

CCCRA Press Release - July 17, 2017

EXCITING TIMES IN HAYESVILLE

By Barbara Deas

The Historic Courthouse Square in downtown Hayesville is once again abuzz with activity! The usual summer excitement of concerts, festivals and a farmer's market is in full swing, attracting visitors and local residents alike. What a beautiful place to gather!

Behind the usual sounds of summer, the distinct sound of machinery, heavy equipment, and hammers is heard. What is going on in downtown Hayesville that makes it different this year?

Clay County Communities Revitalization Association (CCCRA) is on an exciting path toward their restoration/renovation of the beautiful Historic Courthouse Building. Their long-term lease is firmly in place with the property owner, the Town of Hayesville. The generosity of CCCRA's donors, including a commitment from former Clay County resident Ron Beal, plus their success on several grant awards has allowed CCCRA to tackle the long-awaited restoration, full steam ahead.

So far in 2017, the roof has been repaired and re-roofed and the outside trim repaired and painted in colors that made a striking presentation at the turn of the previous century. A brick mason will soon start on the brick re-pointing process to stabilize deteriorating mortar on areas of the exterior walls.

CCCRA has hired Robert Penland as the General Contractor as we renovate and restore the interior of the building to its former beauty. Modern upgrades, such as heat and air conditioning, will be part of the renovations, and an elevator will be installed under a separate contract with Ron Cantrell as the elevator contractor.

The upstairs will be restored for use as an event venue and will be available for scenic weddings, concerts, business meetings, family reunions, birthday parties and any number of other social events. The downstairs will house several retail shops, a catering kitchen to support the upstairs venue, restrooms and the CCCRA property management office.

This work will continue through the next 12 months, so please stay tuned as we keep the community up-to-date on the progress and the opening date for this exciting venue!

In addition to the square, the entire downtown area is undergoing a noticeable renaissance this year. CCCRA was awarded a grant from The Blue Ridge National Heritage Area that allowed them to commission a sculpture titled "A Tribute to Traditional Music". This is being created by local craftsman Joe Miller of Miller

Forge in Brasstown and will be installed in front of Town Hall this summer to spotlight our traditional musical heritage.

CCCRA also shines the spotlight on the Cherokee culture and history that is such a part of our community. The Cherokee Homestead Exhibit, Cherokee Cultural Center in the Moss Memorial Library and the Quanassee Path trail ties the Cherokee culture, agricultural traditions and areas of historical interest together in a two-mile walking path that offers a healthy way to explore and learn about this fascinating part of our history. Watch for the signage and the new Quanassee Path logos on sidewalks that are included in this walking venue. In addition, the wall at Hayesville's Cherokee Homestead Exhibit was recently incorporated into the North Carolina Mural Trail.

Local residents and visitors alike are urged to come visit beautiful downtown Hayesville and join in its re-awakening as a social and cultural destination. Help support the hard work of our community's dedicated non-profit organizations with your volunteerism, enjoyment and financial support of all the area has to offer. In addition, please support all of the wonderful retail merchants who are investing their time and equity in the future of our historic downtown Hayesville!

See you on the square!