

NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Video, graphics and photos available upon request

Date: August 16, 2012

Contact: Julie Dion

Phone: 904-249-9784

JulieDion@DionMarketing.com

www.visitncsmokies.com



www.VisitNCsmokies.com

www.facebook.com/SmokyMountainsNC

Canton Prepares for Annual Labor Day Festival *Featuring the oldest Labor Day Celebration in the South*

Waynesville, NC - Starting Friday, August 31st the town of Canton will kick off its annual Labor Day Festival. The celebration takes place at Canton Recreational Park, 77 Penland Street, through Monday, September 3rd. Admission is free.

The festival features a parade, live musical entertainment (bluegrass, beach/shag, country, etc), heritage day crafters, food vendors, kiddie rides, a bag-toss event, an outdoor movie night and a car show. **The parade is known to be the oldest Labor Day Celebration and Parade in the south.** This year marks the parade's 106th year and begins at 10am on September 3rd. The celebration will wind down on Monday, with a live musical performance by the Hoss Howard Band at 3:30pm and **"Special Guest" Chase Rice** at 7:00pm.

The Canton Labor Day Festival is enjoyed by locals and visitors alike, and attending this tradition is a way for Western North Carolina tourists to experience the local heritage and its culture. As cultural vacations become more popular, the appeal of destinations like Canton is attracting more vacationers every year. For a full schedule of events and list of sponsors please visit www.cantonnc.com.

There is a variety of accommodations in Canton and surrounding towns of Haywood County. Whether it's a quaint inn or a luxurious cabin in the woods, guests can expect to experience authentic southern hospitality. A complete list of accommodations in Haywood County can be found by clicking <http://www.visitncsmokies.com/stay>.

More About Canton

Canton is nestled among five hills along the banks of the Pigeon River in the mountains of Western North Carolina in Haywood County. Canton is near major highways and within easy driving distance of the regional airport. Canton's location is ideal for day trips west and east of Canton. Directly east is the great city of Asheville, Biltmore Estates and Chimney Rock. To the west is Cherokee, Maggie Valley, Waynesville and Lake Junaluska.

Canton is within easy access of several fine golf courses. Hiking and nature trails and superior trout and bass fishing are a part of the nearby National Forest. Nearby are the nation's two most visited national parks; Great Smoky Mountains National Park and Blue Ridge Parkway. Located near Canton in Maggie Valley is the Cataloochee Ski Area with facilities for all classes of skiers. Camping and outdoor living are at their best in the forests and campgrounds in Haywood County.

Canton has a recreation program as part of its services to its citizens and vacationers. The Recreation Park has a large, modern swimming pool, playground, picnic tables, lighted tennis courts, and ball fields adjacent to the park. Activities include "Pickin in the Park" during the summer months, a walking trail surrounding the park area; an annual Labor Day celebration, a festival of lights during the Christmas holiday season, and the annual lighted night Christmas parade.

More detailed information can be found at <http://www.cantonnc.com/> or 828-648-2363.

Other Surrounding Labor Day Weekend Events

SMOKY MOUNTAIN FOLK FESTIVAL

08/31/2012 through 09/01/2012

Shows offer a wide variety of the regions finest traditional performers. Scores of the regions finest fiddlers, banjo players, string bands, and square dancers perform as well as sounds of the dulcimer, harmonica, Native American flute and a carpenters saw can be enjoyed.

Admission: The Open Tent Show (5:00pm) is FREE and children under 12 are FREE. Main Stage Show (6pm - 11pm) Tickets available at the door for \$12.00

Location: Stuart Auditorium, Lake Junaluska Conference & Retreat Center

Contact: 828-452-1688, <http://smokymountainfolkfestival.com/>

MAGGIE VALLEY LABOR DAY WEEKEND CRAFT SHOW

09/01/2012 through 09/02/2012

Talented artists and crafters from throughout the Southeast present a variety of unique handmade crafts and jewelry. A few food vendors will be on hand to service the public. 9am-5pm daily

Admission: FREE

Location: Maggie Valley Festival Grounds

Contact: Maggie Valley Craft Shows - P.O. Box 1208, Maggie Valley, NC 28751

828-497-9425, 828-736-3245, www.maggievalleycraftshows.com

WAYNESVILLE BLOCK PARTY

09/01/2012

Downtown is Alive at Night! Dancing in the Street with live bands, children's area, eats and treats, shops and restaurants open. Music starts at 7:00pm and Main Street is closed to traffic. Limited bleacher seating available, bring a chair and your dancing shoes.

Location: Downtown Waynesville. 7pm - 10pm

Admission: FREE

Contact: 828-456-3517, www.downtownwaynesville.com

For more information about Haywood County, call 800.334.9036 or visit <http://www.visitncsmokies.com/>.