



Galax Old Fiddler's Convention & Rex Theatre



Rex Theatre

113 E. Grayson St., Galax, VA 24333
(276) 236-0329

Every Friday night in the City of Galax, Virginia WBRF 98.1 FM sends out 100,000 watts of live old-time and bluegrass music from the stage of the historic Rex Theater into five states and over the World Wide Web.

Listeners may be in Virginia, North Carolina, West Virginia, Tennessee or as far away as Egypt enjoying the traditional music show from the comfort of their own homes, or they may be sitting back in one of the 475 seats at the Rex. The show is called Blue Ridge Back Roads and thanks to a faithful group of volunteers, it has become the cornerstone for the revitalization of this 70 year old theater.

Now owned and operated by the City of Galax, the Rex continues to expand its offerings with vintage movie nights, Saturday concerts and community plays. The Rex is also available for special events and many non-profit groups have found it's a great venue for community oriented fundraising.

Historically important and designated landmark on the Crooked Road, the Rex remains the jewel in the crown of the City of Galax.

Old Fiddler's Convention

Felts Park
601 S. Main St., Galax, VA
www.oldfiddlersconvention.com

The Old Fiddler's Convention was originated in the spring of 1935 when a few members of the then new Moose Lodge #733 needed something to raise funds and promote publicity. In a newspaper item at the time it was stated that the Convention was dedicated to "Keeping alive the memories and sentiments of days gone by and make it possible for people of today to hear and enjoy the tunes of yesterday". The original purpose is held in the same regard today, and the sponsors feel that in some measure this purpose has been accomplished.

The Old Fiddler's Convention has grown steadily until now each year people must be notified often that SRO is available in the park and room for parking is filled.

A unique aspect of the convention is the camping area where the musicians rehearse and try to get in tune. Some listeners and onlookers follow these bands around and

lose contact with what's happening on the stage. Often dancers and players try out their abilities in the parking lot when they would not dare go on the stage.

Contestants must register in advance of the convention and there is no charge for registration. Some of these come from distant states and at times from foreign countries, but when they play, the tunes are usually the same that have been heard at the convention down through the years. In the early years, the contestants came chiefly from Carroll, Grayson, and adjoining counties in Virginia and North Carolina. Now bands and individual performers come from the big cities, the college campuses, and every place where the old music is loved and played.

The promoters feel that the Annual Old Fiddler's Convention is fast becoming a tradition in country and mountain musical circles, and will do their best to continue bringing to you the tunes which have been handed down from generation to generation in the Blue Ridge Mountains. The fact that many of the contestants are youngsters is encouraging, and we feel that the future of Folk and Country Music is secure.



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Other Heritage Sites to Visit

Matthews Living History Farm

476 White Pine Rd., Galax, VA 24333
(276) 773-3080 | www.matthewsfarmmuseum.org
matthewsfarm@gmail.com

Outdoor Recreation Opportunities

New River Trail State Park

116 Orphanage Dr., Max Meadows, VA 24360
(276) 699-6778
www.dcr.virginia.gov/state-parks/new-river-trail

Where to Stay

Hampton Inn Galax

205 Cranberry Rd., Galax, VA 24333-2507
(855) 605-0317

Fiddlers Roost Cabins

near Galax VA
(276) 236-1212 | www.fiddlersroostcabins.com

The Doctor's Inn

406 W Stuart Dr., Galax, VA 24333
(276) 238-9998 | www.thedoctorsinnvirginia.com

Fries New River Trail RV Park

26 Dalton Rd., Fries, VA 24330
(276) 233-1178
info@friesrvpark.com
www.friesrvpark.com

Where to Dine

Creek Bottom Brewing Tasting Room & Pub

307 North Meadow St., Galax, VA 24333-3019
276-236-2337 | www.cbbrews.com/lil-bottom

Galax Smokehouse

101 N Main St., Galax, VA 24333-2976
(276) 236-1000 | www.galaxsmokehouse.com