

Leonard Veillette

August 3, 2007

For Sept/Oct issue of NC Festivals

News Release: Two Fall Festivals, College Football, Fresh Farm Harvest and the County Fair Make Nash County a Fall Destination.

Taking the kid's to a working farm is Fall fun in Nash County. The Fisher Farm opens it's doors for visitors to view the "fruits" of the Fall harvest including pumpkins, gourds, Indian corn and Fall squash. Children can visit various farm animals and maybe even get to ride on a farm cart. The Fisher Farm is open through November.

Every Saturday morning plus Thursday and Friday afternoons the Nash Area Farmer's market showcases the vegetable and flower harvest of area farmers as well as fresh baked goods, handmade crafts, homemade jellies, jams and roasted coffee. Variety every visit based on availability.

Surrounding the third weekend of September (20<sup>th</sup>-22<sup>nd</sup>), thousands gather for the three-day Downeast Viking Football Classic when Elizabeth City State takes on Shaw University. Football's the game but fun and entertainment are special parts of the fun. On Saturday many a tailgate is seen far and wide in the new Rocky Mount Sports Complex beginning early in the morning and continuing throughout the day. The Viking Football Classic is a busy three days with fashion shows, a golf tournament and of course remaking old collegiate friendships.

The area's largest carnival is September 21<sup>st</sup> through the 29<sup>th</sup> featuring dozens of rides, exhibits, games and that great "Fair Food." From tilt-a-whirls and Ferris wheels to racing pigs and local school bands, a full week of activities can be found. With different events held every night, the Rocky Mount Fair is fun for all ages day or night.

The best Gospel performers in the United States gather October 4<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> for the 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Fall Gospel Classic at Red Budd Church. Led by Grammy winner Luther Barnes, music, fellowship and worship is the reason to be at the Red Budd Church in Rocky Mount for all three days. Special kids activities make this a fun event for the whole family. Information at 252-977-9195.

October is Festival month in Nash County with two of the largest events in Eastern North Carolina. The first weekend always brings The Pumpkin Festival to Spring Hope (October 5<sup>th</sup> & October 6<sup>th</sup>). Thousands gather to celebrate the Fall pumpkin season. The Festival begins with a parade with theme floats, local marching bands and celebrities. A special attraction is the crowning of the Pumpkin Queen. A nip in the air welcomes the aroma of Southern foods – barbecue, hotdogs, hamburgers and plenty of sweet tea and desserts. Homemade crafts are displayed for sale on both sides of Main Street. This annual event has a little something for everyone.

The very next weekend it's Rocky Mount's turn with the Downeast Festival (October 12<sup>th</sup> & 13<sup>th</sup>). A two-day event featuring local and national music performances, dancers,

crafts, and down-home cooking. Exhibits and lots of homemade crafts assure hours of fun. “Pignatious,” the Saturday pig-cooking contest, is an opportunity to see professionals cook whole pigs, then watch as the judges sample the delicious barbecue to select the champion. To finish the evening, you can enjoy a plate or maybe a sandwich of this delicious unique pork washed down with sweet tea. Once you’ve sampled “Good ole’ Eastern NC home-cooked barbecue” straight off the grill, you’ll be hooked.

Of course there is always something new at the Imperial Centre in downtown Rocky Mount. Experience exciting space travel and laser light shows in the digital planetarium to more down to earth creatures in the Children’s Museum & Science Centers Eastern NC Coastal living marsh. “Extreme Deep: Mission to the Abyss” a journey through the mysteries of the deep ocean is on exhibit until December. The Art Center always has exciting exhibits and in through December is showing “First 50 Archives” a retrospective of the first 50 years of the Arts Center. The Tri-State Sculptors also are exhibiting inside and on the grounds. The Theatre is performing “Last Night of the Ballyhoo September 14<sup>th</sup>-23<sup>rd</sup>”. Information at 252-972-1163.

The Dunn Center at North Carolina College has a full lineup of entertainment with Urban Funk and 1964: The Tribute in September with The Glass Cats, The Gatlin Brothers and Almost Heaven in October. Information at [www.ncwc.edu/Arts/DunnCenter](http://www.ncwc.edu/Arts/DunnCenter).

It’s easy to see that Nash County is the place to be in September and October. Visit and enjoy the events as well as good old “Southern Hospitality.” For more information visit [www.rockymounttravel.com](http://www.rockymounttravel.com) or call the Nash County Visitors Bureau at 1-800-849-6825.