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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 (25th-27th), thousands gather for the three-day Downeast Viking Football Classic when Elizabeth City State takes on St. Augustine's College. Football's the game but fun and entertainment are special parts of the fun. On Saturday tailgates will be 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 8th through the 13th 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 2nd-5th for the 12th 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 3rd & October 4th). Thousands gather to celebrate the Fall growing 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 10th & 11th). 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. The Eastern Carolina BBQ Throw Down is cooking contest with chicken, pork ribs, plus pork & beef brisket. A Kansas City Barbecue Society sanctioned event, this is an opportunity to see professionals cook, 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 barbrcue 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. "Microbes: Invisible Invaders, Amazing Allies" is an interactive exploration through the mysteries of Microbes which sustain all life on earth while holding the deadly potential to wipe out millions is on exhibit until December. Three new exhibit" Elements of Life, Diversity in the Carolinas and Save Our Planet" are inquiry based exhibits that demonstrate how people effect the earth. The Cummins Planetarium has a full schedule of daily digital video and laser shows. The Art Center always has exciting exhibits in ten galleries including the permanent collection and exhibitions of regional and national artists. The Theatre is performing "The Art of Dining" September 19th-28th. Information at 252-972-1163.

The Dunn Center at North Carolina College has a full lineup of entertainment with Neil Berg's 100 Years of Broadway and The Blues Brothers Revival in September and Chapter 6, The Church Basement Ladies and 1964 Tribute in October. Information at www.ncwc.edu/Arts/DunnCenter.

A refurbished Nash Arts reopens in September to a pottery and jewelry exhibition and sale and to a Dale Watson old-fashioned country music performance on October 14th. Information at 252 459 4734 or nasharts.org.

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 or call the Nash County Visitors Bureau at 1-800-849-6825.