Clarke County Economic Development Advisory Committee



March 20, 2024 Regular Meeting Packet



County of Clarke

Economic Development Advisory Committee

Bev McKay, Christina Kraybill, Christy Dunkle, Elizabeth Pritchard, John Milleson, Mark Gribble, Christian Borel

Agenda

1:00 pm, Wednesday, March 20, 2024

Main Meeting Room Berryville-Clarke County Government Center 101 Chalmers Court, 2nd Floor, Berryville, Virginia

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Call to Order

Adoption of Agenda

Approval of Minutes

January 17, 2024 Organizational Meeting

Economic Development Advisory Committee

January 17th, 2024 Organizational Meeting 1:00 pm

At an Organizational meeting of the Economic Development Advisory Committee held on Wednesday, January 17, 2024, at 1:00 pm in the Main Meeting Room, Berryville-Clarke County Government Center, 101 Chalmers Court, 2nd Floor, Berryville, Virginia.

Members Present: Christy Dunkle, John Milleson, Bev McKay, Mark Gribble, Christian Borel

Members Absent: Christina Kraybill, Betsy Pritchard
Staff Present: Michelle Ridings Brown, Indea Ford

Others Present: Kelli Weaver, Rebecca Barnes, Connie Hutchinson

Press Present: Mickey Powell

1. Call to Order

At 1:05pm, Chairman Milleson called the meeting to order.

2. Organizational items

Elect 2024 Chair
 Michelle Ridings Brown called for nominations and election of the 2024 Chair

Christy Dunkle made a motion, seconded by Bev McKay, to nominate and elect John Milleson as 2024 Chair. The motion carried by the following vote:

Christian Borel - Aye
Christy Dunkle - Aye
Mark Gribble - Aye
Christina Kraybill - Absent
Bev McKay - Aye
John Milleson - Aye
Betsy Pritchard - Absent

- Elect 2024 Vice-Chair

Chairman Milleson called for nomination and election of 2023 Vice Chair

Christy Dunkle made a motion, seconded by Bev McKay, to nominate and elect Mark Gribble as 2024 Vice Chair. The motion carried by the following vote:

Christian Borel - Aye
Christy Dunkle - Aye
Mark Gribble - Aye
Christina Kraybill - Absent

Bev McKay - Aye
John Milleson - Aye
Betsy Pritchard - Absent

Set Meeting Dates, Time, and Location

Third Wednesday at 1:00pm, Berryville-Clarke County Government Center Main Meeting Room:

- o January 17, 2024 Organizational Meeting
- o March 20, 2024
- o April 17, 2024 Spring Tour
- o May 15, 2024
- o July 17, 2024
- o September 18, 2024
- o October 16, 2024 Fall Tour
- o November 20, 2024
- o January 15, 2025 Organizational Meeting

By consensus, the Committee Members adopted the meeting schedule as presented.

3. Adoption of Agenda

Christy Dunkle made a motion, seconded by Mark Gribble, to adopt the agenda as presented. The motion carried by the following vote:

Christian Borel - Aye
Christy Dunkle - Aye
Mark Gribble - Aye
Christina Kraybill - Absent
Bev McKay - Aye
John Milleson - Aye
Betsy Pritchard - Absent

4. Approval of Minutes

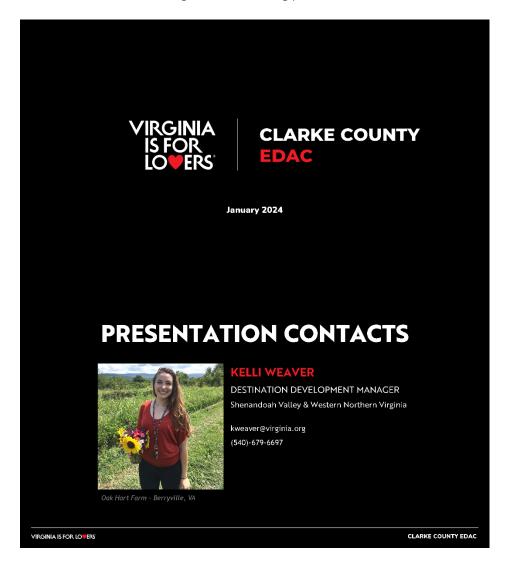
September 20, 2023 – Regular Meeting

Mark Gribble made a motion, seconded by Bev McKay, to approve the minutes of the September 20, 2023, Regular Meeting as presented. The motion carried by the following vote:

Christian Borel - Aye
Christy Dunkle - Aye
Mark Gribble - Aye
Christina Kraybill - Absent
Bev McKay - Aye
John Milleson - Aye
Betsy Pritchard - Absent

5. Virginia Tourism Corporation – Kelli Weaver

Kelli Weaver gave the following presentation:





TOURISM IS AN ECONOMIC DRIVER

VIRGINIA'S TOURISM INDUSTRY GENERATED \$30.3B IN VISITOR SPENDING IN 2022, A 20.3% INCREASE FROM 2021.

\$880 in tax collections offset for every Virginia household

270.7K jobs \$8.6B labor income (+16%) \$2.2B state and local tax revenue (+19.1%)

ECONOMIC IMPACT CLARKE COUNTY, VA

https://vatc.org/research/

DIRECT IMPACT

\$3.1M - Lodging \$3.2M - Food & Beverage

\$4.1M - Retail

\$1.2M - Recreation

\$4.3M - Transportation

\$15.8M TOTAL DIRECT SPENDING

Increase of 5.6% since 2021

Source: Tourism Economics

EMPLOYMENT & REVENUE

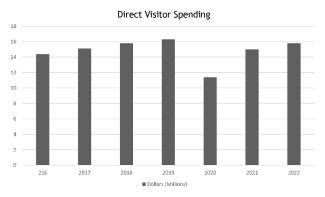
\$3.9M - Labor Income \$400K - State Taxes \$700K - Local Taxes

211 - Employment

VIRGINIA IS FOR LOVERS

ECONOMIC IMPACT CLARKE COUNTY, VA

https://vatc.org/research/

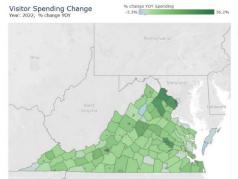


Source: Tourism Economics

VIRGINIA IS FOR LOWERS

VISITOR SPENDING CHANGES CLARKE COUNTY, VA

https://vatc.org/research/



SPENDING CHANGES

- · Year: 2022, % Change YOY
- Increase of 5.6%

Source: Tourism Economics

VIRGINIA IS FOR LOWERS



ECONOMIC IMPACT AG + AGRITOURISM

The economic impact of non-local visitors (50+ miles) on Virginia agritourism venues is estimated at \$1.0B.

- Spend \$34.74 at agritourism venues (\$21.65)
- Spend \$45.52 at wineries, breweries (\$24.88)
- Patron hotels/motels (\$225.2M), off-farm food service establishments (\$223.6M), and entertainment venues

Source: Virginia Tech (2015)

STRATEGIC MARKETING



IRGINIA IS FOR LOWER

CLARKE COUNTY EDAC



LEVERAGE RESOURCES FOR STRATEGIC MARKETING

ENRICHED TRAVELER

Virginia's core audience seeks to be enriched through travel. They want to learn, experience, and create memories visiting a variety of attractions and destinations.

TARGET MARKETS

VTC has strategically pursued visitors from high value, good value, and exploratory target markets.

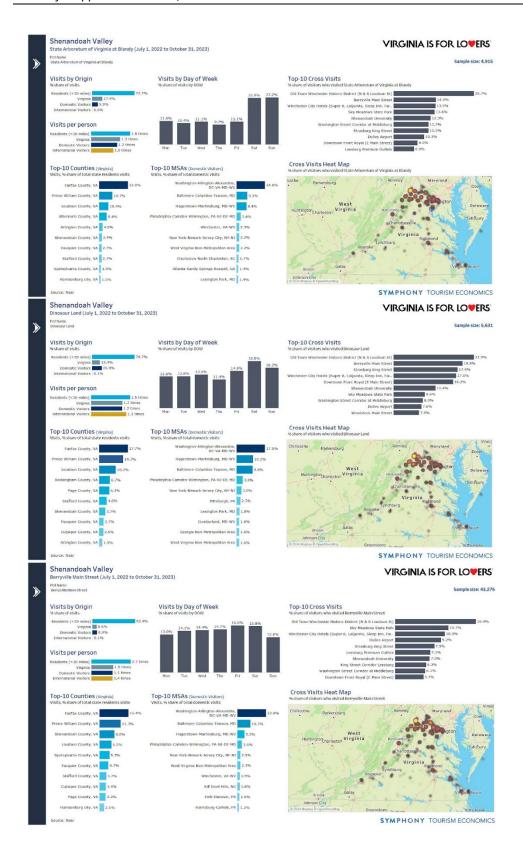
VIRGINIA IS FOR LOWERS

GET CONNECTED WITH BRANDING

https://vatc.org/advertising/brandinitiatves/

BENEFIT: Gain recognition and grow awareness in new and existing markets **MESSAGING:** Virginia is for...





MAXIMIZE EFFORTS WITH MARKETING RESOURCES

- · Industry Advertising Co-Op Programs
- · Virginia Welcome Centers
- · Public Relations team, Press Hits
- · Travel Data and Profiles
- · Groups, meetings and sports markets
- · Content calendar





GRANTS & FUNDING **RESOURCES**

2024 GRANTS CALENDAR

- · Marketing Leverage February 2024
- · Special Events and Festivals February 2024
- Microbusiness MLP June 2024

MARKETING LEVERAGE PROGRAM

ELIGIBILITY: DMO's, lodging, attractions, businesses, etc. AMOUNT: \$20,000 (1:1 match), \$50,000 (2:1 match)

- Reimbursable grant program designed to leverage marketing funds
- Requires a research-based and measurable marketing plan

VIRGINIA IS FOR LOVERS

DESTINATION DEVELOPMENT



IRGINIA IS FOR LOWERS

CLARKE COUNTY EDAC



DRIVE 2.0

2020-2025 STRATEGIC TOURISM PLAN REGIONAL PLAN: SHENANDOAH VALLEY

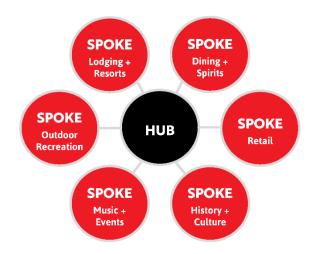
This strategic plan is a result of conversations with Virginia's tourism industry and tourism partners as we look to the future and plan for success. It focuses on answering two key questions:

- · What should we be promoting?
- · What should we be building?

OPPORTUNITIES FOR GROWTH

Outdoor Recreation Agritourism Arts and Music

Women Travelers
History and Heritage



MAXIMIZE YOUR POTENTIAL: HUB & SPOKE

Bundle and package enticing experiences to increase the appeal of your destination's attractions and offerings

Results in an increase in average spending and overnight stays

Makes your destination competitive

VIRGINIA IS FOR LOWERS



ATTRACT AND RETAIN THROUGH TOURISM ZONES

ABOUT

- · May apply to existing or new tourism-related businesses
- · Contain requirements and benefits
- · Passed by local ordinance

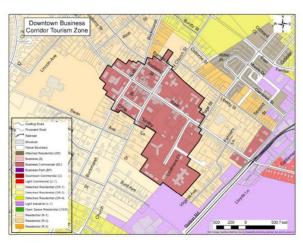
BENEFITS

- Offer tax incentives and provide regulatory flexibility
- Stimulate business attraction, growth, and increased employment opportunities

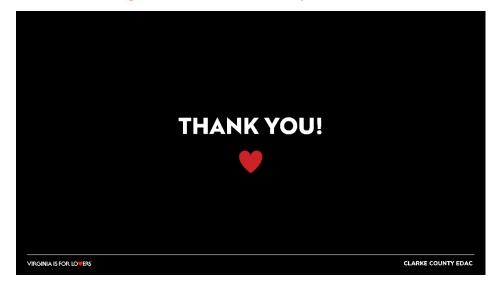
VIRGINIA IS FOR LOWERS



VIRGINIA IS FOR LOWERS



50 Downtown Business Tourism Zone | October 2016



6. Imagine Design & Marketing – Rebecca Barnes and Connie Hutchinson

- Out of 58 vendor RFP submissions, Imagine Design & Marketing were selected to design the new tourism brand and build a new tourism website for Clarke County.
- Imagine Design & Marketing gave an introduction and creative brief presentation.
- A Clarke County SWOT analysis was reviewed.
- Stakeholder questionnaires were provided to committee members and need to be completed and emailed to Michelle by January 30.

7. Economic Development and Tourism Update by Michelle Ridings Brown

Michelle Ridings Brown provided the following update:

- Restaurant Week will be March 18-23, 2024; there are 14 Clarke County food establishments participating, offering specials and discounts during that week. We have done several photoshoots for the participating establishments and will be doing a paid social media campaign. Table tent cards and window clings will be ordered for the establishments to display.
 - o Chairman Milleson asked if all Clarke County restaurants were approached to participate.
 - Michelle Ridings Brown responded yes, but some opted out.
- The Winter Itinerary and Holiday Gift Guide flipbooks did well and increased social media followers.
- The Employer Expo will be May 8 at Shenandoah University. We will be collaborating with Frederick County and Winchester. Employers can do on site interviews and applications with attendees they wish to hire.
- The Widget Cup will be April 11 at Millwood High School. It is an annual competition for high school teams drawn from students attending public schools in Frederick County, Clarke County, and Winchester, Virginia. Participating students solve a real-life business problem for a local employer by using skills acquired through Career and Technical Education (CTE) and Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) courses.
- The Northern Shenandoah Valley Coalition is a workforce regional program that we are working on alongside Frederick County and Winchester. We will be hiring a social media person and looking at a website redesign. This helps to attract regional workforce talent and encourage people to relocate.
- The Love Local campaign will launch on February 1. It is going to be a brand that we use to encourage people to buy local. We are going to use this launch to promote Valentine's Day in Clarke County, with an online flipbook romantic getaway and \$250 social media spend.
- Anybody that needs to complete a conflict of interest form, they need to be turned in by February 1; otherwise there will be a \$250 penalty fee.
- Chairman Milleson asked Bev McKay if there is a replacement lined up for the open EDAC committee seat.
 - o Bev McKay responded that Doug Lawrence is trying to find a candidate.

8. Next Meeting

March 20, 2024 – Regular Meeting

9. Adjourn

- Chairman Milleson adjourned the meeting at 3:11pm

Minutes Recorded and Transcribed by Indea G. Ford

Imagine Design & Marketing – Rebecca Barnes and Connie Hutchinson

Clarke County Stakeholder Survey Results

Respondents:

TwistedOakFarmBrewery.com

Loanoaktavern.com

Wildharecider.com

Sweetelephantbakeshop.com

Havenwoodfarm.com

Watermelonpark.com

Laubergeprovencale.com

Brazensheep.com

LockesMillGrains.com

Phmillerstudio.com

Clarkehistory.org

Mackintosh Fruit Farm

Unique Creations studio

Veramar Vineyard

Family Antiques

Twin Oaks Tavern Winery

Supervisor Bev McKay

Michelle Brown

Summary of Survey Responses: (answers in blue)

1. Objectives of the new site:

New customers. Local and greater than 30 miles away. Visitor experiences all in one place. Promotion of farms. Bring families and people of all ages from DC area. Encourage more Main Street shopping. Encourage the government to understand the need for more retail businesses.

2. Primary targets/customers:

Greater than 30 miles away. NOVA, DC, MD, NC, WV, and surrounding Counties. Casual diners. Beer enthusiasts. Campers & tubers. Day-trippers from metro DC. Fresh produce lovers. Wine enthusiasts. Romantic weekend getaway seekers. People who want to chill and enjoy our beautiful scenery. People who want a Christmas Tree experience. Handmade item shoppers. Art supporters and crafters. History lovers.

3. Unique selling points:

Spectacular views of Shenandoah Valley. Glorious sunsets. Healthy, wholesome outdoor experiences. Agritourism. Land preservation focus. Incredible natural beauty. Our history, i.e. Appalachian Trail, Shenandoah River, Historic Mills. Natural and Green. Ecotourism. U-pic opportunities.

4. What should be featured on the Tourism Site:

Outdoor activities, History, Calendar of Events, Dining, Agritourism (Farms, Orchards, and Wineries), Shopping, Arts & Culture, and Lodging.

5. What should the Home Page show:

Images and videos of attractions, landscapes, activities, and experiences to immediately captivate visitors. Escape to the Country. Small town atmosphere. Relax & Unplug. Things to do. Farm experiences. Outdoor recreation. Our History. Genuine, friendly People. Events. A Trail guide. Unique shops. Unique lodging. Maps.

6. Other information to include:

Business photos. Clean, intuitive layout. Insider Tips & Recommendations. Virtual tours. Entertainment. Car show. White Post Antique Restorations. Trip-planning. Links to other area tourism sites. Blandy, Long Branch, Clermont, The Barns, Cool Spring Battlefield area, Dinosaur Land, Josephine City Museum, Boyce train station, Fairs, the Monastery and its gift shop, our Churches, Breweries and Cideries. Places to put-in on the River.

Logo Draft 1.1 Logotype Reversed







Logo Draft 2.1 Logotype Reversed







Client: Clake County

Date: March 12th, 2024

Project: Clarke County Logo

Submittal: First

Logo Draft 3.1 Logotype Reversed







Clarke County BRANDING proposal

Overall Theme == **Timeless**, **Natural Beauty**

Focuses on nature, the outdoors, and scenic beauty that is not going to change.

Invitations to visit.

- "Come to CLARKE COUNTY and feel the AHHH...."
- "Visit CLARKE COUNTY and Calm your Soul"
- "Explore CLARKE COUNTY and Connect with Nature"
- "Take Time to Visit CLARKE COUNTY and see its Timeless, Natural Beauty"

Potential tagline:

CLARKE COUNTY It's about time

Based on the theme of 'Timeless, Natural Beauty', as well as evidence of Paleo-Indian civilization of the area below Bear's Den Rocks in Clarke County more than 12,000 years ago (i.e. 10,000 B.C.); https://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2014/may/10/stone-circles-found-on-virginia-property/ Clarke County's unique 'claim to fame' is about time. This tagline works well with a logo featuring a sundial, pocket watch or post clock. Images of 'time' that all harken back to past, simpler times. Sundials at each local farm and in open areas of downtown & parks could be featured 'selfie spots' surrounded by wine barrels, flowers, pumpkins, etc. A town post clock could be placed in a prominent location in downtown Berryville. Customized pocket watches could be sold in local stores with, "Clarke County, it's about time" engraved on the back.

Marketing messages: Take time.... Make time.... Spend time. Time to Relax. Time to Explore. Time to Connect (with nature, the outdoors, family, each other). Time to Live (the Good Life). Time to Love (nature, each other). Time to Remember (history & landmarks, attractions). Time to Savor the Flavor (unique restaurants & cuisines). Time to Create (memories, crafts, art). Time to Shop (antiques, collectibles, one-of-a-kind items). Time to Drink it All In. Time to Stay & Play.

Additional meaning: "It's about time you visited Clarke County." We've been here all along... Just across the mountain... Waiting for you!!!

Economic Development and Tourism Update by Michelle Ridings Brown

- Love Local Valentine's Day Getaway
- Virginia Tourism Corporation DMO Grant
- Lodging Meeting
- Spring Itinerary
- Visitor Center Renovations
- VEDP BRE Visits
- Restaurant Week March 18-23, 2024

Next Meeting

May 15, 2024 – Regular Meeting April 17, 2024 – Spring Tour

Adjourn

Reports in Packet

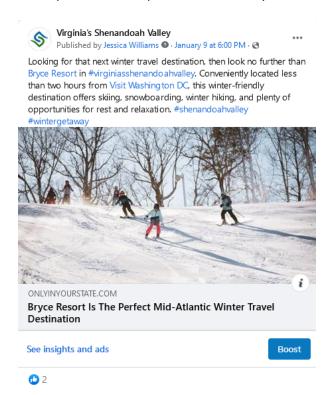
- SVTP January 2024 Social Media Metrics
- Experience Clarke County January 2024 Social Media Metrics
- Experience Clarke County February 2024 Social Media Metrics
- Love Local Valentine's Day Campaign Report

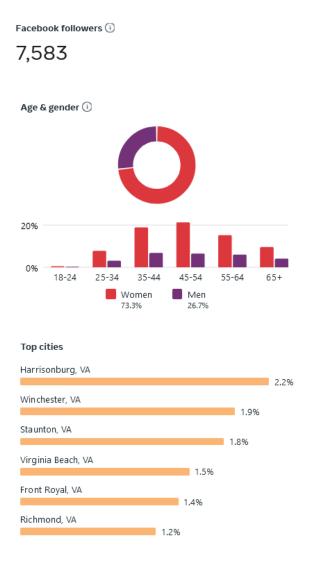
Social Media Insights for SVTP – January 2024

Facebook:

Total Page likes – 7,583
Page Reach – 238,375
Content Interactions – 809
Link clicks – 2,700
Facebook visits – 1,583
New likes – 32

The top non-boosted post was on January 9th





Boosted post: January 23rd with 80,366 reach; 121,642 impressions

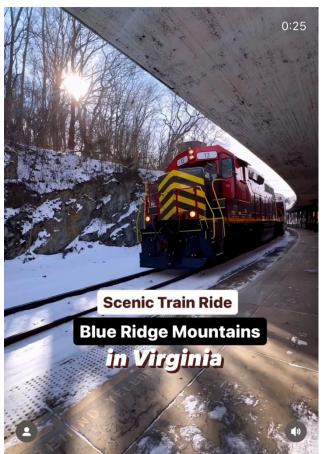


Instagram:

316 total posts 1 post, 4 stories 5,400 accounts reach 4,633 total followers 1,617 Profile visits 276 New followers

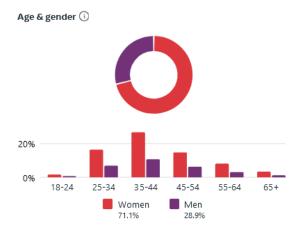
The Instagram post that received the largest number of people reached was a collaboration with RVAHikerGirl on January 26th. (1,618,053 plays; 64,897 likes; 50,000 shares)

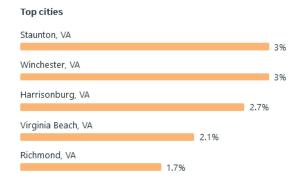
rvahikergirl and 4 others solomonmusicuk · bloom - the paper kites (SOL...



Instagram followers 🕕

4,633





Follows

Facebook follows (i)

85 ↑ 57.4%

20

10 5 0 Jan 1 Jan 6 Jan 11 Jan 16 Jan 21 Jan 26 Jan 31

Instagram follows (i)

20 %



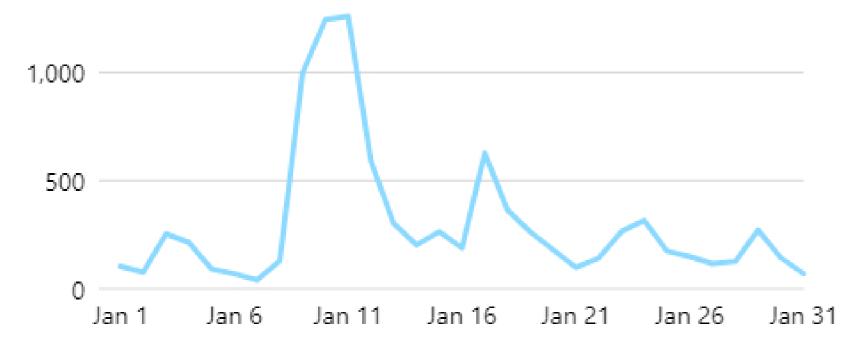
Reach

Facebook reach (i)

5.6K ↓ 50.1%

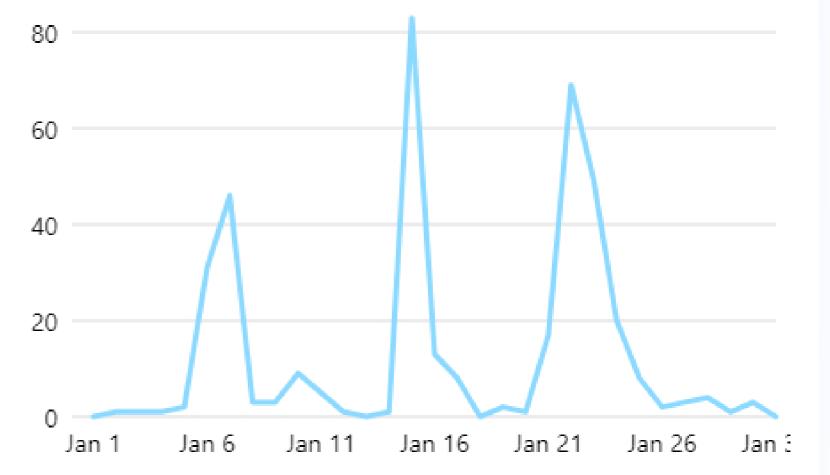


1,500



Instagram reach (i)

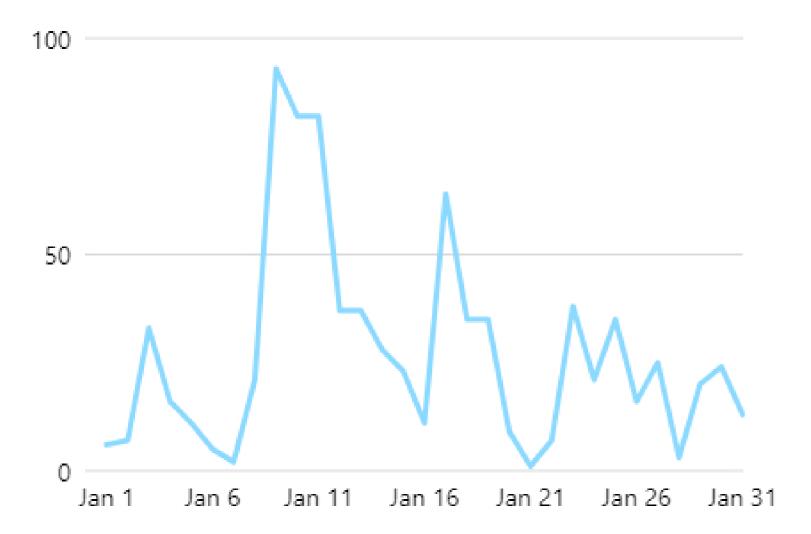
144 ↑ 5.1%



Visits

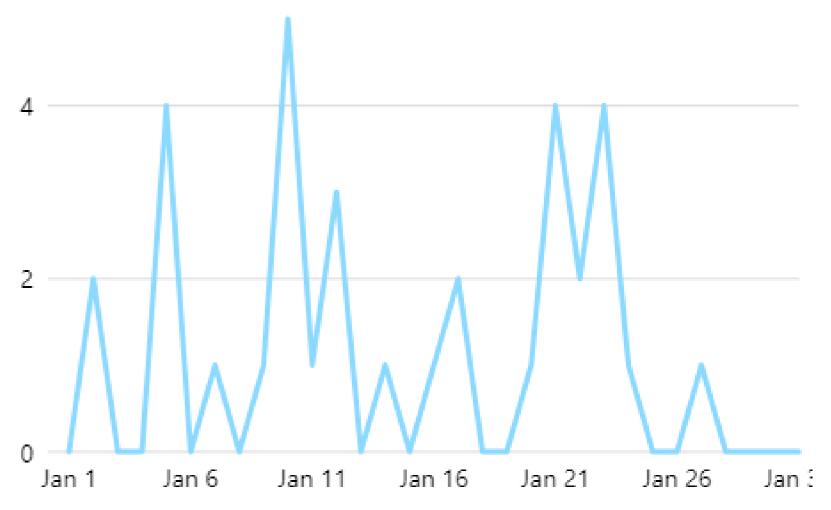
Facebook visits (i)

840 16.8%



Instagram profile visits (i)

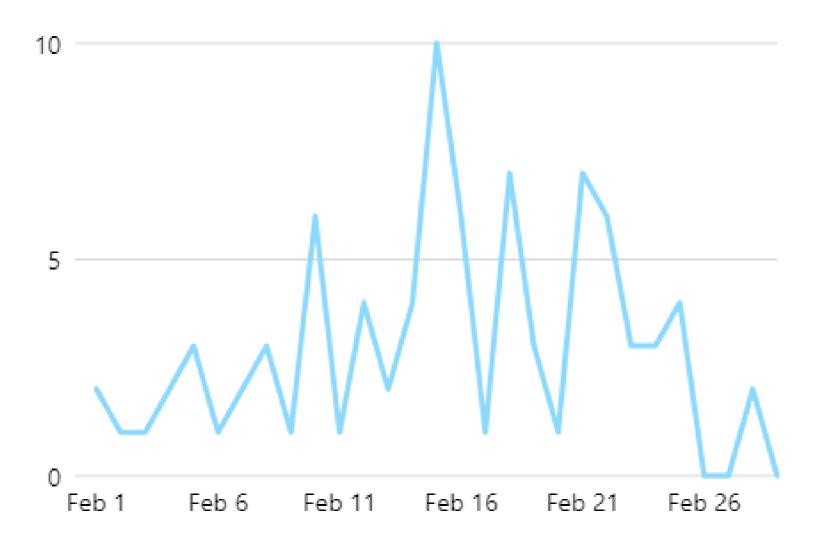
34 ↑ 21.4%



Follows

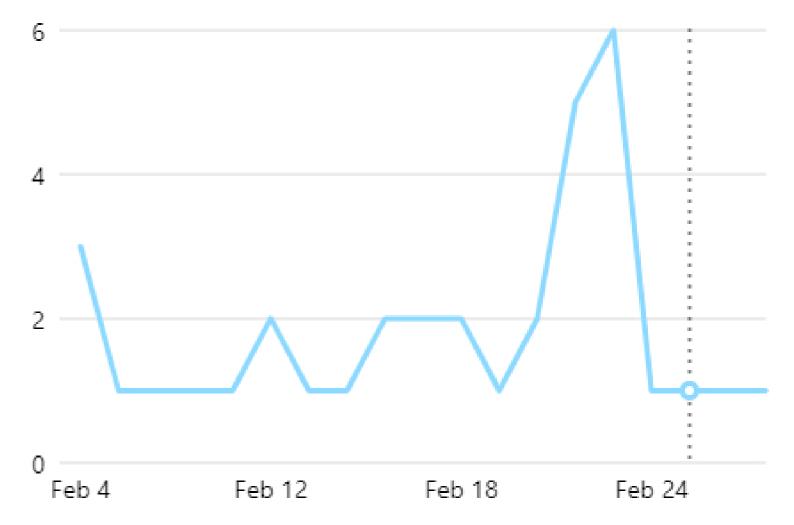
Facebook follows (i)

86 ↑ 2.4%



Instagram follows (i)

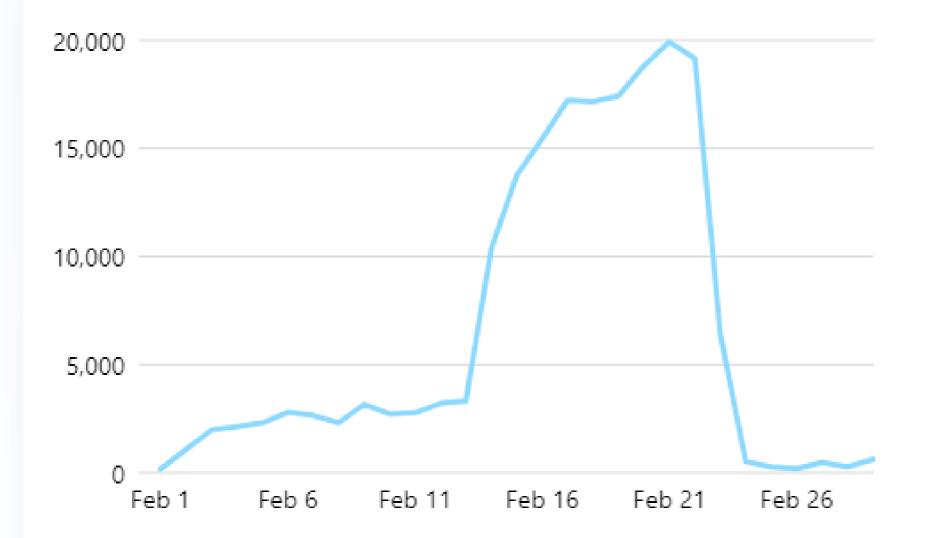
35 ↑ 84.2%



Reach

Facebook reach (i)

135.6K ↑ 2.3K%



Instagram reach (i)

4.6K ↑ 3.1K%

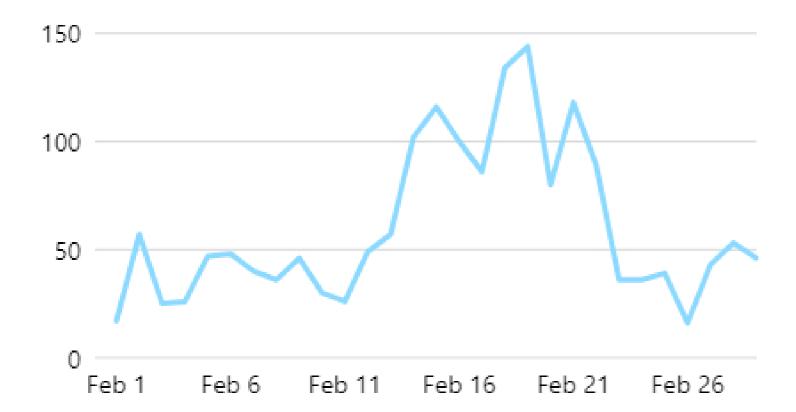


Visits

Facebook visits (i)

1.7K ↑ 110.6%

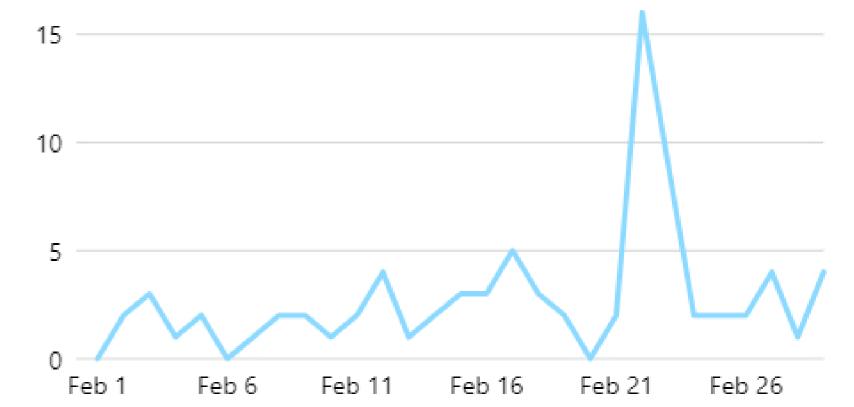
200



Instagram profile visits (i)

81 ↑ 153.1%

20





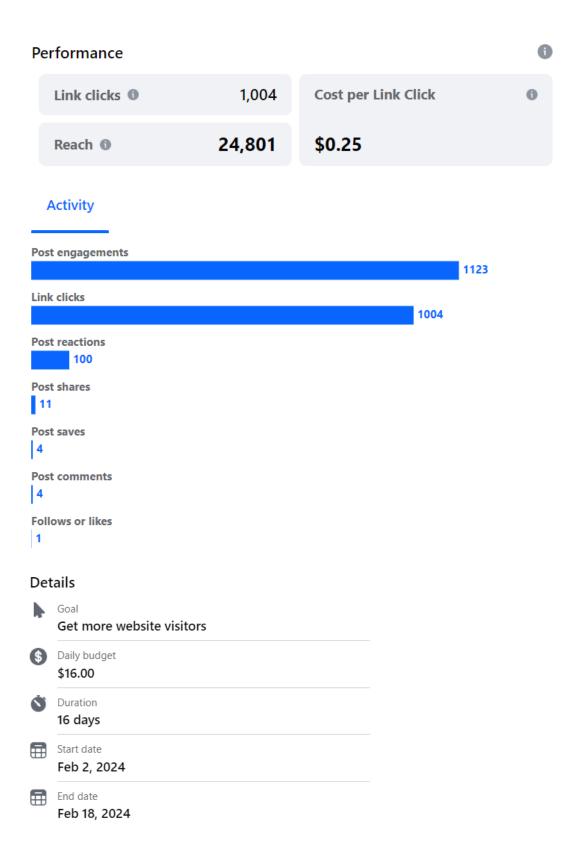
LOVE LOCAL SOCIAL MEDIA CAMPAIGN

•	\$239.60	Paid Social Media Spend during February 2-18, 2024
•	\$959.89	20,000 Count - Love Local Stickers (Distributed to Hospitality Biz)
•	\$480.52	75 Window Clings –QR code to Experience Clarke County Facebook Page
•	\$500.00	Love Local Logo Creative Design
	\$2.180.01	ACTUAL TOTAL for the Love Local ARPA FUNDED Budget of \$2,250.00



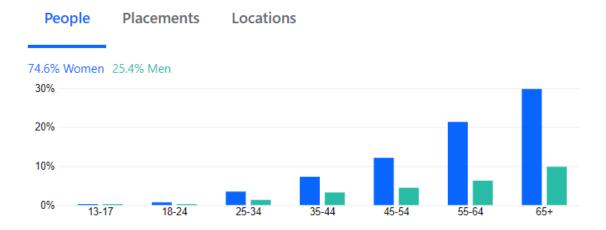
Bring your sweetheart to Clarke County to celebrate an exceptional Valentine's Getaway. Relax and reconnect together in small town Americana. Clarke County is a place to hang your heart and share your love. Click here for our Love Local Valentine's Itinerary.





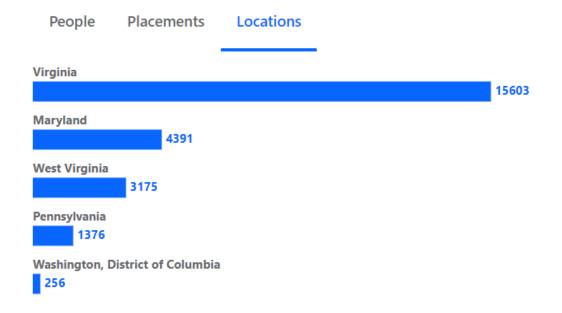
Audience

This ad reached 24,801 people in your audience.



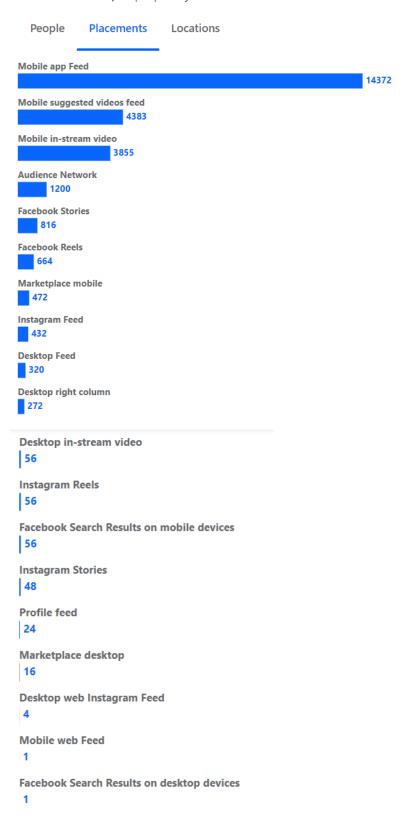
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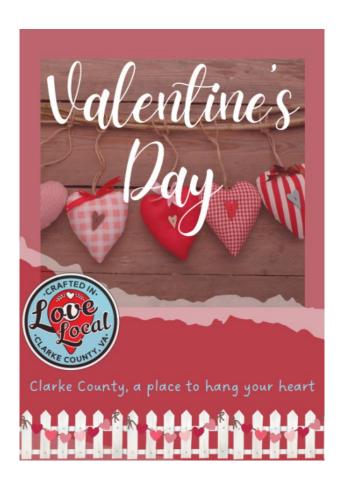
Audience

This ad reached **24,801** people in your audience.



Valentine's Day Itinerary Digital Flipbook:

https://www.flipsnack.com/CFA8BE88B7A/love-local_clarke-countyva/full-view.html



Looking for a place to celebrate your couplehood that is as intimate as your love? We've got a place you can hang your heart in Clarke County. Treat yourselves to small town Berryville, adorable and sweet as your honey, soft and cozy as a hug with fun things to experience together. We invite you to come visit and celebrate your Valentine's Day!

Sweetheart Dinners







THE BUTTERY

SUECATS BISTRO







SWEET BASIL THAI

ZEN RAMEN

Cozy Accommodations

You'll be treated like a king and queen when you stay at these lovely lodging establishments.









ROSEMONT MANOR

SMITHFIELD B&B





Holding Hands together

Spend time together, holding hands and enjoying each others company.



Have a spot of tea and some treats at The Tea Cart.



Find your secret garden at Blandy Experimental Farm, The State Arboretum of Virginia



Tour Long Branch Historic House and Farm, circa 1811.



Stroll Berryville Main Street's boutique shops and eateries.



Spend an evening together and fill your souls with the rhythm of music.

Cheers to Love

Relax, sip and give good cheer to your love.







WILD HARE CIDER

CAMINO REAL







LONE OAK TAVERN TWIN OAKS TAVERN VERAMAR VINEYARD WINERY





Window Cling

