



2026

NOVA FALL GUIDE



A LETTER FROM SPRING BOUTIQUE



Autumn brings a wonderful shift across Northern Virginia, from the golden canopies along the Potomac to the welcoming energy in our neighborhood plazas. As the summer humidity fades, our local parks and historic streets become the perfect backdrop for outdoor gatherings and weekend explorations.

I put together this Fall Guide to give you a handpicked roadmap for the season ahead. Inside you will find popular community festivals, boutique shopping destinations, and favorite local dining spots across Arlington, McLean, Reston, Vienna, Fairfax, and Alexandria.

Whether you are planning a family outing or looking for a cozy dinner spot, I hope this guide helps you make the most of autumn. Thank you for letting me be your local resource, and I wish you a vibrant season filled with wonderful moments.

Warmly,

Bahar & Shah

COMPASS



Arlington

In the vibrant heart of Northern Virginia, Arlington comes alive with the crisp air of autumn. Brilliant amber hues adorn bustling streets, casting a warm glow over a community that balances urban sophistication with small town charm. Tree lined neighborhoods offer a cozy retreat, while the gentle autumn breeze carries the sounds of community cheer. Whether exploring its scenic park trails or savoring its dynamic energy, Arlington is a colorful sanctuary that promises a truly memorable season.

Events Around Town

YIKES! at SPARK! Not Your Usual Halloween Art Market

Sunday, October 04

SPARK! is a fun inclusive outdoor market with handpicked art and food vendors, and programming including poetry, music and art making. Meet your neighbors, build community and be inspired at SPARK!

Pike Fest

Saturday, October 10, | 10 AM to 5 PM

Enjoy live music, artisanal food trucks, and lively children activities along Columbia Pike. Local vendors gather to showcase unique goods in a festive autumn celebration for all ages.



McLean

McLean exudes an elegant autumn charm as stately estates and quiet neighborhood lanes are framed by brilliant golden foliage. Crisp afternoons invite leisurely strolls along tree shaded paths, where the natural serenity of the landscape creates a peaceful retreat from the surrounding city. As evening approaches, warm store windows and cozy neighborhood hearths illuminate, welcoming residents to gather and celebrate the cozy spirit of the harvest season.

Events Around Town

McLean Harvest Community Festival

Saturday, September 26 | 11 AM to 3 PM

Bring the family for outdoor lawn games, live musical performances, pumpkin painting, and fresh cider on the community center park grounds.

MPAartfest

Sunday, October 4 | 10 AM to 4 PM

McLean Central Park transforms into a bustling open air art gallery. View works from acclaimed regional artists while listening to live music and enjoying seasonal food offerings.



Old Town Alexandria

Old Town Alexandria turns into a classic autumn postcard as falling leaves drift onto historic cobblestone streets and brick sidewalks. Centuries old rowhouses feature front steps decorated with heirloom pumpkins and dried cornstalks, creating an enchanting scene along every block. Waterfront views along the Potomac River reflect the glowing colors of late afternoon, while cozy taverns and boutiques offer a warm welcome to evening strollers.

Events Around Town

Alexandria Fall Art Festival

Sat., Sept. 26 to Sun., Sept. 27 | 10 AM to 5 PM

John Carlyle Square Park hosts master artisans displaying fine ceramics, oil paintings, and handcrafted jewelry in an outdoor park setting.

Old Town Trick-or-Treat 2026

Saturday, October 24 | 11 AM to 4 PM

Grab your map at Pippin Toy Co. on October 24 and haunt the streets of Old Town Alexandria for a spooktacular day of trick or treating!



Reston

Reston seamlessly blends modern architectural design with the striking, unrefined beauty of nature during the fall months. Miles of paved woodland trails wind beneath a dense canopy of red and gold maples, leading past peaceful, mirror like lakes reflecting the autumn sky. Reston Town Center serves as a bustling hub, where outdoor dining under warm patio heaters and seasonal open air shopping create a sophisticated yet welcoming fall atmosphere.

Events Around Town

Reston Farm Garden Market Fall Fun Fest

Saturdays & Sundays, September 26 - October 31

Bring the family for train rides, inflatables, pumpkin picking, and fresh warm apple cider donuts in an authentic garden market setting.

Trick or Treat Beyond Market Street

Sunday, October 25 | 12 PM – 3 PM

Bring your little ghouls and goblins to Trick or Treat Beyond Market Street on Sunday, October 25!



Fairfax

Fairfax embraces autumn with a rich blend of historic pride and lively modern gatherings. The historic courthouse square displays festive seasonal decor, while expansive county parks showcase sweeping vistas of changing forest leaves. Families fill outdoor picnic plazas to enjoy the comfortable weather, and local markets showcase the abundant bounty of regional harvests. It is a region where history and seasonal joy create an inspiring setting for autumn outings.

Events Around Town

Ghost Town at Burke Lake Park

Sat., October 24 & Sun., October 25 | 11 AM to 5 PM

Put on your costume and enjoy a not-so-spooky Halloween celebration featuring train and carousel rides, mini golf, crafts, and trick-or-treat houses throughout the park.

50th Annual Fairfax City Fall Festival

Saturday, October 10 | 10 AM to 5 PM

Historic downtown Fairfax fills with hundreds of craft artisans, multiple entertainment stages, food stops, and interactive children games.



Vienna

Vienna shines with a genuine community spirit that glows brightly as autumn settles over town. Historic Church Street fills with festive decorations, inviting shop displays, and the comforting aroma of fresh roasted coffee and seasonal treats. Neighbors gather along sidewalk cafes to enjoy the crisp air and warm conversations, while local parks offer a colorful setting for afternoon walks. In Vienna, autumn feels like a heartwarming celebration of togetherness and small town heritage.

Events Around Town

Vienna Oktoberfest 2026

Saturday, October 3 | 11 AM to 7 PM

Historic Church Street hosts a favorite Northern Virginia autumn festival featuring live German music, local food vendors, craft beer gardens, and a massive entertainment zone for children.

Vienna Halloween Parade 2026

Wednesday, October 28 | 7 PM

Watch imaginative floats, marching bands, and costumed children march along Maple Avenue in a cherished community tradition spanning decades.

THINGS TO
DO AROUND
NORTHERN VA



Shopping

Old Town Alexandria: The Shoe Hive

For a curated shoe shopping experience, The Shoe Hive offers a selection of stylish boots, perfect for fall. They have everything from classic leather to trendy ankle boots, making it easy to find a pair that's both fashionable and functional for walking Old Town's cobblestone streets.

Arlington: Covet

Perched in a charming converted house in Arlington, Covet features a treasure trove of indie designer jewelry, autumn home scents, and quirky lifestyle gifts. It is a delightful stop for finding one of a kind treasures crafted by local artisans right in Arlington.

Reston: Scrawl Books

This independent bookstore in Reston Town Center offers a warm and welcoming space to discover compelling fall reads, local author titles, and autumn children books. Grab a warm drink and browse through carefully curated shelves in Reston.

Fairfax: Mosaic District

Mosaic District combines chic fashion boutiques, home decor showrooms, and artisanal gift shops in an open air setting. It is an ideal destination for finding autumn sweater collections and handcrafted home scents right in Fairfax.

Vienna: Bards Alley Bookshop

Nestled along Vienna main thoroughfare, Bards Alley offers an intimate literary escape with curated book selections, cozy reading nooks, and sweet gift items. Enjoy friendly staff recommendations and find your next cozy autumn read in Vienna.

McLean: Malena Boutique

Located in downtown McLean, Malena Boutique offers a refined collection of contemporary women fashion, elegant autumn knitwear, and statement jewelry. It provides a personalized shopping experience tailored to sophisticated seasonal style.



Cocktail Bars & Good Eats

Ballston:

Copperwood Tavern
The Salt Line

Reston:

Red's Table Reston
Barcelona Wine Bar

Alexandria:

Landini Brothers
Virtue Feed & Grain

Fairfax:

Hamrock's Restaurant
Bellissimo Restaurant

Vienna:

Clarity
Roberto's Ristorante

McLean:

J. Glibert's Wood Fired Steaks
Aracosia McLean

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