

THE TIME IS FINALLY HERE!

Barbara Deas, guest writer

The excitement has been building and the whole community is abuzz! The four-page souvenir invitation in last week's paper welcomes all residents and visitors alike to the long-awaited Grand Opening of the newly renovated Historic Clay County Courthouse/Beal Center!

After nine full months of long days and hard work, the jewel of Clay County is ready to open its doors for everyone to admire and enjoy. The Clay County Communities Revitalization Association, Town of Hayesville and Robert Penland Builders are pleased to unveil the Historic Clay County Courthouse as it begins the next phase of its long service to the community as the Beal Center, an amazing event center in the heart of our county and community.

Please join us Saturday, July 21 at 11:00 a.m. on the front lawn of the courthouse for a short ceremony dedicating and opening the building. The Joint American Legion/VFW Color Guard has graciously agreed to open the ceremony with the presentation of the colors. We are fortunate to have three of our local clergy, Pastor Harold Holbrook of Fort Hembree Baptist Church, Reverend Karen Kluever of the Hinton Center Ministry, and Pastor Johnny Foster of Truett Baptist Church participating in the ceremony. Local favorite Annie Lloyd will offer her beautiful rendition of "God Bless America" and the well-known voice of Keith Christenson will present our "National Anthem." Several special people who have been instrumental in getting us to this day will be recognized before the official ribbon cutting and opening of the building.

Once inside, you will tour the beautifully restored building and have the opportunity to meet the Manager, Kay Worden. You will see, and possibly experience the first elevator within the town limits of Hayesville! You will have the opportunity to speak with CCCRA members and directors, who will relate a variety of stories about the extensive renovation. Light refreshments will be served on the lawn after the building opens, and historical gifts and souvenirs will be available in our beautiful gift shop, which is operated by CCCRA volunteers and supports the ongoing sustainment and operation of the building. We hope everyone will join us Saturday from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. as we celebrate this important moment in the history of this beloved 1888 National Registry building!

We look forward to welcoming everyone to the beauty and simplicity of a by-gone era as we step into the next exciting chapter in the life of downtown Hayesville and Clay County. For information or to booking an event, contact Kay Worden at 828-415-1623 or cell, 828-360-2368. You can also contact Kay via our website [www.bealcenter.org](http://www.bealcenter.org) or via email at [BealCenterEvents@icloud.com](mailto:BealCenterEvents@icloud.com). Visit our Facebook page at [www.Facebook.com/bealcenterevents](http://www.Facebook.com/bealcenterevents) and check us out on Instagram and Twitter.