

NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Video, graphics and photos available upon request

Date: April 2, 2013
Contact: Julie Dion
Phone: 904-249-9784, Office
904-612-8976, Mobile

JulieDion@DionMarketing.com

www.visitncsmokies.com



www.VisitNCsmokies.com

www.facebook.com/SmokyMountainsNC

Haywood County: Culinary Hot-Spot for Travelers

*The Fresh Produce, Delectable Restaurants, and Culinary Events Make
Haywood a Popular Destination for Food Connoisseurs*

Haywood County, NC – Western North Carolina is well known for its unique “home grown” items that it offers from April – November during the [Waynesville Farmers Market](#). Haywood County is located at the foot of the Great Smoky Mountains National Forest, and is home to Maggie Valley, Canton, Waynesville, Lake Junaluska, and Clyde.

Haywood’s Historic Waynesville Farmers Market is kicking off its 2013 season on Saturday, April 20th and will run through the end of October.

The Farmers market will take place every Wednesday and Saturday from 8:00am – Noon in the parking lot of HART Theater and the Museum of North Carolina Handicrafts, located at 250 Pigeon Street in Waynesville, NC.

“The Waynesville Farmers Market is a historical part of our community, and it helps give back to our local farmers.” explains Lynn Collins, Director of the [Haywood County Tourism Development Authority \(HCTDA\)](#). “Our vendors offer everything from fresh veggies to beautifully handcrafted wooden furniture.”

Over 60 local vendors will be offering a variety of produce grown locally, and picked at the peak of perfection. In addition to produce, there will also be a wide variety of local meats including beef, pork, lamb, rabbit, chicken and turkey, as well as freshly caught mountain trout and seafood.

Many local restaurants in the area use the produce from local farmers to create their culinary masterpieces. The fresh and flavorful dishes are a unique part of the areas culture, and bring to light the advantages of helping local farmers.

“Mélange of the Mountains”: A Culinary Weekend in Haywood County

[Mélange of the Mountains](#) is set for Thursday, April 11th – 13th at the Laurel Ridge Country Club. Ticket pricing will be as follows: \$40 for general admission and \$60 for VIP, which includes early admission into the competition to see the chef’s in action.

Participating restaurants and vendors will showcase their talents during the signature kick-off event, the 9th Annual Mélange of the Mountains Culinary Gala, on Thursday, April 11th at the [Laurel Ridge Country Club](#) in Waynesville, NC.

Participants will prepare dishes in categories ranging from soup and salad to fowl and seafood. Dishes will be scored by a panel of regionally acclaimed judges. Restaurants are recognized for the top three contenders in each category, an Award for Overall Culinary Excellence and the People’s Choice Award.

Directly following the competition, the event will open to the public providing an excellent opportunity for attendees to sample the culinary creations directly from the menus of area restaurants. Wine and beer pairings will be included.

More exciting events are happening throughout the year, so be sure to check the [event calendar](#) to keep up to date on happenings in the area for 2013. Haywood County is a beautiful place to visit, and with each season brings new and exciting opportunities to experience this delightful Smoky Mountain region.

The [HCTDA](#) represents more than [900 accommodations](#) in the community, from bed and breakfasts, cabins, campgrounds, cottages, country clubs, inns, hotels, lodges, motels, resorts, vacation rentals, and villas, and provides annual funding to Haywood County for promotions, events and festivals.

####