



**ASHE**  
*Arts*

CELEBRATING THE ARTS IN ASHE COUNTY

Ashe County is called “The Coolest Corner of North Carolina” for more reasons than its spectacular weather and scenery. Our thriving arts scene encompasses visual art, music, literary and performing ventures—including lively play productions, art shows, galleries, concerts, workshops, festivals, and more.

This booklet offers a good look at the many aspects of Ashe Arts, including maps. Take a peek at what you can find here!

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Ashe County Arts Council  
303 School Avenue  
West Jefferson, NC 28694  
336.846-2787  
ashecountyarts.org



Ashe County  
Economic Development  
Cathy P. Barr  
336.846-5535  
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CELEBRATING THE ARTS IN ASHE COUNTY

## MURALS

There's a lot of public art in downtown West Jefferson. Seventeen murals, most by local artists, reflect the beauty, culture, and history of the county. See page 4 for a walking-tour map.



1) *Heritage*. Clayton Proctor. 2011.



2) *Unity in Diversity*. Marianne DiNapoli-Mylet. 2006.



3) *Blue Ridge Parkway*. Bessie Clay. October 2005.

*Murals give a glimpse of the artistic talents that abound in Ashe County. The variety of styles and subject matter featured in the downtown murals offers something for everyone!*



4) *Train At Jefferson Station*. Stephen Shoemaker. May 2005.

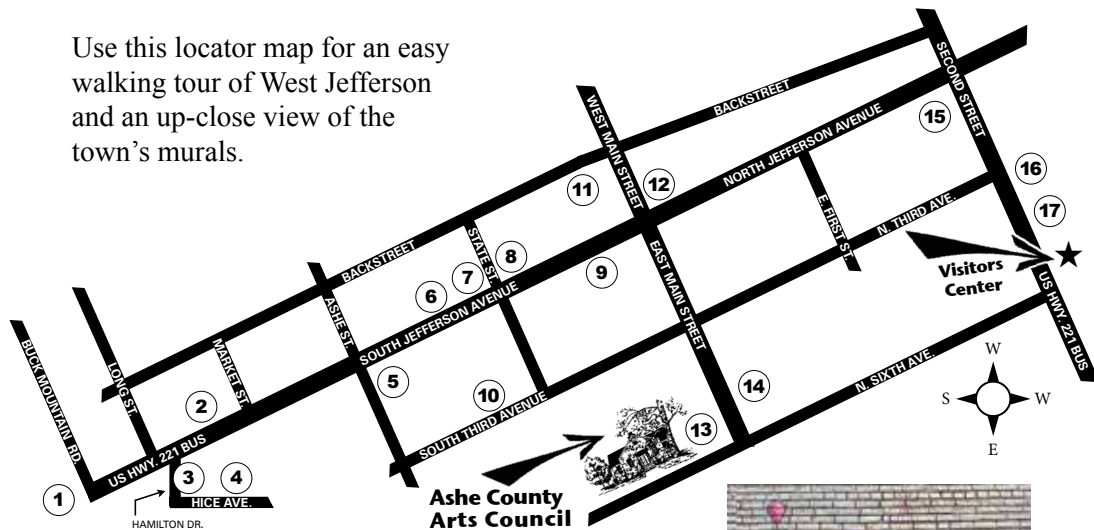


5) *Spring Wildflowers on Mount Jefferson*. Robert Johnson. June 1998.



6) *Rich Hill Baptist Church*. Stephen Shoemaker. 2017.

Use this locator map for an easy walking tour of West Jefferson and an up-close view of the town's murals.



HISTORY...NATURAL BEAUTY...CULTURE...  
FAITH...WHIMSY...FIND YOUR FAVORITE!



7) *New River Passage*. Clayton Proctor. 2011.



9) *Weathered Pines*. R.T. Morgan. July 2003.



8) *Seasons*. R.T. Morgan. 2011.

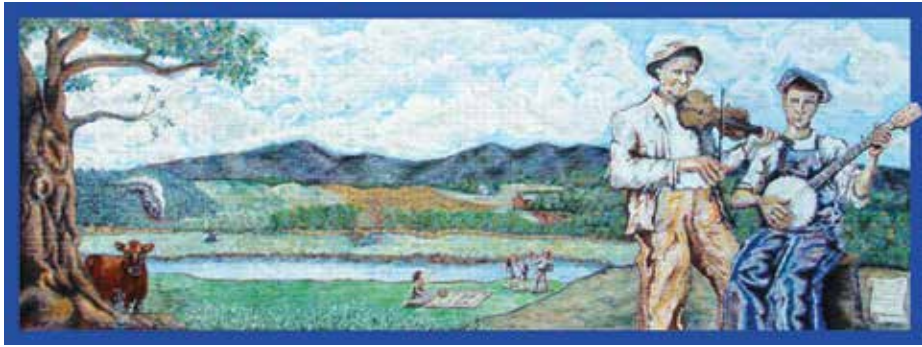


10) *Train to Nowhere*. Stephen Shoemaker. A work in progress.



11) *Angels Among Us*. Raneey Rogers. July 2017.

Our downtown mural project began in the 1990s and continues today.



12) *New River Traditions*. Mary Ann DiNapoli-Mylet. October 1998.



13) *Poppies*. Raney Rogers. October 2016.



14) *Wings and Things*. Earle & Raines Thompson. March 2004.



15) *Somewhere In Ashe*. R.T. Morgan. June 2002.



16) *Cut At Devil's Stairs*. Stephen Shoemaker. June 2001.



17) *Imagination Ashe Train*. Alyssa Ray. 2007.

## SCULPTURE

Sculptural works of art can be found in many locations throughout the county. From whimsical to sacred to historic in theme, sculpture showcases art in three dimensions.



*Cows.* Stephen Willingham. Ashe County High School Welding Class. 2014. Ashe County Cheese, Main Street.



*Pocahontas.* Jean MacKay. Backstreet Park. 1936.



*Painted Pedestal.* Lenore DePree. 2013. Originals Only Gallery. Jefferson Avenue.



*The Joy of Family.* R.T. Morgan. Westwood Elementary School. 2006.



A



*Tuxedo.* Sculpture. R.T. Morgan. 2010.



*Brush Up!* A collaborative sculpture in celebration of the Arts Council's 40th Anniversary. 2018.



B

A. *Heiros Gamos* and B. *Reclining Nude.* Be Gardiner. 1970s. Ashe Arts Center, 303 School Avenue, West Jefferson.

## ART ALL AROUND

You'll find artwork in many of the small communities throughout the county. Todd, Fleetwood, Glendale Springs, and Lansing all contribute to the visual and performing arts. A visit to these outlying areas is a treat.



Stained Glass. Martha Enzmann. Blackburn's Chapel, Todd. 2014-2015.

The flowers represented in the windows are all native, some found only in the Appalachian mountains of northwest North Carolina: 1) *Joe and the Virgin*. 2) *Asters and Ironweed*. 3) *Flame Azalea*. 4) *Spring/Trinity*. 5) *Death*. 6) *Healing Harvest*.



Lansing Mural. Ariel "Frenchy" Trembley. 2012.



*Let There Be Peace In The Valley*. Mural. Pete Benda. Fleetwood Post Office. Railroad Grade Road, Fleetwood. 2015.



*The Lion, The Lamb, and The Child*. Jack Young. Mission House. Holy Trinity Episcopal Church, Glendale Springs. 1986.

## QUILTING

Quilts do more than provide comfort and warmth and a connection with the past; they offer tapestries of color, design, and artistic talent. The Ashe County Piecemakers Quilt Guild shares the love and art of past, present, and future quilting with folks in the High Country.



*Starry Night with Mom.* Ces Robinson.



*Seasons of the Mountains.*  
Piecemakers Quilt Guild.



*The Forest.* Linda Gagnon.

### WORKSHOPS QUILT FAIR QUILTS OF VALOR



*Bethlehem Star.* Janey Ward.



*Rainbow Galaxy.* Carl Stevens.

### — HIGH COUNTRY DOLL ARTISTS —



*Look Mom, No Hands.* Mixed.  
Rebecca Williams.  
2018.



*Lady in Red.* Mixed.  
Carol Collins. 2018.



*French Maid.* Mixed.  
Gail Brandt. 2018.



*Cats.* Michele Hayes.

The Quilt Guild meets at 2:00 P.M. on the 2nd Thursday each month at the Ashe County Senior Center. For more information visit [ashequilters.org](http://ashequilters.org).



## BARN QUILTS

Barn quilts are not new, but the Ashe Arts project to mount new versions on barns, outbuildings, homes, businesses—even dog houses—was among the first to revive these symbols of family, heritage, and community in our corner of the North Carolina mountains.



*Delectable Mountain.* Ashe County High School Art Department. 2006.



*Mountain Majesty.*  
Quilt Square Girls. 2014.



*Community Barn Quilt.*  
Theresa Early Curd. 2011.



*Mariners Compass  
Star Variation.* 2018.



*Star of Bethlehem.*  
Lyn Soeder. 2007.



Hardin Farm Barn Quilts, including  
*Carpenter's Wheel* in center by  
Dale Sheets. *Sunflower and Sunrise*  
by Mamie Hardin. 2007.



*Broken Star.*  
Quilt Square Girls. 2014.



*American Dahlia.*  
Quilt Square Girls. 2018.

Now found throughout the county, our dozens of Barn Quilts have extended the reach of public art. Take a tour! Stop by the Ashe Arts Center for a self guided map and directions, or download your copy at [ashecountyarts.org](http://ashecountyarts.org).

## GALLERIES

Take time to stroll the streets of West Jefferson and enjoy galleries, studios, fine shops, inviting restaurants, and, of course, lots of public art. See the map below for locations.



1

### Ashe Arts Center

303 School Ave.

336.846-2787

[ashecountyarts.org](http://ashecountyarts.org)

Your one-stop shop for Studio Tour information, maps, and driving directions. Visit the Gallery and Gallery Shop, and learn more about the many arts happenings in Ashe County!



2

### The Vintage Locket

16 N. Jefferson Ave.

282.263-7953

[thevintagelocket.com](http://thevintagelocket.com)



3

### CatchLight Gallery

118 N. Jefferson Ave.

336.846-1551

[catchlightgallery.net](http://catchlightgallery.net)



4

### R.T. Morgan Art Gallery & Glass by Camille

120 N. Jefferson Ave.

336.246-3328

[rtmorganartgallery.com](http://rtmorganartgallery.com)



5

### Quilt Square Girls

5 E. Second Street

336.385-0197

[quiltsquaregirls@aol.com](mailto:quiltsquaregirls@aol.com)

[ilovebarnquilts.com](http://ilovebarnquilts.com)

[facebook.com/quiltsquaregirls](https://facebook.com/quiltsquaregirls)



6

### Backstreet Beads

111 A N. Jefferson Ave.

336.877-7686

[backstreetbeads.com](http://backstreetbeads.com)

[facebook.com/Backstreet-Beads-and-Handcrafted-Jewelry](https://facebook.com/Backstreet-Beads-and-Handcrafted-Jewelry)

Backstreet-Beads-and-Handcrafted-Jewelry.

## WEST JEFFERSON'S ARTS DISTRICT



1. Ashe Arts Center
2. The Vintage Locket
3. CatchLight Gallery
4. R.T. Morgan Gallery & Glass by Camille
5. Quilt Square Girls
6. Backstreet Beads
7. Great Southern Gothic
8. Bohemia
9. Originals Only Gallery
10. Florence Thomas Art School
11. Acorn Gallery
12. Steven Shoemaker Studio
13. Ashe Custom Framing & Gallery



7

### Great Southern Gothic

103 N. Jefferson Ave.

336.846-2410

[greatsouthern gothic.com](http://greatsouthern gothic.com)



Ashe County Arts Council

## GALLERIES

**Gallery Crawls** take place from 5:00-8:00 P.M. on the second Friday of the month, June through October. A special Christmas Crawl happens the first Friday in December.



8

### Bohemia

5 N. Jefferson Ave.  
336.846-1498  
bohemianc.com



9

### Originals Only Gallery

3-B N. Jefferson Ave.  
336.846-1636  
originalsonlygallery.com



10

### Florence Thomas Art School

10 S. Jefferson Avenue  
336.846-3827  
florenceartschool.org

Florence Young Thomas was a prolific painter and teacher. Among her Ashe County legacies is the Florence Thomas Art School, located in downtown West Jefferson. The space is home to exhibits, workshops, classes, and a fine gallery.

*An added bonus for Gallery Crawl evenings are the musicians you'll find in the galleries and on street corners. Art, music, and small town charm—what a great combination!*



Formed in 1978 by Florence Thomas, the Blue Ridge Art Clan encourages the creation of new art in the High County. Critiques, workshops, demonstrations, and exhibits are part of the Art Clan's

work. Meetings are held the fourth Saturday of the month April through October. blueridgeartclan.com



11

### Acorn Gallery

103 Long Street  
336.246-3388  
acorngallery.com



12

### Stephen Shoemaker Studio

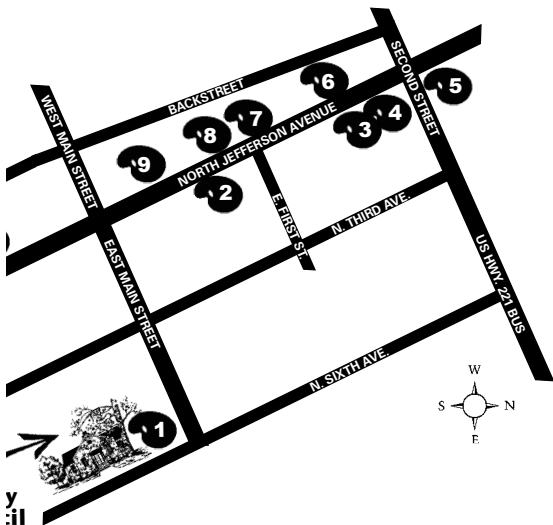
111 S. Jefferson Ave.  
336.246-3401  
stevenshoemaker.com



13

### Ashe Custom Framing & Gallery

105 S. Jefferson Ave.  
336.846-2218  
ashecustumframing.com



## ASHE COUNTY FRESCOES...TREASURES FOR THE AGES



*The Mystery of Faith.* St. Mary's Episcopal Church. 1977.



St. Mary's Episcopal Church,  
400 Beaver Creek School Road  
West Jefferson, NC 28694



*Mary Great with Child*



*John the Baptist*

Ashe County is the home of iconic works of art by internationally renowned fresco artist, Ben Long. Between 1970 and 1980, Long created magnificent, enduring works in two historic local churches.

The first frescoes, "Mary Great with Child," "John the Baptist," and "The Mystery of Faith," are in the small sanctuary of St. Mary's Episcopal Church in West Jefferson. Long then created a life-sized depiction of "The Last Supper" in Holy Trinity Episcopal Church in Glendale Springs, using local residents as models.

Thousands of people visit the frescoes each year. Both churches are open for visitors 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

[ashefrescoes.org](http://ashefrescoes.org)



*The Last Supper.* Holy Trinity Episcopal Church. 1980.



Holy Trinity Episcopal Church  
P.O. Box 177  
Glendale Springs, NC 28629



Fresco Artist  
Ben Long

## ASHE COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY

Visit the Ashe County Public Library, located atop a hill in the heart of downtown West Jefferson! As part of the library's mission to promote imagination and to support and encourage lifelong learning, we offer a full calendar of cultural arts events for all ages.



Ashe County Public Library. 148 Library Drive, West Jefferson, NC 28694



*Books Take Flight.* Katherine Green and Ashe County High School Art Department students. 2016.



*Trains & Things.* Stephen Shoemaker. 2009.



Ida B. Marsh Art Gallery.  
Monthly exhibits and more!



*Girl with Book.* 2007. Library Grounds.  
Installed by Friends of the Library.



*Mailbox Boy.* 2017.  
Backstreet Park, below the library. Installed by Imagination Ashe.

- |                                    |                   |
|------------------------------------|-------------------|
| VISITING AUTHORS                   | POETRY CONTEST    |
| ART PROGRAMS                       | STORY WALK        |
| GENEALOGY                          | DRUM CIRCLE       |
| BOOK CLUBS                         | BASKET SALES      |
|                                    | OLD TIME SLOW JAM |
|                                    | WRITING WORKSHOPS |
| FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY'S BOOK NOOK |                   |

Visit [arlibrary.org/Ashe](http://arlibrary.org/Ashe) for a full listing of current events and programs.

# MUSEUM OF ASHE COUNTY HISTORY

Founded in 2002, the museum is housed in the historic 1904 County Courthouse in Jefferson. Materials for the original building came from local sources. Today it is the home of the Virginia Creeper Train diorama, other historic exhibits, a Victory Garden, concerts, festivals, and historic tours.



*Ashe County Museum, formerly Ashe County Courthouse. 1904.*



*Ashe County Victory Garden.*



*Apple Press. 1880's.*



*One-Horse Runabout Buggy. 1895.*



*Homestead.*



*William M. Wallace. Ashe County.*



*Untitled.*

*David Shoemaker.*



*Ore Knob Mine Exhibit. 2016.*



*Note from Daniel Boone.*



*Antique Loom.*



*Chinese Carbine, M-44 Mosin-Nagant 7.62x54R.*

## PERMANENT EXHIBITS

ASHE COUNTY EARLY HISTORY  
ORE KNOB MINE  
THE VIRGINIA CREEPER

ASHE COUNTY FURNITURE  
THE VETERAN'S KIOSK  
MOONSHINE AND MUSIC

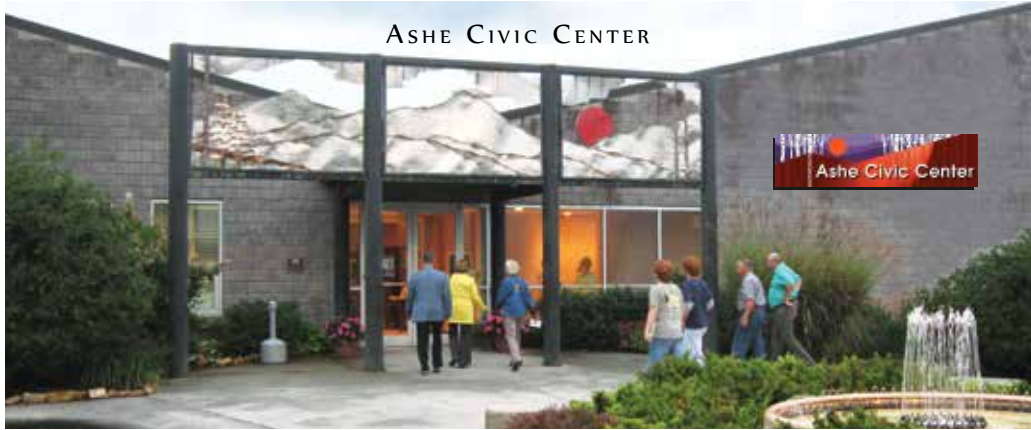


*The Virginia Creeper Train. Diorama.*

301 East Main Street, Jefferson, NC 28640. 336.846-1904. [ashehistory.org](http://ashehistory.org)

## PERFORMING ARTS

Ashe County's thriving arts scene includes music, theatre and dance at a variety of public and private venues. Concerts, plays, and special events take place all year long for the enjoyment of both audience members and performers.



*Mountainscape Marquee*. R.T. Morgan. 2008.

Ashe Civic Center. 962 Mt. Jefferson Road, West Jefferson. For tickets and information, call 336.846-2787. [ashecivic.com](http://ashecivic.com)



**ASHE COUNTY  
LITTLE THEATRE**  
Community theatre at its best happens at the Ashe Civic Center when Ashe County Little Theatre takes the stage four times a year. Drama, comedy, children's theatre, and musical theatre favorites offer something for everyone.



Enjoy hearing local writers read their latest works.



Chamber music concerts in the Arts Center Gallery, various Sunday afternoons in the winter.



**ASHE ARTS CENTER**  
Concerts and Gallery, the "hub" of the arts in Ashe County!



**MADRIGAL DINNER**  
Music, merriment, and a meal celebrated Merry Old England style!



Annual Celebration event in honor of Martin Luther King, Jr.

## MUSIC

There's something for everyone, whether you are a lover of classical music or your feet start tapping at the sound of a bluegrass band. Venues range from the stage of the Ashe Civic Center to outdoor parks. Jam sessions abound.



**BACKSTREET PARK CONCERT SERIES**  
5:30 P.M. most Fridays, Memorial Day through Labor Day weekend. Free. [visitwestjefferson.org](http://visitwestjefferson.org)



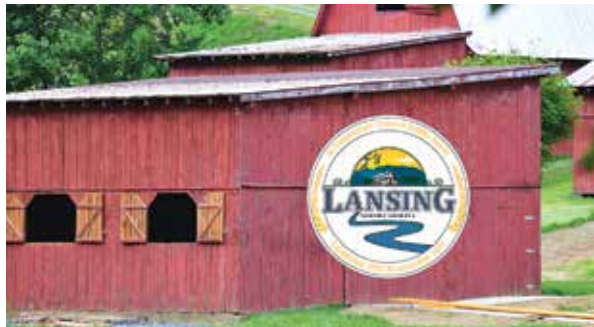
**TODD SUMMER MUSIC SERIES**  
Five evening concerts at Cook Memorial Park. 6:00–8:00 P.M. June–August. Donation. [toddnc.org](http://toddnc.org)



**MUSIC ON THE GREEN**  
Special Sunday-afternoon concerts on the lawn of the Museum of Ashe County History. Free. [ashehistory.org](http://ashehistory.org)



**PHIPPS GENERAL STORE JAMS**  
Friday-night jamming beginning at 7:00 P.M. Bring your instrument to play along or sit back and enjoy the music. 2425 Silas Creek Rd., Lansing.



**LANSING MUSIC IN THE BARN**  
Hear some of the best local bluegrass bands. 6:30 P.M., 3rd Saturday of the month, April until October. [lansingnc.us](http://lansingnc.us)



**JUNIOR APPALACHIAN MUSICIANS PROGRAM**  
JAM! Ashe County's young people are jammin'! Instruction by local musicians for students in grades three through eight on banjo, fiddle, and guitar, and a concert at the end of the year. Sponsored by the Ashe County Arts Council. [ashecountyarts.org](http://ashecountyarts.org)



## MORE MUSIC!

Besides the “regular” music events around the county, there are festivals and other special happenings. Join us!



### ASHE COUNTY BLUEGRASS & OLD TIME FIDDLERS CONVENTION

Annual event the 4th weekend in July at Ashe County Park Competitions, Barn Dance, workshops, camping, concessions and jamming. It's a 50-year tradition in Ashe County!

[ashefiddlersconvention.org](http://ashefiddlersconvention.org)



**NEW RIVER BLUES FESTIVAL**  
Bringing the best of historically and culturally significant blues and roots music to the mountains. Sunday of Labor Day Weekend, 1:00–6:30 P.M. River House Inn & Restaurant, 1896 Old Field Road, Grassy Creek. [newriverbluesfestival.info](http://newriverbluesfestival.info)

“A mountain meadow, a sparkling river, World-Class music.”



### OLA BELLE REED

#### SONG WRITER'S RETREAT

Honoring the legacy of Ashe County native Ola Belle Reed, this weekend retreat includes writing techniques and best practices, individual and group instruction, song swaps, and concerts. At the Ashe Civic Center in April with the nation's best song writers. Check [ashecountyarts.org](http://ashecountyarts.org) for registration, schedule, and information.



*Rising Sun Melodies.*  
Historic Artist.  
Ola Belle Reed.  
2010.

*Ola Belle Reed Song Writer's Retreat Participants. 2018.*

## TOURS & FESTIVALS & SUCH



**ASHE COUNTY STUDIO TOUR**  
Summertime in the mountains, and what better way to see the countryside than on a self-guided, two-day tour of the studios of Ashe County's artists and craftspeople. Painting, photography, pottery, sculpture, fibers, jewelry, stained glass, mixed media are all on show for you. Held the 1st weekend in August, the tour is free; visit the Ashe Arts Center for a map or [ashecountyarts.org](http://ashecountyarts.org) for more information.



**TODD NEW RIVER FESTIVAL**  
Great music, crafts, food, and fun all day, rain or shine! 2nd Saturday in October, on the banks of the New River at Cook Memorial Park in Todd. More information at [toddn.org](http://toddn.org).



**ART ON THE MOUNTAIN**  
Fine art and cool crafts await you the 4th Saturday in September, 9:00 A.M.–3:00 P.M. Presented by the Arts Council, the day features unique handcrafted items, artist demonstrations, music, and more—all on the grounds of the Ashe Arts Center. [ashecountyarts.org](http://ashecountyarts.org)



**TODD LIBERTY PARADE**  
A Fourth-of-July parade with a difference! Each Parade has a theme, giant puppets, banners, and handmade costumes; everyone can participate as it winds its way through Todd. Held on the 4th of July, starting at 11:00 A.M. and ending with dancing and music at Cook Memorial Park. See [toddn.org](http://toddn.org) for details.



**FESTIVAL OF THE FRESCOES**  
On the 2nd Saturday in October, 9:00 A.M.–4:00 P.M., at the Mission House grounds of Holy Trinity Episcopal Church in Glendale Springs. Crafts, Granny's Attic, yummy lunch and bakery items, silent auction, tours of the frescoes. Join us! [phc.diocesewnc.org](http://phc.diocesewnc.org)



Wiley Cash



Darnell Arnoult



Robert Morgan



Beth Macy



Book Signing

**ON THE SAME PAGE**

Our very own literary festival, sponsored by the Ashe County Arts Council and Ashe County Public Library, celebrates new and well-known writers of fiction, nonfiction, memoir, and poetry. The festival takes place over four days in September, mostly in West Jefferson, and includes author readings, workshops, lectures, special events, and more.

[onthesamepagefestival.org](http://onthesamepagefestival.org)



Tracy K. Smith U.S. Poet Laureate



Georgann Eubanks

**CHRISTMAS IN JULY**  
 Maybe Ashe County's oldest festival, celebrating farm-grown Christmas trees for over 20 years. Held the 1st weekend in July, filling the streets of West Jefferson with crafts, music, food, the Farmers Market, Civil War reenactors, family fun and children's activities. Friday, 3:00–10:00 P.M. and Saturday, 9:00 A.M.–7:00 P.M.  
[christmasinjuly.info](http://christmasinjuly.info)



**OLD TIME ANTIQUES FAIR**

If you love antiques, this annual event is a must! Held the 3rd weekend in September on the streets of downtown West Jefferson, with antiques and collectibles offered by local and regional vendors, along with food selections and music.

[visitwestjefferson.org](http://visitwestjefferson.org)



ASHE COUNTY ARTS COUNCIL  
 303 SCHOOL AVENUE  
 WEST JEFFERSON, NC 28694  
 336.846-2787 + ASHECOUNTRYARTS.ORG