

# VISITOR'S GUIDE



WV is gearing up the US  
250 celebration in 2026

Produced by the Ripley Convention & Visitors Bureau





*"If you ever want to experience the true spirit of kindness from a group of people, take an opportunity and travel to Ripley, West Virginia and its surrounding area and meet with the genuine people living there.*

*"In addition to the friendliness of its citizens, the area is one of the most beautiful places on this Earth. It's no small wonder that generation upon generation of its residents remain in that area throughout their lives.*

*If you're looking for a vacation destination where you can wrap yourself in the natural beauty of our country, head for beautiful West Virginia during the fall season; it's breathtaking."*

— William MacPherson  
Ontario, California

ABOVE IMAGE  
Sarvis Fork Road features one of 17 remaining covered bridges in West Virginia.  
(Photo by Clara Mullins-Mano/truck by Russ Fulks)

FRONT COVER IMAGE  
Clara Mullins-Mano

## Welcome to Ripley, WV

Travelers know that Ripley is a convenient place to stop. Comfortable overnight accommodations, savory dining options, and ample choices for refueling are readily available.

We want to ensure you experience the quaint downtown centered by a picturesque courthouse square. Across the street, the historic Alpine Theatre provides a wide range of entertainment. The Ripley area offers unique shops that offer a variety of merchandise ranging from home décor, and West Virginia-made food & art to fine jewelry.

"Ripley Believes" that you are going to enjoy being in this patriotic small town. With an abundance of spirit, the town has been recognized by the America's Best Communities program and honored by WV Living magazine for having the Most Community Pride.

A Ripley trademark is being the "Home of the USA's Largest Small Town Independence Day Celebration." The town rolls out the red, white, and blue carpet for a weeklong 4th of July celebration with free concerts, a carnival, a 2-mile race, a 200+ unit parade, and fireworks.

The community proudly hosts the West Virginia Chocolate Festival, the Mountain State Art & Craft

Fair, the Jackson County Jr. Fair, and one of the state's largest observances of Veterans Day.

You will find that the longer you stay with us, the more you will understand why "Ripley Believes!" You choose to join the ranks of the friendly neighbors who have decided to make this their home. West Virginia Tourism listed Ripley among "eight towns that will make you want to move" to the Mountain State.





Clara Mullins-Mano

## Greetings From The Mayor

It is indeed my pleasure to invite you to visit, enjoy, and feel welcome in our wonderful city. We sincerely hope you make memories, decide to return, and possibly consider making Ripley a destination many times.

We are perfectly located between two major cities in West Virginia, Charleston and Parkersburg. This makes it very convenient for families who want the small city amenities and have easy access to larger cities.

We are the home of "America's Largest Small Town Independence Day Celebration," the West Virginia Chocolate Festival and the



CLARA T. MULLINS

Heroes Parade of Veterans. The Mountain State Art & Craft Fair: An Appalachian Experience takes place nearby at Cedar Lakes Conference Center.

Our schools are striving to maintain academic excellence providing quality instruction to ensure that all students will master the essential curriculum. We provide a safe and orderly environment which fosters respect, trust, honesty and responsibility.

Ripley provides a diversified social, business and economic atmosphere. There is a mixture of activities and friendly people at our public parks.

You are always welcome in our wonderful city – Ripley, West Virginia.

*Carolyn Rader*

Carolyn Rader,  
Ripley Mayor

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*"By and large, Ripley draws people who want to feel a sense of community from the moment they enter town. Creek clean-ups, high school sports, antique car shows – people in Ripley are active."*

— WV Living Magazine



Ripley Convention &  
Visitors Bureau  
107 ½ Main Street West  
Ripley, West Virginia 25271



City of Ripley  
203 S. Church Street  
Ripley, WV 25271  
304-372-3482



## You're going to savor our true local flavors

With more than 25 eateries near the two exits, Ripley is the most convenient stop on Interstate 77.

Something tasty for most any appetite is waiting for you in Ripley. Whether you are hungry for a relaxing sit-down meal or international cuisine Ripley offers some of the best.

The Fairplain Yacht club has been awarded by WV Living Magazine, the "Best WV Watering Hole," four years running, as well as gold awards for best wings and bbq! They are well known for their famous burger of the month menu option.

Maka Mia Pizza offers a sports bar atmosphere, and an outdoor dining area situated across the street from the picturesque Jackson County Courthouse.

Roadhouse 2081 is a locally owned restaurant, and with a relaxing atmosphere, a full bar and TVs. Along with an extensive menu the emphasis is on "Food, Spirits, and Friends."

Several international cuisine restaurants are situated off Exit 132 and 138. Mexican food is featured at both Cozumel and Las Trancas. Chefs make homemade taco shells and entice your appetite with warm tortilla chips and fresh salsa. Samurai Hibachi & Sushi offers Japanese cuisine, pleasant atmosphere and excellent food.

Fat Albert's Pizza is known for a variety of great pizzas, hot sandwiches, salads and pepperoni rolls. Pete's Hotdogs features a diverse menu but the genuine WV "slaw dogs" are favorites among local aficionados.

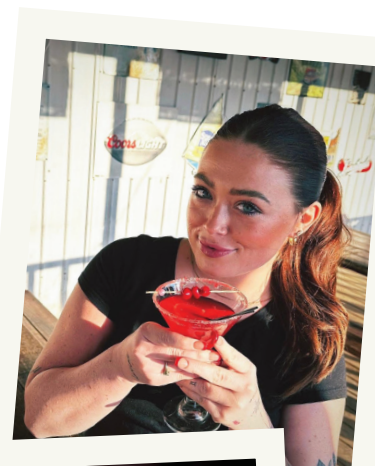
The Grind, a local cozy coffee shop offers locally roasted beans, and delicious pastries. The menu includes tasty bagel sandwiches and flatbreads, and more. WV Artisan Market and Farmhouse Market Finds both offer bistro style dining with soups, sandwiches, wraps, and more!

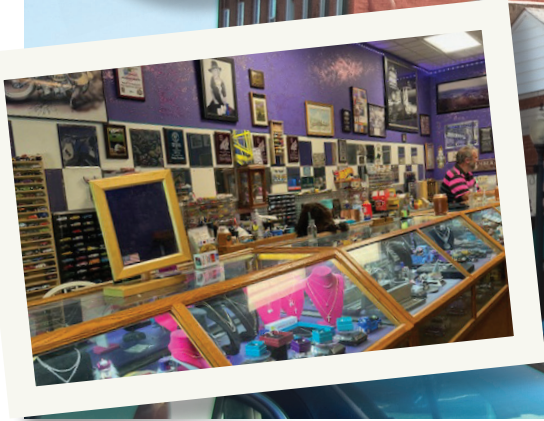
Butcher Block located in Millwood, is a local farm to table restaurant, specializing in fire grilled steaks, seasoned to perfection.

For dessert, I Scream Sundae is truly an experience. The ice cream parlor offers unique treats such as milkshakes and floats in a scary

movie setting. Killer Clowns from Outer Space is a sample of the menu options.

The ultimate travelers' snacks are offered at Angie's What's Poppin' Shoppe. Angie's is locally owned and offers a wide array of flavored-gourmet popcorn, both savory & sweet. The Sweet part of the shop offers nostalgic candies, sodas and slushies.





## Ripley Offers 'Shop Small' Opportunities

Ripley features a quaint downtown district surrounding a picturesque, century-old courthouse square. Delightful tunes ring from the tower's chimes as you shop in an assortment of locally owned stores.

The town has much to offer shoppers with multiple options in home décor' and furnishings, WV made products and more.

Explore Farmhouse Market Finds, our newest destination! The 10,000 sq ft historical building is filled with farmhouse, vintage, and modern home décor, beautiful antiques, Fiestaware, Rea Dunn, two ladies' boutiques and kids' boutique. Over 60 WV artisans showcase their products. This shop is touted as "a little piece of Amish Country."

The Frugal Frog is another shopper's destination. With the wide array of farmhouse style furniture and décor you will not be disappointed. The unique seasonal décor throughout the year is beautiful and inspiring.

The WV Artisan Market has the likeness of Tamarack with amazing Appalachian artistry. Browse over 100 artists works ranging from original paintings, photography, jewelry, exquisite wood work, home décor items and so much more. The Artisan Market features a regular schedule of demonstrations, hands on classes and free entertainment.

Locally owned boutiques include Faithful & Free and Angela's Farmhouse Styles. Shoppers enjoy the changing inventory of Nieto's Treasures and JCD Bargain and Trading. Beautifully crafted customized products are offered at Shop 109. Another unique shop on the outskirts of Ripley is 60 Grit Salvage & Restoration. Here's where everything old is new

again. The store along Shatto Road is open on the third weekend of the month. JCD Baraaain and Trade, located on Ripley Road, boasts name brands at a bargain.

Those who enjoy jewelry won't want to miss Gold-diggers or Jewelers Touch, which is situated in the town's first bank building. Rings and watches are to be found in an atmosphere resembling a nostalgic toy store. Station 76 offers games, cards, comics that collectors will enjoy. Evergreen Florist of Ripley offers expert floral arrangements for any occasion and the gift shop offers a special shopping experience. Founded in 1844, Vail Furniture is the oldest family-owned furniture store in America. It offer most any style of furniture and accessories. The 100 year old hand operated freight elevator and 1900's cash register are both used every day.

Just outside of town, Appalachian Distillery produces and sells multiple flavors of Appalachian moonshine and Original Appalachian Whiskey and single barrel bourbon. The products are mashed, fermented, distilled and bottled on site, giving you a premium product. Family tours are available at the distillery, as are free tastings for those 21 and older, during regular operating hours. Tours fees are waived with purchase of merchandise.

The region's largest yard sale occurs each Memorial Day weekend. Ripley's On Sale is an annual springtime tradition organized by the award-winning Main Street Ripley organization (304-372-1637).

*"The upside is the flourishing of all sorts of small, locally-owned shops. You never know what you're going to find, but chances are, it will be something unexpected and unique, and probably not mass produced."*

— Sarah Dobbins  
On small town retail

FOR INFORMATION:  
Main Street Ripley  
ShopRipleyWV.com  
210 Main St,  
Ripley, WV 25271  
304-372-1637

Jackson Co. Chamber of Commerce  
JacksonChamberWV.com  
167 Seneca Drive  
1776 Parkersburg Rd  
Ripley, WV 25271  
304-531-1018





RIPPLING WATERS

WV FINE PHOTOGRAPHY



PARCHMENT VALLEY CONFERENCE CENTER

WV FINE PHOTOGRAPHY



PHOTO BY ZMM ARCHITECTS

## Area Facilities ‘Meeting’ the Need

*“To me, it’s the beauty of (Cedar Lakes), the peacefulness and the tranquility. I hear such positive comments about how wonderful it is.”*

— Roberta Farmer  
Hurricane, WV

*“It is quaint and quiet. (Parchment Valley) has three beautiful lakes and the fishing is great.”*

— Susan Sizemore  
Charleston, WV

Jackson County features several facilities to accommodate receptions, meetings and conferences large or small, indoors or outside.

Here’s a synopsis of sites that are available.

### Cedar Lakes Conference Center

This facility is a popular destination for meetings, retreats and workshops.

The Assembly Hall can accommodate up to 400 guests. Lakeview Dining Hall seats up to 420 and the meeting room in Holt Lodge has room for up to 60 visitors. Cedar Lakes also has classroom-type facilities. Visit [CedarLakes.com](http://CedarLakes.com) or call 304-372-7860.

### Jackson Co. Armed Forces Reserve Center

Constructed in 2011 at a cost of \$21.5 million, the armory in Millwood has seating for up to 2,500 guests. A picturesque 35-foot glass wall is a focal point at one end of the venue for banquets, receptions and trade shows.

In addition to the large conference hall, complete with heating kitchen, the facility has several classrooms with space for up to 60.

Call the Jackson County Chamber of Commerce at 304-273-4212 for reservation information.

### Parchment Valley Conference Center

This church-owned, serene campus has facilities for groups of up to 500 guests.

Hill Hall is a meeting room that can accommodate up to 400. Greenlee Activity Center is a recreation-type facility that can seat up to 500. Santrock Education Center has classrooms for up to 150 participants.



JACKSON CO. ARMED FORCES RESERVE CENTER

ANN'S LOCATION PHOTOGRAPHY

For details, see [ParchmentValley.org](http://ParchmentValley.org) or call 304-372-3675.

### Rippling Waters

Primarily known as a campground, this venue, near Goldtown in southern Jackson County, operated by the Church of God, also has meeting accommodations.

The conference center and dining room has space for up to 600 visitors. Banner House is a covered pavilion that can handle groups of up to 200 guests.

Go to [RipplingWatersCampground.com](http://RipplingWatersCampground.com) or call 304-988-2609.

### Wedding Venues:

The above mentioned meeting facilities are also known as Wedding Venues. In addition, the Ripley area offers other unique locations:

- Wood Song Acres 6602 Deer Lick Road, Leon 304-531-1942
- Lovin Life Stables 14283 Evansview Road, Evans 304-532-1930
- The Starcher Mansion, Main Street, Ripley 304-372-3482
- The Miller Barn, Cedar Lakes Road, Ripley 304-532-9808



## Enjoy a Carefree Weekend in the Park

A city park, it has been said, is a testament to the serenity of a Saturday afternoon.

That statement is true in Ripley, which offers two city parks and easy access to nearby Cedar Lakes Conference Center and Parchment Valley Conference Center.

Ripley City Park features an Olympic-size pool complete with a water slide. In addition to playground equipment, the venue has lighted basketball and tennis courts, Little League baseball field and adult exercise equipment.

A large gazebo in the shadow of Big Rock is an inviting location for a carefree picnic or a family reunion.

Whiting Park, situated in West Ripley, has soccer fields and four softball/baseball fields adjacent to covered batting cages surrounded by a walking trail.

For information, call Ripley City Park at 304-372-8543 during the summer months, or the Ripley Municipal Building at 304-372-3482.

Nearby Cedar Lakes and Parchment Valley have fishing lakes, swimming pools, disc golf and walking trails. Cedar Lakes has a putt-putt golf course centered around a miniature version of the Statts Mill Covered Bridge.

Ripley Bike park located on Academy Drive near WalMart is always open for biking and hiking and pets are welcome. Please follow park rules at the entrance of the park. There is also a small catch and release pond.

Ripley Splash Pad is located on Second Avenue near the City Pool and has no admission fee.



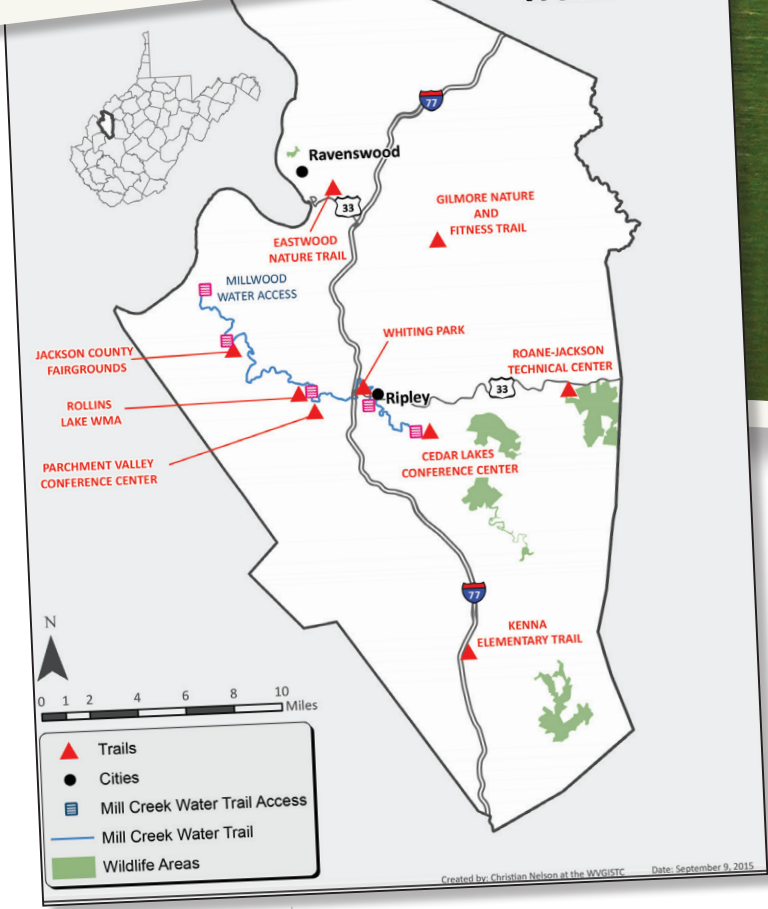
*"Whether it's heading down a thrilling water slide or wading in the Olympic size pool, Ripley City Park is the ultimate place for the community to cool off. A skateboard park, walking trails and a massive playground round out the park's inviting features."*

— SafeWise Report



NATHAN REES

# Jackson County Trails



## Jackson County Offers Abundant Outdoor Options

*"Buddies of mine did some research and they can't find a bigger muskie caught out of a kayak or caught on a fly rod."*  
 — Logan Martin,  
 After catching a Mill Creek muskie measuring more than 45 inches in length and 25 inches in girth.

You don't need to travel far to get away from it all. For those who have a passion for fishing, the Ripley area has more than 10 stocked lakes in addition to several streams. Those who enjoy hunting will like the fact that Jackson County consistently ranks among West Virginia's deer and turkey harvest leaders. The Mill Creek Water Trail offers more than 20 miles for kayaking. More than a dozen hiking trails are located across Jackson County.

### Fishing

The Mill Creek Watershed Project led to the creation of an angler's paradise in the Ripley area. Elk Fork Lake, for instance, features 278 acres of fishing with a significant amount of standing timber and low

water marshes. Other popular spots include Rollins Lake, a 40-acre site situated just three miles off Exit 138 of Interstate 77. O'Brien Lake is a 217-acre site located near the community of Statts Mill. Woodrum Lake in Southern Jackson County covers 240 acres with 18 miles of shoreline. For a copy of the publication "Woods & Waters of Jackson County," email the Ripley CVB at [Director@ripleycvb.com](mailto:Director@ripleycvb.com) or call 304-532-0945.

### Hunting

Jackson County features public hunting areas at the Woodrum Lake Wildlife Management area near Kenna and the Frozen Camp Wildlife Management Area, east of Ripley.





The hunting area at Woodrum includes more than 1,800 acres of land with deer, grouse, rabbit, squirrel, turkey and waterfowl.

Frozen Camp's WMA features a 200-yard rifle range and game such as deer, grouse, rabbit, squirrel, turkey and waterfowl.

Hog Haven is a 200 acre game preserve located near Kenna. Hunting experiences include 5 ram varieties and hogs weighing up to 300 lbs.

Trophy Whitetails is a 600 acre whitetail preserve paradise located in Goldtown. A legendary and epic experience is what all hunters should expect in a guided whitetail preserve hunt.

## Mill Creek Water Trail

The 22-mile Mill Creek Water Trail is growing in popularity among those who like to kayak or canoe. The course extends from the Ohio River at Millwood, beyond the Jackson County Fairgrounds at Cottageville, Rol-



lins Lake at Evans and ends at Cedar Lakes Conference Center, south of Ripley.

The sections that are most easy to navigate are situated between the put-in locations at Rollins Lake, the Jackson County Fairgrounds and the river.

For information, see [MillCreekWaterTrail.com](http://MillCreekWaterTrail.com) or call Main Street Ripley at 304-372-1637.

## Hiking

"Not all those who wander are lost," according to J.R. Tolkien. The Appalachian foothills of Jackson County offer some good opportunities to do just that - wander.

Multiple hiking and biking locations may be found across the county. Some of the more challenging courses are situated at Parchment Valley Conference Center, including a peaceful walk to the Grapevine Chapel. Cedar Lakes Conference Center has trails around the tranquil upper lakes.

A map is available with locations of more than a dozen trails. To request a copy, call the Ripley CVB at 304-532-0945 or email [Director@Ripleycvb.com](mailto:Director@Ripleycvb.com).

*"Two good-sized wildlife management areas provide steady, dependable public hunting opportunities – the 2,587-acre Frozen Camp WMA east of Ripley, and the 1,696-acre Woodrum Lake WMA near Kentuck."*

— John McCoy  
Charleston Gazette-Mail outdoors writer



RIPPLING WATERS

*"It is peaceful and quiet. (Rippling Waters) is nestled in the mountains with a beautiful small white church and nice pond complete with Lucy the resident swan and several ducks. It's just a great place to kick back and chill and that's what we did for a week. We loved it and would come back in a heartbeat if in the area."*  
— Rippling Waters Campground review

## Campgrounds Answer 'Call of the Wild'

Jackson County has a selection of facilities for those in search of a camping experience. RV sites, cabins and primitive tent camping are available at several locations situated near Interstate 77.

### Cabins

Rippling Waters Campground & Retreat Center features cottages and cabins in addition to campsites. Amenities include fishing lakes, pool and recreation facilities. The campground operated by the Church of God is located off Exit 116. See [RipplingWatersCampground.com](http://RipplingWatersCampground.com) or call 304-988-2607 for details.

Rustic cabins are available at Statts Mills RV Park. Located in a rural setting along O'Brien Lake, the campground offers a playground, hiking, mountain biking, basketball, volleyball, kayaking, boating and fishing. Statts Mill is situated off I-77 Exit 132. See [StattsMillsRVPark.net](http://StattsMillsRVPark.net) or call 304-703-0048 for reservations.

### Campgrounds

Jackson County Fairgrounds has more than 100 campsites available, including several with water,

electric and sewer hook-up. Walking trails, fishing pond, boat ramp and picnic shelters are available. The site is located 7 miles west of I-77 Exit 138. Call 304-372-8199 for information.

Parchment Valley Conference Center has an RV and primitive camping area. Owned by the West Virginia Baptist Convention, the facility has several amenities such as fishing, a swimming pool and disc golf. The venue is situated off I-77 Exit 138. Call 304-372-3675 or visit [ParchmentValley.org](http://ParchmentValley.org) for information.

Ruby Lakes Campground has 20 overnight RV sites with electric and water. The site offers fishing and a playground. The park is situated off I-77 Exit 146 in Sandyville. Call 304-273-3427 for reservations or information.

Blue Heron RV Campground located at 16 Blue Heron Way, Cottageville offers fishing, camp, and kayaking right on Mill Creek with direct access on site. Daily rental is available for non-campers. RV lots, creek side tent sites, cabin rental, and RV rental are available. Playground and laundry room available. For more information [blueheronlandingwv.com](http://blueheronlandingwv.com) or 304-531-9193



## Now That's Entertainment

### Alpine Theatre

The Alpine Theatre has been a staple of downtown Ripley since opening in the 1930s. Performances ranging from concerts and plays to comedy shows, magicians and lectures take place in the historic Alpine Theatre. Built in 1936, the theater was beautifully restored decades later by Main Street Ripley.

Among other attractions, the Alpine offers movies on the big screen.

For information, call 304-372-1637.

### Motorsports

The Jackson County Junior Fair is another summertime favorite. Located at the fairgrounds in Cottageville, the Fair features motor sports such as tractor pulls, mud bogs, and demolition derby. If you like speed, loud engines, and having a good time, you will enjoy at the Fair. Find a complete schedule of events at [Jacksoncountyjrfair.com](http://Jacksoncountyjrfair.com)

### Equestrian

The Jackson County Horse Club sponsors events for horse enthusiasts from late spring through early autumn. Jackson County Fairgrounds at Cottageville is the base of operations.

A highlight is the annual Summer Classic in June. For the complete schedule, see the Jackson County Horse Club on Facebook.

### Golf

Founded in 1959, Greenhills County Club is an 18-hole course situated just minutes off I-77 Exit 146. The club has the amenities of a pro-shop, bar and grill, overnight accommodations and conference room.

For information, see [GreenhillsGolfClub.com](http://GreenhillsGolfClub.com). For tee times, call 304-273-4121.



WV FINE PHOTOGRAPHY

*"It's good, clean family fun," he noted. "It's exciting to watch and where else can you have a good time on a weekend that inexpensively?"*

— Todd Jones  
Racing fan

*"The Alpine Theatre is a classic, a throwback to the heyday of vaudeville. Because of its good acoustics, live performances are ideal for this beautifully restored theater."*

— Jo Ann Peterson  
Actress





*"Last year, I spent my first Independence Day as your President in Philadelphia. This year, I get to spend it in Ripley, WV ... I appreciate your hospitality and I appreciate all the hard work that went into making this Fourth of July Celebration such a fantastic gathering of fellow Americans. Thanks for having me."*  
 — President George W. Bush  
 July 4, 2002



## It's Always Time for a Festival!

No matter the season, there is a festival to be found in the Ripley area.

From "America's Largest Small Town Independence Day Celebration" on the Fourth of July to the "Granddaddy of Art & Craft Fairs" in the fall, good times are planned.

### Spring



A sweet time is planned at the West Virginia Chocolate Festival in Ripley. Activities include an Easter egg hunt, parade and a plethora of chocolate treats.

See West Virginia Chocolate Festival on Facebook or call 304-372-3482 for information.

The Jackson County Quilt Show & Sale is the oldest and largest in the Mountain State. The event is sponsored by the Jackson County Community Educational Outreach Service (CEOS). It includes demonstrations and a marketplace area. Call the WVU Extension Office at 304-372-8199 for details.

### Summer

Only in Ripley can you take in "America's Largest Small Town 4th of July Celebration." The town rolls out the red, white and blue carpet for several days with concerts, a carnival, Firecracker 2-miler race, the state's largest parade, fireworks and more.

Special guests over the years have included a U.S. president and the Today Show. See Ripley4thofJuly.us

for a schedule of events.

It's known as the Jackson County Junior Fair, but there's nothing small about this week-long event at the fairgrounds in Cottageville, 7 miles west of Ripley.

The Fair is comprised of top-notch Nashville entertainment, motorsports, a carnival, horse shows and a huge livestock auction involving Jackson County's 4-H and FFA students.

See JCJF.net for the schedule of what's on tap this year.

The Ohio River Festival has made its return to the Ravenswood community. Based at picturesque Riverfront Park, the celebration features concerts, games and river-related activities. See RavenswoodOhioRiverFestival.com or call 304-273-2293 for details.

The Mountain State Art & Craft Fair (MSACF) is an "Appalachian Experience." It is touted the granddaddy of all Fairs as it began during the state's 1963 centennial. The Fair, on the grounds of the Cedar Lakes Conference Center, is a summer celebration of art, food, music, and culture. See MSACF.com or call 304-372-FAIR for information.

### Autumn

Boos & Brews at the Mansion on Main Street had its debut in October 2024. This outdoor event features Halloween costume contests, live entertainment and craft beer. The event is for adults over 21. You can find future dates at ripleycvb.com.



Viking Fest features the sights and sounds of many high school marching bands from across the region.

The bands march into Ripley High's Memorial Stadium each October. Call 304-514-2609 for details.

Homemade apple butter and molasses are specialties of the musical Harvest Festival hosted by the Liberty Lions Club. The venue is located on Route 34 near the Jackson-Putnam county line. See Liberty Lions Club for this year's schedule; usually first weekend in October.

Patriotism is showcased on Veterans Day in Ripley. Nov. 11 begins with a classic parade featuring the Military Honor March. A ceremony led by the area's Veteran's organizations follows on the Jackson County Courthouse Square.

Go to [Ripleycvb.com](http://Ripleycvb.com) or call 304-532-0945 for information.

Harvest in the Wood is held in September at the beautiful downtown Ravenswood. This four day event usually provides live entertainment, horse and carriage rides, Kid Zone activities, cornhole tournament, and fire works. For a complete schedule see [cityofravenswood.com](http://cityofravenswood.com)



*"It's not every day that you get the chance to see a man sporting a beard of swarming honeybees, hear Appalachian music performed as it was generations ago, and enjoy kettle-fresh apple butter smeared on just-baked bread."*

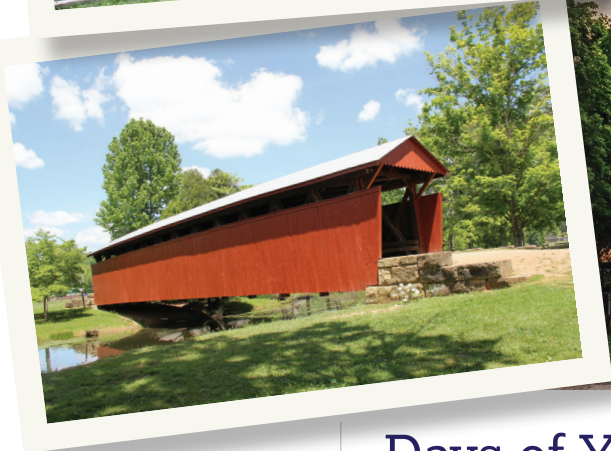
— Anitra Brown writing about the Mountain State Art & Craft Fair "1,000 Places to See in the US & Canada Before You Die"

## Winter

Enjoy the holiday lights throughout town while shopping or seeing a movie at the Alpine. The courthouse lawn gazebo is decked out for Santas arrival with the annual Christmas Parade and the Jingle Mingle Market offers great shopping opportunities, all taking place the first Saturday of December.



MIKE RUBEN



## Days of Yore Remembered in Ripley

America's Civil War is sometimes referred to as the Blue and Gray. Perhaps as much as any place in the country, the Blue and Gray lived side-by-side in Jackson County.

While there were no major battles here, the story of the daily, tumultuous struggle is told on the Civil War Trail markers of the community.

Three of the markers are situated in Jackson County. Riverfront Park in Ravenswood was the site of the Jenkins Raid crossing into Ohio. Another Civil War Trail sign is located at Cedar Lakes Conference Center. "The Casto Hole" offers a poetic perspective of the conflict between friends on opposite sides of the war.

The picturesque Jackson County Courthouse Square features a Civil War statue, and two small cannons of the era. A veteran's memorial dedicated to those who made the ultimate sacrifice for our country occupies one corner of the square.

An historical marker describes the trial leading to the last public execution in West Virginia in 1897.

A decorative bench explains how the town is named for Harry Ripley, a circuit riding, saddleback preacher who tragically died in 1830 with his marriage certificate in his coat pocket.

Nearby North Street is known for its architecture. It features two stately homes that are included on the National Register of Historical Places.

Seventeen covered bridges remain in West Virginia. Two of them are situated within 10 miles of Ripley. Located near Route 21 at Sandyville, the Sarvis Fork Covered Bridge is still used by vehicular traffic.

The Statts Mill Covered Bridge is a focal point for countless photographers. The 1887 span was preserved and relocated at Cedar Lakes. A walk through the bridge will lead visitors to Heritage House, a furnished pioneer cabin, and the Old Field House, a one-room school.

*The town's namesake was Harry Ripley. A saddlebag preacher, he drowned in Mill Creek in 1830 with his marriage certificate in his coat pocket. He was buried in the Old Settler's Cemetery in downtown Ripley.*



Jackson County Historical Society  
P.O. Box 22  
Ripley, WV 25271  
Email - JCHSWV.org





## It's a Year-Round Crafty Experience

Cedar Lakes Conference Center not only serves as the home of the Mountain State Art & Craft Fair, it also has a year-round schedule of craft-related workshops.

More than 70 weekend and week-long workshops are planned annually. Cedar Lakes is affiliated with the international Road Scholar lifelong learning program. The recent craft season attracted workshop attendees from 42 states and three countries.

Topics range from furniture making and salt risin' bread to blacksmithing and the art of fly fishing. Musical workshops are offered on the old time fiddle and dulcimer. Those who want to work with metal may enjoy the tinsmith, steel knife or fabricating with silver classes. Traditional Appalachian craft topics such as basketry, quilting and woodcarving are staples of the program. It also ventures into the uncommon crafts of scrimshaw (engraving), seaform with cabochon (weaving with beads), carolingian (miniscule script letters), marquetry and parquetry (wood inlay).

The craft program attracts national-level instructors from West Virginia and beyond.

Cedar Lakes Conference Center offers meals and hotel lodging with the craft program. Commuting to



the workshops is another option for those who reside in the area.

For a complete schedule of workshops and costs, visit [cedarlakes.com](http://cedarlakes.com), call 304-372-7860 or visit Cedar Lakes.

The WV Artisan Market, throughout the year, offers evening and weekend events. Ranging from belly dancing to ornament making. These are open to the public but registration may be required.

Another hands-on art opportunity is with Art by Karen Wolfe. The local studio offers a step by step creative experience for kids and adults. Details can be found at [artbykarenwolfe.com](http://artbykarenwolfe.com).

*"We have been attending three or four of the workshops each year since 1999. The instructors are great. They have taken me from a beginning quilter to an almost advanced quilter. It's a relaxing time to work on a craft without interruptions."*

— Janet Dixon,  
Harrisonburg, VA



**In memory of  
Mike Ruben**

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Quality Hotel is a great place to stay while visiting the Ripley area. Located just off I-77 Exit 138, the hotel features free hot breakfast, daily newspaper and Wi-Fi Internet service. Amenities include a fitness center, meeting room and business center. This is a pet friendly hotel.

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