



Welcome to the 58TH ANNUAL
GUN SHOW & FLEA MARKET
VFW
Friday, Aug. 29-Monday, September 1, 2025



Welcome to HILLSVILLE



The Annual VFW Labor Day Gun Show & Flea Market brings hundreds of thousands of people to Hillsville each Labor Day Weekend. Crowds in the past have reached an estimated total of 700,000 for the four-day event.

As Mayor of Hillsville and on behalf of the Hillsville Town Council, town employees and citizens of the Town of Hillsville, we are beyond excited to welcome everyone back for the 58th Annual Gun Show & Flea Market.

We are so grateful and thankful to continue to host the Gun Show & Flea Market. We sincerely hope that your time with us in Hillsville is enjoyable and we want to extend you the best of luck in finding many bargains.

Over the years, the gun show and flea market has blossomed from one that started as a very small show to one of the biggest east of the Mississippi. There are so many people to thank for making our show grow into what it has become over the years. From the many wonderful folks at the Grover King VFW Post 1115, to the citizens who welcome our guests, to the vendors who provide unique shopping opportunities, I would like to personally thank each and every one who play a role in our special show.

Words can't even begin to express the amount of gratitude we have for all our town citizens who provide spaces for vendors and parking for shoppers visiting our area. We also are greatly indebted to the VFW and the other citizens who put so much effort into making the Gun Show &

Flea Market such a great event. While you are visiting Hillsville, we hope you will take time to check out the very fine restaurants that have been added to our downtown area on North Main Street.

We would also like to express our appreciation to the Hillsville Police Department, the Carroll County Sheriff's Office and the Virginia State Police for the support they provide year round, but especially during this event. These departments always do a great job with traffic control and ensuring the safety of everyone. Likewise, we would like to give a special thank you to all the volunteer rescue squads and fire departments that go beyond the call of duty in keeping everyone safe during this busy extended holiday weekend.

We hope the weather is beautiful and we can all enjoy another Labor Day Weekend in Hillsville. On behalf of Hillsville Town Council, we welcome you to our town and wish you a great weekend of shopping. We hope that you will come back soon and often.

Sincerely,
Greg Crowder
Mayor of the Town of Hillsville



HILLSVILLE MAYOR
GREG CROWDER

History of the GROVER KING VFW POST 1115

Grover King VFW Post 1115 has been an active force in the Hillsville and Carroll County community for more than 80 years.

It began on May 15, 1935, when 27 veterans from World War One, one from the Spanish-American War and one other area veteran chartered Virginia's 37th Post of The Veterans of Foreign Wars of The United States.

They decided the Post should bear the name of Carroll County's first serviceman killed during the First World War, Grover C. King, who died on the battlefield in France on July 15, 1918, three days short of his 28th birthday.

At first the Post held its meetings in the courthouse. Construction began in 1954 on the organization's first building, and the first meeting in the new facility was held January 17, 1955. It was dedicated in July 1956, and by 1961 the costs of the building were paid in full and the VFW held a note-burning ceremony.

In 1966, VFW Post 1115 purchased land adjacent to the Post Home, primarily to provide additional parking spaces. A disaster struck on



The Annual VFW Labor Day Gun Show & Flea Market is a four-day event held each year during Labor Day Weekend in Hillsville. The event attracts visitors from all over as a town of about 3,000 morphs into a town of hundreds of thousands for the annual show.

January 15, 1968, when the roof of the building caved in due to the weight of snow. The VFW decided then to construct a new, larger building to accommodate all of its growing needs. The result of this planning is today one of the premier facilities in all of Hillsville and Carroll County – the VFW Post Home on West Stuart Drive, known as “The Carroll County Activity Center.”

Fifty-eight years ago, this building and the expansive grounds around it became the site of what is today the largest gun show and flea market east of the Mississippi River. The event each Labor Day weekend has helped to put Hillsville on the national map.

The membership of our sponsoring VFW Post is now over 400 strong – more than 200 from Hillsville and Galax and the rest from nearly every state in the nation as well as several foreign countries – making VFW Post 1115 one of the largest single Veterans' organizations in the state.

It is also one of the busiest, conducting many activities and pumping thousands of dollars into community service every year.

Sandra Terry is the current Post Commander and she welcomes everyone to the Gun Show & Flea Market.

No organization such as this can be so successful without the backing of an Auxiliary. The 1115 Auxiliary, formally the Ladies Auxiliary, was established on April 9, 1954, by 40 Charter Members who were wives, mothers, sisters and daughters of the men who served our fine Nation at times when it needed their service the most.

Members of Grover King VFW Post 1115 and the Auxiliary have taken a leading role in the community all through the years, serving in various capacities both in and outside the VFW.



From the merry to the macabre, odds are you if you are looking for it, you can find it at the Annual VFW Labor Day Gun Show & Flea Market in Hillsville.

How the Annual VFW Labor Day GUN SHOW & FLEA MARKET STARTED

Come to Hillsville, Virginia, just about any other weekend of the year and you will find a nice but laid-back town of just a few thousand folks.

But come to Hillsville on Labor Day weekend – usually the first weekend in September – and you will find that sleepy little town has become a bustling metropolis of flea market and gun show sellers and buyers half a million strong.

VFW Post 1115 has been sponsoring the Labor Day Gun Show & Flea Market since the late 1960s and it has become one of the biggest events of its type in the state – perhaps in the nation. Pierce Webb, a Laurel Fork native, had retired to Florida and he developed a hobby for collecting and trading guns. Early in 1967, he visited his friend, Glenn Jackson, also a native of Laurel Fork.

This was shortly after the original Post Home collapsed under snow and ice.

Webb told Jackson that gun shows are popular down south and he wanted to see one started right here in Carroll County. Gene Pack, the Hillsville Police Chief, liked the idea and discussed it often, as did Dennis Quesenberry, a serious collector of fine guns. Jackson, a member of the



From a porkchop sandwich lunch to fresh lemonade, funnel cakes and polish sausage, there is no shortage of culinary delights at The Annual VFW Labor Day Gun Show & Flea Market in Hillsville.

VFW, knew that the Post was hard-pressed for funds to meet monthly obligations, much less pay for a new Post Home, still under construction. He thought that maybe a gun show, being new to the area, might bring in some extra money. Chief Pack offered his assistance for security and traffic control, so they approached the Post membership with the idea and it was approved. Jackson – who still is active with the Gun Show & Flea Market each year - agreed to do the planning and promotion for the first show although he had never attended anything like this before.

Jackson advised the kitchen committee to prepare for at least 2,000 visitors that he expected to attend. They were overwhelmed when twice that many showed up. Members had to scrounge around the county and adjoining towns to find enough food and drink to satisfy the hungry crowd.



Another photographic example of some of the cool and unusual items one can find in Hillsville during The Annual VFW Labor Day Gun Show & Flea Market.



At the Annual VFW Labor Day Gun Show & Flea Market, you can find the new and trendy as well as the old and ancient, such as these megalodon teeth.

After the second year, the show outgrew the space inside the VFW hall and the outdoor flea market was added to accommodate the overflow. The rest is history. During the last decade, the outdoor flea market space was increased nearly 50 percent with the addition of the upper lot at the top of the hill way behind the VFW hall.

The VFW Labor Day show, now the largest single event in Carroll and surrounding counties, did not just happen. A lot of people worked long hours in bringing it to the current point. And they continue working long hours before, during and after the event. But the men of Post 1115 and the Ladies of the Auxiliary enjoy this culmination of coming together with hard work. Money realized from the show keeps the Post in operation for the entire year, and a lot of the money that is taken in is returned to the community in the form of donations to many civic groups and individuals in need.

Andy Bowman, a U.S. Navy Veteran, had been the VFW's Memorial Day Festival manager for several years as full-time flea market manager. He passed away March 17, 2017 and Sandra Terry, a U.S. Army veteran, has assumed his flea market duties. Also the Grover King VFW Post 1115 Commander, she bids welcome to all our vendors and visitors during this special weekend.



Gorgeous stained windows are an example of some of the treasures you will undoubtedly find each year at The Annual VFW Labor Day Gun Show & Flea Market in Hillsville.



Looking for just the right beer tap to hang in your mancave or bar? Chances are you can find it at the The Annual VFW Labor Day Gun Show & Flea Market in Hillsville.

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VFW is the **HUB** of flea market, gun show

It may seem like quite an awesome setting – the Hillsville VFW Post – for newcomers visiting during the 58th annual Labor Day Gun Show & Flea Market, but if you are here for the first time or for the 58th time, have no fear.

The VFW has several members on hand, ready to assist in making your visit an enjoyable experience.

During most of the Gun Show & Flea Market, a VFW officer or member will be nearby to assist anyone in need. The actual office for the flea market is in the back of the main post building. The phone number is (276) 728-5237.

On hand during most of these hours will be Post Commander and Flea Market Manager Sandra Terry, a U.S. Army Veteran, or Quartermaster/Gun Show Manager Gary Adams, a U.S. Navy Veteran.

Donations for the Buddy Poppy program, used to assist Veterans in need, will be accepted by properly identified VFW members.

The Hillsville VFW Post is also allowing other posts to participate and collect funds at the gate.

“We will have local rescue squads stationed nearby,” the Flea Market Manager said. “We certainly hope they will never have to be used, but with so many people around, I am sure they will be busy. If you need emergency medical assistance, you should always find at least one

rescue squad vehicle parked nearby.”

Officers from the Hillsville Police Department, Carroll County Sheriff’s Department and Virginia State Police as well as ATF agents (to do background checks for gun sales) will be on hand inside the VFW complex, or very near, 24 hours a day. Security is also on duty day and night.

“We really do appreciate the help we get from local law enforcement officers year-round, and they are particularly important to us this weekend,” the Flea Market Manager said.

“Also, the Hillsville Fire Department has been called upon in the past, and they will be nearby. I know we will be well covered if any emergency comes up.”

“If you want it or need it, we’ve got it!” the VFW promises.



Guns, ammunition and other weapons can be easily found in Hillsville during The Annual VFW Labor Day Gun Show & Flea Market. The Grover King VFW Post 1115 building is the hub for guns and rare items.

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How to become a FLEA MARKET VENDOR

For anyone interested in setting up as a vendor at the VFW Post 1115 Flea Market – during either Labor Day weekend or Memorial Day weekend – the procedure is very simple.

The flea market is coordinated for the VFW by a full-time flea market manager, and a separate flea market office telephone number has been established. All flea market business can be conducted by calling (276) 728-5237 or e-mail Fleamarket@groverkingvfw.com. If the staff is unable to answer your call right away, you can leave a message on the answering machine. But please be patient; this time of year there are usually up to 20 or 30 calls at a time waiting to be answered.

Flea market vendor space rental also can be accomplished by printing out an application that is available online on the only official VFW Post 1115 web site: www.groverkingvfw.com. This web site is updated on a regular basis.

Information for next year's Flea Market is distributed at the gate as vendors check in for the current year. Vendors with no e-mail are encouraged to pay the full amount and get all their paperwork before they leave.

Due to the expense involved in making vendor rental registration as simple as possible, a \$20 non-refundable deposit per space is required with each registration.

Next year's Labor Day Gun Show & Flea Market will be Sept. 4-7, 2025.



There's really no telling what you may find at The Annual VFW Labor Day Gun Show & Flea Market in Hillsville, as this past exhibit clearly indicates.



Beautiful and unique hand-crafted items are usually in abundance at The Annual VFW Labor Day Gun Show & Flea Market in Hillsville.



Looking for a Mason Jar in the south? Just come to The Annual VFW Labor Day Gun Show & Flea Market in Hillsville and you are sure to find some.

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The Annual VFW Labor Day Gun Show & Flea Market in Hillsville almost always offers visitors a chance to find and buy pieces of Americana.



Another example of the freshly-cooked cuisine one can expect to find in Hillsville during The Annual VFW Labor Day Gun Show & Flea Market.



This metallic fowl creature stands as a testament to the ingenuity and unique, both readily available at The Annual VFW Labor Day Gun Show & Flea Market in Hillsville.



Don't forget about your pets! The Annual VFW Labor Day Gun Show & Flea Market in Hillsville offers plenty of shopping for your furry loved ones, in addition to antiques, bargains, food, and so much more.



Vintage signs and reminders of days past are fun to search for and find at The Annual VFW Labor Day Gun Show & Flea Market in Hillsville.



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Even famous pop icon personalities such as The Simpsons can occasionally be found hanging out at The Annual VFW Labor Day Gun Show & Flea Market in Hillsville.



Inside the Grover King VFW Post 1115 lot is usually a crowded place during the Annual VFW Labor Day Gun Show & Flea Market in Hillsville.



Concessions are almost always available inside the Grover King VFW Post 1115 building during the four-day Annual Labor Day Gun Show & Flea Market.



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Tents as far as the eye can see and walls of visitors can be found in Love's Field and other areas of Hillsville for the Annual Labor Day Gun Show & Flea Market.



As the banner in the background proudly boasts, Historic Hillsville is the home of the Annual Labor Day Gun Show & Flea Market.

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