



MOVING TO
MARYLAND

2026 Relocation Blackbook

This blackbook was created to help you make Greater
Frederick County feel like home faster.

Created For You By
Solomon Gill



KELLERWILLIAMS.
REALTY CENTRE



Welcome

It's June 1995. My family and I are going coming back from the mid-West. I'm a proud Army brat and my Mom's final assignment for the 82nd Airbourne was in Ft. Detrick, Maryland. I loved traveling but was tired of being the 'new kid'. I was ready to have a home base of my own. Little did I know, we all would fall in love with Maryland and Frederick would be our final stop. It's been 30 years since I've been here and I wouldn't live anywhere else.



I can only imagine all of the uncertainty and how overwhelming it was for my mother. But she made a great chpoice and now my own little tribe is happy and thriving. This guide was created in tribute to that overwhelm and in honour of Sgt. Gill.

In here, you'll find everything I wish I knew when my family moved to this incredible place.

Best regards,

Solomon Gill

History of Frederick County

Founded in 1748, Frederick County is steeped in history and charm, offering a window into America's past. The county played a pivotal role in the Revolutionary War and the Civil War.

Today, its historic downtown streets, dotted with preserved 18th and 19th-century architecture, reflect the area's colonial roots while housing a vibrant arts and culinary scene.

Rich in heritage and modern appeal, Frederick County seamlessly blends its historical significance with a thriving, forward-looking community—making it a fantastic place to live and explore.



BY THE SEASONS

Get To Know Our Weather

When I told my network that I was putting this guide together and asked locals what they wished they knew, they had soooooo much to say about nature so I'm including it here for you.

Weather in Frederick County, Maryland

Frederick County experiences all four seasons, offering a variety of weather to enjoy throughout the year.

SUMMER

- Our weather is subtropical which means that during the summer, it will be hot and humid for about 3 months out of the year
- Warm and humid, with average highs in the mid-80s°F, perfect for outdoor activities
- In our rainy season, it's perfectly normal for it to rain in your front yard but not your backyard,
- We can see a fair amount of rain and there are some valleys that may flood.
- When shopping for properties, look for properties outside of flood zones or make sure the proper precautions are in place.



WINTER

- Winters bring COLD temperatures, with highs in the low 40s°F and snowfall that creates a picturesque landscape.
- Most Fredericktonians don't worry about snowfall unless it's 4 inches or higher
- If you need to prep for heavy snow, you'll want to have nonperishables, blankets, a generator/heater, gas for the grill, tons of water and plenty of gas just in case.
- If a blizzard, you'll get plenty of notice to prep
- It's not uncommon to see blizzard parties where people get together in the days before heavy snow is supposed to hit since everything shuts down and there isn't really anything to do.

It's also worth mentioning that parts of Frederick are in a valley and the sudden rain surprises a lot of people.

SPRING AND FALL

- Spring and fall are particularly delightful, with mild temperatures and beautiful displays of blooming flowers or vibrant autumn foliage.
- On average, the county receives about 40 inches of rainfall annually, supporting its lush greenery.
- Keep an umbrella handy for unexpected rain showers and layers for fluctuating temperatures.

It's also worth mentioning that parts of Frederick are in a valley and the sudden rain surprises a lot of people.





DISCOVER THE SHENANDOAH VALLEY

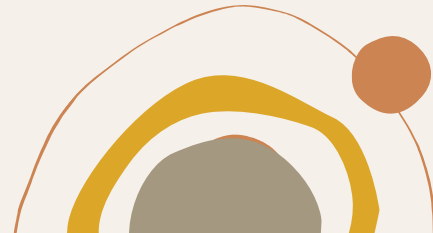
Camping, Caves & Colours!

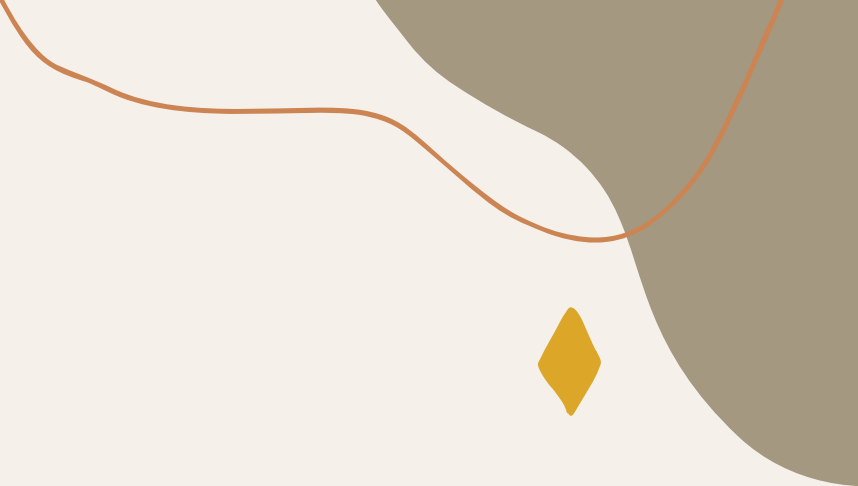


As I previously mentioned, the Shenandoah Valley is a natural and cultural treasure that offers an unforgettable escape.

The Shenandoah Valley is home to Shenandoah National Park, featuring over 200,000 acres of protected wilderness. The park's Skyline Drive is a must-see, offering stunning vistas and access to countless hiking trails, waterfalls, and wildlife.

Top Attractions in the Shenandoah Valley:

- Skyline Drive: A scenic 105-mile roadway with overlooks perfect for picnics and photos.
 - Luray Caverns: An awe-inspiring underground wonder featuring massive stalactites and stalagmites.
 - Historic Towns: Visit Winchester, Staunton, or Harrisonburg for local shopping, dining, and arts.
 - Outdoor Adventures: Enjoy hiking, fishing, and camping, or take a leisurely float down the Shenandoah River.
 - Local Festivals: Celebrate the valley's agricultural heritage at seasonal festivals featuring crafts, food, and music.
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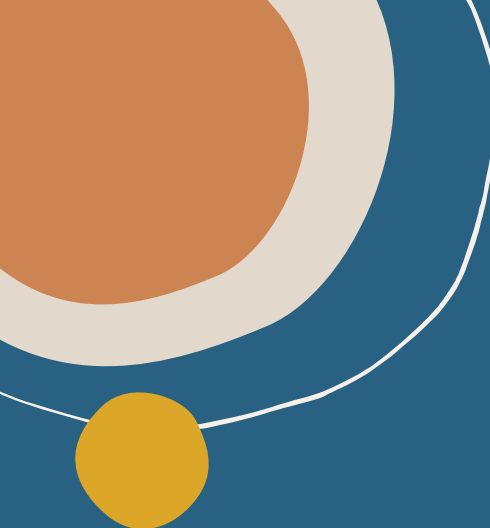


Tips for Visiting the Shenandoah Valley:

- Visit in autumn for peak foliage or in spring when wildflowers bloom. The colors will not disappoint!
- Dress for the weather and bring sturdy footwear if you plan to hike or explore caves.
- Allow extra travel time to fully appreciate the scenery and attractions along the way.
- Stop by visitor centers for maps, guides, and insider tips to make the most of your trip.

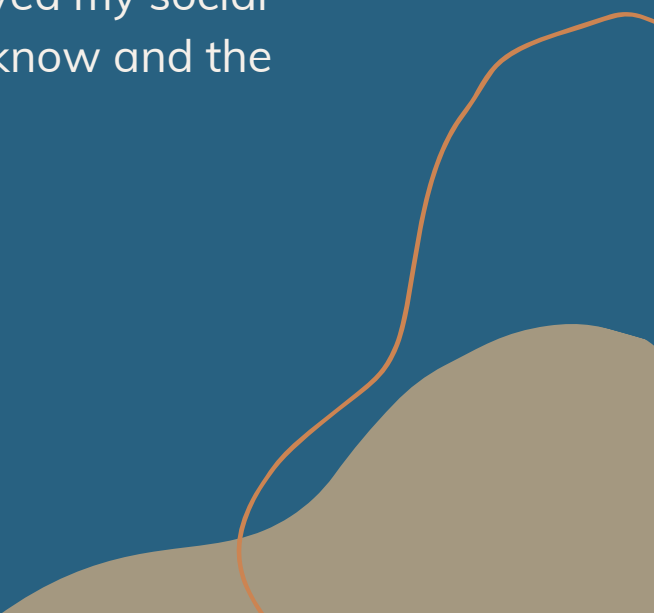
The Shenandoah Valley's stunning beauty and abundant activities make it a perfect day trip or weekend getaway for Frederick County residents.





Your Maryland Lifestyle

This section was created to help you get acquainted with Frederick faster — I even surveyed my social media for what they wanted you to know and the answers did not disappoint. Enjoy!





MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Events To Watch For



January

Fire in Ice

Downtown
Frederick

February

Sailing Through
the Winter

SolsticeCarroll
Creek Park

March

Maple Syrup
Festival

Cunningham Falls
State Park

April

Easter @ Baker
Park

Baker Park
Bandshell

May

Maryland Craft
Beer Festival

Carroll Creek
Linear Park

June

Frederick Festival
of the Arts

Carroll Creek Park

July

Frederick's 4th
Celebration

Baker Park

August

Heartland Fall
Fest

Heartland Foods

September

The Great
Frederick Fair

Frederick
Fairgrounds

October

Visit Maryland's
Pumpkin Patches

November

ZOO! Lights
The Maryland
Zoo

December

The Winter
Lights Festival
Gaithersburg



Driving In Maryland

- It takes about 1hr to drive to DC and Baltimore, offers easy access to key highways, including I-70 and US-15, making it a strategic hub for both work and leisure travel.
- perfectly positioned for those seeking a balance between affordability, convenience, and quality of life.
- Start Early: Many locals recommend leaving before 7 AM to beat peak rush-hour traffic.
- The Brunswick Line offers direct access to Union Station in D.C., ideal for avoiding traffic.
- Within an Hour: The National Mall in D.C., Inner Harbor in Baltimore, and shopping/dining in Bethesda or Tysons Corner.



Frederick's ideal location and commuter-friendly options continue to draw new residents who value convenience, charm, and affordability.

TRY THESE FOR FUN

Activity Bingo



Head Over To
Rita's Italian
Ice

Go Visit one of
our Regional
Parks

Take a Bike
Ride along the
B&O Canal

Do Yoga On
The Mall in DC

Grab A Drink
At Sunset At
One Of Our
Rooftop Bars

Take A Drive
thru the
Shenandoah
Valley

Take A Tour of
the Inner
Harbour

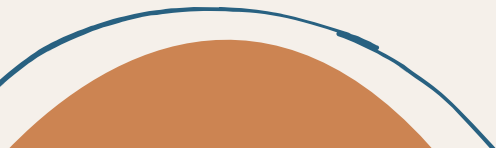
Checkout My
Favorite
Speakeasy
(Chicken +
Whiskey)

Visit The
Museums in the
DMV

See A Show At
The Weinberg
Center of the
Arts

Catch a Ravens
Game

Visit one of our
awesome
Brunch Spots



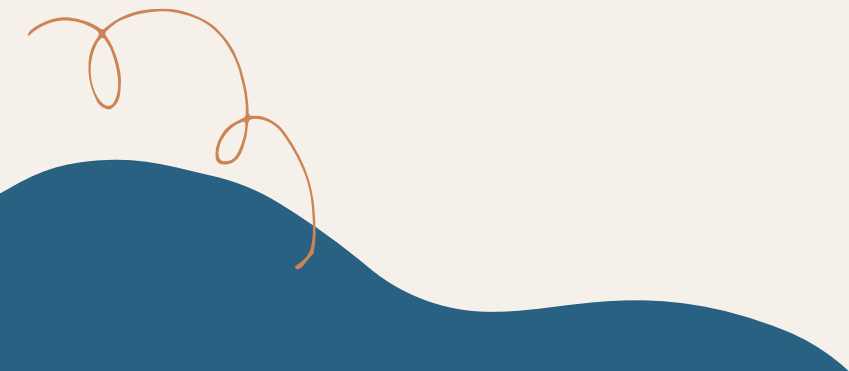


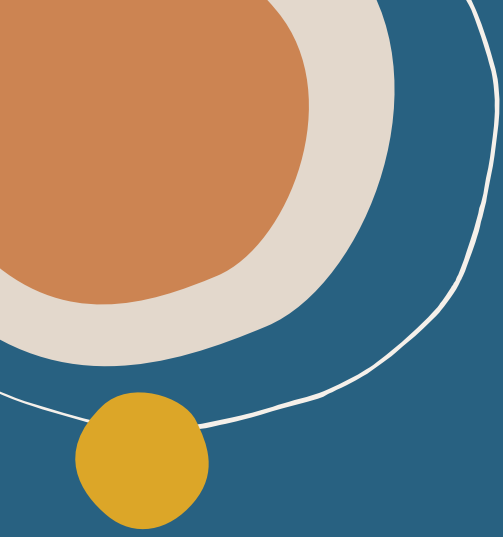
Etiquette & Attire

I like to think of Frederick as a perfect blend of “basic and boujie”.

It’s pretty normal to see people in hoodies and shorts in every setting or to see people dining in dressed to the nines.

There is plenty to offer, if your style is a little more laid back or if you’re more of the professional sort.





Finding Home

Once you get to know the community, you'll want to start shopping for your new home. This section will help you narrow down.





NEIGHBORHOODS

Do Your Research

At the end of the day, you're not just looking to buy a home—you're buying a neighborhood, lifestyle and community. These resources will help you get to know the areas so you can choose the one that's perfect for you.

Helpful Sites For Getting To Know The Area

Schools

You can get to know the schools in the area by going to greatschools.org

Walkability

Search walkability for each neighborhood inside of my app [right here.](#)

Street Views

If doing a physical driveby isn't an option, use Google Maps to get to know the street level view of each property.

Crime Stats

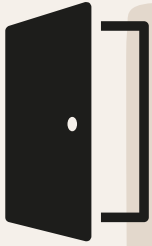
Determine which neighborhoods are safe by going to neighborhoodscout.com





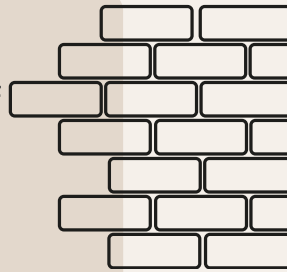
HOW HOMES ARE BUILT

Our Architecture



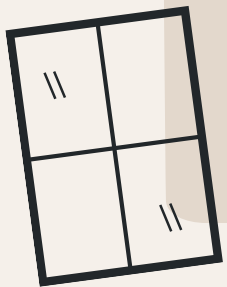
There is a rich variety of residential architecture that reflects its historic charm and modern growth. Frederick offers options to suit every taste.

In most places, the properties are built of wood. Found in older homes, particularly in Victorian and Craftsman styles. Keep an eye out for signs of wood rot or pest damage.



New construction features contemporary designs, open-concept layouts, and energy-efficient materials. You'll find townhomes, single-family homes, and condos in a variety of styles.

Explore potential tax credits/grants for restoring and maintaining historic properties. For newer homes, inquire about builder warranties or green certifications for energy savings.

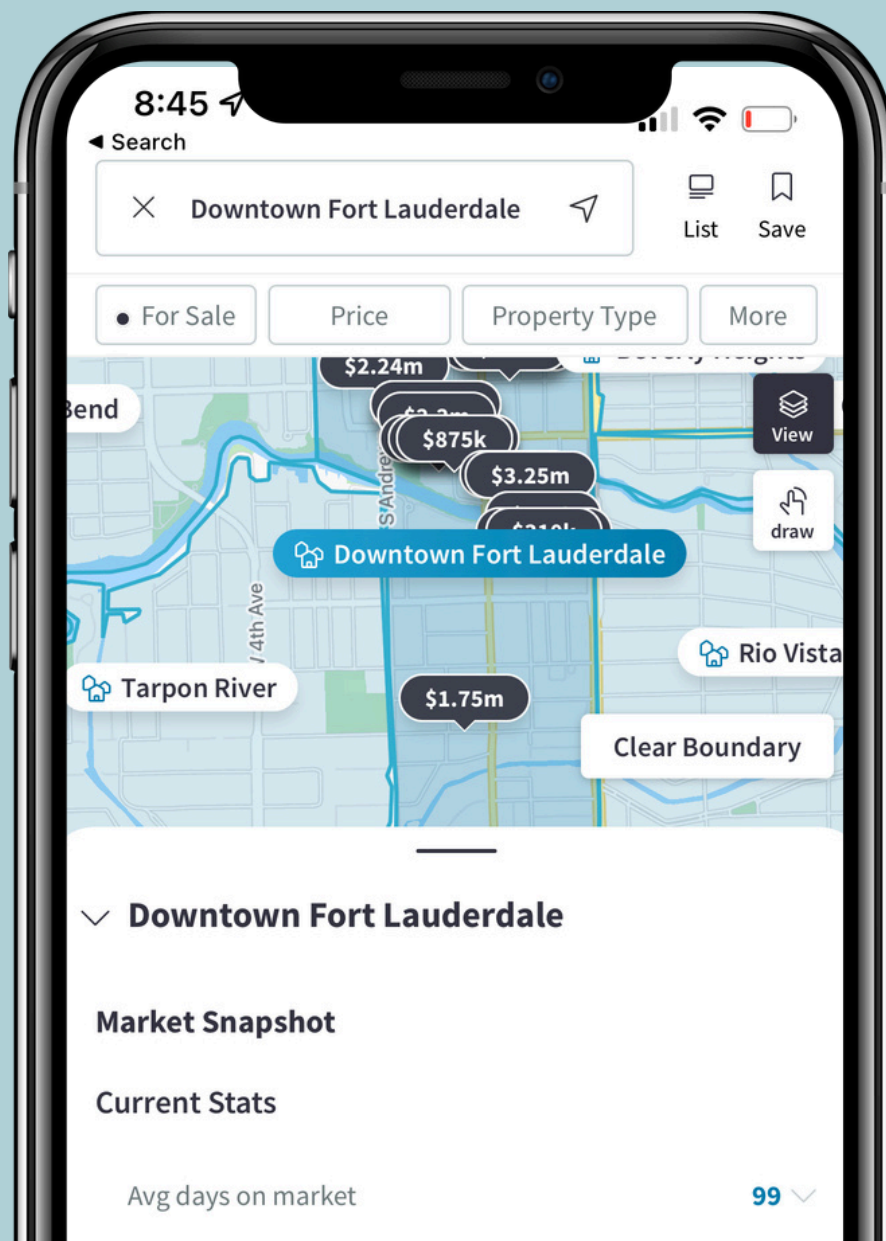


SEARCH DIFFERENTLY

Download My App

Searching for properties by city isn't going to get you the details that you're looking for. When you download my app, you can search by neighborhoods to get to know each neighborhood intimately.

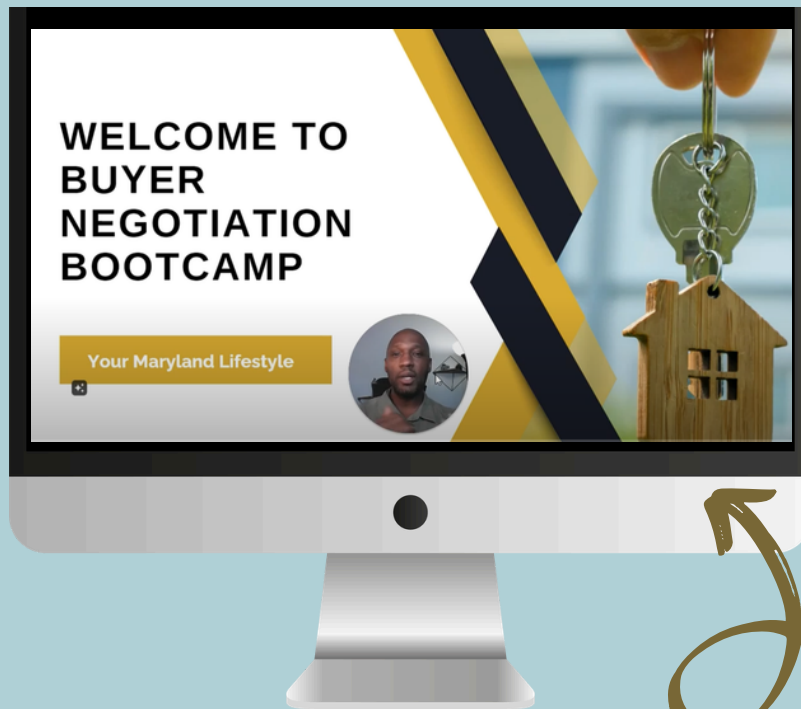
[Click Here To Download The App —>](#)



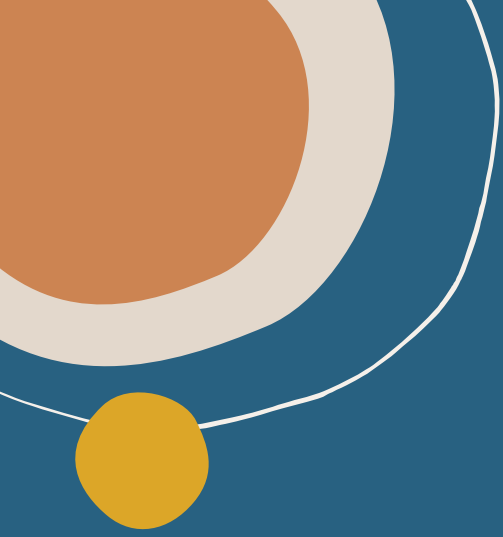
DOMINATE THE MARKET

Negotiate Your Purchase

This is a free workshop that I recorded to help you navigate the market, understand the unique elements of Maryland Real Estate and how to negotiate your purchase like a pro.



[Click To Watch](#)



Food

With a diversity of cultures, Maryland is known for it's incredible food options.





Groceries

In addition to the regular Walmart, Costco and Target, we have tons of options for food shopping.

BEST OVERALL | Wegman's

For the ultimate all-in-one grocery experience, the Wegmans is Frederick's undisputed heavyweight champion. More than just a supermarket, Wegmans is a culinary destination. It secures the top spot in the county. It gets incredibly busy on weekends. For a peaceful, crowd-free shopping experience, aim for weekday mornings or after 8:00 PM.

BEST ORGANIC SHOPPING | Common Market

For organic, locally sourced, and sustainable groceries, Common Market is Frederick's community favorite.

BEST BUDGET GROCERIES | ALDI

If you're looking to stay in a budget, ALDI is going to be your best friend. When it comes to stretching your grocery dollar without sacrificing quality, ALDI is Frederick's top choice.

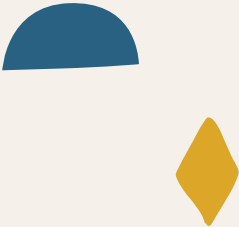
BEST VEGAN GROCERIES | MOMs Foods

If you want a store where absolutely 100% of the produce department is strictly certified organic, check out MOM's Organic Market

MOST CONVENIENT | Instacart & Shipt

Once you start shopping for your groceries on the apps, you'll never go back. Just a quick tip — Harris Teeter up charges on the app while Fresh Market and Costco generally have the same prices in store and on the app.

You can also find several cultural markets for cuisine variety, meat/fish markets and farmer's markets for farm-to-table depending on your preferred pallet.



Restaurant Recommendations

One of the most unique things about Fort Lauderdale is the variety of cuisines available. Check out the following restaurants:

Brunch

- Madrone's
- Cafe Nola
- Showroom
- The Ordinary Hen
- Up on Market Bistro & Inn

Coffee

- The Perfect Blend
- Dublin Roasters Coffee
- Frederick Coffee Co. & Cafe
- Gravel and Grind
- Baltimore Coffee and Tea Co.

Vegan

- Hippy Chick Hummus
 - The Sanctuary Modern Kitchen
 - Motherland Kitchen
 - Orchard Restaurant
- 



Steakhouses

- the WINE Kitchen on the Creek
- Longhorn Steakhouse
- Dutch's Daughter
- Texas Roadhouse
- Red Horse Steakhouse

Seafood

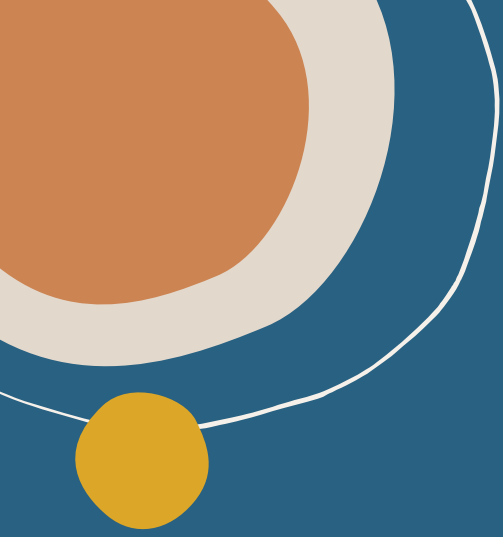
- Ragin' Reef
- Avery's Maryland Grille
- Atlantic Grille
- Lighthouse Seafood
- JB Seafood

BBQ

- Blues BBQ Co.
- Black Hog BBQ & Bar
- PIGS BBQ
- Mission BBQ
- KPOT Korean BBQ

Italian

- Tempo Di Pasta
- Delizia Cafe
- Cucina Cafe
- Il Porto
- Fratelli's Italian & Seafood



For The Family

Moving to Frederick County is going to be an adjustment for everyone in the family from your partner to the kids and even your pets.





Schools In Frederick County

Frederick County has a variety of options for choosing the education option that is best for your family.

Choose An Option That Works Best For You

Public Schools

Frederick is part of the Frederick County system which is a massive school system and you can research individual schools at neighborhoodscout.com

Private Schools

Our private schools are both known for their athletics and academics, sending more kids to pro sports and Ivy League schools than most other cities.

Magnet

Magnet programs were created in schools to curate track specific programs (pre-law, medicine, etc.). Programs are taught by practicing professionals.

School Choice

If none of those options work for you, Frederick county allows for hybrid or fully online course options.





TAKE YOUR KIDS ALONG

Kids Activity Bingo



Ride Go Karts
at Adventure
Park

Take your Pup
to a Certified
Sniff Spot

Visit Your Local
Library

Checkout
Frederick's "In
the Streets"
Festival

Play Arcade
Games At 4th
Dimension

Go Camping in
Cunningham
Falls

Bounce With
Your Family At
Sky Zone

Catch Some
Waves in Ocean
City

Visit The
Museum Of
Discovery &
Science

Explore the
World with
Virtual Tours at
The Smithsonian

Play some
Water Balloon
Baseball at
Baker Park

Visit The
Winter Lights
Festival at
Seneca State
Park

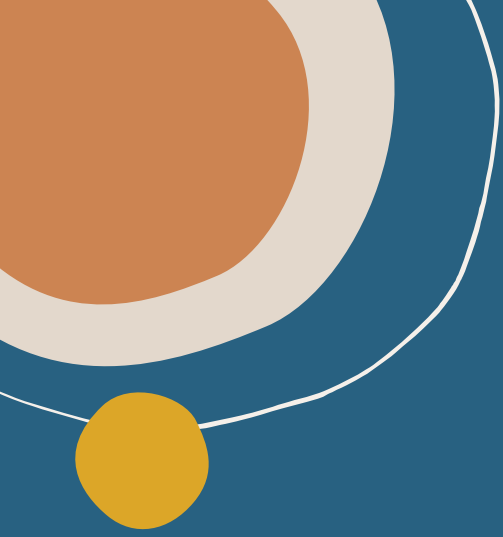


Bring Along Your Fur Babies

- Frederick is a very pet friendly city— you'll find people with their dogs sitting at brunch, in bags, walking around and there are tons of dog parks
- Most condos and apartments have a restriction of two pets and some buildings have a 20-40 pound dog limit
- If you're looking at a property in a homeowner's association, some have restrictions on the breeds of dogs (Always check first!)

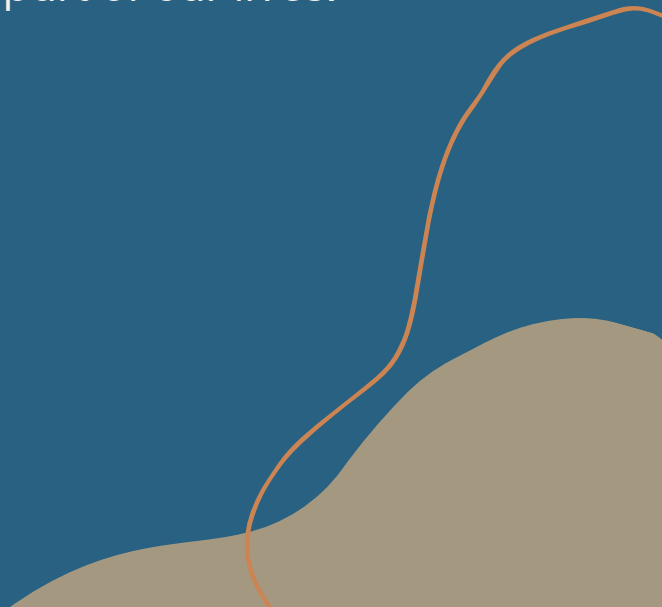


There's an annual event in Downtown Frederick called Dog Days to bring your dog all summer long. Businesses leave water and snacks and feel free to enjoy outdoor dining with your pooch, then go catch some live music on The Creek.



Work

While the lifestyle of Frederick County has tons to do for leisure, we can't ignore the work part of our lives.





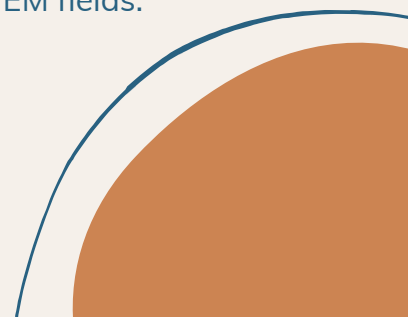
Industries & Companies Driving Our Economy

Frederick's economy has evolved far beyond its agricultural roots. Thanks to its strategic location along the I-70/I-270 tech corridor, it is now one of the fastest-growing commercial hubs in Maryland.

Here are the four pillars driving the local economy:

- **Life Sciences & Biotech:** This is the crown jewel of the county. Anchored by Fort Detrick and the Frederick National Laboratory for Cancer Research, the area is a massive hub for biomedicine.
- **Advanced Manufacturing & Tech:** Frederick has shifted from traditional production to precision engineering and tech.
- **Logistics & E-Commerce:** The county's access to major highways makes it a prime distribution hub. It is home to massive regional operations, including an ALDI Distribution Center, a Costco E-commerce and Depot facility, and the nation's largest Walmart Pharmaceutical Central Fill center.
- **Healthcare & Education:** These sectors provide massive economic stability and the talent pipeline for the other industries. Frederick Health is the county's largest private employer, supported by a strong higher-education network that includes Hood College, Mount St. Mary's University, and Frederick Community College.

Relocation Tip: If you are moving here for a job in the biotech or tech sector, look into the networking events hosted by the Frederick Innovative Technology Center, Inc. (FITCI). It is a local incubator that heavily supports professionals and startups in the STEM fields.





Benefits of Moving To Fort Lauderdale

For Businesses

Frederick's tax structure is more business friendly than other states.

Frederick is one of the rare counties nationwide to hold a AAA bond rating from all three major rating agencies

Our economic development agencies are heavily invested in helping businesses relocate to the area and offer tons of resources

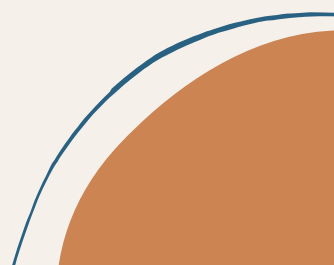
The City of Frederick and the City of Brunswick contain designated HUBZones, giving local small businesses a major competitive edge and preferential consideration for federal contracts.

For Employees

You do not need to commute to D.C. or Montgomery County to work in cutting-edge industries.

The "Reverse Commute" Advantage: For those who do work closer to the D.C. metro area, living in Frederick often means commuting against the heaviest flow of traffic, saving significant time and stress.

Clock out and enjoy a vibrant, award-winning historic downtown, an incredible local food and craft beverage scene, and immediate access to the Catoclin Mountains for hiking and outdoor recreation





Organizations, Clubs & Coworking Spaces



Private Clubs

The Owls Club
Holly Hills Country Club
Frederick Elks Lodge
The Historic Haven

Organizations

Chamber of Commerce
Downtown Frederick
Partnership
Rotary Clubs of Frederick
Frederick Nonprofit
Alliance

Coworking

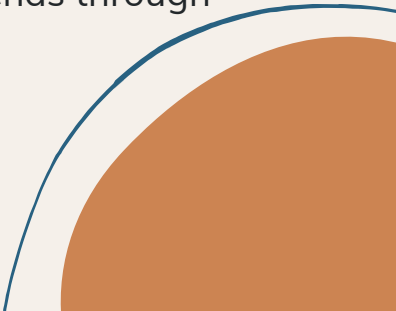
Cowork Frederick
SHIFT Work + Play
Squadstyle
Regus (Westview)
The ROOT Building

Meeting new people is the hardest part of moving to a new area and if you are a business owner or are in sales, your income relies on it.

This list will serve as a jumpstart to get you started connecting with the organizations.

Connect with them on social media and check out photos of their events, see if they have Facebook groups and connect with the members there.

People at these types of groups are generally friendly and open to meeting new people and if you do it right, you'll make amazing new friends through them.



NEED MORE INSIGHT?

What's Next?



I hope you've found this guide helpful and feel infinitely more prepared with your move down to Frederick County.

If you're ready to talk to an agent, you can pick a time that works best for you to chat on my calendar with the link down below.

I'm excited to help you fall in love with Maryland.

SOCIAL MEDIA:



PHONE:

240-206-1747

LET'S CHAT:

www.yourmdlifestyle.com/consult



Relocation Timeline



Three Months Before

- ☐ Sell large items you don't want to take (like furniture)
- ☐ Donate, giveaway or trash things you won't take
- ☐ Start packing things you won't use
- ☐ Start interviewing agents to sell your property*

Two Months Before

- ☐ Create a moving budget
- ☐ Get moving quotes

One Month Before

- ☐ Let utility companies know
- ☐ Confirming moving company information

One Week Before

- ☐ Clean your old place
- ☐ Confirm your utilities, internet and mail will transfer
- ☐ Start packing a bag for the first few days (cosmetics, a few outfits, etc.)
- ☐ Plan for meals on moving day

Moving Day

- ☐ Verify utilities are turned on
- ☐ Do a walkthrough to confirm everything is in good condition
- ☐ Get the locks changed

One Week After

- ☐ Check fire and carbon monoxide detectors
 - ☐ Update insurance and find healthcare providers
 - ☐ Recycle your packing materials
 - ☐ Meet your neighbors
- 