NORTHVILLE PUBLIC SCHOOLS
3RD GRADERS PROGRAM
Downtown Northville and Mill Race Village 9:00am – 12:00pm

COMMUNITY NON-PROFIT BOOTH ACTIVITIES & VILLAGE CRAFT VENDORS, E. Main  5:00pm – 9:00pm

STREET ENTERTAINMENT
Children’s Pedal Cars, E. Main  5:00pm – 9:00pm

COMMUNITY FINANCIAL KIDS’ ZONE
W. Main  5:00pm – 10:00pm

HERITAGE FESTIVAL SALOON
Located Behind City Hall
Saloons Features:
Shawn Riley Band 7:00pm – 10:30pm
The Mean Weenie Food Truck 5:30 – 10:00pm

VICTORIAN PARADE
Sponsored by Ascension Providence
6:30pm

KIWANIS PANCAKE BREAKFAST
Heritage Festival Saloon
8:00am – 11:00am

THE BEAUMONT FITNESS STAGE
Townsquare
8:00am – 2:00pm

PAINTING WITH PAWS, Art House
9:30am – 12:30pm

COMMUNITY NON-PROFIT BOOTH ACTIVITIES & VILLAGE CRAFT VENDORS
10:00am – 6:00pm

HISTORY HIKE, Maybury State Park
10:00am

COMMUNITY FINANCIAL KIDS’ ZONE
W. Main
11:00am – 10:00pm

LIONS KID SIGHT TRAILER, N. Center
10:00am – 6:00pm

STREET ENTERTAINMENT
Children's Pedal Cars, E. Main
10:00am – 6:00pm

DIA Art Booth, N. Center
11:00am – 6:00pm

Horse & Carriage Rides (Free), W. Main & Wing St
Noon – 3:00pm

Duck Duck Donkey Petting Farm, N. Center
Stiltwalker
Noon – 5:00pm
2:00pm – 6:00pm

VARSITY LINCOLN FESTIVAL STAGE, Main and Center
Eugene Clark - Comedy Magic Show 11:00am – 11:45am
Punch & Judy Puppet Show Noon – 12:45pm
Amazing Clark Comedy Magic 1:00pm – 1:45pm
Tipitop Entertainment 2:00pm – 2:45pm

STREET ENTERTAINMENT
Stiltwalker
10:00am – 1:30pm
Children's Pedal Cars, E. Main
10:00am – 3:00pm
Comedy Juggler
10:30am – 11:30am
DIA Art Booth, N. Center
11:00am – 3:00pm
Comedy Juggling Show Noon – 3:00pm
Tipitop Entertainment 1:30pm – 2:30pm

BEAUMONT FESTIVAL STAGE, Townsquare
Henry & Friends Interactive Presentation 1:00pm – 2:00pm

MILL RACE VILLAGE/FORD FIELD
Village Buildings Open & Duck Race
11:00am – 3:30pm

Duck Race Ticket Sales
12:30pm – 5:00pm
Eclipse Vintage Baseball Game
1:00pm
Duck Race Opening Ceremony & Declaration of Northville History Month
3:00pm

Duck Race
3:30pm
A celebration of Northville’s history has been the essence of our Heritage Festival since the event’s inception three decades ago. And what a history it is!

From the pioneers who traversed unchartered territory nearly two centuries ago to the industrial-era mavericks who made our community one of the largest manufacturing areas in Wayne County, Northville’s first 100 years were marked by extraordinary growth and change.

The 20th century saw Northville men and women off to two world wars and a herculean effort on the home front. Northville Township became a hub for state-of-the-art institutions such as Maybury Sanatorium and the Wayne County Training School. Village residents voted for City incorporation in 1955, and approved an unprecedented downtown improvement plan in 1978.

The 21st century has brought change and opportunity to enhance our community and recommit to our historical roots.

In addition to celebrating Northville’s historical milestones, we also recognize the people who shaped our community. Last year marked the inaugural presentation of History Makers, honoring Northville’s most notable influencers. Look for downtown banners celebrating Francis R. Beal, Dr. Mary E. Lapham and David Clarkson. You’ll also find their stories here. Join us in celebrating Northville’s rich history!

David Clarkson, a Northville History Maker

David Clarkson was born on March 13, 1817 in Somerset County, New Jersey, but moved at the age of three with his family to Ovid, Seneca County, New York. His mother died on March 12, 1824, just a day before David’s 7th birthday. His father remarried later that year.

David’s father died in 1830, and the following spring, at the age of 14, David left his five siblings and stepmother to journey to Michigan with the Capt. William Dunlap party. William and Sarah Dunlap, having adopted David, brought him along to help clear the wilderness. They traveled to Buffalo on the Erie Canal aboard the canal boat Shark and then across Lake Erie on the steamboat New York before arriving in Detroit.

In a series of pioneer sketches published in The Northville Record from 1874 to 1878, Clarkson described the journey to Northville. “The streets of Detroit were one continual mud hole, and the roads through the country were worse if possible.” The trek from Detroit to the edge of Plymouth Township (which would become Northville) was heavily wooded, muddy marsh. It would take three days to travel approximately 30 miles.

Clarkson labored at clearing the land, building cabins, hauling goods by ox team to and from Detroit, and grinding grain at John Miller’s gristmill — Northville’s first gristmill and the catalyst for much of the community’s growth in its early years.

In 1844 Clarkson married Sarah Ann Bradley, the daughter of Northville pioneers Harvey Stone and Maria Rose Bradley. David and Sarah had seven children, all born in Northville.

Clarkson would become one of Northville’s most prominent citizens. He was a founding member of the New School Church (now located in Mill Race Village), and a Northville school board trustee. Clarkson held the title of school director in 1859 when it was decided that the village needed to construct a larger school building than the former New School Church structure which had been converted to a school after the church disbanded in 1849.

After years of preparation and fundraising, the Northville Union School opened on September 4, 1865 with Clarkson serving as a school board member and treasurer.

In addition to his community service, Clarkson’s pioneer sketches in The Northville Record, a rare first-hand account and invaluable record of Northville’s early history, are perhaps his most lasting contribution.

David Clarkson died on August 20, 1880 at the age of 63. He is buried in Oakwood Cemetery.