

THE ULTIMATE

2026 FALL BUCKET LIST GUIDE

FREDERICKSBURG • STAFFORD • SPOTSYLVANIA • LOUISA • CAROLINE • ORANGE



LOCAL EVENTS • FARMS • FOLIAGE • FOOD • FALL FUN

PREPARED BY NEALY HARDING, REALTOR®

YOUR HOMETOWN REALTOR



YOUR LOCAL CHECKLIST

Welcome, Fall

Fall is one of the most magical seasons to experience, and this guide is your inside scoop on the best local spots, flavors, and events to enjoy across Fredericksburg, Stafford, Spotsylvania, Louisa/Lake Anna, Caroline, and Orange.

From crisp outdoor adventures and cozy bites to seasonal festivals you won't want to miss, this guide is packed with everything that makes autumn here unforgettable. Use it to plan a pumpkin patch outing, find a scenic drive, discover a dog-friendly stop, or simply check off a few favorite fall traditions close to home. Use this guide and check them off one by one this season!

IN THIS GUIDE

Fall festivals, pumpkin patches, scenic drives, oyster roasts, dog-friendly outings, local markets, and seasonal favorites from Fredericksburg, Stafford, Spotsylvania, Louisa/Lake Anna, Caroline and Orange.

HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE

- | | |
|--|--|
| ☐ Pick one local event each weekend | ☐ Save the October calendar page |
| ☐ Plan one foliage walk or scenic drive | ☐ Invite a friend to something new |
| ☐ Visit a farm or pumpkin patch | ☐ Do one backyard fall tradition |
| ☐ Try a local market or seasonal treat | ☐ Share the guide with a new neighbor |

September: Start Here!

Big weekends begin September 19 and keep building through the end of the month.

September 19-20

SAT • SEP 19 Adventure Brewing 11th Annual

Oktoberfest [STAFFORD]

12-10 PM • Stafford/Falmouth area • Bavarian music, stein holding and live music.

SAT • SEP 19 Friends of the Rappahannock Riverfest

[FXBG]

3-8 PM • McDaniel Property by City Dock • ticketed river fundraiser with local food and live music.

SAT • SEP 19 Lake Anna Bluegrass Festival [LOUISA]

12-6 PM • Prospect Draffhouse at Coyote Hole • free and family-friendly.

SEP 19-20 Lake Anna Jazz Festival [LOUISA]

Two days of jazz in Mineral. Check Visit Louisa for the current schedule and ticketed add-ons.

SUN • SEP 20 Belmont Nature Walk [STAFFORD]

2-3:30 PM • guided nature walk at Gari Melchers Home & Studio.

September 25-27

SEP 25-OCT 4 State Fair of Virginia [CAROLINE]

The Meadow Event Park, Doswell • rides, livestock, exhibits, food, entertainment and competitions.

SEP 26-27 Fredericksburg Fall Greek Festival [SPOTSY]

Sat 11-8 • Sun 12-4 • free admission at Nativity of the Theotokos Greek Orthodox Church.

SEP 26-27 Giant Acorn Triathlon Festival [SPOTSY]

Lake Anna State Park • Olympic and sprint events; a fun spectator weekend too.

Saturday, September 26

SEP 26 Orangetoberfest [ORANGE]

12-5 PM • Short Street, Downtown Orange • craft beer/cider, music and food trucks.

SEP 26 1781 Brewing + Wilderness Run Oktoberfest

[SPOTSY]

11 AM-9 PM • free family event with music, German-inspired food and drinks.

SEP 26 Full Distance Brewing Oktoberfest [STAFFORD]

12-9 PM • Stafford • German-inspired food, live music and stein-holding fun.

SEP 26 Laudенbach 2nd Annual Oktoberfest [STAFFORD]

12-10 PM • Centreport area • another Stafford Oktoberfest option.

SEP 26 Fallapalooza [SPOTSY]

1-3 PM • Spotsylvania Towne Centre • free family entertainment and fall activities.

SEP 26 Jazz in the Park [SPOTSY]

4-6 PM • Patriot Park.

FARM SEASON IS OPEN

Belvedere is already underway. Snead's Farm and Miller Farms open their fall seasons September 26, and Braehead's annual Fall Festival traditionally runs five weekends from late September through October.

October Weekends

Save this page - there is something happening almost every weekend.

OCT
2

HOMETOWN REALTY FALL FEST OPEN HOUSE

Friday, October 2 • 4:00-7:00 PM • Hometown Realty, 1008 Prince Edward Street, Downtown Fredericksburg

Hosted by Hometown Realty & Atlantic Bay Mortgage. Stop in before or during First Friday and make it part of your downtown evening.

October 2-4

FRI • OCT 2 First Friday - Downtown Fredericksburg [FXBG]

Downtown galleries, shops and restaurants; pair it with the Hometown Realty Fall Fest Open House.

FRI • OCT 2 Downtown Sounds: Ladia [FXBG]

6-8:30 PM • Market Square • free live music.

FRI • OCT 2 Autumn Beckons Reception [LOUISA]

6-8 PM • Louisa Arts Center • exhibition continues through Nov. 13.

SAT • OCT 3 Fredericksburg Independent Book Festival [FXBG]

10 AM-4 PM • Riverfront Park • free.

SAT • OCT 3 Stafford Fall Family Festival [STAFFORD]

11 AM-3 PM • John Lee Pratt Memorial Park.

SAT • OCT 3 Hartwood Harvest Makers Market [STAFFORD]

10 AM-2 PM • 128 Meadows Road.

SAT • OCT 3 Dog Days at Ferry Farm [STAFFORD]

10 AM-5 PM • bring your well-mannered leashed dog; grounds admission applies.

SAT • OCT 3 Port Royal Pirate Festival [CAROLINE]

Port Royal Town Green • Caroline County.

October 3-11

OCT 3-4 Fall Fiber Festival + Montpelier Sheep Dog Trials [ORANGE]

10-5 Sat • 10-4 Sun • Montpelier Station • fiber arts, working dogs and vendors.

SAT • OCT 3 Gordonsville Fried Chicken Festival [ORANGE]

10 AM-4 PM • Historic Gordonsville.

SAT • OCT 3 Potomac Point Grape Stomping [STAFFORD]

12-6 PM • Stafford • ticketed harvest experience; repeats Oct. 17.

OCT 8-11 Spotsylvania County Fair [SPOTSY]

Battlefield Boulevard, Spotsylvania • midway, fair food and entertainment.

SAT • OCT 10 Louisa Fall Festival [LOUISA]

10 AM-3 PM • Louisa County Parks, Recreation & Tourism • free.

SAT • OCT 10 WildRoots Festival [LOUISA]

10 AM-5 PM • Forrest Green Farm • outdoor skills, wild foods and conservation.

SAT • OCT 10 Barley Naked Oktoberfest + 8th Anniversary [STAFFORD]

12-9 PM • Stafford • free family-friendly celebration.

SUN • OCT 11 Plaid to the Bone 10K [STAFFORD]

8 AM • John Lee Pratt Memorial Park • fall-themed race with cider, coffee and donuts after.

Late October + November

Fairs, Halloween, harvest celebrations and the first holiday markets.

October 15-18

THU • OCT 15 Mineral Hometown Homecoming Parade [LOUISA]

Town of Mineral / Louisa County High School homecoming tradition.

OCT 15-18 Stafford County Agricultural & Homemaking Fair [STAFFORD]

504 Poplar Road • carnival rides, 4-H, homemaking, petting zoo and family events.

SAT • OCT 17 Quacktoberfest [FXBG]

2-6 PM • Riverfront Park • free fall festival, Rubber Ducky Derby at 3, then Darkwing Duck + Hocus Pocus at dusk.

SAT • OCT 17 Bowling Green Harvest Festival [CAROLINE]

Main Street, Bowling Green.

SAT • OCT 17 Potomac Point Grape Stomping [STAFFORD]

12-6 PM • second October stomp date.

SAT • OCT 17 1781 Brewing Fall Festival [SPOTSY]

11 AM-9 PM • seasonal food/drinks, vendors and live music.

October 24

SAT • OCT 24 FXBG Pumpkin Spice Crawl [FXBG]

3-7 PM • Downtown Fredericksburg • ticketed shopping, treats and fall experiences.

SAT • OCT 24 Halloween 5K + Monster Mile [STAFFORD]

Stafford Race Series • costumes encouraged.

SAT • OCT 24 Frog Level Festival & Parade [CAROLINE]

Caroline County fall tradition.

Halloween Week

OCT 29-30 Eve's Haunted Soiree [SPOTSY]

6 PM • Eden Try Winery • check event calendar for ticket details.

SAT • OCT 31 Halloween at the Market [FXBG]

9 AM-1 PM • Fredericksburg Farmers Market.

SAT • OCT 31 12th Annual Harvest Festival Fly-In [SPOTSY]

10 AM-4 PM • Shannon Airport & Air Museum • aircraft, vendors, aviation trick-or-treating, candy drops and Haunted Hangar.

November

SUN • NOV 1 Snead's Farm Fall Festival - Final Day

[SPOTSY]

Last day of the 2026 fall season.

SAT • NOV 7 Belvedere Fall Season - Final Day [SPOTSY]

Final day of the 2026 Harvest Festival season.

SAT • NOV 7 Montpelier Hunt Races [ORANGE]

9 AM-6 PM • 91st running at James Madison's Montpelier.

SAT • NOV 21 Merry Market [FXBG]

Fredericksburg Farmers Market holiday market.

SUN • NOV 22 Long Family Farmers Market - Season End [STAFFORD]

Stafford seasonal market through Nov. 22.

SAT • NOV 28 Mistletoe Market [FXBG]

Fredericksburg Farmers Market holiday market.

Farms, Mazes + Harvest Fun

Four reliable local fall destinations - all within the broader Fredericksburg market.

Belvedere Plantation *Fredericksburg /*

Spotsylvania

SEPT 12 - NOV 7

Fall Harvest Festival with 30+ attractions, maze and wagon rides. 1410 Belvedere Drive, Fredericksburg. Hours vary by day; online tickets recommended.

- ☐ Take a wagon ride
- ☐ Make your way through the maze
- ☐ Pick the perfect pumpkin
- ☐ Come back for the final weekend



Snead's Asparagus Farm *Fredericksburg*

/ Spotsylvania

SEPT 26 - NOV 1

Open daily 9 AM-6 PM; entry closes at 4:45 PM. Unlimited hayrides, corn maze, pumpkin patch, trails, play areas and weekend food vendors. 18294 Tidewater Trail.

- ☐ Ride the hayride
- ☐ Try the corn maze
- ☐ Pick pumpkins + sunflowers

Miller Farms Market *Locust Grove /*

western Spotsylvania market area

FALL OPENS SEPT 26

Saturdays in October bring pumpkin picking, free hayrides, vendors and family fun; the corn maze runs through the week. 12101 Orange Plank Road, Locust Grove.

Braehead Farm *Fredericksburg*

FIVE FALL WEEKENDS

The farm's annual fall festival traditionally runs five weekends from late September through late October. Farm market, family playgrounds, animals, picnic areas and seasonal fun. 1130 Tyler Street.



GET OUTSIDE

Fall Color + Outdoor Adventures

Local leaf-peeping, walking trails and a few worth-the-drive favorites.

Stafford + Fredericksburg

- ☐ Government Island
- ☐ Patawomeck Park
- ☐ Duff McDuff Green Memorial Park
- ☐ Embrey Mill Park
- ☐ Curtis Memorial Park
- ☐ Chichester Park
- ☐ Abel Lake Reservoir
- ☐ Rappahannock River + downtown riverfront
- ☐ Alum Spring Park
- ☐ Motts Run Reservoir

Spotsylvania + Lake Anna

- ☐ Lake Anna State Park
- ☐ Spotsylvania Court House Battlefield
- ☐ Chancellorsville Battlefield
- ☐ Wilderness Battlefield
- ☐ Ni River Trail + Salamander Loop

Louisa + Orange

- ☐ Lake Anna backroads through Mineral
- ☐ Trevilian Station Battlefield trails
- ☐ James Madison's Montpelier grounds
- ☐ Historic Orange + Gordonsville

Worth the Drive

- ☐ Carter Mountain Orchard - Charlottesville
- ☐ Old Rag / Shenandoah National Park
- ☐ Crabtree Falls - Nelson County
- ☐ Caledon State Park - King George
- ☐ Maymont - Richmond

Markets, Eats + Treats

Local markets, seasonal treats and easy ideas for cozy fall weekends.

Local markets to wander

SATURDAYS **Fredericksburg Farmers Market** [FXBG]

Hurkamp Park • Art in the Park through Oct. 24; Halloween at Market Oct. 31.

SAT + SUN **Spotsylvania Farmers Market** [SPOTSY]

Saturday 8-1 and Sunday 9-2 on listed fall dates; confirm weekly schedule.

SATURDAYS **Mineral Farmers Market** [LOUISA]

8 AM-noon through Oct. 31 • 81 Louisa Avenue, Mineral.

SUNDAYS **Long Family Farmers Market** [STAFFORD]

Stafford seasonal market continues through Nov. 22.

SATURDAYS **Bowling Green Farmers Market** [CAROLINE]

9 AM-1 PM through Oct. 10 • Main Street.

FRIDAYS **Rich Earth Farm Farmers Market** [CAROLINE]

3-7 PM on listed October Fridays.



Fall food bucket list

- ☐ Order a warm fall drink from Agora Downtown Coffee Shop & Roastery
- ☐ Pick up bakery treats from Paul's Bakery
- ☐ Check Braehead Farm Market for seasonal pies, cider and local goods
- ☐ Plan a cozy brunch at FOODE or Sunken Well Tavern
- ☐ Buy apples, squash, mums or local honey at a farmers market
- ☐ Make caramel apples at home
- ☐ Try one restaurant you have never visited in Downtown Fredericksburg
- ☐ Grab dinner in Louisa, Mineral, Orange or Bowling Green after a festival

SEASONAL MENU RULE

Rather than promising one specific pumpkin drink or soup all season, use this page as a checklist: ask what is seasonal, local or limited-time when you visit.

RAISE A GLASS

Oktoberfest, Wine + Fall Sips

Oktoberfest weekends, winery afternoons, and a few seasonal sip ideas worth planning around.

Oktoberfest trail

SEP 19 Adventure Brewing Oktoberfest [STAFFORD]

12-10 PM • 33 Perchwood Dr #101.

SEP 26 Full Distance Brewing Oktoberfest [STAFFORD]

12-9 PM • 650 Corporate Dr #101, Stafford.

SEP 26 Laudенbach Oktoberfest [STAFFORD]

12-10 PM • Centreport Parkway.

SEP 26 1781 + Wilderness Run Oktoberfest [SPOTSY]

11 AM-9 PM • Spotsylvania.

SEP 26 Orangetoberfest [ORANGE]

12-5 PM • Downtown Orange • 18+ breweries/cideries advertised.

OCT 10 Barley Naked Oktoberfest + Anniversary [STAFFORD]

12-9 PM • 15 Tech Parkway, Stafford.

Harvest sips + winery fun

OCT 3 + 17 Potomac Point Grape Stomping [STAFFORD]

12-6 PM • Stafford • ticket includes a fall sangria or mocktail and grape-stomp keepsake.

OCT 17 1781 Brewing Fall Festival [SPOTSY]

11 AM-9 PM • seasonal food/drinks, vendors and music.

OCT 29-30 Eve's Haunted Soiree at Eden Try Winery [SPOTSY]

6 PM • Halloween-week wine-country option.

Make your own Louisa loop

- ☐ Coyote Hole / Prospect Draffhouse - pair a Lake Anna day with local drinks
- ☐ Southern Revere Cellars - vineyard/brewery stop
- ☐ Lake Anna Winery - classic Lake Anna wine-country stop
- ☐ Use Visit Louisa's Fermentation Farm Trail to build a full afternoon

DOG-FRIENDLY PICKS

Wilderness Run Vineyards, Hurkamp Park/Fredericksburg Farmers Market, History Walks FXBG, and Lake Anna State Park all make easy fall outings with a dog.

Check each stop's pet rules before you go.

OYSTER ROASTS TO KNOW

Sept. 19-20 • Stratford Hall Wine & Oyster Festival [Worth the Drive]

Sept. 26 • Roots & Oyster Festival [Louisa / Mineral]

Oct. 22 • Shuckin' Shindig Oyster Roast [Louisa]

Fall Traditions + Halloween Nights

Football, fairs, performances and spooky-season fun.



Classic fall traditions

- ☐ Go to a Friday night football game - Louisa remains one of my favorite fall traditions
- ☐ Catch the Mineral Hometown Homecoming Parade - Oct. 15
- ☐ Spend an afternoon at the State Fair of Virginia - Sept. 25-Oct. 4
- ☐ Visit the Spotsylvania County Fair - Oct. 8-11
- ☐ Visit the Stafford County Agricultural & Homemaking Fair - Oct. 15-18
- ☐ Explore a downtown festival, then stay for dinner

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Homecoming Dates:

Courtland • Sept. 26 Riverbend • Oct. 3 James Monroe • Oct. 10 Chancellor • Oct. 17 Louisa • Oct. 17 Massaponax • Oct. 17 Spotsylvania • Nov. 7

Spooky + after-dark

THRU OCT 25 Sweeney Todd [STAFFORD]

Riverside Center for the Performing Arts • recommended for ages 13+.

OCT 8 Witches Paint Party [SPOTSY]

6:30-8:30 PM • Wilderness Run Vineyards • advance registration.

OCT 17 Quacktoberfest + Hocus Pocus [FXBG]

Festival 2-6 PM; movie at dusk at Riverfront Park.

OCT 24 Halloween 5K + Monster Mile [STAFFORD]

Stafford Race Series • costumes encouraged.

OCT 29-30 Eve's Haunted Soiree [SPOTSY]

6 PM • Eden Try Winery.

OCT 31 Shannon Harvest Festival Fly-In [SPOTSY]

10 AM-4 PM • aviation trick-or-treating, candy drops and Haunted Hangar.

OCT 31 Halloween at the Market [FXBG]

9 AM-1 PM • Fredericksburg Farmers Market.

Backyard Fun + Fall Home Checklist

A page worth keeping even after festival season ends.



Backyard bucket list

- ☐ Host a bonfire with s'mores
- ☐ Carve pumpkins with friends or family
- ☐ Jump in a leaf pile - classic and free
- ☐ Roast marshmallows around the fire pit
- ☐ Decorate the porch with pumpkins and mums
- ☐ Host a backyard chili cook-off
- ☐ Make a DIY fall wreath with leaves and pinecones
- ☐ Play a backyard football game
- ☐ Set up a cozy movie night with blankets and string lights
- ☐ Make homemade caramel apples

Homeowner fall checklist

- ☐ Clean gutters and confirm downspouts drain away from the foundation
- ☐ Change HVAC filters and schedule seasonal service if due
- ☐ Test smoke and carbon-monoxide detectors
- ☐ Inspect roof, flashing and exterior caulk before winter weather
- ☐ Disconnect hoses and winterize vulnerable outdoor faucets
- ☐ Check weather stripping at exterior doors and windows
- ☐ Have the fireplace/chimney inspected if you use it regularly
- ☐ Replace burned-out exterior bulbs and check pathway lighting
- ☐ Rake or mulch leaves before they mat down the lawn
- ☐ Store or cover outdoor furniture and seasonal equipment
- ☐ Reverse ceiling fans to clockwise for cooler months
- ☐ Take a quick exterior photo set now for a home-maintenance record

REAL ESTATE NOTE

Fall is also a smart time to take stock of your home - what needs maintenance, what has improved, and what projects would matter most if you plan to sell in the next 6-12 months. I am always happy to help you prioritize.

SPOOKY SEASON

Haunted Houses, Ghost Walks + After-Dark Fun

Haunted trails, ghost tours, hayrides and Halloween attractions around the Fredericksburg region.

FOR THE BRAVE

INDOOR Halls of Hysteria

Fredericksburg • Oct. 16, 17, 23, 24, 30 & 31 • \$25

A fully indoor haunted trail at the Fredericksburg Convention Center. Strongly recommended for ages 13+.

HAYRIDE The Haunted Hill Trail + Hayride

Partlow / Spotsylvania • Fri. + Sat. nights in October • 7:30-10:30 PM

A dark haywagon ride followed by nearly a mile of haunted woods, mazes and live scares. Not recommended for children under 12.

TRAIL Mineral Haunted Woods

Mineral / Lake Anna • Select October nights beginning Oct. 16

Haunted maze, mine shaft and wooded trail at Prospect Drafthouse at Coyote Hole. Current ticket listings start at \$18 in advance.

THEME PARK Kings Dominion Halloween Haunt

Doswell / Caroline • Select nights Sept. 18-Nov. 1

Six haunted mazes, five scare zones, live shows, roaming monsters and nighttime rides after dark.

GHOSTS + HISTORY

WALK History Walks FXBG - Ghost Tour

Downtown Fredericksburg • Fri. + Sat. evenings through November

A 75-minute walking ghost tour with local history and exclusive access to the historic Masonic Cemetery. Adult tickets are \$27.

GHOST HUNT Exchange Hotel Public Ghost Hunt

Gordonsville / Orange • Sept. 25 • 7-11 PM

Tour and investigate the historic hotel, kitchen house and original train depot. Ages 15+; minors must attend with an adult.

DINNER + TOUR A Haunted Supper at Hall's Tavern

Louisa • Oct. 30 • 6-10 PM

An adults-oriented four-course wine dinner with haunted-house tours and a medium reading at East End Farm.

FAMILY-FRIENDLY / LESS SCARY

DAYTIME Kings Dominion Tricks & Treats

Doswell • Select dates Sept. 19-Nov. 1

Daytime trick-or-treating, costume contests, seasonal entertainment and family rides before the nighttime scares.

FAMILY Wilderness Halloween Festival

Spotsylvania • Oct. 18 • 11 AM-4 PM • Free

Vendor trick-or-treating, costume contests, moon bounce, laser tag, face painting, food and DJ music.

NON-SCARY HAYRIDES

Belvedere Plantation, Braehead Farm and Miller Farms are already on the Farms + Harvest Fun page for daytime wagon/hayrides and pumpkins.

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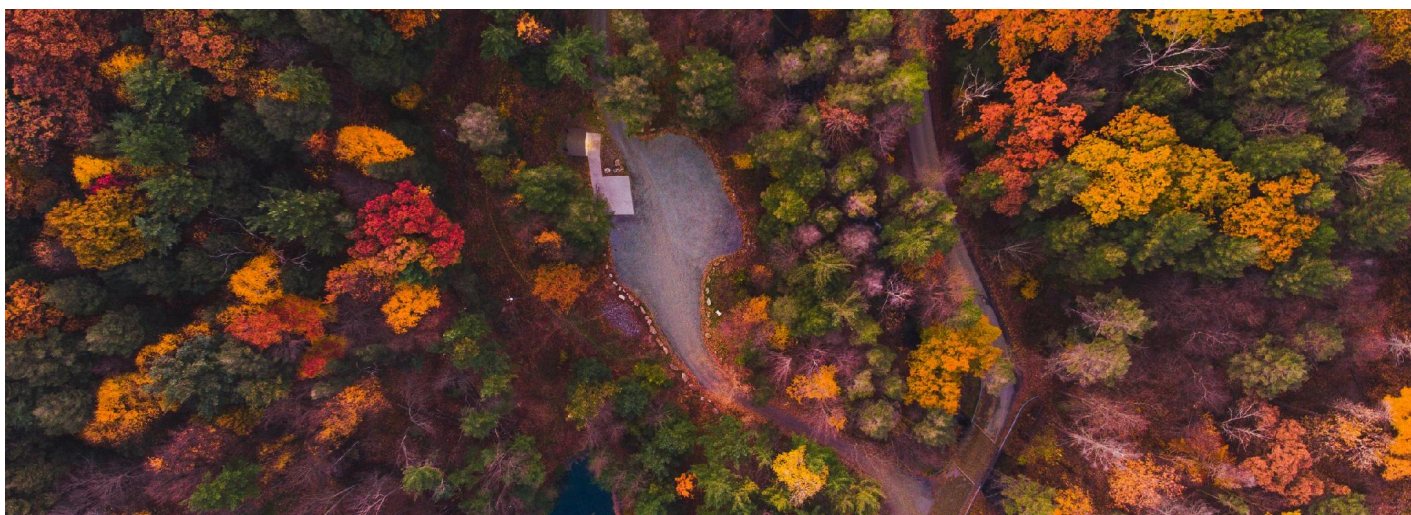
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Here's to the
best fall yet...

and maybe a new place to call home

I hope this guide helps you get out, try something new and enjoy what makes our area such a great place to live. If a move is on your mind - across town, across Virginia or across the country - I would love to be your local real estate resource.

Keep this guide, share it with a neighbor, and have a wonderful fall.

~ Nealy Harding



LET'S CONNECT!

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