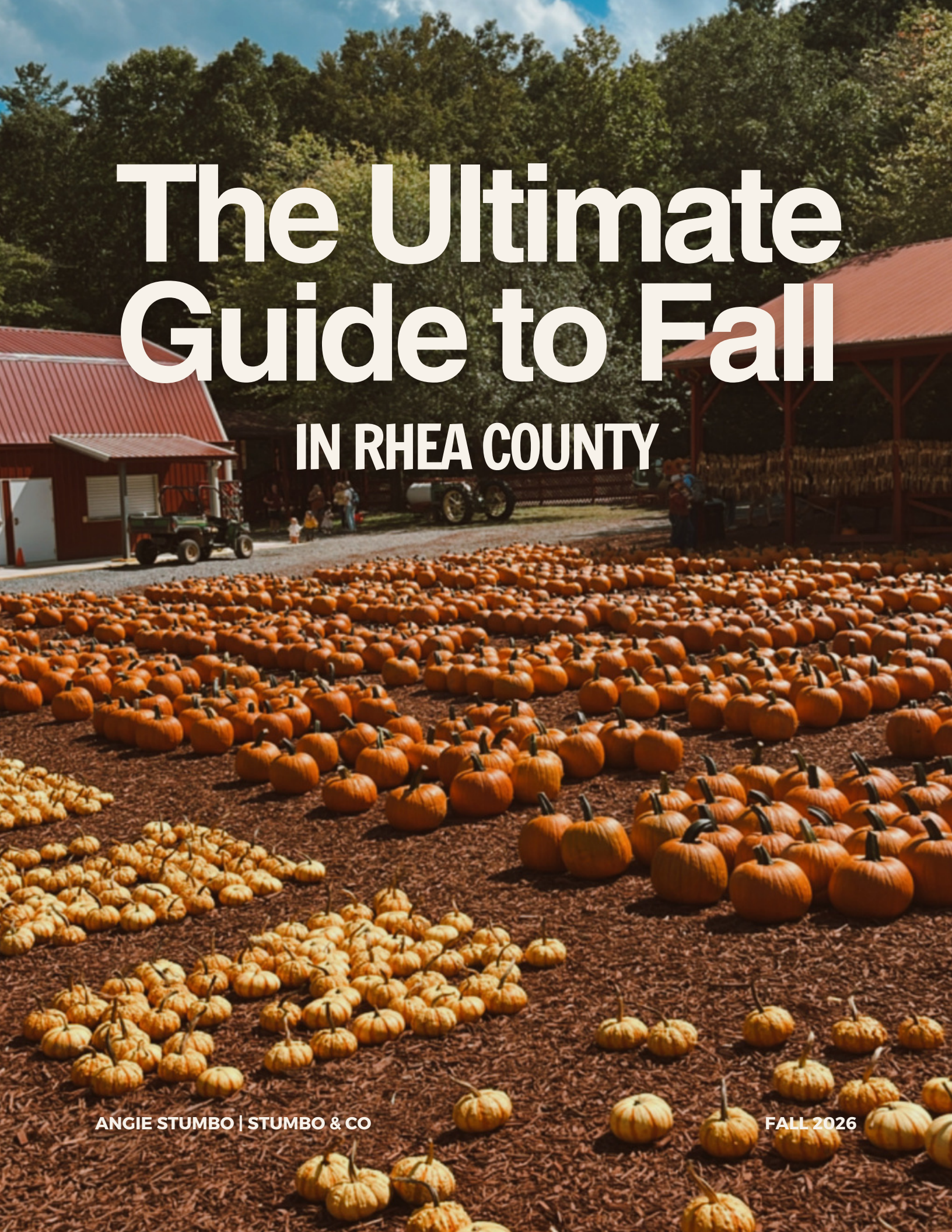


A large field of pumpkins, mostly orange and some yellow, arranged in rows on a bed of brown mulch. In the background, there is a red barn with a white door, a green tractor, and a line of trees under a blue sky with some clouds. The text "The Ultimate Guide to Fall" is written in large white letters, and "IN RHEA COUNTY" is written in smaller white letters below it.

The Ultimate Guide to Fall

IN RHEA COUNTY

ANGIE STUMBO | STUMBO & CO

FALL 2026

welcome

What fall looks like here

Every year I get the same question around this time: What is there to do here once fall settles in? The honest answer is fall shows up on the calendar long before it shows up in the forecast. This is the list I send to friends, the places I take people from out of town, and the things worth leaving the house for, even when it's still a billion degrees outside. Steal all of it.

If we haven't met yet, I'm Angie. I've been helping people find their place in Rhea County for over 11 years.

Fall here means patio weather...eventually. We stay hopeful. Friday night lights rule the calendar & mountain apples before sweaters make sense!

FALL HERE MEANS

Patio season finally starting....

Temps hover between 40°-80°

Rhea County football is back!



the season

Make the most of the season

Every year the season sneaks up the same way: one month you're still in summer mode, the next you're outside every weekend, and then suddenly it's the holidays.

September

HAPPENING:
[Savor Dayton](#)
September 19 | 5–8 PM

WORTH EATING:
Fried pies and cider
slushies
[Oren Wooden's - Dayton](#)

GET OUTSIDE:
Squeeze in one last lake day
[Watts Bar Lake](#) | [Spring City](#)

October

HAPPENING:
[PumpkinFest](#)
October 30–31

WORTH EATING:
Dinner with a fall view
[Top of the Rock](#) | [Jasper](#)

GET OUTSIDE:
Hike while the leaves
show off
[Laurel-Snow](#) | [Dayton](#)

November

HAPPENING:
[Holiday Stroll](#)
November 12 | 5–8 PM

WORTH EATING:
Lakeside lunch after the
scenic drive
[Fall Creek Falls Lodge](#) |
[Spencer](#)

GET OUTSIDE:
Watch the sandhill
cranes arrive
[Hiwassee Wildlife
Refuge](#) | [Birchwood](#)



the feel

Slow mornings

The best mornings here don't have a plan.
Coffee first, then wherever the rest of the day goes.



COFFEE

Monday's Coffee Corner

A cozy little Spring City find.

BAKERY

Miller's Bread

Homemade pastries worth crossing the mountain for.

BRUNCH

Screen Door Kitchen

You can't go wrong with anything on the menu!

QUIET SPOT

Swinging Bridge Walking Trl

Bring your coffee and claim a lakeside bench.

the feel

Outside

The whole point of this season is ending up outside for longer than you meant to.



TRAIL OR WALK

Piney Falls State Natural Area

A short forest hike to an 80-foot waterfall.

PARK

Cumberland Mtn State Park

The lake loop makes a lazy fall afternoon disappear.

LOOKOUT

Buzzard Point

The best fall views - the hike is no joke!

BEST PATIO

Hernandez Mexican Food

Birria, pineapple water, and mountain air. Enough said.

the feel

With the kids

Weekends go easier when you already know where you're going.
These are the reliable ones.



WEEKEND ACTIVITY

Mayfield Farm Park | Athens

40+ fall activities

TREAT STOP

Ember's Ice Cream Shoppe

A mountain detour to Pikeville no one will complain about.

PARK

Pendergrass Park

The kids play and you get to sit like a normal person

DOG FRIENDLY

Smith-Perry Berries

Pumpkins, Playtime, and space for the dogs!

the feel

After dark

Because sometimes you want to leave the house, but Chattanooga feels like a whole commitment!



DRINKS

Luca's Tavern

For a good cocktail and a night that feels a little more grown-up than your regular Tuesday.

CHANGE OF SCENERY

Social on Depot Hill | Athens

Craft cocktails, artisan pizza and a reason to make the short drive to Athens, TN not GA.

DESSERT

Cookies & Cream

Pick two homemade cookies, add your ice cream & accept that this will not be a neat dessert.

DINNER

Screen Door Kitchen

Go for the specialty fall menu. This is the easiest way to participate in fall while it's still 85 degrees.

📍 RHEA COUNTY

THE FALL BUCKET LIST

- ☐ Drive up Dayton Mountain with the windows down and then pick some apples at the Apple Barn
- ☐ Catch the Rhea County Eagles on a Friday night
- ☐ Hike Laurel Snow when the leaves finally change & hopefully the rattlers are gone
- ☐ Take coffee to the lake and watch the steam rise off the water
- ☐ Spend a day shopping locally in Dayton & Spring City
- ☐ Try a new chili recipe once it gets below 70 degrees
- ☐ Watch the sunset from a cool overlook
- ☐ Invite friends over for a bonfire & make s'mores
- ☐ Go watch the hang gliders in Dunlap
- ☐ Dress up & go eat at a fancy restaurant
- ☐ Go to a fall festival outside Rhea County - we can recommend a few





Your Fall Home Checklist

- ☐ Clear the gutters - after leaves are done falling
- ☐ Flush the water heater
- ☐ Test smoke & CO detectors
- ☐ Clean the dryer vent
- ☐ Seal gaps around windows & doors
- ☐ Clean leaves away from exterior drains
- ☐ Check outdoor lighting
- ☐ Store or cover patio furniture
- ☐ Drain & store garden hoses
- ☐ Swap the HVAC filter
- ☐ Check the weather stripping
- ☐ Disconnect hoses & cover outdoor spigots
- ☐ Check the roofline from the ground.
- ☐ Test the garage door sensors
- ☐ Restock flashlights & batteries
- ☐ Schedule chimney service
- ☐ Check the fire extinguisher
- ☐ Set ceiling fans to rotate clockwise



Save this page for the weekend when fall actually shows up. The Stumbo & CO crew is officially reminding you to change the filter, clean the gutters and deal with that one house task you've been avoiding since spring. We'll be tackling ours too.

worth the drive

Weekend trips

Close enough for a Saturday, far enough to feel like a reset.

Blue Ridge, Georgia

DRIVE TIME

1 hour 49 minutes

KNOWN FOR

Trout Fishing Capital of Georgia

WORTH THE STOP

Bear Claw Vineyards

Pigeon Forge, Tennessee

DRIVE TIME

2 hours 25 minutes

KNOWN FOR

Great Smoky Mountains

WORTH THE STOP

Dollywood

Knoxville, Tennessee

DRIVE TIME

1 hour 37 minutes

KNOWN FOR

University of Tennessee

WORTH THE STOP

Market Square



about me



Hey there, I'm Angie!

RHEA COUNTY LOCAL REAL ESTATE AGENT

I love sharing about all the things that make Rhea County & local towns around it special. I hope you learned something new in this guide!

If you're looking for more local recommendations, follow me on Instagram [@angiestumborealtor](#), I'd love to hear from you!

Let's talk

Thinking about a move before the year turns? [Start here.](#)

[SCHEDULE A CALL](#)