

## Haywood County Tourism Development Authority



*Where the Sun Rises  
on the Smokies*

**MAGGIE VALLEY · WAYNESVILLE  
CANTON · CLYDE  
NORTH CAROLINA**

### NEWS RELEASE

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### **Haywood County Tourism Agency Seeks Help from Realtors**

*Alerting Rental Property Owners of Occupancy Tax Law Will Benefit All*

**HAYWOOD COUNTY, N.C. (June 29, 2007)**—Scotty Medford Ellis, executive director of the Haywood County Tourism Development Authority, is seeking assistance from Realtors operating in the county to inform homeowners of the occupancy tax law.

The occupancy tax law requires those who rent their property for any period less than 90 days at a time to collect a 3-percent fee, which in turn is used to promote Haywood County and fund local events and festivals. Homeowners who are required by law to collect the occupancy tax but fail to comply face paying a daily fine.

Often, those who own a second home or vacation property in Haywood County are simply not aware of the law, Ellis said.

“Realtors are in a position to spread the word about the occupancy tax collection law,” Ellis said. “We hope Realtors will inform buyers of vacation property or second homes about the requirement, especially if they know that the new homeowner plans to rent it out for less than 90 days at a time.”

In the end, she said, Realtors will benefit from the collection of the tax, as the Haywood County Tourism Development Authority uses the money to advertise the area as a must-visit destination. As more people visit Haywood County and fall in love with the area, the number of potential customers for local Realtors increases as well.

“Any help we can get in making sure this law is known and followed is much appreciated and will ultimately benefit the entire county,” Ellis said.

For more information about the occupancy tax law and how you can assist the Haywood County TDA, please call 828-452-0152 or e-mail [hctda@smokeymountains.net](mailto:hctda@smokeymountains.net).

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