

TRANSYLVANIA SESQUICENTENNIAL 2011

FACT SHEET

During the year 2011 Transylvania County will celebrate its Sesquicentennial – the 150th anniversary of the County's formation in 1861. Plans are being made for a year-long series of activities and events that will be designed to give County residents opportunities to explore our unique history, and celebrate the local characteristics which make our County special.

In September 2009 the Transylvania County Board of Commissioners chartered a 25-member Sesquicentennial Steering Committee to oversee plans for the celebration. The Steering Committee consists of interested individuals from throughout the County, and includes elected officials, business leaders, civic and non-profit administrators, and representatives from a wide variety of County life – recreation, history, arts, education, government, and much more.

The Steering Committee has adopted a Mission Statement and set of Objectives through which it will conduct the Sesquicentennial activities.

The Mission Statement is:

We will commemorate Transylvania County's Sesquicentennial with celebration and education, highlighting our rich history, creating an enhanced sense of place and of community, and looking to the future with hope and optimism.

The Objectives are:

- **Achieve broad participation from residents, businesses, organizations and institutions**
- **Facilitate programs and events that stimulate an interest in local history and its preservation**
- **Produce events and activities that are fun and build community**
- **Explore the diversity of our culture**
- **Celebrate the arts**
- **Strengthen our appreciation of the area's natural resources and our quality of life**
- **Recognize our distinctive communities**
- **Create a lasting legacy through print, visual, musical and other reminders**

It is anticipated that there might be as many as 150 separate activities, events, programs, and other Sesquicentennial-related projects during 2011. Some of these will be new, and some will involve partnerships with existing activities and events. In addition, the Steering Committee will affiliate with agencies and organizations to develop joint 2011 initiatives; for example, curriculum additions in conjunction with Transylvania County Schools, business recognition programs with Brevard/Transylvania Chamber of Commerce, or initiatives in dozens of other areas.

The Steering Committee is currently in the planning process, which will continue through 2010. In the upcoming months many more details of the celebration will take shape; as these details are formulated, the magnitude of the Sesquicentennial celebration will become apparent. This is a project that can be transformative for our County, and we look forward to working with you to help make it happen.

Questions: contact Trisha Hogan, Clerk to the Transylvania County Commissioners, at 884-3271.