

Track Watch

MAY 2026



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OFFICE@MRAS-TRACK.COM



(403) 931-3411



WWW.MILLARVILLERACETRACK.COM



OFFICE HOURS

MONDAY- FRIDAY 9:00AM - 4:00PM

SATURDAY MAY 9 8:00AM - 3:00PM

OFFICE CLOSED - MONDAY MAY 18

OUR VISION

MILLARVILLE RACING AND AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY IS DEDICATED TO BUILDING COMMUNITY SPIRIT.

OUR MISSION

MILLARVILLE RACING AND AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY PROVIDES AUTHENTIC FAMILY EXPERIENCES AND EXCEPTIONAL FACILITIES WHICH CELEBRATE OUR AGRICULTURAL HERITAGE, INSPIRING A SENSE OF BELONGING FOR THE COMMUNITY.

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PRESIDENT'S *Message*

Spring has finally arrived in the foothills.

The past month has brought some of the busiest days we've seen in the last six months, with productive meetings, planning, and countless hours of work taking place behind the scenes to set the racetrack—and everyone involved—up for a strong and successful 2026 season.

We are very pleased to welcome several new members to our team - Director of Operations, Joe Vetere; Special Events Coordinator, Courtney Paquette; Office Administrator, Wendy Martineau; and Facilities & Maintenance Lead, Doug Peters. This completes the complement of permanent office staff. Summer students will start arriving later in the month.

For the Board, we have recently received the resignations of Colin Hill and Matt Gaffney. We thank them for their time and contributions. With these changes, we are pleased to announce that Suzanne Sills will step into the role of Vice President for the remainder of the current term.

Across the grounds, there has been a noticeable increase in energy and activity. Our maintenance volunteers have been hard at work preparing, repairing, and refreshing the site as we look ahead to a very busy season. The Millarville Horticultural Club will bring new life to the grounds through planting and beautification, while our growing equine community continues to fill the arena with activity and enthusiasm. There is a real sense of excitement as people get back outside, reconnect, and enjoy all that spring has to offer. The Spring Farmers' Market is almost here on May 9.

We encourage everyone to come out, reconnect with familiar faces, make new connections, and enjoy all that our community has to offer. If you are interested in getting involved, we are always looking to welcome new volunteers—please reach out to the office to learn more.

We are also proud to share the launch of our brand-new website for the Millarville Racing & Agricultural Society. We invite you to explore the new, user-friendly site to discover upcoming events and information. A tremendous thank you goes to our office team, led by our Social Media & Communications Coordinator, Shelby, for their outstanding work in bringing this large-scale project to life.

As we step into this new season—marked by fresh beginnings, new faces, and renewed energy—we extend our sincere gratitude to our members, past and present volunteers, our dedicated staff, and the broader community. Not only does your continued support make everything we do possible, it's what brings the memories, experiences, and spirit of our community to life.

Our doors are always open. Whether it's for a visit, a conversation, or simply a cup of coffee, we welcome you to stop by—we always appreciate the opportunity to connect.

With appreciation -

Natasha Phillipson



Natasha Phillipson
MRAS President

We would love to hear from you, please reach out

feedback@mras-track.com

MRAS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Natasha Phillipson
President

Kerry Dark
Director

Suzanne Sills
Vice President

Barb Parker
Director

Brent Foster
Treasurer

Kelsey McLeod
Director

Andrea Neumann
Secretary

Will Rowan
Director

MRAS STAFF

Joe Vetere
*Director of
Operations*

Wendy Martineau
Office Administrator

Alex Batara
Market Coordinator

Shannon Breeze
Bookkeeper

Shelby Ferguson
*Communications &
Social Media*

Doug Peters
*Facilities Maintenance
Lead*

Courtney Paquette
*Special Events
Coordinator*

Lance Piltingsrud
Maintenance

Coming Soon.....



As part of her role in marketing this wonderful organization, Shelby has developed a branding package to ensure MRAS is visually recognizable. A lot of the changes are subtle. The intent is to create a visually welcoming, cohesive and easily recognizable space for members community and visitors.

The first big change is the website. Designed to be user friendly, easy to navigate and find content. Next release will include more content for the Fair and Kids Only Shoppe. Let us know what you think at feedback@mras-track.com.



EST. 1905

MILLARVILLE RACES



CANADA DAY

JULY 1

121 YEARS

ONLINE ADVANCE TICKETS

\$19.05 +GST

AGE 12 & UNDER - FREE

TICKETS
AT DOOR **\$25**

V.I.P TENT

\$120 | **\$25**

ADULT | KIDS

GST INCLUDED

millarvilleracetrack.com



TICKETS SOLD ONLINE



RECONNECT WITH SOME OF YOUR FAVOURITE VENDORS

Saturday May 9

AGRICULTURE

Next Gen Flowers
Souto Farms
Lone Star Angus
Mister Grow It All
Poet Gardens

FOOD PRODUCTS

The Perogy Gal
The Daily Knead
Billy-Joe's BBQ Sauce
River Rock Fudge
Holy! Chili Oil

HANDCRAFTED PRODUCTS

CerEMics
Millarville Pond Creations
Twin Timbers Design
Comodo Glassworks
Phylosophies

OTHER MAKE IT, BAKE IT, GROW IT

Essence of the Nile
Apollonia Honey Wines
Tandee O Tallow
Uncommon Cider
Handmade by Al

FOOD TRUCKS

Tasty Tacos and Churros
Il Forno Vagabondo
Baby Cakes
Cafe Croissant
Meat Street



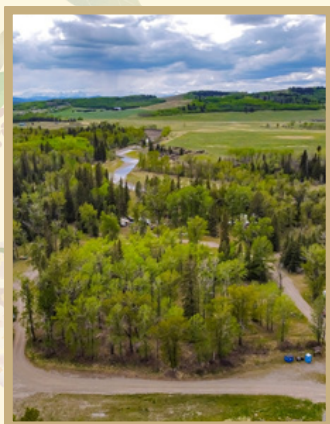


2026 MRAS Event Dates

Campground Open

May 15 - October 12

Reservations open NOW



Millarville Spring Market

Saturday May 9



Millarville Farmers' Market Every Saturday June 20 - October 10



121st Millarville Races

July 1

Ticket Sales Open April 15



119th Priddis & Millarville Fair August 15 - 16



Halloween Howl

Saturday October 24

Millarville Christmas Market November 5-8 and 12-15



Summer Events at the Racetrack



**IN ADDITION TO THE MRAS EVENTS, THERE ARE MANY
REASONS TO VISIT THE RACETRACK**

Medieval Faire - June 5-7

<https://medievalfarescanada.com/millarville-medieval-faire-join-the-revelry/>

Branch Out Bike Tour - June 13

<https://branchoutfoundation.com/bike-tour/>

Millarville Run to the Market - June 20

<https://millarvillehalfmarathon.com/>

Kinfest Music Festival - June 19-21- Ticketed

<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61586879327871>

Gran Fondo Bike Race - June 21

<https://platinumracing.ca/chinook-classic-fondo-1/>

Okotoks Pro Rodeo

<https://okotoksprorodeo.com/>

Kidney March - September 11

<https://kidneymarch.ca/>

Canadian Vintage Motorcycle Swap Meet- September 20

<https://cvmg.ca/event-6624166>

2025-2026 MRAS GENERAL MEMBERSHIPS



FAMILY \$50

INDIVIDUAL \$40

SENIOR \$30

STUDENT \$30

BENEFITS OF YOUR MEMBERSHIP:

- Free Admission to *MRAS Hosted Events* (*Canada Day Races & Christmas Market*)
- 10% discount on Campground bookings
- Access to our indoor arena and seasonal outdoor riding facilities with the purchase of a riding membership
- Event committee participation
- Eligibility to vote at MRAS AGM & in MRAS Committee meetings
- Connection with neighbours, friends and our community



GO TO:

<https://www.millarvilleracetrack.com/membership/>

EQUINE MEMBERSHIPS



2025 - 26 MEMBERSHIP PLANS

ANNUAL*

NOVEMBER – OCTOBER

FAMILY \$475

(ADDITIONAL DEPENDENT \$70)

INDIVIDUAL \$325

All year access to
Indoor Riding Arena
and Seasonal Outdoor
Rings

SEASONAL*

NOV– APR OR MAY– OCT

FAMILY \$350

(ADDITIONAL DEPENDENT \$50)

INDIVIDUAL \$225

For your Seasonal
Riding needs.

*All Equine membership plans
require a General MRAS membership

📞 403-931-3411

🌐 mras.getcommunal.com/memberships

**Renew your Seasonal Membership Now and Take
Advantage of the Outdoor Sand Ring**

KIDS & ADULT RIDING LESSONS

With Danielle Bartlett 🐾

Friday evenings: May 1, 8, 15, 22, June 5 & 12

Danielle is a certified Equestrian Instructor and holds a Licensed Coach Certification with Equestrian Canada. She has an excellent ability to communicate with all levels of riders to reach their goals. She has a background in reining, working with young horses and showing.

Any questions, please contact: lynnbrunton@gmail.com

LINDY BARRON WEEKLY LESSON SERIES

Wednesday mornings: May 6, 13, 20 & 27

These lessons are designed for the more experienced rider and horse. They have a reining foundation therefore exercises and instruction will be based on improving reining and ranch riding skills and will have a degree of difficulty.

Cost: MRAS Riding Members \$272.00

Non-riding Members \$310.00

To register or with any questions contact lynnbrunton@gmail.com

MAY DRESSAGE 3-WEEK LESSON SERIES

with Kimberly Cox

Wednesday evening groups: May 13, 20 & 27

OR

Thursday morning groups: May 14, 21 & 28

Western and English riders' welcome! Work on the fundamentals of Dressage: Fine tuning of aids; rhythm and balance through suppleness; connection and softness through transitions.

As much as possible, groups will be based on riding level of experience: introductory (no lope), Intermediate (walk, jog/trot, lope/canter with confidence) or advanced (experience with patterns and transitions at all three gaits, looking for more finesse and polish)

Cost: 2025/2026 MRAS Riding Members \$ 189.00

Non-riding Members \$ 219.00

Any questions, please contact: mras.equine@gmail.com

For more information about the activities and lessons listed and to see what is available, check the website regularly at: www.millarvilleracetrack.com Equine tab under Upcoming Events.

JUMP NIGHT FUN PRACTICE

Thursday, May 14

Small rider groups will be based on jump height (x-rails to 2'9"). The full course is 7-9 jumps. No instruction is provided. Prior jumping experience highly recommended. Ride at your own risk. No first aid on site. Trainers are welcome but must stay out of riding area.

Jumping tack is preferred. Dressage saddles are not recommended and NO western saddles are allowed. Heeled riding boots and properly fitted helmets are MANDATORY for all riders.

Cost: Current MRAS Riding Members \$25.00
 Non-riding Members \$35.00

This is a non-refundable program.

Contact: mras.equine@gmail.com to register.

EASE OF HANDLING (EOH) OBSTACLES PRACTICE

Saturday, May 16, Morning and Afternoon Groups

Working Equitation is a growing sport in the horse world for both western and english riders. Typically Ease of Handling is Day 2 of any multi-day Working Equitation competition. If you are already competing and need some more practice time or are interested in trying something new, please join us.

An EOH course will be set up (10-11 obstacles), participants will have practice time and then an opportunity to ride the course as you would in a show.

Cost: Current 2025/26 MRAS Riding Members \$30.00
 Non-riding Members \$40.00

This is a non-refundable program.

Questions or to register contact nseaman002@gmail.com

WORKING EQUITATION 2-DAY CLINIC WITH ANNA PETROVA

May 30 & 31

Anna Petrova has been operating in the equine industry for nearly 18 years. Her diverse background, which includes cutting, reined cow-horse, show jumping, and working equitation, has allowed her to develop a distinct and effective system of training versatile horses and developing effective riders. Anna strives to understand the unique needs of each rider and horse and give them the information that allows them to progress, no matter which stage of training or experience they are at.

Clinic Format:

Day 1 – Dressage; Day 2 – Ease of Handling (EOH) Obstacles

Four groups per day; 3 riders per group.

WORKING EQUITATION 2-DAY CLINIC WITH ANNA PETROVA cont'd

Clinic Cost: Current 2025/26 MRAS Riding Members \$360.00; Priority registration until April 24th
Non-riding members \$420.00

(If your membership is not current at the time of the clinic, the non-riding member price will apply)

50% deposit required upon registration

Balance due May 15th

Audit Fee:

Auditors must register and payment required prior to the clinic. No cash on-site.

Current MRAS Riding Members \$30.00

Non-riding members \$40.00

Email MRAS.equine@gmail.com with any questions and to register. Payment details will be forwarded once registration has been confirmed. Please provide your level of experience or group time preference, we will do our best to accommodate your request.

AQHA PATTERN PRACTICE

Back for the summer, the first practice will be June 7th. Registration will open mid May.

This fun activity starts with rail work and then riders will execute one or two AQHA Ranch Ride patterns.

Activity Coordinator - Lynn Brunton lynnbrunton@gmail.com Watch for the MRAS Equine Email.

2-DAY REINING CLINIC

With Danielle Bartlett 

Saturday, June 13 & Sunday, June 14

ADVANCE AND REFINE YOUR SKILLS IN THIS TWO-DAY CLINIC.

If you would like to improve your reining skills this is the perfect clinic to do that! Circles, speed control, spins, run downs, stops will all be addressed. Then riders will put it all together into a reining pattern. Participants will ride twice a day for two days in a group of 4 to 5 riders.

Many people have ridden with Danielle; however, if you are new to her she is a Certified Equestrian Canada Instructor and holds a Licenced Coach Certification with Equestrian Canada. She is a passionate Reiner and has a keen eye identifying areas where improvement can be made. She is a pleasure to ride with and her students are always extremely happy with the progress they make in her lessons.

Cost: Current 2025/26 MRAS Riding Members \$310.00

Non-riding Members \$360.00

Audit Fee - Preregistration Only: MRAS Riding Members \$25.00

Non-riding Members \$35.00

Any questions, please contact: lynnbrunton@gmail.com

SHEEP CREEK WEAVERS

Fiftieth Anniversary Project #1

Loose Ends: Telling Stories with our Hands



From Concept to Conclusion; this project took a year to complete (February 2025-January 2026).

A knitted wallhanging was made by 8 women who met once a month at the Sheep River Library in Turner Valley (now part of Diamond Valley) for about 2 hours. Some worked on their panels at that time, and then completed them at home or elsewhere, while juggling a multitude of activities that made up their lives. Their ages ranged from between 50 and 85; and they came from Calgary, Millarville, Turner Valley + Black Diamond (now Diamond Valley), Okotoks, and High River.

The inspiration came from the natural beauty found across Canada, within Alberta, and in our own backyards. The brief was to use the colours indigo and amber somewhere in their pieces to represent wide open Prairie skies and wheat fields; waterways we are familiar with - the Bow, Elbow, Sheep and Highwood Rivers, and Three Point Creek; and vegetation that showed seasonal colours. We were to use the linen stitch to make the background panels for its tight weave, to give the wallhanging strength to hold embellishments and have a firm structure. Each person made what they wanted to - some made 1 panel, and others made up to 3 or more, depending on how much time they had to devote to the project.

Once completed, the pieces were gathered up and one person added more panels to make a rectangle shape, i-chord for visual movement, then sewed it all together using whipstitch, and knit whatever was missing.

What to title our creation took a lot of discussion. We considered that titles for art don't have to be literally interpreted. We all see something different, and others will also. No, it's not a tapestry, but knitting is a form of weaving - in, out, over, under - to form a fabric. And a wallhanging does lie flat against a wall; same as a tapestry. "**Loose Ends**" denotes something that was unfinished and is now completed.

Since this is a collaboration and many styles, methods and techniques are represented, the name tapestry could apply. Tales or Yarns or Stories refer to the same thing - what people do when they gather together - they tell each other stories - about their craft, families, and lives. Also, we meet in a library where we're surrounded by books that do the same thing."

There was much humour that ensued whenever we got together. One person suggested we should estimate how many stitches went into this project. It was knit 'one stitch at a time' by many hands. Our rough estimate is 100,000 stitches (give or take 1,000). Let's just say -- there were a lot!





MILLARVILLE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Travelling Doctor Thomas Macklin

Written by Louise Patterson Bruns – Millarville Historical Society Director

Dr. Thomas Thornton Macklin and his son Hugh came to the Millarville area in 1921 from Scotland and took up the homestead of entomologist Frederick Wolley Dod, 3-22-2W5. Mr. Dod had built the beautiful 2 storey Edwardian house in 1912, then went off to war in 1917. Sadly he died of dysentery in Macedonia in 1919.

Dr. Macklin and Hugh bought the Dod homestead with the house and barns. Dr. Macklin soon became the family doctor in the Foothills, riding his horse to visit his patients in the area. Dr. Macklin's wife Janet Hepburne Macklin and his son Dr. Alexander Macklin joined him here in 1922 for a couple of years.



Dr TT Macklin



Macklin House



Janet Macklin

Dr. TT Macklin loved the Foothills, and stayed here until his death in 1931. He was packed to go back to Scotland, but sadly didn't make it. My dad, Art Patterson, 17, was his last patient. Art had mangled his finger in the hammer mill and rode down the road to Dr. Macklin for treatment. Dr. Macklin died later that day.

This portable secretary was his personal 'laptop' of the time. It held pens, paper, envelopes and stamps so he could correspond during his travels. The portable secretary and the photos were given to the Millarville Historical Society by Alec and Anne Macklin. Alec grew up at the homestead. They currently reside in Innisfail, AB.

The Millarville Historical Society is looking forward to displaying this incredible artifact and others from our area very soon at the Millarville Racetrack. Look forward to more news next month.



Read more historical articles on [Facebook - Millarville Historical Society](#) or email us millarvillehistoricalsociety@gmail.com if you have photos, information, or questions.

Check out our website: millarvillehistoricalsociety.ca

Christ Church, Millarville

130th Anniversary - May 1896-2026

On May 6th, 1896, the first rector of Christ Church, the Reverend R. Murray Webb-Peplow, conducted the first service at the newly erected Anglican Church in Millarville, NWT. (It would be another 9 years before the province of Alberta was established.) He had come from England 2 years previously in search of an outdoor life, and he found it in the beautiful foothills of the Rocky Mountains.



The Reverend had recognized the need for an Anglican Church in the Millarville area, so he took on the responsibility of constructing the unique church that still stands today. It was built of spruce logs placed in an upright position. There was concern that the structure would not withstand the strong winds, so the contractor, Mr. Charles Shack, agreed not to receive payment until the building had been standing for 3 months. 130 years later it still stands, and its bell, a gift from the Hudson's Bay Company, after it was unearthed during the construction of their building in downtown Calgary, still rings each Sunday morning to summon worshippers to service.

In 1926, the parishioners were alarmed to see that the unpeeled logs were being destroyed by wood-boring insects. The remedy: peel the logs and preserve them with applications of solignum. Today, the work of the insects is still visible in the form of exquisite tracings covering the logs surface.

The pulpits and the communion table are made of small spruce logs. Hand woven kneeling mats in front of the altar rail came from England, a gift of the family of Charles Douglas, one of the members who assisted in the building of the church. The Bishop's chair in the chancel was a gift in memory of old time Millarville residents, Joseph and Elizabeth Deanne-Freeman, from their sons and daughters. The stain glass east window behind the altar is a copy of Holman Hunt's "In the Light of the World". It was donated in memory of William de Vere Hunt, a trooper in the Lord Strathcona's Horse, who lost his life in Pretoria on November 14, 1900.

On Saturday, September 26, 1920, a portion of the churchyard was consecrated as a burial ground by the Right Reverend Cyprion Pinkham. At this time a war memorial was unveiled by Brig. G.H. Bell, C.M.G,D.S.O. Engraved on a plaque were the names of those from the Millarville district who lost their lives in World War One. In the summer of 1998, the column was replaced with a large natural stone from the area to which the original plaque was attached.

On Sunday, May 10th, a service of commemoration and celebration will be held at Christ Church, led by our current rector, the Venerable Alan Getty. The service will reach back to the past and echo the voices of the original parishioners both in song and prayer by using the 1662 Book of Common Prayer which is still the official prayer book of the Church of England and would have been the book used on that wonderful day in 1896 when the first members of Christ Church, Millarville worshipped in their unique church.

Everyone is most welcome to join us at the little log church on the hill at 10:30 on Sunday, May 10th to celebrate the 130th anniversary of Christ Church. A reception will follow at the Church House.



Meetings are held on the second Tuesday of the month, September to May, at 7:00 p.m. The meetings are held at the Millarville Anglican Church House on Hwy 549.

Our next meeting is May 12, 2026 at 7 pm. New members always welcome at our upcoming meetings.

Our flower fundraiser is open for purchases online. Check the Millarville Horticultural Club website for details. Locally grown plants and baskets are offered with a percentage of the purchase price donated to the Club. Flower fundraiser pick up will be Tuesday May 12 between 3:00pm and 6:00pm at the Millarville Racetrack grandstand. Last year the baskets and plants were spectacular!

Thursday June 4, 2026, 7:00pm will be our famous plant sale at the Millarville Racetrack quonset. Members dig up and donate locally grown plant material. Hardy perennials, annuals, shrubs, trees, annuals, herbs and vegetables are all available for purchase. Come early as the sale is over in half an hour. There will be door prizes drawn at 6:50pm.

If you are interested in attending any of our presentations, please contact Louise Patterson Bruns at louispattersonbruns@gmail.com or at millarvillehorticulturalclub@gmail.com. Whether you are a novice or expert in landscaping or gardening, join our club; \$15/year for singles or \$20/year for a family. Check us out on [Facebook](#) as well .

<http://millarvillehortclub.com>





FLOWER FUNDRAISER

2026



ORDERS ARE OPEN April 22 To May 9

Click to Order Online at: [GreenhouseEffects](https://greenhouseeffects.ca/fundraising-program)

greenhouseeffects.ca/fundraising-program

Guest Password: GE126

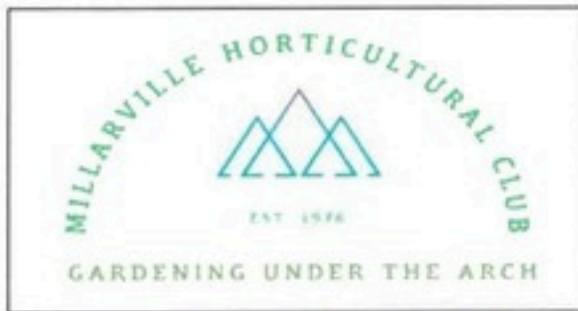
Group Code: Hort26

**For detailed instructions to order & pay online,
please click [Millarville Hort Club](#)**

Call Jan at 403.703.4133 or Deb at 403.701.7680 if you're stuck

**Flower Pickup will be May 12th 4 – 6 pm at the Millarville Racetrack
(you will be contacted ahead of delivery with details)**

**Thanks to our local 'Greenhouse Effects family, our Hort Club will
receive a percentage of all sales, so share far & wide, please!**



Millarville Horticultural Club's

<https://www.millarvillehortclub.com/>

Annual Plant Sale

Thursday June 4th, 2026

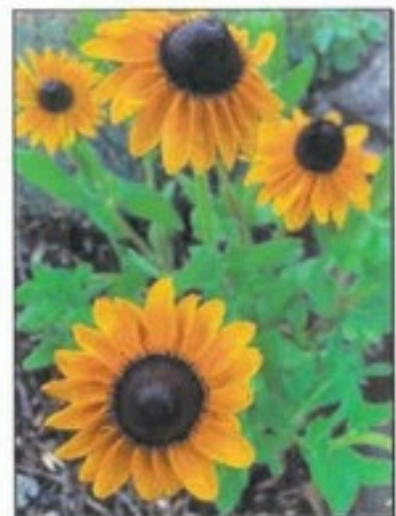
In the Quonset at the Millarville Racetrack 7:00 pm to 7:45 pm

Very reasonable prices: all plant material is from our local
Horticultural members.

Perennials,
annuals,
vegetables,
house plants, trees,
fruit shrubs,
surprises galore...



CASH ONLY!!!



Plant Donations: Please drop off on Thursday, June 4th from 3-6pm Thank you in advance!

Contact Glenda Bruder at 403-620-5509 for more info

Follow us on 



Did you know?

WE HAVE

100,000+
VISITORS YEAR-ROUND

June 20th *to* Oct 10th, 2026



**FARMERS'
MARKETS**

150 *weekly*
VENDORS



CAMPGROUND

May 16th *to* Oct 12th, 2026

CANADA DAY
RACES



121
years
OF
HISTORY



PRIDDIS MILLARVILLE

FAIR

Aug 15-16, 2026

Nov 5-8th *and* 12-15th, 2026

**CHRISTMAS
MARKETS**

250+ VENDORS



millarvilleracetrack.com

