



BERRYVILLE, VA (Sept. 14, 2022) Throughout 2023, Berryville – and by extension Clarke County – will celebrate the Town’s 225th anniversary with special events, programs, and exhibits that highlight the past, present, and future of the community.

Before the Town of Berryville was chartered on Jan. 15, 1798, it was a colonial crossroads settlement established in 1775 and known as Battletown. Berryville expanded in the early 1800s following the construction of turnpikes linking the town to trade between Winchester and Alexandria. When the General Assembly formed Clarke County from Frederick County in March 1836, Berryville was chosen as the seat of government, further expanding the prosperity and importance of the little town.

Earlier this year, a Berryville 225th Anniversary Committee formed, and the group began planning for the Town’s milestone year. The goals in 2023 are to celebrate Berryville, share its history, and invite the community to special events, beginning with a “Berryville Celebrates” Anniversary Kick-Off on the Town’s birthday: Jan. 15.

Next year’s events also include a “Berryville Celebrates” parade on June 3. School children, clubs, neighborhood groups, bands, fire and rescue squads, and non-profit organizations are encouraged to participate with floats, decorated vehicles, or walking units. Berryville themes are encouraged, and prizes will be awarded.

There will be a series of history lectures, a community art show, and exhibit of Berryville memorabilia at the Barns of Rose Hill.

Residents will be asked to lend old photos and objects related to Berryville for the history exhibit, and share their original artwork depicting Berryville and Clarke County for the show.

Berryville's celebration actually begins on Saturday, Oct. 8, 2022, when the Barns of Rose Hill hosts the Yesterday Swing Orchestra, local musicians who perform Big Band music from the 1930s, '40s, and '50s, for an afternoon concert at 4 p.m. and swing dance at 7 p.m. Find details and order tickets at [barnsofrosehills.org](http://barnsofrosehills.org).

Both the concert and dance raise funds for "Berryville Celebrates" 225th anniversary events in 2023.

The Apple Valley Needle Threaders, a local quilting group, are also working on a fundraising project. Raffle tickets will be sold throughout 2023 for a beautiful Berryville-themed quilt the group is creating.

Other special anniversary items will be distributed, either free or for a nominal cost, including a limited edition commemorative silver coin.

The Berryville 225th Anniversary Committee needs help from the community, too. Big events will need many volunteers in addition to participants and spectators.

At its first meeting in February 2022, committee chair John Hudson was clear about next year's goal. "We want to create a yearlong celebration in Clarke County that is focused on the rich history of Berryville, Virginia."

For information about Berryville's 225th anniversary and related events, follow "Berryville Celebrates" on Facebook, or send email to [Berryville1798@gmail.com](mailto:Berryville1798@gmail.com).

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Reporters should direct questions to Berryville Mayor Jay Arnold at (540) 955-8414 or [mayorarnold@berryvilleva.gov](mailto:mayorarnold@berryvilleva.gov).

The Berryville 225th Anniversary Committee is chair John Hudson (Bank of Clarke County Foundation director), Kara Rodriguez (Town Council, Ward 4), Christy Dunkle (Town Community Development Director), Sarah Ames (Barns of Rose Hill executive director), Michelle Marino (Berryville Main Street president), Sharon Parrish (community member), and Cathy Kuehner (Clarke County public information officer).