

NEWS RELEASE

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Photos available upon request

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Waynesville Prepares for 2nd Annual Appalachian Lifestyle Celebration

Waynesville, NC - On Saturday, June 9, Waynesville's Main Street will be transformed from the quaint, picturesque downtown into a celebration showcasing the history of the mountains of Western North Carolina. The 2nd annual Appalachian Lifestyle Celebration will be held 10am – 5pm.

"The Appalachian Lifestyle Celebration is great for tourists," explains Lynn Collins, Director of the Haywood County Tourism Development Authority. "It gives our visitors a taste of what mountain living is like, along with its rich history. When people travel to Haywood County, or anywhere, they want to experience the culture of the destination. We offer that."

More information on Haywood County's upcoming events can be found by visiting <http://www.visitncsmokies.com/events>.

Tourists and locals alike will enjoy two stages featuring live music and dancing indigenous to the area, including dulcimers, banjos, fiddles, clogging and other dance performances. Musical performances include Chompin' at the Bit String Band, Barefoot-Movement, Michael Reno Harrell and The Liars Bench.

Mountain artists will sell their traditional crafts and demonstrate how they are made, including basket making, weaving, quilting, wood working and carving, pottery, painting, leatherworking and clock making.

The heritage themed event will also offer Appalachian foods as well as live demonstrations including molasses making and butter churning.

Other family-friendly activities are scheduled such as story-telling by local authors Bob Plott, Michael Beadle, Peter Yurko, Carroll Jones and Johnnie Sue Myers.

Established by the producers of Waynesville's Church Street Art & Craft Show and hosted by the Downtown Waynesville Association, the purpose of the celebration is to protect, preserve and develop

historical and cultural resources that provides educational and entertainment opportunities. More information on Downtown Waynesville can be found at www.downtownwaynesville.com.

The Appalachian Lifestyle Celebration is just one of many cultural festivals and special events in Haywood County throughout the year. Folkmoot, one of only three International Folk Festivals in the United States, has drawn tens of thousands of visitors annually to Waynesville since its inception in 1983. This year the festival will kick off on July 19 and continues until July 29.

Along with its cultural, music, family-fun activities and special events throughout the year, Haywood County is situated in a beautiful, mountain setting. With 554 scenic square miles of spectacular country, more than a dozen of Haywood County's mountain peaks soar to elevations of at least 6,000 feet (more than any east of the Mississippi River), and the county is one of the highest, with a mean elevation of 3,600 feet, east of the Rockies. The county sits at the western edge of the state, with the Blue Ridge Parkway running along its southwestern border. The Great Smoky Mountains National Park and Pisgah National Forest are located in the northern section of the county. For more information about Haywood County, call 800.334.9036 or visit <http://www.visitncsmokies.com/>.

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