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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**CHARLOTTESVILLE AND ALBEMARLE COUNTY:  
A FEAST FOR THE EYES, THE MIND, AND THE TASTE BUDS  
THIS OCTOBER**

This area is a wonderful choice for a fall getaway, with Virginia Wine Month, Virginia Artisan Month, Starr Hill Brewery's Oktoberfest, the Crozet Arts & Crafts Festival, the Spirit Walk, Doggy Howl-O-Ween, Harry Potter Halloween and breathtaking fall foliage

**Charlottesville, VA (September 29, 2016)** – The Charlottesville Albemarle Convention and Visitors Bureau (CACVB) invites everyone to consider the Charlottesville, Virginia area for a fall getaway. With plenty of events and activities, the epicenter of Virginia offers a multitude of options for recreation and entertainment.

October is almost here and it is a great time of year to partake in the celebrations surrounding **Virginia Wine Month**. There are more than 250 wineries across the beautiful state of Virginia and a large concentration of them is located within a 30-mile radius around Charlottesville and Albemarle County. Virginia Wine Month features a large number of wine-centric special events taking place daily! For more information and a calendar of events, visit [www.virginiawine.org/october-wine-month](http://www.virginiawine.org/october-wine-month)

October is also **Virginia Artisan Month**! Take this opportunity to meander the beautiful county roads to visit artisans along the [Monticello Artisan Trail](http://www.monticello.org/artisan-trail). A stop at the Albemarle Tourism & Adventure Center and Crozet Artisan Depot in downtown Crozet is a must, as it features the one-of-a-kind work of over 50 regional artisans. Information about Virginia Artisan Month can be found here: <http://www.artisanscenterofvirginia.org/index.php/home/blog/artisan-month-view-all>

On October 1, **Starr Hill Brewery** hosts its annual **Oktoberfest** event. The event, which benefits the Shenandoah National Park Trust, features new and rare German-style beers, a bratwurst battle with local chefs, live music, as well as games and prizes. This fun event happening in charming Crozet is not to be missed! More details can be found here: <http://starrhill.com/events/oktoberfest/>

The following weekend, on October 8 and 9, Crozet hosts another fantastic event: The **Crozet Arts & Crafts Festival**. Over 100 juried fine art and craft Exhibitors will show and sell their handcrafted works in the soaring high-peaked tents and park pavilions at Claudius Crozet Park. Live music can be enjoyed throughout the weekend, as well as great food from a variety of on-site vendors, beverages including Virginia wine and draft beer by the glass, and plenty of fun especially for the kids. For more information, visit <http://crozetfestival.com/>

The Albemarle Charlottesville Historical Society invites everyone to participate in the **22nd Annual Spirit Walk** and meet residents from our community's past. Come learn their stories as they are vividly brought to life before you. On October 21, meet former residents who now rest in Charlottesville's Maplewood Cemetery. Officially opened in 1827, Oakwood houses the remains of many citizens, both well-known and long-forgotten. Guests are encouraged to bring flashlights to the Maplewood Cemetery tours. Step back in time as you are guided through Charlottesville's historic Court Square on October 22. Included in this tour is the courtroom trial of Rosa Ricks Smith, a wife and mother accused of murdering her husband. On October 29, meet former inmates of the Old Albemarle Jailhouse. Completed in 1886, the jail served the community until 1974, holding a variety of people behind its bars. To purchase tickets or obtain more information, visit [www.albemarlehistory.org](http://www.albemarlehistory.org)

All Charlottesville area visitors traveling with their pooch will not want to miss the 9<sup>th</sup> edition of **Doggie Howl-O-Ween** on the Downtown mall, taking place on October 28. This fun event includes doggie trick-or-treating, a parade, and a costume contest. All proceeds benefit the Amanda Benford Cure for Canine Cancer Research. More information can be found by visiting <http://www.amandabenfordcccf.com/doggiehowloween>

Calling all Harry Potter fans! On October 29, the charming town of Scottsville is hosting its annual **Harry Potter Halloween**. Once again, the entire town of Scottsville will be involved! Scottsville's Valley Street will be transformed into the village of Hogsmeade. Many popular Hogsmeade establishments will be represented by various local businesses and organizations (i.e. Baine's Scottsville will be HONEYDUKES SWEET SHOP & Om Tattoo & Massage will be OLLIVANDER'S WAND SHOP). Everyone is invited to dress up as one of the characters for a day of festive wizarding world fun! Festivities start @ noon and more details can be found on the event's Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/events/163500894059177>

Every October, Charlottesville and Albemarle County offer some of the most **spectacular autumnal landscapes** in the country. The Shenandoah National Park (SNP), located only 26 miles west of Charlottesville, is one of the best places to view nature's grand spectacle of colors. This colorful season can be enjoyed by hiking one of the many trails or taking a relaxing drive on the Blue Ridge Parkway. The SNP's [Mountain View Webcam](#) offers the opportunity to watch the seasons change from home... but visiting in person provides an unparalleled experience. For more information, please visit [www.nps.gov/shen](http://www.nps.gov/shen)

**About the Charlottesville Albemarle Convention & Visitors Bureau (CACVB):**

In addition to serving as the global resource for marketing the tourism assets of [Charlottesville](#) and [Albemarle County](#), Virginia, through [www.visitcharlottesville.org](http://www.visitcharlottesville.org), the CACVB assists tour operators, meeting planners, reunions and other groups in planning visits to the destination. CACVB's mission is "to enhance the economic prosperity of City and County by promoting, selling and marketing the City of Charlottesville and County of Albemarle, as a destination, in pursuit of the meetings and tourism markets." CACVB operates the [Downtown Visitor Center \(610 E Main St\)](#) which is open daily from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., and a second visitor center, the [Albemarle Tourism and Adventure Center](#) in downtown Crozet ([5791 Three Notch'd Rd](#)) at the historic train depot; it is open Wednesday - Saturday 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. and Sunday Noon - 5:00 p.m. The CACVB also provides a touch-screen kiosk at Monticello's Thomas Jefferson Visitor Center. The official website of the CACVB is [www.visitcharlottesville.org](http://www.visitcharlottesville.org). In addition, the organization manages powerful social media channels; ExperienceCharlottesville on Facebook, @VisitCVille on Twitter, CVilleVA on Pinterest, and @CharlottesvilleVA on Instagram and Vimeo.

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