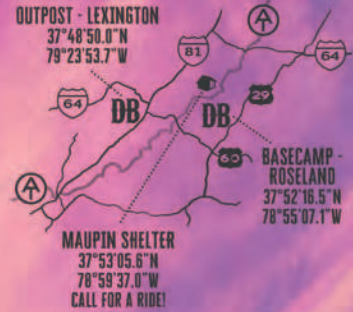


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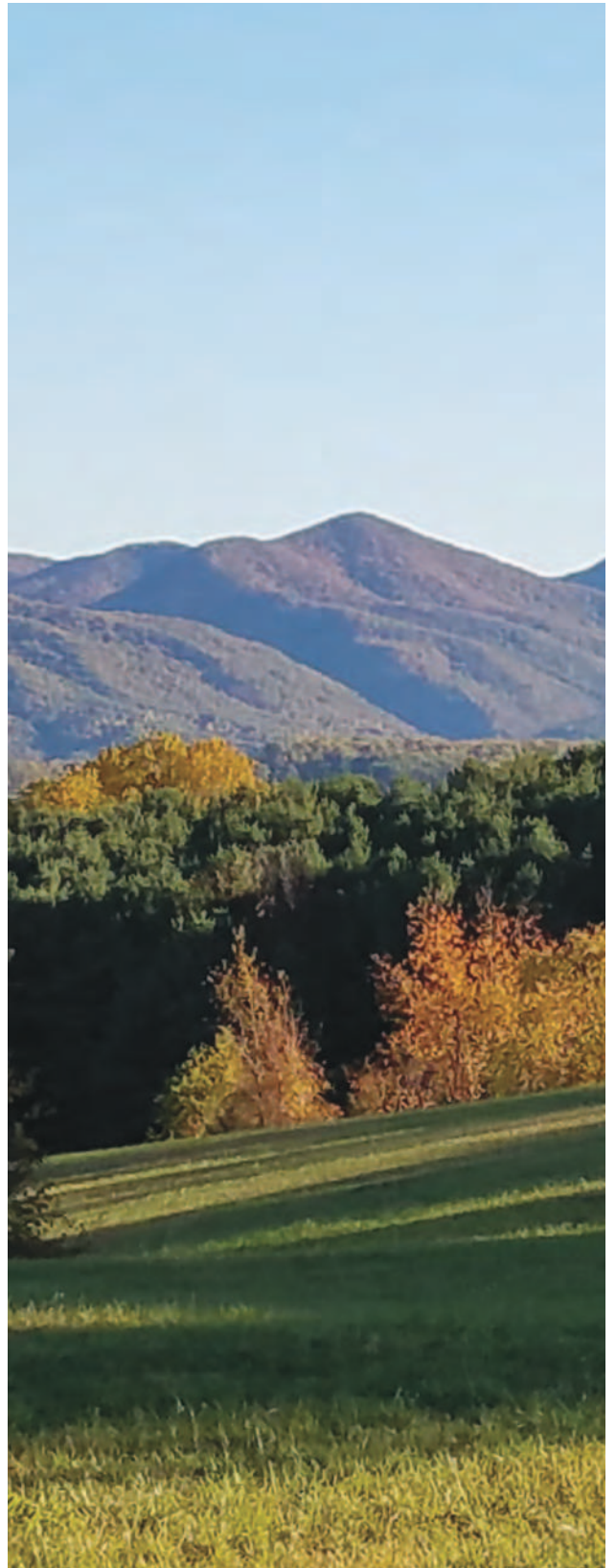
If you love the outdoors – hiking, biking, kayaking, or just taking a drive down country roads or the Blue Ridge Parkway, we have the place. If you love music, we have that all over, from the renowned Lime Kiln Theater to live music in our restaurants, wineries and breweries. If you like browsing in locally-owned shops and boutiques, we have that too. And if you like history, we have plenty of that also – almost 300 years-worth!

The area’s natural beauty is a huge attraction. The views from the Blue Ridge Parkway of Rockbridge County are spectacular, but the vistas you can encounter around a turn on a country road most anywhere in Rockbridge can also be stunning, four seasons of the year. Certainly we can’t forget the geological formation that gives the county its name – Natural Bridge. The Bridge is now a part of the Virginia State Parks system, and has become one of the more visited parks within the state. A walk under the bridge should be a part of any visit to the area.

Exploring our towns and villages can provide days of interesting and fun diversion. From the authentic feel of Lexington’s 19th and early 20th century downtown, the villages of Fairfield and Brownsburg, and the 1890s boom-era buildings in Buena Vista and at Southern Virginia University, there are a lot of sights to see and interesting shops to browse.

This area is becoming known for its gastronomic appeal. Rockbridge has always been a farming community, and local farmers have embraced the locavore movement. Wine grapes, cider apples, Asian pears, herbs, grains and vegetables are grown here. Flour and meals are milled using centuries-old stones. Grass-fed beef from Rockbridge graces the tables in restaurants here and elsewhere. Local restaurants often use locally-sourced foods in their dishes. Rockbridge wines and beers have won awards not only on the state level but nationally.

With all of these attributes, it’s no wonder that the Rockbridge area gets repeat visitors every year, and that more people discover our special place. We hope this guide will help you discover all there is to see and do in Lexington, Buena Vista and Rockbridge County. Come and see us!



A TTRACTIONS

From the incomparable Natural Bridge to the Virginia Horse Center, from downtown Lexington to Hull's Drive-In - the nation's first community-owned drive-in movie theater, the Rockbridge area will entertain, inspire, inform and delight. Come spend time exploring all that Rockbridge has to offer.



Brownsburg Museum Reopens With New Exhibit .

Big things come from small places.

Brownsburg is a community passionate about its history. Since 1973, the village itself has been listed by the National Register of Historic Places and as a Virginia Historic Landmark. It's no wonder the town's heart is its small museum, The Brownsburg Museum.



The museum is an all-volunteer non-profit organization and will open to the public its most recent exhibit, *Interwoven: Unearthed Stores of Slavery*, on March 23. Over a year in the making, the exhibit went from concept to installation through a remarkable collaboration between University of Virginia graduate students, high school students, local historians, community volunteers, writers, and designers.

The idea for the exhibit originated from the highly popular tour of slave dwellings in and around Brownsburg called, "Still Standing." From the success of that tour came the idea to develop a more comprehensive story about slavery in the area.

"Interwoven," the exhibit title represents how we are all interconnected by history, community, and family. It traces an intimate journey of the lives of an enslaved family from the Brownsburg area and draws from the voices of living descendants.

Starting in the present day, *Interwoven* progresses through the history of slavery in the area up to the Civil War. The visitor's journey has a unique and surprising end-

ing, with a rare family letter written from across the ocean and mailed back to a Brownsburg.

The exhibit also showcases photographic art of local slave dwellings from an internationally award-winning New York photographer. And it recognizes the 154th anniversary of Asbury Methodist Church, a historic African American church located within the village — big things in small packages indeed!

The Brownsburg Museum is located at 2716 Brownsburg Turnpike (Rt. 252). It is open to the public on weekends, Saturday from 10 am to 4 pm, and Sunday from 1 pm to 4 pm. The museum is also available to groups by appointment. Contact (540) 348-1600 and leave a message for more information. Also visit our website at: www.thebrownsburgmuseum.org.

See equestrian sports at the Virginia Horse Center.

The Virginia Horse Center stands at the forefront of Virginia's \$1.2B equine economy. Founded in 1986 to promote all disciplines of equestrian sport, its 600 acres of picturesque grounds hold a 4,000-seat coliseum, eight barns capable of accommodating 1,200 horses, 19 show rings including two large indoor arenas, cross-country and combined carriage driving courses, campgrounds, and full catering and café services. The VHC also hosts many non-equine events including dog shows, agriculture programs and community gatherings.



The Virginia Horse Center Foundation (VHCF) is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization which owns and operates the Virginia Horse Center. The Foundation is proud to be a part of the Rockbridge community, an asset to the state's equine economy, a resource to the East Atlantic competition circuit, and equestrian competitors throughout eastern United States.

Committed to the well-being and safety of rider and horse, the Virginia Horse Center Foundation supports the facility that serves thousands of horses, riders and spectators annually. The VHCF manages over 100 events each year, most free and open to the public. The Foundation's mission is to enrich lives with programs focused on recreation, education, and preservation. More information, including a calendar of events, can be found at www.horsecenter.org.

Enjoy Movies and Memories Under the Stars at the country's first community-owned, non-profit drive-in movie theatre - Hull's Drive-In.

Many adults can remember going to the drive-in movies as a child, but most drive-ins have closed over the past quarter century. In Virginia, only a few drive-in theaters remain, and one is right here in Rockbridge County!

Hull's Drive-In dates back to 1950, originally named the Lee Drive-In Theatre and operated by W.C. Atkins. It



was bought by Mr. Sebert Hull of Buena Vista in 1957 and renamed as Hull's Drive-In. Mr. Hull and his wife, Effie, operated Hull's Drive-In for 40 years. Hull's was famous for reasonable ticket prices, a snack bar with great cheeseburgers and french fries, and the friendly reception of Mr. and Mrs. Hull.

When Mr. Hull passed away in 1998, Mrs. Hull sold Hull's Drive-In to W.D. Goad, owner of Goad's Body Shop next door to the theatre. Mr. Goad kept the drive-in going in 1998 but, facing expensive upgrades and restoration at the drive-in, Mr. Goad was going to have to close it. The

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community came together to save the drive-in and under the leadership of Eric and Elise Sheffield, a local group calling themselves Hull's Angels formed to save the theatre and preserve the distinct character that had attracted families and visitors from as far away as Roanoke and Charlottesville for so many years. Thanks to this determined group of local citizens, Hull's Drive-In now has the distinction of being the first member-owned, community operated drive-in in the United States with 501c(3) status as a non-profit organization. The continued support of Hull's Angels helps assure that this local treasure will be around for the next generation.

Several years ago, with community support, the drive-in upgraded to digital projection, allowing it to show first-run movies with much greater clarity. In 2014, the 50 year-old screen was replaced with a new state-of-the-art screen, which makes the picture even brighter. In 2018, the sound system was replaced with all new speakers and wiring thanks to a very generous anonymous donor. In 2021, after a successful campaign that raised almost \$400,000, Hull's Angels bought the five acres of land that the drive-in sits on, assuring that it would remain open and showing movies under the stars for years to come.

Hull's Drive-In is located four miles north of Lexington on U.S. Rt. 11. The season begins in mid to late March and runs through the end of October, with double feature shows every Friday and Saturday night, and a single feature Sundays from Memorial Day weekend to Labor Day weekend. The drive-in is very family-friendly and kids enjoy playing on the grass in front of the big screen before showtime. Movies are chosen, as much as possible, to showcase a film for all audiences for the first show, and a more grown-up film for the second. Open captioning available for the hearing impaired on Sunday nights.

The Drive-In is also available to be rented for special events, private parties and community gatherings. Become a member of Hull's Angels and receive special discounts while helping support this local treasure. Corporate sponsorships are also available. Any donations to support Hull's Drive-In may be sent to Hull's Angels, P.O. Box 1, Lexington, VA 24450.

For more information on what's playing, check the movie listings online at www.hullsdivein.com or call 540) 463-2621 for the Movie Line.

Tour The Jackson House Museum.

The Jackson House at 8 East Washington Street in Lexington, just one block west of the Lexington Visitor Center, reveals the pre-Civil War home life of Thomas J. Jackson, who would become internationally famous as Confederate General "Stonewall" Jackson. The 200-year-old home tells the story of newlyweds Thomas and Mary Anna Jackson and six enslaved persons on the eve of the Civil War. Explore the exhibit gallery with artifacts illustrating the life of Thomas as a private citizen, professor at the Virginia Military Institute, family man, church member, and community leader during his decade in Lexington.



An exciting new self-guided video-based tour allows visitors to explore the house and gardens at their own pace. Interpreters stand ready to engage in deeper discussions about life in Lexington in the 1850s. The house, which is one of three museums operated by the Virginia Military Institute, was restored in 1979 to its appearance when T. J. Jackson, his second wife, Mary Anna Morrison Jackson, and six enslaved persons lived here immediately before the American Civil War. More recent renovations included the installation of reproduction wallpapers and finishes. The house is furnished with many of Jackson's own possessions and reflects the life of a middle-class family of modest means and simple tastes.



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Jackson, who came to Lexington in 1851 to teach natural and experimental philosophy and artillery tactics at VMI, very much wanted his own home. He wrote a friend that “I shall never be content until I am the head of an establishment in which my friends can feel at home in Lexington.” Jackson indulged himself in the only home he ever owned, and despite his stern public dignity, at home he could be quite playful. Mary Anna said, “He would often hide himself behind a door at the sound of the approaching footstep of his wife, and spring out to greet her with a startling caress.” He took great pleasure in tending the garden behind his home. In 1860, he wrote to Anna, who was away from home, about growing a wide variety of fruits and vegetables, including lima beans, carrots, onions, cabbage, turnips, beets, potatoes, and “some inferior muskmelons.” Anna’s sister Laura, who visited with the Jacksons in their Lexington home, later recalled, “I shall never forget the magnificent giant celery he grew, which he exhibited with pride.”

Visitors can stroll through the restored garden with fruit trees, heirloom vegetables, and flowers; explore the exhibit gallery featuring 60 artifacts from the Jackson family; or browse in the museum store, which specializes in books, prints, and gifts inspired by 19th-century styles. Admission fees and sales in the museum store help support the educational programs and operations of the museum, which receives no state funding.

Admission is \$10.00 for adults and \$7.00 for youth under 18. Children under six are admitted free of charge. Residents of Buena Vista, Lexington, and Rockbridge County receive free admission. Group rates are available with advance reservations. For more information, go to: <https://www.vmi.edu/museums-and-archives/jackson-house-museum/>

For the Love of Lavender, visit Lavender Fields at Tantivy Farm.

Brian and Penny Ross are no strangers to rural life, having bought their farm in northern Rockbridge County in 1989. For many years, the farm was a retreat from the rigors of organizing and running horse shows.

Brian became a top dressage and eventing horse show judge, traveling 35-40 long weekends a year, judging on 4 continents, including the 2000 Olympic Games in Sydney, and became an educator of eventing judges in the US. For 25-plus years. Penny organized as many as 20 national and international horse competitions a year mostly in central Virginia. They raised two sons, worked their gardens harvesting their own fruits and vegetables and enjoyed their many pets and wild animals.

In 2015 the Rosses retired from the horse industry to concentrate their time on the farm. After some research lavender was chosen as best suited for the location over, among other things, grapes, hops, garlic and asparagus. Penny had always had a love for lavender and had planted some on the rock ledges in front of their home after the construction was finished. The lavenders thrived and flourished despite being frequently neglected. After visiting a lavender farm nearby and being encouraged by the owner the Rosses bought and planted a field of 360 lavender plants.

In 2017, they planted another field and began selling lavender products at a local farmers market where they were frequently asked “Is the farm open to the public?” Inevitably they agreed to open in May 2018. Another lavender field was planted along with the building of a gift shop with adjoining porches to take in the outstanding views and enjoy locally made lavender ice cream! Several theme gardens have been added along with walking trails to a waterfall and picnic tables. With over 1,000 Lavender plants in the ground their venture is truly Lavender Fields at Tantivy Farm.

Tantivy Farm in Northern Rockbridge County is open in 2024 from April 12 through December 15 on Fridays and Saturdays 10 am to 5 pm and Sundays 1 pm - 5 pm. Groups, clubs and tour buses are welcome by appointment at 540-460-6347.

Full Bloom is from mid-May through the end of July. Live lavender plants are available for purchase in the Gift Shop and at the Wednesday Lexington and Saturday Staunton farmers markets along with dried lavender, soaps, sachets, eye pillows, bath and culinary products and numerous other items.

For further information regarding directions to Lavender Fields and special events, activities, please check the website at www.tantivyfarm.com.



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Lime Kiln Theater brings music with an Appalachian flavor to a spectacular outdoor setting.

Lime Kiln Theater has been a part of Lexington’s cultural landscape for over thirty years. Facing expensive renovations to the structures at the theater site and funding challenges brought on by the recession, the theater was forced to suspend operations in 2012.



In 2014, a local group of volunteers brought the iconic venue back to life with a terrific season of music in the Bowl Theater. Over 4,000 people attended events and six of the seven shows sold out! Successive seasons since have proved equally successful.

The theater is located on the 12-acre site of a 19th-century lime kiln and quarry. The Bowl is a natural amphitheater with permanent bench seating for approximately 350 guests and standing room for up to 300 additional guests. The Kiln is a large, open space with a 40’ x 160’ tent. Seating in The Kiln will vary from show to show; folding chairs, standing room, etc. Performances take place on-site rain or shine. A retractable covering over The Bowl stage allows the theater to hold events in light rain/drizzle. Heavy rain moves the event to The Kiln, under a tent.

For information on the 2024 season and to buy tickets, check the theater’s website later in the spring at <http://www.limekilntheater.org>.

Tour the wonders of the underground world of Natural Bridge Caverns, thousands of years in the making.

The caverns are continuously changing through a slow, arduous natural process. Over time, slow-moving water transforms cracks and cavities in the mountain into great large passages. Natural deposits from minerals in the Earth created the cavern structures that the Natural Bridge Caverns are so famous for today. Because the caverns are located beneath the Earth’s surface, the temperature remains a cool 54 degrees constantly. Bring a sweater or lightweight jacket any time of year if you plan to visit the caverns. The Caverns at Natural Bridge are open March through November and weekends only December through February.

Guided tours generally last about 45 minutes and begin every 60 minutes. Wearing proper walking shoes is strongly recommended when touring the caverns as the topography can be hard to maneuver otherwise.

For more information: <https://naturalbridgeva.com/caverns/>



See the massive Natural Bridge, the centerpiece of Natural Bridge State Park.

Natural Bridge, the geologic wonder for which Rock-bridge County gets its name, is to the centerpiece of Vir-



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ginia's 37th and newest state park, which officially opened in 2016.

Establishing Natural Bridge as a state park represented the culmination of a difficult and lengthy process to safeguard the bridge and assure its continued public access in perpetuity. A complex financial transaction involving a gift, a purchase and loans from several state agencies allowed the bridge and much of the lands surrounding it to become a state park.



Once owned by Thomas Jefferson and listed on the National Register of Historic Places, the 215-foot tall Natural Bridge spans a limestone gorge carved out by Cedar Creek. However, the newest Virginia State Park is more than just the bridge. Situated on over 1500 acres of beautiful forests, and open, rolling meadows, the park showcases the area's karst terrain; and vistas of surrounding mountains and the James River valley display nature's splendor. Six miles of hiking trails open this varied terrain to visitors, and includes the accessible Cedar Creek Trail that leads from the bridge to the Monacan Indian Village and Lace Falls with its 30-foot cascade. Living history programs connect you to the past and cover how people once used the area's resources for survival and inspiration. Start at the visitor center where you will find exhibits and a gift shop.

Admission per person is \$6 for ages 6-12 and \$9 for those 13 and older. Natural Bridge Park is on US Route 11, and easily accessed from either Exit 175 or 180 off I-81. Park hours are from 8 am to dusk.

See one of the nation's finest collections of Chinese porcelain at W&L's Watson Pavilion.

Washington and Lee is home to perhaps the finest collection of 18th- and 19th-century Chinese and European porcelain in America, the gift of Euchlin Reeves, a 1927 graduate of the law school, and his wife, Louise Herreshoff. In 1967, Mr. Reeves contacted Washington and Lee about making a gift, which was in fact his collection of over 4,000 pieces of porcelain. Among the more interesting pieces is a creamer manufactured in China depicting the signers of the Declaration of Independence with Asian features.



Along with the porcelain, a number of paintings were included with the gift. When the paintings were cleaned, they revealed Impressionistic works painted by Louise Herreshoff as a young woman in the early days of the 20th century. Her talent was recognized in 1976 when the Corcoran Gallery in Washington mounted a posthumous one-woman exhibition of her works.

The Reeves Museum of Ceramics and the Watson Pavilion show some of the University's collection of porcelain and Herreshoff paintings in rotating exhibits. For hours and more, go to <https://www.wlu.edu/arts/museums> or call 540-458-8476.

Visit the Rockbridge Historical Society and see the current exhibit on display.

The Rockbridge Historical Society is located in the Campbell House at 101 E. Washington Street across from the Visitor Center. There is no charge for the exhibits or the use of the reference collection. There are items such as maps and books for sale and the gardens at the rear of the house are open to the public during daylight hours. <http://www.rockhist.org/>

See the remarkable Henry Stewart Firearms Collection at the VMI Museum.

Collectors of antique firearms have undoubtedly heard of the late Henry M. Stewart, Jr., a 1935 graduate of VMI, and his legendary collection of antique guns. Many pieces of his collection are one-of-a-kind or the only known surviving example of a particular type.

Stewart bequeathed the collection to Virginia Military Institute, his alma mater. Besides the fascinating collection of arms and accoutrements, Stewart's collection contains many books and papers dealing with firearms, and over 350 government patent office models. These artifacts are available to serious researchers in the field.

The display of firearms is located in Memorial Hall and is a part of the VMI Museum. The total collection totals over 800 pieces, and the bulk of them are on display. The exhibit contains examples of well-known names in the development of the revolving cylinder firearms—sometimes called “wheel



guns”-- such as Colt, and many obscure manufacturers and gunsmiths known mainly to experts and collectors. A particularly interesting display of over fifty guns traces the search in the mid-1800s for a successful revolving cylinder firearm, which could fire multiple shots before reloading.

Visitors can also see one of the largest exhibits of “air rifles” in the nation. Among the most interesting individual pieces is a .30 caliber air gun many historians believe was carried by Lewis and Clark on their famous ‘Voyage of

Discovery’ from 1803 to 1806. The gun operated by being pumped up to 700 pounds per square inch, and then could be fired repeatedly for up to 40 rounds. It amazed the Native Americans who saw it demonstrated, and still interests scholars today.

Other rare and interesting pieces include the Porter revolving vertical turret rifle and the Allen and Cochran turret gun. Both were efforts to invent a successful repeating rifle in the 1800s. The Artemis Wheeler Revolving Carbine is one of only four bought by the US Navy in 1821.

For the latest information and hours, go to <https://www.vmi.edu/museums-and-archives/vmi-museum/>. The museum is open 9-5, seven days a week. Elevators in the building make it very handicapped accessible.

Experience Virginia’s Only Drive-Thru Safari Adventure at Virginia Safari Park.

Take a drive on the wild side at the Virginia Safari Park. Explore the beautiful 180-acre drive-through safari park home to more than 1,200 animals - delight in feeding huge bull elk, bison, zebras, deer and more while on safari. You’ll find no shortage of animal diversity on your journey through the park and in the Village Walk-Thru area. Also, the Virginia Safari Park is the only place in the United States where visitors can see the rare King Cheetah.

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The Virginia Safari Park is an unforgettable day-out unlike any other. Come experience the thrill of feeding hundreds of exotic animals in a natural habitat. The Virginia Safari Park is in Rockbridge County, at Exit 180/ 180-B off I-81 in Natural Bridge, Virginia, and is open mid-March through late November, except for Thanksgiving Day. Learn more at www.virginiasafaripark.com.


Visit the Rockbridge Historical Society and see the current exhibit on display.

The Rockbridge Historical Society is located in the Campbell House at 101 E. Washington Street across from the Visitor Center. There is no charge for the exhibits or the use of the reference collection. There are items such as maps and books for sale and the gardens at the rear of the house are open to the public during daylight hours. <http://www.rockhist.org/>

See the history of the oldest state-sponsored military college in the VMI Museum.

Dating back to 1845, the Virginia Military Institute Museum tells the fascinating story of the nation's first and oldest state-sponsored military college. The very first artifact in a collection which today numbers in the thousands was piece of a musket from the Jamestown settlement dating to 1607. The VMI Superintendent (president) declared that the artifact would speak with a "touching and eloquent voice" to future generations of cadets and visitors. During the Civil War, the military college was ravaged by Federal troops, but the college and the museum would be rebuilt.

While the Jamestown musket is gone, today the museum houses the world-famous Henry M. Stewart Antique



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Firearms Collection. Over 450 rare and one-of-a kind firearms trace the development of multiple shot revolvers and rifles. The heart of the collection is a display of twenty “Paterson” Colts made by Samuel Colt in the late 1830s. The collection also includes unique historic “air” guns which used compressed air instead of powder to “fire” a bullet. In addition, a number of United States patent models relating to firearms are on exhibit.

The VMI Museum is also home to one the most famous horses in the world, “Little Sorrel,” Confederate General “Stonewall” Jackson’s warhorse. When Little Sorrel died in 1886, his hide was mounted on a life-like frame. The uniform Jackson wore at the Battle of Manassas when he received his nickname “Stonewall” is also exhibited, along with the coat he was wearing when he was mortally wounded.



Inspect the sword carried by the ‘Pathfinder of the Seas’ Matthew Fontaine Maury and the huge pearl and diamond brooch presented to the Maury’s by the Czar of Russia. View the famous shiny helmet and VMI dress uniform of WWII “Blood and Guts” Gen. George S. Patton (VMI 1907). Imagine the months of isolation and frigid cold endured by polar explorer Adm. Richard E. Byrd (VMI 1908) as you view The museum is located in Memorial Hall on the VMI Post. An elevator provides easy access to all floors.

Visit the museum’s website at <http://www.vmi.edu/museums-and-archives/vmi-museum/> (handicapped accessible.)



APRIL 26 - 28

Spring Sidewalk Sale

JUNE 8

Rock the Bridge Dance Party

JULY 3

Freedom Food Festival

JULY 4

Children’s Bike Parade

JULY 22 - 28

Summer Restaurant Week

AUG. 30 - SEPT. 1

Summer Sidewalk Sale

OCTOBER 31

**Downtown Halloween
Trick or Treat**

NOVEMBER 29

**Candlelight Processional &
Community Tree Lighting**

NOVEMBER 30

Small Business Saturday

DECEMBER 6

Christmas Parade

DECEMBER 7

Jingle Bell 5K Run & Walk

DECEMBER 13


**Late Shopping with
Strolling Dickens Carolers**

DECEMBER 20

**Church Holiday
Open House**

*Dates subject to change. Please visit
MainStreetLexington.org for updates.*



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O UR TOWNS

The towns and villages of Rockbridge each have their own character and identity. Lexington and Buena Vista are the principal communities but Glasgow, Goshen, Fairfield, Brownsburg, Natural Bridge Station, Raphine and Rockbridge Baths have their own histories, events and attractions.



Explore Downtown Lexington.

Downtown Lexington has both a historic past and a heritage of architectural preservation. The oldest downtown buildings date from the late 18th century, and many were built in the early to mid-19th century. Preservation efforts begun in the 1960s have resulted in many downtown buildings being saved from destruction, restored and adapted for modern uses. In the 1970s, overhead wires were placed underground, the downtown streets were completely rebuilt and brick sidewalks replaced concrete walks.



The 19th-century atmosphere, so appealing to visitors, has also attracted the attention of Hollywood. Scenes for several other theatrical and television productions have been shot in and around downtown.

Shoppers in downtown Lexington will find a diversity of merchandise and services. Several book stores offer new, used and collectible books. Local artists display their creations in several galleries and shops on Washington Street. Specialty food stores sell locally roasted coffees, gourmet chocolates, local and regional wines, beers and ciders, herbs and organic foods, and fresh-baked breads, cakes and pastries. Other shops stock distinctive gift items, college merchandise, active and outdoors gear, and men's and women's clothing.

Downtown Lexington's restaurant scene offers a mix of cuisines and atmospheres, from bistros to taprooms to coffee and gelato shops. Chose from Greek, Asian, Italian, Tapas and American fare. Downtown Lexington has a brew-

ery with a rotating menu of local beers, plus wines and ciders from local producers.

There's plenty of live music to enjoy in downtown. Fridays Alive brings concerts to downtown on selected Friday evenings during the summer. Local restaurants often have live music in the evenings.

Hopkins Green, a small park on the corner of Nelson and Jefferson Streets, provides a place in downtown for visitors and locals to sit and relax. The campuses of Washington and Lee University and Virginia Military Institute are both adjacent to downtown and within easy walking distance of downtown and the Visitor Center.

Main Street Lexington, Inc. is a 501(c)3 volunteer-based organization established in 2013 to preserve, sustain, enhance and promote downtown Lexington. The organization is affiliated with the Virginia Main Street program. For more information, see it's website at <http://www.mainstreetlexington.org>.

Enjoy all that Buena Vista's playground, Glen Maury Park, has to offer.

Glen Maury Park, off 10th Street in Buena Vista, is located on the site of a once-thriving 315-acre farm that predates the founding of the city. The Paxton House, built in 1831 by Elisha Paxton, was the centerpiece of the farm. The house has been listed in the Virginia Landmarks Register and, in 1979, was named to the National Register of Historic Places. The Paxton House is the birthplace of Civil War General Elisha Franklin Paxton.



Glen Maury Park lies along the Maury River and rises over the hills to the west of the river. The views of the Blue Ridge Mountains from the pavilion at the highest point in the park are spectacular and worth the drive if you are in the Lexington area.

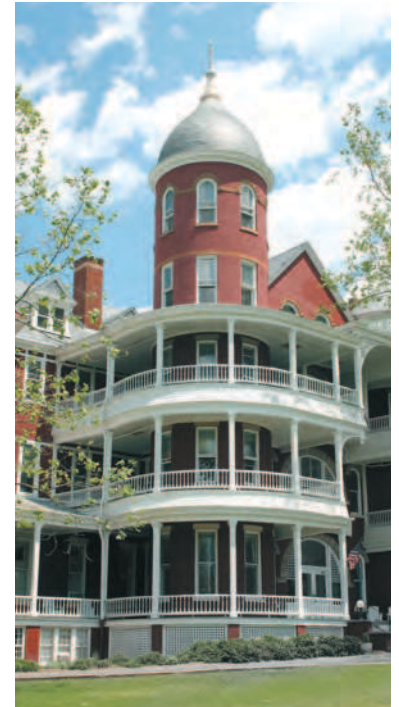
The park's campground offers sites for tent camping and hook-ups for RVs. The swimming pool is open from Memorial Day weekend to Labor Day. The park hosts events ranging from music festivals to bike races to community celebrations like Buena Vista's long-running Labor Day fest.

See the park's website for rates for camping and the pool, and the schedule of events at www.buenavistava.org/residents/recreation/glen-maury-park

See the boom-era hotel that became Main Hall at Southern Virginia University in Buena Vista.

As you travel east on Route 60 toward the mountains and the Blue Ridge Parkway, you pass through the town of Buena Vista. Southern Virginia University, formerly Southern Seminary, is located on a hill overlooking this tiny but quaint town. Still known to the locals as "Sem," the college educated young women for over 128 years. The school is now a four-year coeducational college.

Main Hall, built in 1892 and considered the heart of the campus, was built as a resort hotel when Buena Vista was at the center of western Virginia's land boom. Designed in the Romanesque style, the hotel was described at the time as "one of the most beautiful structures of modern times...with a magnificent view of mountains and valleys from the broad verandas." Now on the National Register of Historic Places and a Virginia Historical Landmark, the building houses college administrative offices and dorm rooms. www.svu.edu.



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Find out more about retiring to the Lexington area, browse the real estate listings in The News-Gazette or its Valley of Virginia Properties magazine, consult a local real estate broker or check out Kendal at Lexington.

For a variety of reasons, the Lexington/Rockbridge area is experiencing an influx of people moving here, buying property, homes and farms.

The area has become an attractive place for retirement because of the natural beauty of our mountains and valleys, the presence of our colleges and universities which allow local residents to attend concerts, plays, talks and other events, and often to audit classes, and our four distinct seasons with relatively mild average temperatures winter and summer.

With the availability of broadband internet, people are also finding that they can enjoy the quality of life that Lexington and Rockbridge County offer while pursuing their careers. The area has also benefited from people moving here to open new businesses or to relocate existing businesses. See the current edition of Valley of Virginia Properties online at www.thenews-gazette.com, click on the HOMES tab.

Kendal at Lexington offers a maintenance-free lifestyle for those looking for a retirement that offers a broad diversity of opportunities for lifelong learning, arts and entertainment, social interaction or just quiet reflection. Kendal at Lexington's campus has cottages and apartments for those seeking independent living, as well as assisted living and skilled and long-term nursing care, allowing residents to remain at Kendal as their needs change. For more information, see the website at <http://www.kalex.kendal.org>.

Northern Rockbridge County: beautiful vistas, authentic communities and interesting locations.

Visitors would have no trouble filling a day or even a weekend enjoying all that the northern part of Rockbridge County has to offer. From quaint villages to vineyards, from an authentic working water-powered grist mill to welcom-

ing bed and breakfasts, from antiques to history, northern Rockbridge is worth taking the time to explore.

Most everything in northern Rockbridge is accessible off US Route 11, going north from Lexington. Route 11 as a thoroughfare follows the path of pre-Columbian Indian trails, and later the Valley Pike. The views of mountains and valley are spectacular from Route 11, and more easily enjoyed at slower than Interstate highway speeds.


The village of Fairfield, 10 miles north of Lexington, is typical of the Valley Pike town. When these villages were build, the road was much narrower and successive widenings has brought the road virtually to the doorsteps of some of the buildings. Many homes and building in Fairfield date from the 19th and early 20th centuries. Spend some time walking the sidewalk in Fairfield and explore this quaint village The Quiltery will appeal to more than just quilters. See batiks, Stonehenge reproductions, and even novelty quilts. They offer classes and supplies also.

Fox Hill Bed and Breakfast, on Borden Grant Trail, is less than two miles from Fairfield. With beautiful Blue Ridge Mountain views, comfortable suites and peace and quiet, Fox Hill is a great getaway from the pressures of everyday life.

Going west from Fairfield on Sterrett Road (a left turn just north of Fairfield) take you to Brownsburg. Be sure to visit the Brownsburg Museum, which chronicles the life of this community.

From Brownsburg, go north on Rt. 252 1.6 miles to Raphine Road. Turn right on Raphine Road and in about .6 mile you'll see the brown clapboards of Wade's Mill to your left. Still a working water-powered grist mill, Wade's Mill sells flours and meals ground on the property. Back on Raphine Road, in roughly a mile, you'll come to Rockbridge Vineyard. Rockbridge Vineyard's wines have won awards for over 25 years. Stop and do a tasting in their expanded wine tasting room and now, their brewery tap room. .

Continuing through the village of Raphine, passing under Interstate 81 find White's Travel Center on your right. Check out the Merchantile store and the restaurants in the 'East Coast's Largest Travel Center.' Quaker Steak and Lube, on Steeles Fort Road on the back side of the Travel Center offers burgers, wings and brews. A mile beyond White's, you'll see signs for the Cyrus McCormick Farm McCormick invented the first practical reaping machine, which started the mechanization of agriculture. Seeing the replica of the first reaper is worth the stop.



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Righteous and Rascals of Rockbridge Trail showcases the area's notables.

Every community has characters in its history that can be classified as heroes or villains. Often, they have very colorful biographies. Lexington and Rockbridge County are no exception. Indeed, the area can point to some of the most famous people – and one horse - in American history that have local connections; among them George Washington, Robert E. Lee, Gen. George C. Marshall, Patsy Cline and artist Cy Twombly. The horse is Traveller, Robert E. Lee's famous grey stallion.

At the same time, we've also had our share of less than stellar characters. Charles M. Figgat was a local banker who absconded with \$140,000 from the Bank of Lexington, causing its failure. Mel Greenberg came to town in 1974 purporting to be a movie producer bent on making a musical about Stonewall Jackson. He split town without paying his hotel bill and left many disappointed locals who thought they were bound for stardom.

The Righteous and Rascals of Rockbridge Trail commemorates some of these individuals with granite pavers set in the sidewalks of downtown Lexington. The trail will ultimately run on Main Street from McDowell to Washington, on Nelson between Main and Lee Avenue and on Washington between Randolph and Jefferson Streets. To date 60 pavers have been installed.

The Lexington Visitor Center has materials to help you follow the trail and see all pavers currently installed. You can also go to the Righteous and Rascals website for directions and for expanded biographies of those immortalized in the stone pavers. <http://rrockbridge.org/>

Take a self-guided walking tour through downtown Lexington, the colleges and the city's 19th and early 20th century neighborhoods.

These days, when you visit most towns and cities, you need your vehicle to get from place to place. Sidewalks may exist in downtown areas, but trying to get to other parts of town may involve walking along a busy street or highway, negotiating drainage ditches, overgrown roadsides and crossing multilane thoroughfares.

Lexington and Buena Vista offer a refreshing change. Both towns are extremely walking-friendly. Indeed, walking the streets of these Valley towns is the best way to see all there is to see, and to appreciate them.

Downtown Lexington undertook a major reconstruction project in the 1970s upgrading the streets, placing utility wires underground and putting in brick sidewalks. This investment by the city, concurrent with efforts by local preservation groups, acted as a catalyst for redevelopment, rehabilitation and adaptive use of old buildings in the downtown area. Today, Lexington is unusual in having a vibrant downtown area. The character of the downtown area changed over the past quarter-century. Traditional retailers such as department stores and hardware stores left downtown for the outskirts of town, and were replaced by more visitor-oriented shops such as art galleries, antique shops and shops featuring local and regional products. New restaurants offering a diversity of cuisines beckon the hungry tourist, and serve locals who work and even live in the downtown area.

Lexington's walking tours start at the Lexington Visitor Center at 105 West Washington St. Pick up their excellent tour map that gives easy directions on a number of tours of varying lengths.



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O OUTDOORS

The natural beauty of Rockbridge is one of the biggest draws to the area. The views from the mountain tops, accessible by trail or by driving the Blue Ridge Parkway are stunning every season of the year. Hiking, canoing and kayaking, biking, hunting, fishing and nature photography are popular.



Experience the natural beauty of the mountains and valleys by taking a drive on the Blue Ridge Parkway.

The Blue Ridge Parkway runs along the crest of the Blue Ridge Mountains for 470 miles in Virginia and North Carolina, and is only a 15-minute drive from Lexington. It is accessible to the Rockbridge area from both Route 56 east from Steeles Tavern and Route 60 east from Buena Vista. The Parkway can also be reached by taking Route 501 east from Buena Vista over the mountain at the James River gorge to the parkway at Otter Creek.

Besides beautiful views of the southern Appalachian Mountains and valleys, the Parkway provides a look at the natural and cultural history of the region. You can spend a few hours or several days traveling the Blue Ridge Parkway. If you enjoy natural beauty and scenic views, spend some time exploring the Parkway, particularly in the late spring when the rhododendron and mountain laurel are in bloom, and during the often spectacular fall leaf season.

For more information, go to www.blueridgeparkway.org.

Experience a botanical museum at Boxerwood Nature Center and Woodland Garden.

In today's world of multitasking, Boxerwood Nature Center and Woodland Garden is a natural embodiment of the concept. This garden could be labeled a horticultural treasure, an arboretum, a nature center, a birding and wildlife sanctuary, or just a great place to be. Located less than a mile outside of Lexington city limits, Boxerwood grew from the love, interest, and efforts of Robert S. Munger (1911-1988).

The horticultural treasure is the arboretum made up of 7,000 mature trees and shrubs among which are 2,500 labeled cultivars. Although there are dozens of genera, the five most impressive collections are: magnolia (54 varieties), dogwood (81 varieties), dwarf conifers (167 varieties), rhododendrons & azaleas (290 varieties), and Japanese maples (154 varieties).

The Play Trail, adjacent to the nature center parking lot, is open to the public free of charge from dawn to dusk, all year long. The trail is the creation of long time Garden Steward Karen ("KB") Bailey, who designed the unique play

space so that area children would have more opportunities to experience nature and make early connections to the natural world.

Boxerwood is located at 963 Ross Road, Lexington, VA. The gardens and Play Trail are open every day during daylight hours. For directions or more information call 540-463-2697 or visit <http://www.boxerwood.org>.

Go for a swim at Cave Mountain Lake State Park.

The lake is formed by a 35-foot high dam built by the CCC during the 1930s. The park offers camping, picnicking and a sand beach for swimming. Go here for more information and driving directions: <https://www.virginia.org/listings/OutdoorsAndSports/CaveMountainLakeRecreationArea>.

Take a hike or bike trip on the Chessie Nature Trail.

The Chessie Nature Trail is a seven-mile, year-round public access walking trail between Lexington and Buena Vista, located along the former Chesapeake and Ohio Railroad right of way. The trail has a relatively flat grade with a gravel and dirt surface. There are currently no facilities on the trail, so plan a visit accordingly. Ticks are fairly common in this area during warmer months; be sure to wear appropriate clothing and check thoroughly for ticks after returning from the trail.

The Chessie Trail has a listing at AllTrails.com, where you can download their smartphone app to rate the trail, log your trip with GPS, and upload photos for other visitors to see! Users may also want to bring along a copy of the Field Guide to the Chessie Nature Trail (published in 2009 by the Rockbridge Area Conservation Council) to learn more about the history and environment in the area of the trail.

Pedestrians and bicycles are welcome on the trail. The trail goes through private lands, including active cattle farms. Exercise caution and respect. Dogs must be leashed at all times. Pack out all litter.

Follow this link for a downloadable trail map: www.vmi.edu/media/content-assets/documents/chessie-trail/map_guide_for_the_cnt.pdf

The trail may be accessed from several places, including at the north end of the East Lexington Bridge (U.S. Route 11) over the Maury River; near Mill Creek on Old Buena Vista Road (Virginia Route 631), about 0.6 miles east of Route 11; at Stuartsburg Road (Route 608), where the South River flows into the Maury; and at the eastern terminus, Stuartsburg Road (Route 608) at U.S. Route 60.

Rockbridge's dark night skies are great for star gazing. Natural Bridge State Park is a designated Dark Sky Park.

For amateur star gazers, Rockbridge County offers a number of locations with a low-light pollution night sky where on clear nights, the heavens seem so close you can reach out and touch them.

Last year, after a three-year effort, Natural Bridge State Park achieved Dark Sky Park designation by the International Dark Sky Association. This requires lighting in the park to be reduced or eliminated to comply with IDSA's tough requirement.

Jefferson Point, a high spot in the park has a 300-degree view of the night sky, with low horizons for unimpeded viewing. The park has three 10-inch telescopes for special nighttime events. For more information and a schedule of upcoming Dark Sky events at the park, go to <https://www.dcr.virginia.gov/state-parks/natural-bridge>.

Other good sites are on the Blue Ridge Parkway on the eastern border of the county. Many overlooks offer parking and areas where you can set up a telescope, or just throw down a blanket, lie down and look up! Here's a link to a website that will predict cloud cover, clarity and weather for a site on the Parkway near the southern border of the county: <http://cleardarksky.com/c/BIRdGAC1VAkey.html?1>

Other areas in the county, at some of the areas more rural B&Bs in particular, should have good sky watching.

Meteor showers are a favorite time for star gazers. For 2024, here are the major showers and the dates when they are at their peak: Lyrids, night of April 22-23; Eta Aquarids, night of May 5-6; Perseids, night of August 12-13; Orionids, night of October 20-21; Leonids, night of November 18-19; Geminids, night of December 13-14. To see more about these showers, go to <https://www.amsmeteors.org/meteor-showers/meteor-shower-calendar>.

Take a drive through Goshen Pass and marvel at the natural beauty. In the summer, take a dip in the cool mountain waters of the Maury River.

Twelve miles north of Lexington on State Route 39, visitors enter a great mountain gorge; three miles of rushing, boulder-strewn river, its shores teeming with rhodo-

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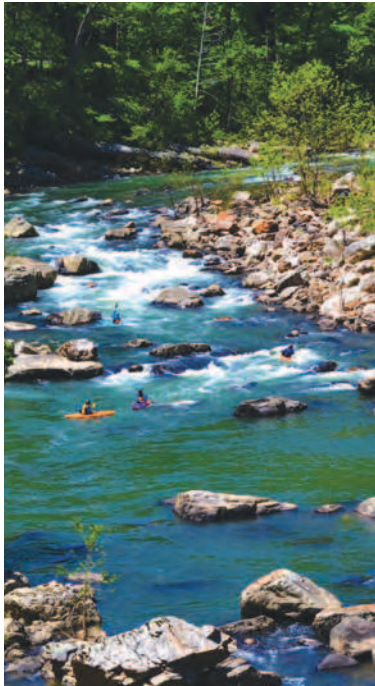
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dendron, mountain laurel, ferns, magnificent pines, maples and dogwoods. This is the Goshen Pass, where the Maury River cuts through a range of the Allegheny Mountains.

Aside from its natural beauty, the pass offers a variety of recreational activities. Swimming and tubing in the cool mountain water are perennial favorites in the hot summer months, while kayaking, fishing, hiking and picnicking are enjoyed virtually year round. About midway through Goshen Pass is a wayside park with a picnic tables. A shelter, showcasing the talents of local timber framers, is a worthy centerpiece for the picnic area.



The pass, with a rich history as a natural thoroughfare through the mountains, was used by the stagecoach lines in the 19th century.

Goshen Pass is managed by the Virginia Department of Transportation and is a game forest preserve.

Take a picnic or camp at Lake Robertson.

The Lake A. Willis Robertson Recreation Area is located on 581 acres of forests and rolling hills on the eastern slopes of the Allegheny mountains 14 miles west of Lexington. Named for the late U.S. senator from Lexington who championed conservation causes, the lake and recreation areas offer camping, fishing, a swimming pool and bath house, picnic areas and hiking trails.

Sites for both trailer/RV and tent camping are available. Camping fees include water and electricity hook-ups.



Regular season reservations are accepted with a deposit, starting April 1.

To get to the lake from Lexington, take State Route 251 to Collierstown and Rt. 770 to the lake entrance.

During April, and Sept. 6 through Oct. 1, hours are 7 a.m. – 7 p.m.; Oct. 2 – March 31, 8 a.m. – 4 p.m., weather permitting. Summer hours, May 2 through Labor Day, are 6 a.m. to 9 p.m. Additional information is available by calling (540) 463-4164 or by writing the superintendent at 106 Lake Robertson Dr., Lexington, VA 24450. <http://www.co.rockbridge.va.us/270/Lake-A-Willis-Robertson>

Take a walk on the Woods Creek Trail.

Woods Creek Park and the park trail form a ribbon of green space two miles long, running virtually from one end of Lexington to the other. Near its south end the park contains open spaces and a playground area. Going north on the trail, one walks along Woods Creek through groves of pines, cleared forest, grassy areas and back through cleared areas at the north end of the trail. The trail passes under a large stone culvert that once carried the railroad over Woods Creek. After passing the W&L law school, the trail follows the old railroad bed to the end of the trail near the Maury River.

Currently, there is no easy connection between the northern terminus of the Woods Creek Trail and the Chessie Trail. To reach the western end of the Chessie Trail, go east on Old Buena Vista Road (Route 631) at the end of the Maury River bridge three-tenths of a mile and look for the sign on the right for Chessie Trail parking.

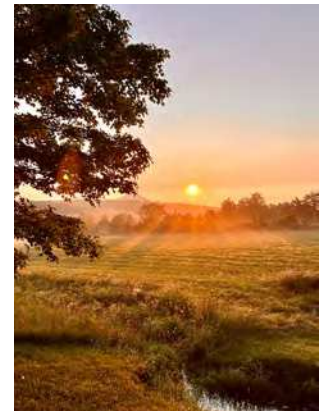
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E VENTS

There's almost always something going on in Rockbridge, between the Virginia Horse Center, Glen Maury Park, our colleges and universities, theaters and local civic organizations. Check the Calendar of Events here and on LexingtonVa.com



See the pageantry of a full-dress parade at VMI.

Parades are scheduled for most Friday afternoons during the spring and fall on the VMI Parade Ground. Most parades begin about 4:30 p.m., But scheduling is dependent on the school's academic and events calendar. See the Calendar of Events on page 00 or go to VMI's website for dates and times of parades and other events at the Institute at <https://calendar.vmi.edu>.



Friday's Alive outdoor concerts are a great way to begin the weekend.

Lexington's popular outdoor live music concerts return in 2024. The Lexington-Rockbridge Jaycees organized concert series happens at Lexington's Davidson Park just off downtown and behind the Rockbridge County Courthouse.

Concerts are held five Friday evenings during the summer. There is no admission charge. Proceeds from sponsorships and concession sales benefit local non-profit charities.

Additional information can be found on Facebook. Search @FridaysAlive for information on schedules, weather delays and more.

Fridays In The Park returns to Buena Vista's Glen Maury Park For 2024.

Buena Vista's Friday evening concert series returns to the park this summer. Food and beverages are available for sale at every event. Music starts at 6:30 p.m.

The season kicks off with Rewind on May 24. June 7 brings the sounds of the Evolution Band to Glen Maury Park. Southpaw headlines Fridays in the Park on July 12 and the season wraps up with Spencer Hatcher on August 2. Admission \$5.00, 16 and younger free with a Paid Adult.

Go to the event's Facebook page for updates at www.facebook.com/fridaysintheparkbv.



Freedom Food Festival back in 2024.

The first Freedom Food Festival in 2019 was a huge success and last year's was even better. Mark your calendar; it's coming back in 2024. Downtown Lexington is excited to host this year's Freedom Food Festival, a community street and music festival on Main Street, on Sunday, July 3, 2024 from 5-10 p.m.

The Freedom Food Festival is an affordable, family-friendly celebration. Admission to the festival is free, and food and beverages are available for sale. Gather with friends and neighbors to enjoy live music, beer/wine/spirits sales and tasty July 4th picnic-style fare prepared by local celebrity chefs. Buy a single ticket or reserve a table for eight for a fee which includes meals.

Free parking at the Lexington Visitor Center and the Rockbridge County Courthouse parking deck. For more information and to purchase tickets, go to FreedomFoodFestival.com.



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See hot air balloons launch at the Balloons Over Rockbridge Hot Air Balloon and Music Festival.



The balloons return for the eighth year to Balloons Over Rockbridge on Saturday, July 6 and Sunday, July 7. The organizers will bring the event to the Oak Hill Property, across Rt. 39 from the Virginia Horse Center.

Balloon flights are scheduled for Saturday morning and evening, and Sunday morning and evening, weather permitting. Tethered rides will be offered both days as well. Beginning at 2pm both days there will be live music from local musicians, food, beer, vendors and crafters. There will be a synchronized balloon glow both Saturday and Sunday evenings from 9 to 9:30pm

Each year, the event brings awareness to and raises funds for local charities and community organizations. This year's event will support Friends of Natural Bridge State Park, Rockbridge Recovery/Hope House, Lexington Fire and Rescue and Emergency Services, Street Ransom/True Mission Virginia, and the Mary Carol Moore Scholarship Fund.

There is no admission charge for the event. For more information, go to balloonoverrockbridge.com. For flight reservations, email dee@balloonoverrockbridge.com. For general information, email info@balloonoverrockbridge.com or visit [Facebook@balloonoverrockbridge](https://www.facebook.com/balloonoverrockbridge). Mail can be sent to P.O. Box 862, Lexington, Va 24450.

Take in the Rockbridge Community Festival.

For the 47th year, the Rockbridge Community Festival will feature regional crafts people, artists and local groups exhibiting in downtown Lexington on Saturday, August 24, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. The festival also brings local music and lots of food. Three blocks of Main Street are closed to traffic that day. For more information: rockbridgecommunityfestival.weebly.com/



Celebrate Labor Day in Glen Maury Park, Sept. 2, 2024.

Buena Vista observes its fifty-second Labor Day event this year. Buena Vista's Labor Day is a traditional kick-off to the election season in Virginia, and the parade will feature local and state politicians running in the November elections. Political speeches in the park, local musicians, food and other attractions round out the day.

To get a better idea of the day's events, go to www.buenavistava.org/residents/recreation/glen-maury-park. Take a real mountain getaway when you stay at the House Mountain Inn.

Experience a classic county fair at the Rockbridge Regional Fair in September

This year's fair runs from September 12-14 at the Virginia Horse Center just north of Lexington. From the rides on the midway, to the 4-H livestock exhibits, the art show, quilts, games and more, the Rockbridge Regional Fair is a definite 'must do' if you're in town at that time.

When information is available on this year's fair, you can find it at www.rockbridgefairandexpo.org.



Lexington's Candlelight Processional starts the holiday season.

Main Street Lexington sponsors the annual candlelight processional and community tree lighting, which will take place on Friday, Nov. 29. Lineup begins at 5:15 p.m. at the Main Street entrance to Oak Grove Cemetery, where candles and holiday songbooks will be distributed. At 5:30,

Santa and Mrs. Claus lead the processional down Main Street in a horsedrawn carriage provided by the Lexington Carriage Company. The processional will arrive at Hopkins Green, where caroling will continue, and the community tree will be lit to officially usher in the holiday season. As always, the processional is family-friendly, open to all and free of charge.



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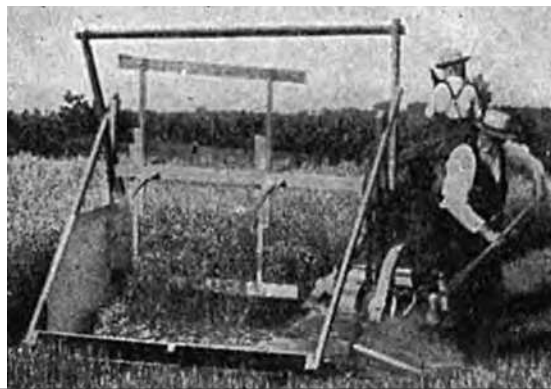
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HISTORY

The Rockbridge area has been a destination for history buffs for years. Our museums, historic sites, cemeteries, churches and ruins tell the story of the development of our nation, all from within our small part of it. Come and make some history of your own.



Take a picnic to the canal locks at the Ben Salem Wayside between Lexington and Buena Vista on Rt. 60.

The James and North (now Maury) Rivers offered a way for farmers and merchants to ship products out and bring in manufactured goods. Rockbridge producers would build a bateau - a large, flat-bottomed boat - and float down to Richmond with wheat, corn, iron and whisky and the pole the bateau back up river with goods they couldn't manufacture themselves.

By the late 1700s, canals along the rivers were seen as a viable way to move cargo and people inland. The James River and Kanawha Canal was started west from Richmond, with the ultimate goal of connecting with the Ohio River by way of the Kanawha in what's now West Virginia. By 1840, the canal was built to Lynchburg, and by 1851 reached Buchanan. In 1860, the North River Navigation Company finished a canal from Lexington down to the mouth of the Maury, where it met the James River Canal.

The canal port at Jordan's Point became Lexington's industrial center, but the era of canals was short-lived. Floods, damage from the Civil War and the coming of railroads doomed the canal.

The canal company sold its right-of-way to the Richmond & Allegheny Railroad, later the Chesapeake & Ohio, now CSX. Part of the old canal towpath was used to construct a rail line up to Lexington from Balcony Falls, near present day Glasgow, opening in 1881.

Canal locks, like the well-preserved one at Ben Salem Wayside, allowed the canal boats to move up and down the river around rapids in the stream. The wayside is a popular picnic spot for locals and visitors.

Visit the Cyrus McCormick Farm and see the workshop, mill and replica of the original McCormick reaper, the machine that started the mechanization of agriculture.

In July of 1831, Cyrus McCormick's invention, the first successful mechanical reaper, was demonstrated in one of McCormick's wheat fields. The reaper, which harvested grain five times faster with much less effort than a man with a scythe or sickle, was a revolution in agriculture.

The reaper was the first of many mechanical inventions that allowed farmers to cultivate ever larger tracts of land with fewer people, and accelerated our nation's westward expansion. McCormick later moved his operation to Chicago where his company evolved into International Harvester and J.I. Case.

The 634-acre farm, called Walnut Grove by the McCormick family, is now a research station operated by Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University (Virginia Tech). A restored blacksmith shop, gristmill and museum are open to the public and provide a look at McCormick the man and his invention. Hours are 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily; admission is free. To reach the McCormick Farm, take Exit 205 off I-81 at Raphine onto Rt. 606. The farm is approximately one mile east of the interstate. For additional information, call the museum office at (540) 377-2255.

See the mural depicting the Battle of New Market in VMI's spectacular Jackson Memorial Hall.

Like so many places in the South, the Civil War left its indelible mark on the Virginia Military Institute. The cadet barracks building still bears the scars of its 1864 destruction.

But on no day was VMI heard from so clearly as on May 15, 1864, at the Battle of New Market. That day remains as the defining moment for VMI, for it was then that the wartime corps of cadets - many of whom were deemed too young for active field service - went under fire for the first time and spearheaded a Confederate victory.

The mural of the cadet charge, which graces Jackson Memorial Hall at VMI, has its own intriguing story. Completed in 1914, the artist was Benjamin West Clinedinst, VMI class of 1880.



By the turn of the century, Clinedinst had established a reputation as a portrait artist and was living in New York City. Approached by a fellow alumnus and asked to create the mural, Clinedinst agreed to accept the commission at no fee.

The mural became a labor of love for the artist as he painstakingly researched every aspect of the charge of the cadets. Clinedinst came to Lexington and had members of the VMI corps don reproduction wartime uniforms and pose with broomsticks and shovels for guns. He and his son, Wendel, took VMI cadets to the scene of the charge at New Market and sketched and photographed them running across the field and up the hill, noting the attitudes of their figures as they slipped, tripped and fell.

After preliminary studies were completed, Clinedinst began painting on three-foot sections of Belgian canvas. The completed work measures 23 feet high and 18 feet wide, and is one of the country's largest canvas paintings. Originally mounted in the old Jackson Hall, the painting was moved under the supervision of Clinedinst to its present location in 1917.

Explore Oak Grove Cemetery and see the statue and Jackson's grave, and find those of other notable Revolutionary and Civil War soldiers.

Oak Grove Cemetery on South Main Street grew around the old Lexington Presbyterian Church, which was built on the edge of town in 1789. The site of the old church can be seen in the cemetery beside Main Street near the Preston family plot.

In addition to Gen. Thomas J. "Stonewall" Jackson, over a hundred Confederate and Revolutionary War veterans are buried here. Other notables interred in the cemetery include John Mercer Brooke, the designer of the iron-clad ship C.S.S. Virginia (often referred to by its previous name, Merrimack); Gen. William N. Pendleton, Lee's chief of artillery; early presidents of Washington College and VMI and two Virginia governors. Jackson's sister-in-law, Margaret Junkin Preston, a noted poet and wife of Col. J. T. L. Preston, one of the founders of VMI, is also buried there. A marker just inside the main gate lists many of the famous and interesting people buried in the cemetery and locates their graves.



The statue of Jackson by Richmond sculptor Edward Valentine, was dedicated in 1891, and rededicated in 1991. The 1891 dedication drew one of the largest crowds ever assembled in Lexington.

See the ruins of the 'railroad that never was' by driving south down Plank Road in Rockbridge County.

The years after the Civil War were a time of great expansion of the railroads. Two competing lines planned to build south through the Shenandoah Valley to connect the northern end with what is now Roanoke. Both the SVRR and VRR were routed in part through Rockbridge County.

The Shenandoah Valley Railroad, now part of the Norfolk Southern system, runs through Buena Vista along its route at the western base of the Blue Ridge Mountains. The Valley Railroad, which originated in Harrisonburg, was intended to essentially parallel the Valley Pike, now U.S. 11. After leaving Staunton, it entered Rockbridge County at Raphine and continued on with stations at Midway, Fairfield, Decatur, Timber Ridge and East Lexington before culminating in Lexington.

In 1882, the SVRR succeeded in reaching Roanoke ahead of the VRR. Construction on the Valley Railroad had temporarily ceased in 1873, after the stretch from Harrisonburg to Staunton had been completed, because of a national financial panic. It wasn't until 10 years later that the line from Staunton to Lexington was finished. Track would never be laid south of Lexington.

But stone culverts, bridge piers and other evidence of where the railroad was to go were built and can still be seen. Some of the most notable examples of the masonry arches and abutments constructed to span the waterways can be found in Rockbridge County along Plank Road south of Lexington. Take Rt. 251 south from Lexington about 2 miles to Possum Hollow Road on the left, then about a mile to Plank Road. Follow Plank Road south; you'll see some of this spectacular stonework over the next five miles or so.

See the stone marking the birthplace of Sam Houston.

Stop at the Sam Houston Wayside five miles north of Lexington on Rt. 11 and see the granite marker commemorating the birthplace of Sam Houston, the hero of Texas. See if you can find another marker in Lexington to another less-well-known, but no less colorful, Texas hero. Hint: it's at the corner of South Main and Houston Streets

FOOD & DRINK

The Rockbridge area boasts numerous vineyards, breweries and a cidery. Restaurants offer a variety of cuisines in settings from more formal dining to pub-style to fast food. Farmer's markets add to the diversity of choices, where you can pick up the makings of a great picnic.



Taste award-winning wines and craft beers at Rockbridge Vineyard and Brewery.

The winery has won the coveted Virginia Governors Cup among honors in National and International wine competitions. Owner-winemaker Shepherd Rouse has a Masters Degree in Enology from UC Davis and is a seasoned Virginia winemaker. Rockbridge Vineyard is regarded as one of the finest small wineries in the Commonwealth and is the fruition of Rouse's dream to make fine wine in his native state of Virginia. He and his team are looking forward to turning their skills now, to producing excellent and interesting beers as well.



In 1988 Rouse purchased a farm in northern Rockbridge County, in the Shenandoah Valley at higher elevation than most Virginia vineyards and has 18 acres of grapes. He has complemented his own planting with grapes grown by other top-quality growers at selected locations in Virginia, including Mulberry Grove in Brownsburg, Silver Creek Orchards in Nelson County and Amherst Vineyards in Amherst County. From this palette, Rouse is able to produce a full spectrum of wines to match a broad range of individual tastes. By processing each wine minimally and employing traditional, small batch methods, the full intensity and tenor of each wine is captured in Rouse's winemaking.

His interest in Native American culture and geology has led to the creation of two of Rockbridge's most popular wines. Tuscarora White and Tuscarora Red are named after the Tuscarora branch of the Iroquois Federation and the hard sandstone formation which forms the prominent ridges of the western Valley of Virginia. A semi-dry rosé

made from Concord and Vidal is named after a famous bullfrog "Jeremiah", frogs being another of Rouse's favorite childhood pursuits. Rockbridge Vineyard is now producing a wine called Extra Virginia Claret, which is made from the Norton grape. The Monticello Wine Co. made wine from the Norton grape in the late 1800s and early 1900s. It was called Virginia Claret.

V d'Or, Rockbridge's cryo-concentrated Vidal ice wine rivals the best dessert wines from France, Germany and California, and was a gold medal winner in the 2022 Virginia Governor's Cup competition, as is Rockbridge's Meritage red. Also in 2022, the V d'Or was in the Governor's Case-representing the top twelve wines of the competition. From these twelve, the top wine of the year is chosen. For 2023, the V d'Or is a gold medal winner. This year, five Rockbridge wines won silver medals, and won one bronze.

Rockbridge Vineyard and Brewery produces finely-crafted, small-batch brews to complement the selection of fine wines. The taproom offers beer by the pint, flights or growler fills. Taproom hours are noon to 6 p.m., Thursday-Saturday; and noon to 5 p.m. Sundays.

Rockbridge Vineyard is open year-round for tours and tasting. Winery tasting room hours are Sunday and Monday, noon to 5 p.m. and Tuesday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

To get to the winery, take exit 205 off I-81 at Raphine, Va. Go west on Rt. 606. The winery is one mile on the right. Visit their website at www.rockbridgevineyard.com.

Taste local wines and great beers at Great Valley Farm Brewery and Winery.

Great Valley Farm Brewery and Winery was Rockbridge County's first brewery/winery combination. The brewery opened in October of 2016 with a focus on Belgian-Style Ales. Owners Nathan and Irma Bailey planted their first grapes in 2012 and have steadily added more vine plantings in the years since. Wine production started in 2019 with sales following in early 2020.

Although the brewery focuses on Belgian ales, there is always a wide variety of beer styles to choose from. Besides tasting flights and pints for consumption in the tasting room, you can take home some of your favorite beer in a growler, or cans/bottles of certain beers.

On the wine side, about half of the grapes used in their wine come directly from the farm, with the remainder

being sourced mainly from small family vineyards in the Shenandoah Valley. Their focus is making distinctive and unique wines that showcase the excellent growing conditions that the Shenandoah Valley has to offer.

The brewery and winery tasting room is situated on a hill with a commanding view of the Blue Ridge Mountains and the Valley of Virginia. During the warmer months, you can enjoy that view from an outdoor patio and picnic area. Great Valley hosts food trucks and has live music on many weekends. You can check the schedule and learn more at greatvalleyfarmbrewery.com.

The brewery is located less than a mile off Route 11 South near Exit 180, I-81. Take Broad Creek Church Road about three-quarters of a mile and look for Great Valley Lane to the left.

Enjoy craft cider at Halcyon Days Cider Company, but don't miss the labyrinth!

Halcyon Days Cider Company is a recent addition to Rockbridge's locavore/craft beverage scene. Halcyon Days makes small batches of hard cider using over 50 varieties of apples from the 2000 trees on the property 7 miles south of Lexington on Rt. 11.

Larry Krietemeyer, his brother Andy, Larry's wife Martha and two employees press the apples for juice, ferment and then mature the cider for two to six months. They then carbonate, bottle and label each batch by hand.

The many varieties of apples allows Krietemeyer to create a variety of flavors and to control the sweetness of the final product. Typically, the cidery will have up to a dozen varieties of their ciders for tasting and purchase, ranging from semi-sweet to dry. Their focus is primarily to use heirloom cider apple varieties in their blends. The alcohol content varies, but is similar to that of craft beers.

The cidery is the first in Rockbridge County, but part of a chain of Virginia cideries in an informal 'Cider Trail.'

The buildings housing the cidery are a story also. Cider pressing, fermenting, aging and bottling is done in what was once a milking shed for a dairy farm. A covered breezeway connects the production building to the tasting room, which is in a reconstructed 19th century log cabin moved to the site from North Mountain.

If making hand-crafted ciders in a unique setting wasn't enough, the grove of dwarf apple trees on the knoll above the cidery is a story in itself. The trees grow along wires, much like those at vineyards, and the grove itself is laid out in the design of a labyrinth. The labyrinth, which is a larger version of the same design the floor of Chartres Cathedral in France, and leads one on a continuous path to the center at the top of the hill. Historically, the 13th century labyrinth at Chartres is representative of a pilgrim's quest for the holy land, and the design has been duplicated in many places.

Call or check their website at halcyondayscider.com for days and hours of operation. The address is 4135 S Lee Hwy, Natural Bridge, VA 24578. Phone (540) 291-1340.

Enjoy a meal in, or grab takeout from one of the area's numerous and varied restaurants.

Dining out is an important part of any vacation, whether it's a day trip or a week's stay. The Lexington/Rockbridge area has numerous restaurants and food service establishments to satisfy most desires, pocketbooks, and time restraints. There are long-established traditional restaurants, as well as fast food shops, coffee shops, bakeries, and ethnic fare. You can eat in a restored 19th century manor house, a resort hotel dining room, a country inn, a deli, a downtown restaurant, or drive through for a hamburger, fried chicken or a burrito to take on a picnic. You can satisfy your hankering for Chinese, Japanese, Mexican, Italian, Southern Barbecue, Small Plate, Thai, Greek and American cuisine. Check the directory on page 34 for restaurants listed as members of the Lexington-Rockbridge Co. Chamber of Commerce.

Drink outdoors together at Devils Backbone Outpost Tap Room & Kitchen.

Conveniently located on Route 11, just north of Lexington, Devils Backbone has an ever-changing selection of cold beer, delicious cocktails and amazing meals served with an incredible view of the Blue Ridge Mountains. The new deck is open for an unbeatable outdoor dining option. Live music, trivia and more - check their website at www.dbbrewingcompany.com for their rotating event schedule! Open for lunch and dinner daily, and brunch on weekends. Reservations recommended.



The advertisement for Journey Outfitters is a vertical rectangular graphic. At the top, it shows a person in a blue shirt and hat kayaking down a river with white water rapids. The logo 'Journey Outfitters' is overlaid on the image. Below the image, the website 'www.journeyoutlex.com' is listed. Underneath that, a horizontal line separates the text 'Kayaks | E-Bikes | Fishing Gear | Coolers'. Below this, the address '172 W. Midland Trail, Lexington, Va 24450' and phone number '540-461-8816' are provided. The bottom half of the ad features the slogan 'Shop local. Journey global.' in a stylized font, with an image of two people on bicycles riding on a dirt path in a scenic, hilly area.

STAYING HERE

There are all kinds of lodging choices in the Rock-bridge area - boutique downtown hotels, bed and breakfasts, mountainside inns, resort hotels, campgrounds and RV parks. You're sure to find the accommodations you're looking for.



Take a real mountain getaway when you stay at the House Mountain Inn.

House Mountain Inn sits in a spectacular location on the shoulder of House Mountain, in western Rockbridge County. Billing itself as “Destination Relaxation,” the inn offers gracious bed and breakfast hospitality in a rustic lodge, with breathtaking views of the Shenandoah Valley and mountains. Its 1000 acres of pristine woodlands are perfect for hiking, fishing, horseback riding or just relaxing.

The inn has a fully-equipped boardroom for meetings and retreats and has a banquet facility for special events.

See more about House Mountain Inn at <http://www.housemountaininn.com> or by calling (540) 464-4004



Natural Bridge Hotel has a proud legacy going back over 200 years.

Thomas Jefferson purchased 157 acres of land including the Natural Bridge from King George III of England for 20 shillings in 1774. He called it “the most Sublime of nature’s works”. Jefferson built a two room log cabin, with one room reserved for guests, beginning its use as a retreat. While President, in 1802, he personally surveyed the area. Many famous guests stayed here, including John Marshall, James Monroe, Henry Clay, Sam Houston, and Martin Van Buren.

Natural Bridge was one of the tourist attractions of the New World that Europeans visited during the 18th and 19th centuries. Vacationing guests from all over the world took day trips from Natural Bridge on horseback or horse-drawn carriages to explore the countryside.

In 1833, a new owner erected the Forest Inn to accommodate the increasing number of people. The bridge had considerable notoriety during the 19th century. Herman Melville alluded to the bridge in describing *Moby-Dick*: “But soon the fore part of him slowly rose from the water; for an instant his whole marbled body formed a high arch, like Virginia’s Natural Bridge...”

During the 1880s Natural Bridge was a resort owned by Colonel Henry Parsons, who also owned the nearby Rock-bridge Inn. Around 1890 Parsons went up the hill to the present day location of the historic hotel and built the first main hotel associated with Natural Bridge; it was called the Appledore. In the early 1900s the Appledore was expanded to accommodate more guests and the name evolved to the Natural Bridge Hotel. It was said that if one visited Natural Bridge and Niagara Falls, you were a very well-traveled person.

The hotel thrived up until it caught fire on April 24, 1963. The origin of the fire is still unknown today. It is rumored to have started in the kitchen. In 1964 reconstruc-



tion began on the present day hotel, which opened its doors to the world with great pomp and circumstance in 1965.

The Natural Bridge Historic Hotel and Conference Center is affiliated with the Trademark Collection by Wyndham. The 118-room hotel was renovated in 2021, with several notable upgrades, including a complete guest room renovation in the main hotel along with some redesigned public spaces. Additional improvements include exterior upgrades, the addition of a fitness center, and a fully equipped five-bedroom house.

Scenically embraced by the Blue Ridge Mountains, the Natural Bridge Historic Hotel is the perfect getaway with guest rooms, indoor and outdoor meeting rooms and event spaces. Sixteen rooms have a large balcony with seating that has a view of the Blue Ridge Mountains.

Choose from several dining options. The Colonial Dining Room is open daily for breakfast and dinner, and Sunday's for brunch, and will be serving Easter Brunch, March 31st. The Red Fox Tavern is open for dinner daily and has seating indoors, and outdoors on the veranda. See the Memorabilia Room located in the small lobby displaying historical items and photos on the hotel, and the Monacan Village.

For more information about the hotel for your next visit or meeting go to www.naturalbridgeva.com or find the Natural Bridge Historic Hotel and Conference Center on Facebook.

The Georges Hotel consists of four of the oldest buildings in Lexington.

The old song says, "Everything old is new again," and that is an appropriate description of Lexington's downtown hotel, The Georges. Named after two men named George with strong Lexington ties – George Washington and George C. Marshall, the hotel opened in the spring of 2014.



The inn occupies two of downtown Lexington's oldest surviving structures; the Alexander-Withrow House built in 1789, and the Central Hotel, the oldest part of which dates from 1809. Both buildings have served as private homes, shops, inns and offices over their long lives. Addi-

tional suites at The Georges are located in historic Lawyer's Row, overlooking Courthouse Square, built c. 1846. The Alexander-Withrow House is the only building still standing in town to survive the Great Fire of 1796.

The 1960s saw a swelling of interest nationally in historic preservation, and Lexington was not immune. When a local landmark home was threatened with demolition to make way for an office building, locals rallied, and a buyer was found to purchase the home and restore it. But it was apparent that other handsome 19th century structures were in jeopardy, if not only from demolition but also from neglect. The Historic Lexington Foundation was formed in 1966 to raise funds to purchase significant buildings, stabilize them structurally and resell them with protective covenants requiring that the exteriors remain essentially true to their 19th century roots.

In 1969, the foundation's first acquisition was the Alexander-Withrow House. This project became the model for revitalizing the entire block of North Main Street between Washington and Henry Streets. When the project was complete, it was sold to a local developer, who made the upper floors into a cozy bed and breakfast, with retail space on the street level.

The Central Hotel was a more ambitious project because it was larger, and because the structure was in much worse shape. But when completed, it became an inn. Coincidentally, the buyers of the Central Hotel building also bought the Alexander-Withrow House and operated them together, just as The Georges.

The Georges offers 33 uniquely appointed rooms and suites, custom designed and furnished, with luxury amenities such as Frette bed linens & robes, and Peacock Alley blankets. The elegant bathrooms are finished with custom tile work, Gilchrist & Soames bathroom amenities, walk-in showers in each room and a luxurious free-standing soaking tub in select suites.

The newest addition is The Livery, formerly the Sheridan Livery, originally owned and operated as a livery stable and stage line in the 1800s.

The Georges was voted #2 and #4 best city hotel in the continental U.S. in 2020 + 2021 respectively, and fifty-third of the top 100 hotels in the world in 2020 according to the Travel + Leisure World's Best Awards. Last year marks the 26th edition of the annual survey, in which 300,000 Travel + Leisure readers rate experiences in a variety of categories, from cities and hotels to cruise lines and airlines.

For your palate and amusement, The Georges presents Haywood's Piano Bar & Grill featuring classic cuisine with nightly entertainment and TAPS, a beautiful lobby lounge and casual restaurant serving upscale pub fare, creative cocktails, and craft beer.

Haywood's is an intimate place to enjoy a casual drink or dinner listening to live piano music in downtown Lexington. Situated on the corner of Main and Washington Streets on the ground floor of the Alexander-Withrow House, with large windows looking out on the bustle of downtown, Haywood's has become a popular spot for locals and visitors. Haywood's offers down-to-earth dishes featuring seasonal ingredients thoughtfully prepared. Named in memory of a man who liked to eat well, loved Dixieland, Jazz and Big Swing music, never met a stranger and never saw a piano

bar he didn't like, Haywood's a great place to gather with family and friends. Haywood's is open for dinner Wednesday through Sunday from 5-10 pm with live music nightly. For reservations, go to <http://thegeorges.com/haywoods>. Located at 2 North Main Street, Lexington. (540) 463-2508.

TAPS is the Inn's chic lobby lounge bar with casual dining featuring bar appetizers, salads, hand-helds and larger plates. Locals consider this the "living room of Lexington." Enjoy a handcrafted cocktail by the fireplace or indulge in a delicious burger and cold craft brew out on the garden terrace. TAPS is open Monday through Saturday from 11am - 10pm for lunch and dinner service. For menus and more information, go to <https://thegeorges.com/taps>. Located at 11 North Main Street, Lexington.

The Patton Room was added in 2019 after a year of renovation as a versatile private event space. Ideal for both large and intimate events such as rehearsal dinners, wedding ceremonies, bridal luncheons, business meetings or pre-function cocktails, The Patton Room at The Georges was voted a Top Wedding Vendor 2022 by Virginia Living Magazine.



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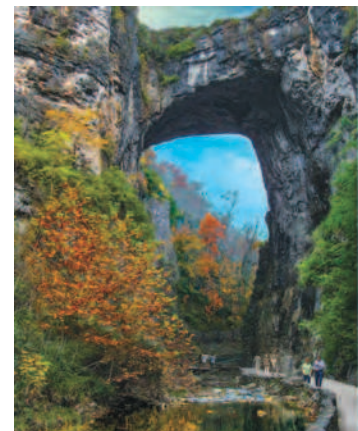
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See more about House Mountain Inn at <http://www.housemountaininn.com> or by calling (540) 464-4004



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KENDAL at Lexington



The Inn at Brierley Hill.

The Inn at Brierley Hill offers eight rooms and cottages, multiple guest common areas for relaxing, rambling porches, and many other charming places to enjoy nature's tranquil beauty. The inn is located on a nine-acre retreat with spectacular mountain and valley views. Historic downtown Lexington is only two miles away, with its quaint shops and unique restaurants, Washington and Lee University and Virginia Military Institute. Also nearby are the Virginia Horse Center, Natural Bridge State Park and the Blue Ridge Parkway.

Built in 1993, each room or suite features a private bath, gas or electric fireplace,

a sitting area with chairs or a couch. Wi-Fi is available throughout the inn. Some

suites and cottages offer whirlpool tubs, outdoor hot tub, outdoor propane fire pit and kitchenettes. All rooms offer king size beds with new DreamCloud mattresses, exquisite Comphy brand linens and high end LATHER toiletries, towels and robes. Rates include signature small plate breakfast and a mimosa bar. Guests love the signature cocktails using local wines and spirits while enjoying the views from one of the many porches, decks and sitting areas.

Handicap parking is available with ramp access to the dining area and our accessible accommodation, Lexington cottage.

For more information, see the website at brierleyhill.com.



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*Businesses listed are Chamber of Commerce Serving Lexington, Buena Vista
& Rockbridge County members as of February 28, 2024*

Bed and Breakfasts

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985 Borden Road
Lexington, VA 24450
(540) 464-8421
(800) 422-4925
relax@brierleyhill.com
www.brierleyhill.com

Church Hill at Timber Ridge
78 Sam Houston Way
Lexington, VA 24450
(540) 324-8446
http://www.churchhill.info

Fox Hill Bed & Breakfast
4383 Borden Grant Trail
Fairfield, VA 24435
(540) 377-9922
(800) 369-8005
stay@foxhillbb.com
www.foxhillbb.com

Herring Hall Bed & Breakfast
154 Herring Hall Road
Natural Bridge, VA 24578
(540) 460-3365
herringhall.com

New Field Farm at Timber Ridge
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Lexington, VA 24450
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Old Brownsburg Store B&B
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www.glenmaurypark.com

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Hotels & Motels

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http://www.thegeorges.com

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401 East Nelson Street
Lexington, VA 24450
(540) 463-2223
lxtsw_hampton@hilton.com
www.hampton-inn.com/hi/lexington-historic

House Mountain Inn
455 Lonesome Dove Trail
Lexington, VA 24450
(540) 464-4004
(540) 464-4003
housemountaininn@gmail.com
www.housemountaininn.com

Sleep Inn, Inn & Suites
95 Maury River Road
P.O. Box 1105
Lexington, VA 24450
(540) 463-6000
1-800-4CHOICE
gm.va377@choicehotels.com
www.sleepinn.com/hotel/va377

Sunset Farm
1491 Thornhill Rd
Lexington, VA 24450
(540) 727-1478

Outdoor Recreation

Lexington Golf & Country Club
141 Country Club Road
Lexington, VA 24450
(540) 463-4141

Resorts

Natural Bridge Historic Hotel
Route 11/Hwy 130
Natural Bridge, VA 24578
(540) 291-2121
(800) 533-1410
www.naturalbridgeva.com

Restaurants

Appalachian Sage
9 E. Washington St.
Lexington, VA 24450
(540) 460-6506
www.appalachiansage.com

The BeeVe: Sweet Souvenirs
2175 Magnolia Ave.
Buena Vista, VA 24416
(801) 874-9686
www.thebeeve.com

Blue Sky Bakery & Skybar
125 W. Nelson St.
Lexington, VA 24450
(540) 463-6546
www.blueskylex.com

Brew Ridge Taps
11 East Nelson Street
Lexington, VA 24450
(540) 461-8012
brewridgetaps@gmail.com
http://www.brewridgetaps.com

Chick-fil-A at North Lee Highway
25 Hotel Dr.
Lexington, VA 24450
(304) 545-8455

Devils Backbone Outpost Taproom & Kitchen

50 Northwind Lane
Lexington, VA 24450
(540) 462-6200
dbbrewingcompany.com

Domino's Pizza

23 South Jefferson Street
Lexington, VA 24450
(540) 463-7375
www.dominos.com

Gina's Trattoria

98 E. Midland Trail
Lexington, VA 24450
(434) 944-2179

Haywood's

2 North Main Street
Lexington, VA 24450
540.463.2508
<http://www.opentable.com/haywoods-reservations-lexington>

Holy Cow! Ice Cream

103 Glen Maury Park Rd.
Buena Vista, VA 24416
(540) 817-9153

Kenney's and More

1518 Magnolia Ave.
Buena Vista, VA 24416
(434) 660-5677

Lexington Coffee Shop

9 W. Washington Street
Lexington, VA 24450
(540) 464-6586

Napa Thai Cuisine

24 N. Main Street
Lexington, VA 24450
(540) 461-8133

The Palms

101 W. Nelson Street
Lexington, VA 24450
(540) 463-7911
www.thepalmslexington.com

Pronto Caffe and Gelateria

26 South Main Street
Lexington, VA 24450
Phone: (540) 464-1472
francesco@prontogelateria.com
<http://www.prontogelateria.com>

Pure Eats

107 N. Main Street
Lexington, VA 24450
Phone: (540) 462-6000
blackburn@redhenlex.com

Quaker Steak and Lube

30 Commerce Park Drive
Raphine, VA 24472
(540) 377-4005
<https://thelube.com/locations/virginia/raphine/>

Salerno's Wood Fired Pizza & Taphouse

115 South Jefferson Street
Lexington, VA 24450
(540) 463-5757
salernopizza@embarqmail.com

Subway – Downtown Lexington

122 S. Main St.
Lexington, VA 24450
(540) 464-3182

Subway – Downtown Buena Vista

2522 Beech Ave.
Buena Vista, VA 24416
(540) 261-1609

Subway – Hunter Hill

889 N. Lee Hwy.
Lexington, VA 24450
(540) 463-1177

Sushi Matsumoto

159 S. Main Street
Lexington, VA 24450
(540) 464-8196

Sweet Things Ice Cream Shoppe

106 W Washington Street
Lexington, VA 24450
(540) 463-6055
<http://www.sweetthingsicecream.com>

Sweet Treats Bakery

19 West Washington Street
Lexington, VA 24450
(540) 463-3611
www.sweettreatsbakery.net

TAPS

11 North Main Street
Lexington, VA 24450
(540) 463-2500

ZunZun

11 E. Washington St.
Lexington, VA 24450
(540) 460-0600
Facebook.com/zunzunlex

**Vineyards,
Breweries
and Cideries**

Brew Ridge Taps

11 East Nelson Street
Lexington, VA 24450
(540) 461-8012
www.brewridgetaps.com

Devils Backbone Outpost Taproom & Kitchen

50 Northwind Lane
Lexington, VA 24450
(540) 462-6200
www.dbbrewingcompany.com

Ecco Adesso Vineyards

340 Ecco Adesso Lane
Fairfield, VA 24435
(540) 817-0419
<https://eccoadesso.com/>

Great Valley Farm Brewery & Winery

60 Great Valley Farm Lane
Natural Bridge, VA 24578
(704) 425-2631
greatvalleyfarmbrewery.com

Halcyon Days Cider Company

4135 South Lee Highway
Natural Bridge, VA 24578
(540) 291-1340
halcyondayscider.com

Heliotrope Brewery

128 South Main Street
Lexington, VA 24450

Jump Mountain Vineyard

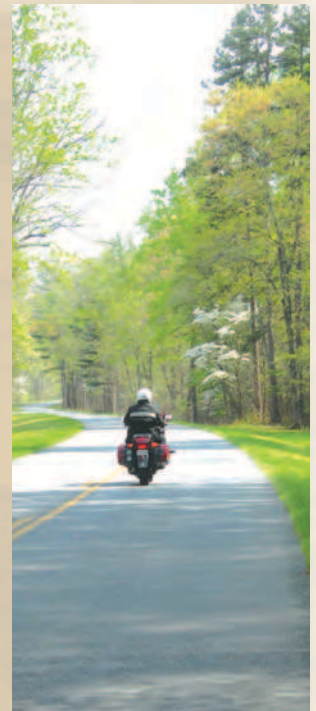
1493 Walkers Creek Road
Rockbridge Baths, Virginia 24473
(540) 348-6730
<https://jumpwines.com/>

Lexington Valley Vineyard

80 Norton Way
Rockbridge Baths, VA 24473
(540) 462-2974
www.lexingtonvalleyvineyard.com

Rockbridge Vineyard & Brewery

35 Hill View Ln
Raphine, VA 24472
(540) 377-6204
rockbridgevineyard.com



2024 Calendar of Events

Buena Vista, Lexington and The Rockbridge Area

MARCH

March 15-17: IEA Zone 3 Finals, Virginia Horse Center, (Check vahorsecenter.org for spectator information.)
March 16, noon-8:30pm: St. Patrick's Day Celebration, Rockbridge Vineyard & Brewery, Raphine
March 20, 10 a.m.-12:30 p.m.: Lexington Farmers Market, McCrum's Parking Lot, S. Jefferson St., Lexington.
March 23-24: Trimble's Ridge Horse Show, Virginia Horse Center, (Check vahorsecenter.org for spectator information.)
March 23-24: Starter Trials and XC Schooling, Virginia Horse Center. (Check vahorsecenter.org for spectator information.)
March 27, 8 a.m.-12:30 p.m.: Lexington Farmers Market, McCrum's Parking Lot, S. Jefferson St., Lexington.
March 29, 6 pm: Keith Byant, Rockbridge Vineyard & Brewery, Raphine.
March 30-31: Eventing Jumper Derby, Virginia Horse Center, (Check vahorsecenter.org for spectator information.)
March 30: Easter Egg Hunt at the Paxton House, Glen Maury Park, Buena Vista

APRIL

April 3, 8 a.m.-12:30 p.m.: Lexington Farmers Market, McCrum's Parking Lot, S. Jefferson St., Lexington.
April 4-6: Great American Ranch and Trail Horse Sale, Virginia Horse Center (Check vahorsecenter.org for spectator information.)
April 5, 5-7 p.m.: First Fridays Art Walk, Galleries on and around Washington St., Lexington
April 6, 12 noon: Easter Egg Hunt, with Danny Goodson playing after. Rockbridge Vineyard & Brewery, Raphine.
April 8-9: VA Starter Horse Trials and XC Schooling, Virginia Horse Center
April 10: 8am-12:30 pm: Lexington Farmers Market, McCrum's Parking Lot, N. Jefferson St., Lexington.
April 12-13: UPHA Chapter 18 Old Dominion Classic, Virginia Horse Center.
April 12-14: Blue Ridge Arabian Classic, Virginia Horse Center.
April 13, 11 am.-2 pm.: Mimosas and Brunch, with bingo after. Rockbridge Vineyard & Brewery.
April 13, 1-5 pm: Bull and Oyster Fest benefitting the Rockbridge Area Health Center, Virginia Horse Center.
April 17: 8 am-12:30 pm: Lexington Farmers Market, McCrum's Parking Lot, N. Jefferson St., Lexington.
April 16-20: Lexington Spring Premier AA (Virginia Festival of Champions) Virginia Horse Center
April 24, 8 am-12:30 pm: Lexington Farmers Market, McCrum's Parking Lot, N. Jefferson St., Lexington
April 26-28: Spring Sidewalk Sale, Downtown Lexington
April 30-May 4: Guy Carawan's Bluegrass Jam, Glen Maury Park
April 30-May 5: Lexington Spring Encore "AA", Hunter/Jumper show, Virginia Horse Center

MAY

May 1, 8 a.m.-12:30 p.m.: Lexington Farmers Market, McCrum's Parking Lot, N. Jefferson St., Lexington
May 2-5: W&L Alumni Weekend
May 3, 5-7 p.m.: First Fridays Art Walk, Galleries on and around Washington St., Lexington
May 4, 12 noon-8:30 pm: Cinco De Mayo Celebration, music 5:30-8:30 pm, Rockbridge Vineyard & Brewery.
May 8-11: Bonnie Blue UHPA National Horse Show, Virginia Horse Center
May 8, 8 a.m.-12:30 p.m.: Lexington Farmers Market, McCrum's Parking Lot, N. Jefferson St., Lexington
May 10: W&L Law School Commencement

May 10-11: Gravista Bike Race, Glen Maury Park
May 11, 11 am -2 pm: Mimosas and Brunch, Rockbridge Vineyard & Brewery.
May 15, 8 a.m.-12:30 p.m.: Lexington Farmers Market, McCrum's Parking Lot, N. Jefferson St., Lexington.
May 15-19: Keswick Horse Show, Virginia Horse Center
May 16: Virginia Military Institute Commencement
May 16-19: Mid-Atlantic Dressage Festival & Lexington CDI3* , Virginia Horse Center
May 22, 8 a.m.-12:30 p.m.: Lexington Farmers Market, McCrum's Parking Lot, N. Jefferson St., Lexington
May 23-26: VHC Eventing May, Virginia Horse Center
May 24, 6:30-9 p.m.: Fridays In The Park with Rewind, Glen Maury Park
May 25: Pool Opens, Glen Maury Park
May 29, 8 a.m.-12:30 p.m.: Lexington Farmers Market, McCrum's Parking Lot, N. Jefferson St., Lexington
May 30, 10 a.m.: Washington and Lee University Undergraduate Commencement
May 31-June 2: Virginia Barrel Classic, Virginia Horse Center

JUNE

June 5, 8 a.m.-12:30 p.m.: Lexington Farmers Market, McCrum's Parking Lot, N. Jefferson St., Lexington
June 7: 5-7 p.m.: First Fridays Art Walk, Galleries on and around Washington St., Lexington
June 7, 6:30-9 p.m.: Fridays In The Park with Evolution Band, Glen Maury Park
June 7-9: Gypsy Vanner Show 2024, Virginia Horse Center
June 8, 11 am-2 pm: Mimosas and Brunch, Rockbridge Vineyard & Brewery.
June 8-9: Old Dominion Pony Club Jumping Rally 2024, Virginia Horse Center.
June 8: 4-H Qualifier and Show, Virginia Horse Center.
June 12, 8 a.m.-12:30 p.m.: Lexington Farmers Market, McCrum's Parking Lot, N. Jefferson St., Lexington
June 13-15: Rockbridge Horse Show, Virginia Horse Center
June 13-15: Maury River Fiddler's Convention, Glen Maury Park
June 18-22: Shenandoah Classic Horse Show, Virginia Horse Center
June 19, 8 a.m.-12:30 p.m.: Lexington Farmers Market, McCrum's Parking Lot, N. Jefferson St., Lexington
June 21-22: Bike of Virginia, Glen Maury Park.
June 21-23: AVA Region IX Equestrian Vaulting Championships, Virginia Horse Center.
June 25-26: House Mountain Horse Show HJ 2024, Virginia Horse Center
June 26, 8 a.m.-12:30 p.m.: Lexington Farmers Market, McCrum's Parking Lot, N. Jefferson St., Lexington
June 27-30: Equus Survival Trust, Virginia Horse Center.

JULY

July 1-6: Region 15 & Region 16 Arabian Championships, Virginia Horse Center.
July 3, 8 a.m.-12:30 p.m.: Lexington Farmers Market, McCrum's Parking Lot, N. Jefferson St., Lexington
July 3, 5:30-10 p.m.: Freedom Food Festival, Downtown Lexington
July 6-7: Balloons Over Lexington Hot Air Balloon Event, Oak Hill Property, across from Virginia Horse Center
July 4: Children's Bike Parade, Downtown Lexington
July 4: Music and Fireworks, Glen Maury Park
July 10, 8 a.m.-12:30 p.m.: Lexington Farmers Market, McCrum's Parking Lot, N. Jefferson St., Lexington
July 12, 6:30-9 p.m.: Fridays In The Park with Southpaw, Glen Maury Park
July 12-14: Dressage at Lexington, Virginia Horse Center

2024 Calendar of Events continued

July 13, 12 noon-6 pm: Summer Breeze Festival, Rockbridge Vineyard & Brewery.
July 17, 8 a.m.-12:30 p.m.: Lexington Farmers Market, McCrum's Parking Lot, N. Jefferson St., Lexington
July 22-28: Summer Restaurant Week, Downtown Lexington.
July 24, 8 a.m.-12:30 p.m.: Lexington Farmers Market, McCrum's Parking Lot, N. Jefferson St., Lexington
July 26, 6:30 p.m.: Beach Music, Second Wind," Glen Maury Park
July 27: Beach Music Festival, Glen Maury Park.
July 27-28: American Connemara Pony Region III Championship, Virginia Horse Center
July 31, 8 a.m.-12:30 p.m.: Lexington Farmers Market, McCrum's Parking Lot, N. Jefferson St., Lexington.
July 31-Aug. 4: East Coast Arabian Championship Horse Show, Virginia Horse Center.

AUGUST

Aug. 2, 5-7 p.m.: First Fridays Art Walk, Galleries on and around Washington St., Lexington
Aug. 2, 6:30-9 p.m.: Fridays In The Park with Spencer Hatcher, Glen Maury Park
Aug. 7-11: Lexington National Horse Show "AA" (Virginia Festival of Champions, Virginia Horse Center
Aug. 7, 8 a.m.-12:30 p.m.: Lexington Farmers Market, McCrum's Parking Lot, N. Jefferson St., Lexington
Aug. 10, 11 am-2 pm: Mimosas and Brunch, Rockbridge Vineyard & Brewery.
Aug. 14, 8 a.m.-12:30 p.m.: Lexington Farmers Market, McCrum's Parking Lot, N. Jefferson St., Lexington
Aug. 16-18: National Barrel Horse Association Colonial Super Show , Virginia Horse Center
Aug. 16-18: Chris Wheeler Softball Tournament, Glen Maury Park.
Aug. 18: Thoroughbred Heritage Horse Show, Virginia Horse Center
Aug. 19: First year law school orientation begins, Washington and Lee University
Aug. 21, 8 a.m.-12:30 p.m.: Lexington Farmers Market, McCrum's Parking Lot, N. Jefferson St., Lexington
Aug. 21-23: Virginia Classic Open Dressage 2024, Virginia Horse Center
Aug. 23-25: Virginia Young Horse Festival, Virginia Horse Center
Aug. 24: Sallie B. Wheeler USEF/USHJA Hunter Breed National Championship, Virginia Horse Center
Aug. 23-25, ERAHC's Virginia Classic Andalusian Show, Virginia Horse Center
Aug. 24, Rockbridge Community Festival, Downtown Lexington
Aug. 25: USHJA Hunter Breed National Championship, Virginia Horse Center
Aug. 26: Law school classes begin, Washington and Lee University
Aug. 28, 8 a.m.-12:30 p.m.: Lexington Farmers Market, McCrum's Parking Lot, N. Jefferson St., Lexington
Aug. 30-Sept. 1: Summer Sidewalk Sale, Downtown Lexington
Aug. 30- Sept. 1: VPHC Color Classic Futurity Show 2024, Virginia Horse Center.
Aug. 30-Sept 1: Virginia Paint Horse Club, Virginia Horse Center.
Aug. 31, 12 noon- 9 pm: Labor Day Celebration, Rockbridge Vineyard & Brewery.
Aug. 31-Sept. 1: East Coast Halter Futurity 2024, Virginia Horse Center.

SEPTEMBER

Sept. 2, 9 a.m.: Labor Day Celebration, Glen Maury Park, Buena Vista
Sept. 6, 5-7 p.m.: Lexington Gallery Walk, Galleries on and around Washington St., Lexington
Sept. 4: Undergraduate orientation and matriculation begin, Washington and Lee University
Sept. 4, 8 a.m.-12:30 p.m.: Lexington Farmers Market, McCrum's Parking Lot, N. Jefferson St., Lexington
Sept. 5: Undergraduate classes start, Washington and Lee University
Sept. 5-8: Virginia 4-H State Championship Horse and Pony Show, Virginia Horse Center
Sept. 5-7: Mountain Music Festival, Glen Maury Park
Sept. 11, 8 a.m.-12:30 p.m.: Lexington Farmers Market, McCrum's Parking Lot, N. Jefferson St., Lexington
Sept. 12-14: Rockbridge Regional Fair, Virginia Horse Center
Sept. 13-15: Young Alumni Weekend, Washington and Lee University.
Sept. 14, 11 am-2 pm: Mimosas and Brunch, Rockbridge Vineyard & Brewery.

Sept. 18, 8 a.m.-12:30 p.m.: Lexington Farmers Market, McCrum's Parking Lot, N. Jefferson St., Lexington
Sept. 19-21: Nothin' Fancy Bluegrass Festival, Glen Maury Park
Sept. 20-22: Virginia State Barrel Finals, Virginia Horse Center
Sept. 21, 7th Annual "Run Of The Mill" 5K Race, Brownsburg to Wades Mill
Sept. 21-Sept. 22: Virginia Starter Horse Trials & XC Schooling, Virginia Horse Center
Sept. 23-28: Pickin' Family Music Festival, Glen Maury Park
Sept. 25, 8 a.m.-12:30 p.m.: Lexington Farmers Market, McCrum's Parking Lot, N. Jefferson St., Lexington
Sept. 25028: ASHAV Horse Show, Virginia Horse Center

OCTOBER

Oct. 2, 8 a.m.-12:30 p.m.: Lexington Farmers Market, McCrum's Parking Lot, N. Jefferson St., Lexington
Oct. 4, 5-7 p.m.: First Friday Art Walk, Galleries on and around Washington St., Lexington
Oct. 5, 12 noon-6 pm: Harvest Festival, Rockbridge Vineyard & Brewery.
Oct. 12, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.: Mountain Day, Downtown Buena Vista
Oct. 9, 8 a.m.-12:30 p.m.: Lexington Farmers Market, McCrum's Parking Lot, N. Jefferson St., Lexington
Oct. 10-13: Virginia Dressage Association Fall Show/USDF Region 1 Finals, Virginia Horse Center
Oct. 12, 11 am-2 pm: Mimosas and Brunch, Rockbridge Vineyard & Brewery.
Oct. 14-15: House Mountain Horse Show, Virginia Horse Center
Oct. 16, 8 a.m.-12:30 p.m.: Lexington Farmers Market, McCrum's Parking Lot, N. Jefferson Lexington
Oct. 19, Goose Creek Horse Show, Virginia Horse Center
Oct. 19-20: Therapeutic Riding Association of Virginia, Virginia Horse Center.
Oct. 20: Washington and Lee Intercollegiate Horse Show, Virginia Horse Center
Oct. 23, 8 a.m.-12:30 p.m.: Lexington Farmers Market, McCrum's Parking Lot, N. Jefferson Lexington
Oct 24-27: Southwest Virginia Hunter-Jumper Association Finals 2024, Virginia Horse Center
Oct. 31-Nov. 3: Virginia Horse Show Association Championships, Virginia Horse Center.
Oct. 31: Halloween Downtown Trick or Treating, Downtown Lexington
Oct. 31: Halloween in Buena Vista

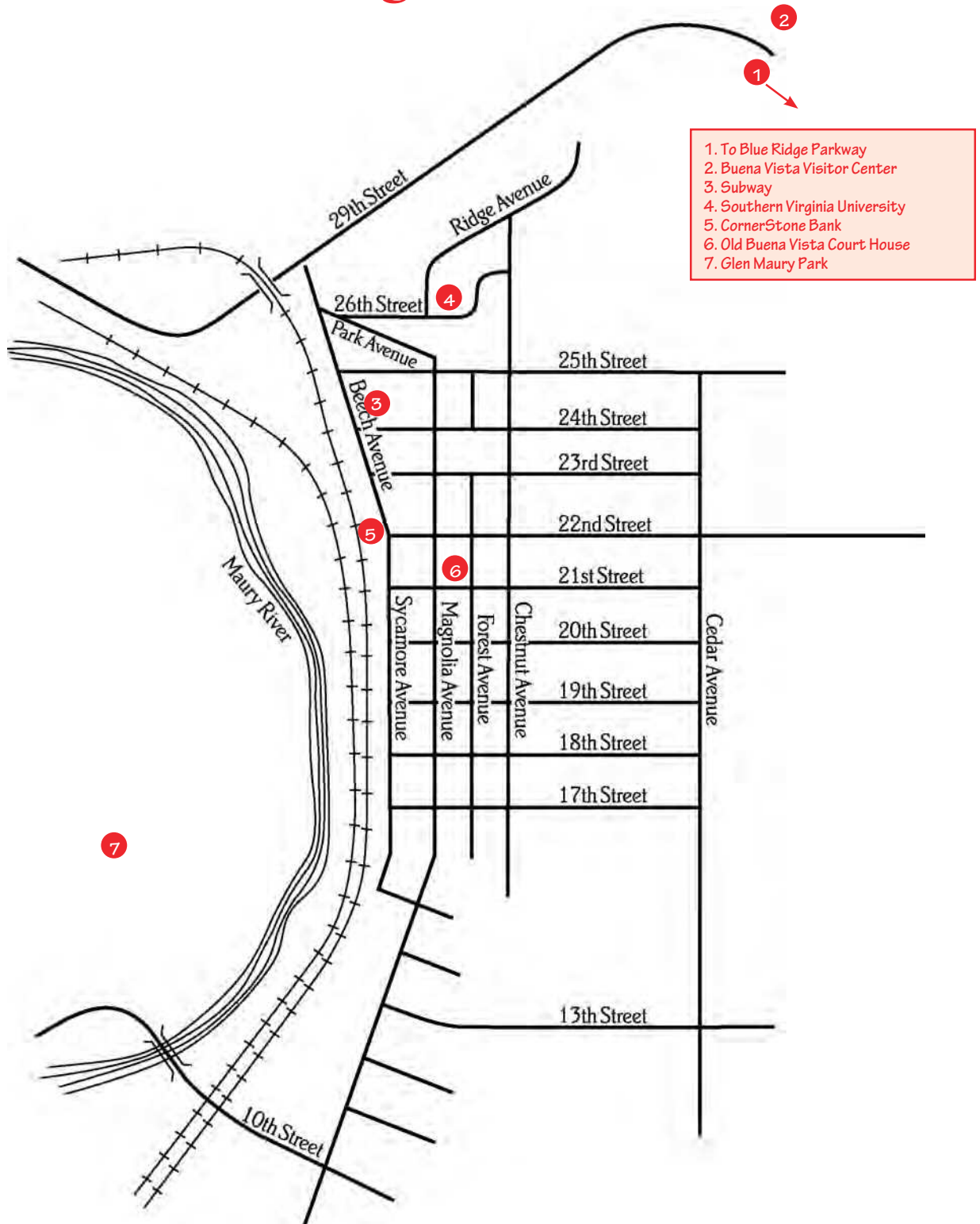
NOVEMBER

Nov. 1, 5-7 p.m.: First Friday Art Walk, Galleries on and around Washington St., Lexington
Nov. 6, 8 a.m.-12:30 p.m.: Lexington Farmers Market, McCrum's Parking Lot, N. Jefferson St., Lexington
Nov. 9, 11 am-2 pm: Mimosas and Brunch, Rockbridge Vineyard & Brewery.
Nov. 13, 8 a.m.-12:30 p.m.: Lexington Farmers Market, McCrum's Parking Lot, N. Jefferson St., Lexington
Nov. 15-16: SEBRA Extreme Bull Riding and Barrel Racing, Virginia Horse Center.
Nov. 20, 8 a.m.-12:30 p.m.: Lexington Farmers Market, McCrum's Parking Lot, N. Jefferson St., Lexington
Nov. 27, 8 a.m.-12:30 p.m.: Lexington Farmers Market, McCrum's Parking Lot, N. Jefferson St., Lexington
Nov. 29: Candlelight Processional and Community Tree Lighting, Downtown Lexington
Nov. 30: Small Business Saturday

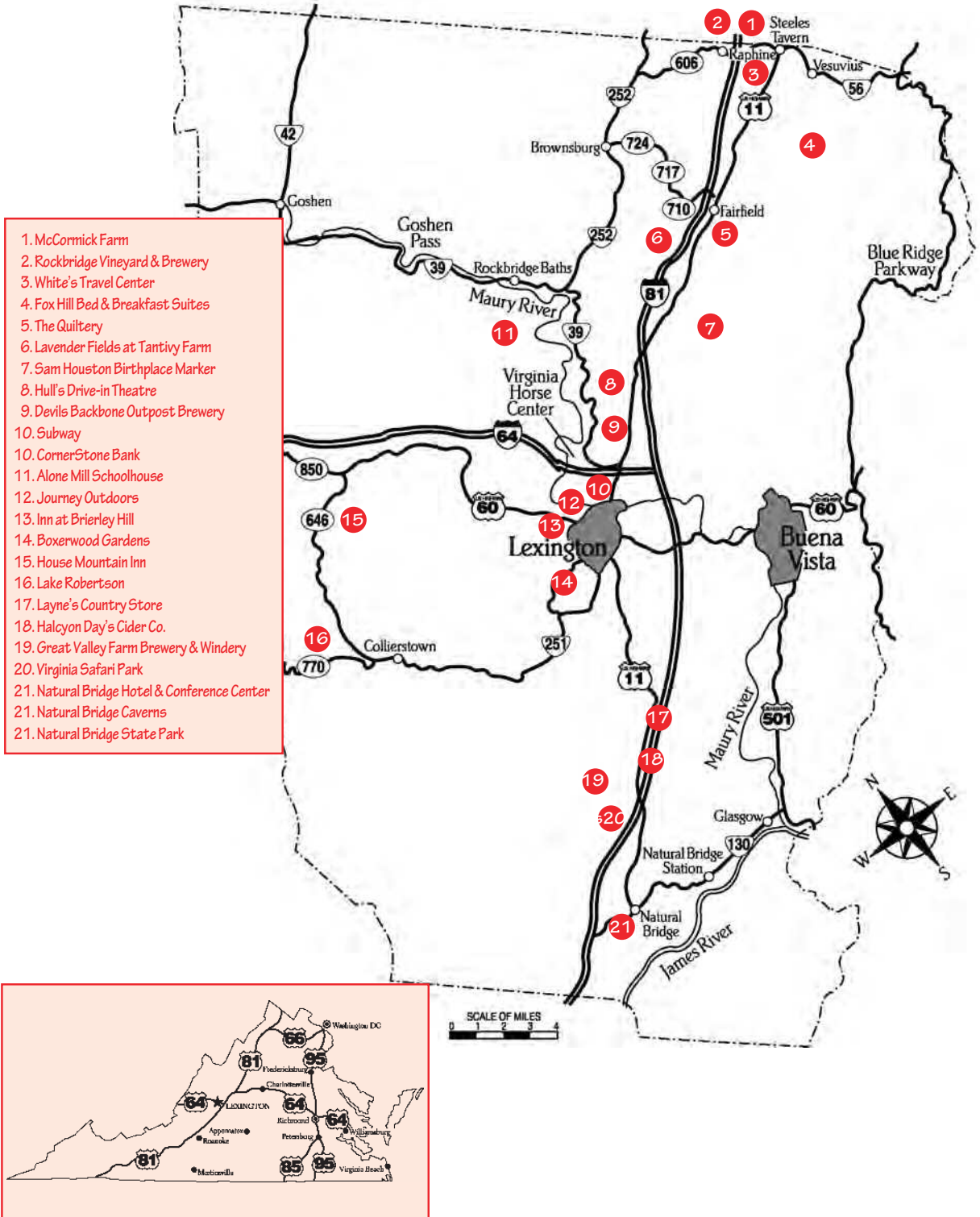
DECEMBER

Dec. 5: Buena Vista Christmas Parade, Downtown Buena Vista.
Dec. 6: Lexington Christmas Parade, Downtown Lexington
Dec. 6, 5-7 p.m.: First Friday Art Walk, Galleries on and around Washington St., Lexington
Dec. 7: Jingle Bell Run, Downtown Lexington
Dec. 7: Christmas Basket Packing, Virginia Horse Center.
Dec. 7-8, 12 noon-5 pm: Holiday Open House, Rockbridge Vineyard & Brewery.
Dec. 12-15: The Barracks Horse Show, Virginia Horse Center.
Dec. 20: Church Holiday Open House, Downtown Lexington.
Dec. 27-29: USEA Area 2 WOW Camp Virginia Horse Center.

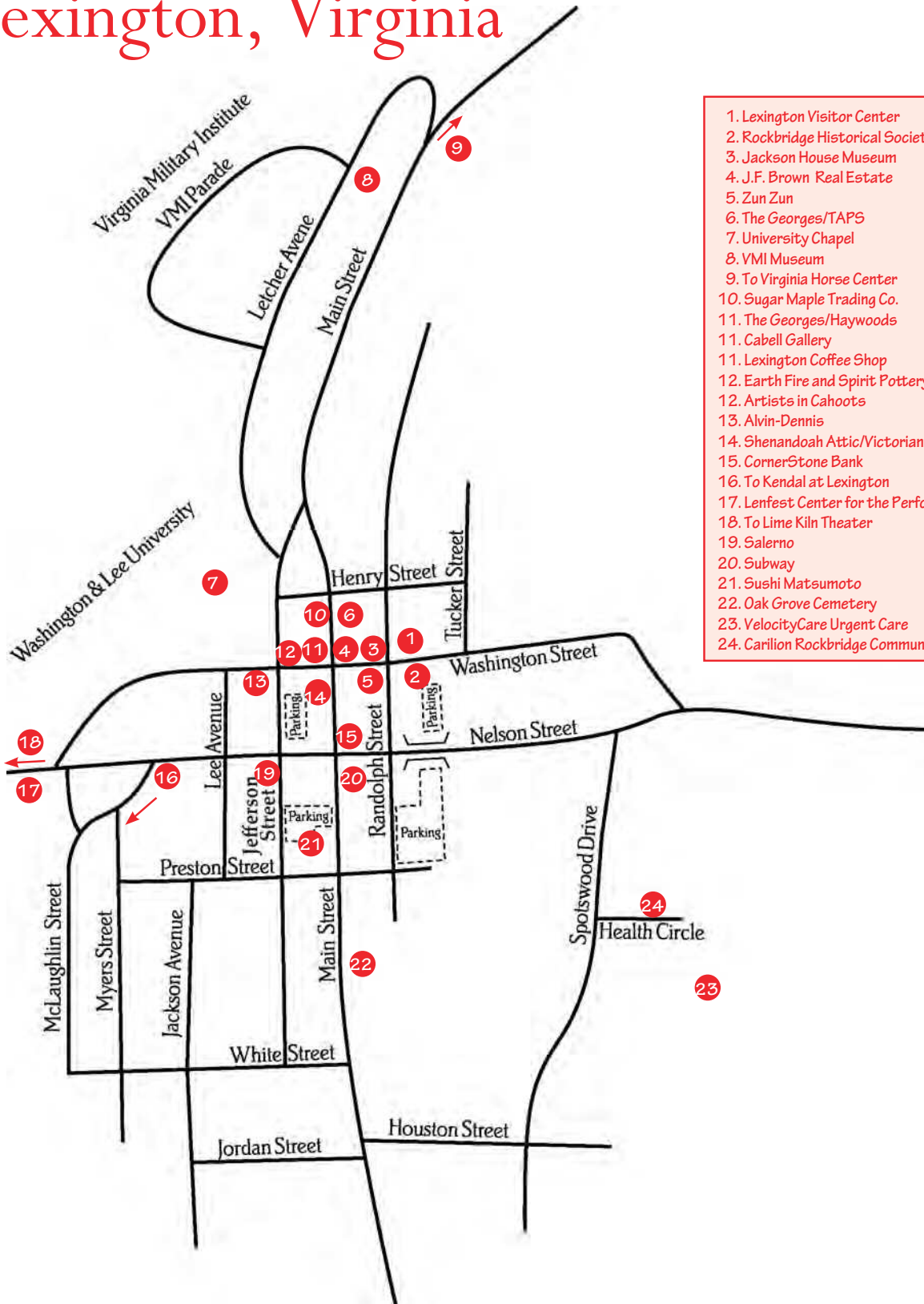
Buena Vista, Virginia



Rockbridge County



Lexington, Virginia



1. Lexington Visitor Center
2. Rockbridge Historical Society
3. Jackson House Museum
4. J.F. Brown Real Estate
5. Zun Zun
6. The Georges/TAPS
7. University Chapel
8. VMI Museum
9. To Virginia Horse Center
10. Sugar Maple Trading Co.
11. The Georges/Haywoods
11. Cabell Gallery
11. Lexington Coffee Shop
12. Earth Fire and Spirit Pottery
12. Artists in Cahoots
13. Alvin-Dennis
14. Shenandoah Attic/Victorian Parlor
15. CornerStone Bank
16. To Kendal at Lexington
17. Lenfest Center for the Performing Arts
18. To Lime Kiln Theater
19. Salerno
20. Subway
21. Sushi Matsumoto
22. Oak Grove Cemetery
23. VelocityCare Urgent Care
24. Carilion Rockbridge Community Hospital.



Photo by Corey Ann Matteson

Inn at Brierley Hill



The Inn at Brierley Hill, nestled on a hillside in the Shenandoah Valley offers guests a sophisticated laid-back experience with incredible views of the Appalachian Mountains and only minutes from the heart of the historic and charming village of Lexington.

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