Vernon Parish
201 South 3rd Street
Leesville, LA 71446
337-238-0783
LouisianaLegendCountry.com

Events in Vernon Parish

While known for rural tranquility, Vernon Parish is also home to exciting events that welcome visitors of all ages. From an old-school soapbox derby to high-energy Mardi Gras parades to one of the region's biggest arts festivals, there's no shortage of things to do in friendly Vernon Parish.

January

[Martin Luther King, Jr. Parade](#)
Held annually on the MLK holiday, Leesville's parade and walk to remember commemorates the life and work of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. The parade starts downtown and concludes with a rally at the MLK Community Center.
508 S. 5th Street

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(337) 239-2444

February

[Mardi Gras Parades](#)
Throughout the Carnival season leading up to Ash Wednesday, Vernon Parish celebrates Mardi Gras in high style with community parades. Krewes decorate floats and toss purple, green and gold beads to expectant crowds.
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May

[MayFest](#)
Held every year during the first weekend in May, the award-winning event, MayFest, takes place in historic downtown Leesville. Thousands of visitors enjoy the two-day festival where artisans and creators from Louisiana and surroundings states sell their wares and demonstrate their skills. From glass blowers to jewelry makers, and from fabric artists to potters, the festival attracts artists and art lovers. MayFest also features live music, a classic car show, children's activities and plenty of food.
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June

[Freedom Fest](#)
A free annual event held in advance of the Fourth of July, Freedom Fest features live music, food vendors, military displays and a fireworks show. Held at Fort Pork's Headquarters Field. Free and open to the public.

October

[West Louisiana Forestry Festival & Fair](#)
Reflecting the timber industry's legacy in Vernon Parish, this spirited community gathering features a 4-H woodman skills contest, an equestrian and livestock show, live music and carnival rides. The event also includes the Leesville Lions Club Rodeo, where riders demonstrate bull riding, calf roping, barrel racing and other white-knuckled skills.
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[Louisiana Championship Soapbox Derby](#)
Vernon Parish's Louisiana Championship Soapbox
Derby is an event rich in throw-back charm. Children
ages 6 to 17 race soapbox cars they've built
themselves down the streets of historic downtown
Leesville, using gravity as their only power source. It'
s family fun for everyone.
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December

[Christmas Parade](#)
Every second Saturday of December, festive floats bedecked in red and green and featuring Santa and Mrs.
Claus roll down the streets of downtown Leesville for the city's annual Christmas Parade.
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