncorkthefun.com

Virginia Wine Festival at Bull Run Regional Park

The Virginia Wine Festival is the oldest wine festival on the East Coast. Each year, the festival features 50 of VA's best wineries, craft exhibitors, seminars, and incredible music.

www.virginiawinefest.com

October

Clifton Day

The annual Clifton Day includes arts and crafts, antiques, demonstrations, the Town Market, live music, children's activities and lots of good food.

cliftonday.com/

Northern Virginia Fall Brewfest

The BrewFest is a fantastic beer sampling event primarily featuring microbrews. The World Beer Experience will feature more than 40 of the world's best breweries, plenty of delicious food to complement the craft beers and outstanding local and regional bands providing entertainment.

<http://novabrewfest.com/fall/>

Cox Farms Fall Festival and the Cox Farms Fields of Fear

Since 1972, Cox Farms has been a family tradition for thousands of Fairfax County families. The most popular Fall Festival attractions are the famous hayride (around the pond, through the woods, and ending in the Enchanted Barn), five giant slides, the Cornudrum cornfield adventure, rope swings, hay tunnels and more. But what happens when darkness falls on the farm? The Fields of Fear! 20+ acres of terror featuring the Corn nightmare, the Dark Side Hayride, the Firegrounds and Fear Games. This Halloween special event is one of Northern Virginia's most memorable fall activities.

www.coxfarms.com and www.coxfarms.com/fear



Air and Scare

Discover the spooky side of air and space at the Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum Steven F. Udvar-Hazy Center's annual Air & Scare! Arrive in costume for safe indoor trick-or-treating. Participate in creepy crafts, spooky science experiments, and other Halloween-themed activities. Your favorite Star Wars characters will also be on hand to pose with you for special once-in-a-lifetime pictures!

<http://airandspace.si.edu/airandscare/>

November

The Workhouse Arts Center

Listed in the National Register of Historic Places, this former correctional facility has a fascinating story involving the Women's Suffragist movement and features over 150 of the region's finest artists. An exciting and ever-changing schedule of exhibitions in the Gallery Building includes the work of national and international artists. Explore the artists' studios where you are invited to ask questions, purchase their wares, and even participate in programs in which you can create your own masterpiece. See website for complete listing of classes and events.

www.workhousearts.org

December

Christmas at Mount Vernon and Mount Vernon by Candlelight

Christmas at Mount Vernon has been named as one of the "12 Places to Catch the Holiday Spirit" by AAA! Mount Vernon joyfully decks the halls for Christmas at Mount Vernon, a special daytime program offered through January. Enjoy themed decorations (including 12 Christmas trees), a gingerbread Mount Vernon, and historical chocolate-making demonstrations. Historic Mount Vernon sparkles with holiday cheer during Candlelight Tours, traditionally held from late November through mid-December.

www.mountvernon.org

Bull Run Regional Park's Festival of Lights

For more than 12 years the Bull Run Festival of Lights at Bull Run Regional Park has drawn thousands of visitors from hundreds of miles away to Centreville, Virginia, just outside Washington, DC. The Bull Run Festival of Lights is held each year to celebrate the winter holiday season. The event sees more than 30,000 cars each season, over 130,000 people!

www.nvrpa.org/park/bull_run_festival_of_lights

Meadowlark Gardens' Winter Walk of Lights

Winter Walk of Lights is an outdoor walking light show with over 500,000 led lights set in Meadowlark Botanical Gardens in Vienna, VA. The walk also features an animated Lakeside Lights show.

http://www.nvrpa.org/park/winter_walk_lights

