

# 2017 SPOONBREAD FESTIVAL

*"Signature Event of the Berea Chamber of Commerce"*

SEPT. 15-17, 2017

MORE INFORMATION COMING SOON

## PRESS RELEASE

Save the dates: September 15-17, 2017.

The Berea Spoonbread Festival, signature event of the Berea Chamber of Commerce, will return on the third weekend of September.

The event was cancelled last year, following controversy surrounding the Berea mayor's contractual stipulations for use of city property including a ban on what is commonly known as the Confederate flag. At that time, demonstrations in town and threats of counter actions from groups outside the area led the Board of Directors to cancel the festival because of their serious concerns for the safety of those who would be attending or working the festival.

A revised agreement was signed on Tuesday evening at the Berea City Council meeting by Chamber President Scott Thompson and Berea Mayor Steve Connelly. It paves the way for resumption of the festival that drew 60,000 people in 2015. The new contract does not contain licensing and infrastructure language from the original document and the stipulations regarding the "confederate flag" have been softened to recognize its context in historical, educational, literary, and cultural applications.

Shortly after the newly elected Berea City Council was sworn in January, individual council members began meeting with chamber leadership to attempt to resume the festival. All of the council members indicated that one of the top issues among the voters as they campaigned was the loss of the festival.

The Chamber's Spoonbread Festival Steering Committee will begin work immediately to make the 2017 Spoonbread Festival the wonderful, family-friendly event it has always been.

For more information, contact Chamber President Scott Thompson at (606) 308-4518.

[www.BereaChamber.com](http://www.BereaChamber.com)

