



NEWS RELEASE

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Backyard BBQ Throwdown will Honor Public Safety Agencies Cleveland, Helen & White County And Fallen Hero Sgt. Jason Harkins

Cleveland, Georgia (July 9, 2009) – This year’s Fall Leaf Festival will have a new event aimed at bringing out the best BBQ cooks in the County, while supporting a very special cause, our own local public safety agencies. Cleveland Better Home Town will be hosting the **“Hillbilly Hog Backyard BBQ Throwdown.”** The event is open to both amateurs and food vendors who think they have the best BBQ.

The Fall Leaf Festival will take place on Saturday, September 26th from 10:00am – 4:00pm in downtown Cleveland. The Agri-Fest and Country Market was a favorite last year and will take up the entire gravel parking lot behind the White County Courthouse. The Square will play host to a kid’s area made up of fun activities that include a bungee jump, bounce house, rock wall and giant slide. An Arts & Crafts area and music stage will also be located on the Square. NewsTalk 1350 will host the “Best Homemade Pie Competition” on the Square. Caring Hands Clinic will also be hosting a Memorial Motorcycle Poker Run in honor of Sgt. Jason Harkin who lost his life in Iraq.

The Backyard BBQ Throwdown will be located on the White County Courthouse parking lot on South Main Street. Anyone can enter the competition. The entry fee is \$50 for ribs, \$50 for chicken or \$100 for both and you are automatically entered into the sauce competition. Food vendors will pay \$150 to enter both competitions and will be able to sell their BBQ. The winning chef in each category will take home \$250 for first place, \$125 for second and \$50 for third. Each person entering the competition will select their favorite public safety agency listed at the bottom of the form. The overall “Grand Champion” of the BBQ Throwdown will not only win their own prize money, but the Public Safety Agency they selected on their entry form will receive \$1,000 for new equipment.

Community Bank & Trust is the presenting sponsor of the Backyard BBQ Throwdown. Jeff Hunt, who is the White County Division President for Community Bank & Trust and also serves as the Vice-Chairman for Cleveland Better Home Town made the announcement today. “We are thrilled to be able to support our local “public safety heroes” and to continue our support of the Cleveland Better Home Town Program.” Hunt is a life-long resident of White County and went on to say, “These types of events are economic drivers for our community and what better way to bring people back to downtown than to throw a little BBQ competition.”

Last Year’s Fall Leaf Festival was chaired by 10 year old Tyler Dorsey and he will once again be at the helm as Chairman. “I hope everyone can come out to support our police, firefighters, EMS and our 911 center. They do so much to protect us and keep us safe.” Tyler’s father is a Cleveland Police Officer. Heather Sinyard was announced as the Backyard BBQ Chairwoman and is also the Promotions Chair for Cleveland Better Home Town.

Individuals interested in competing or registering as food vendors should contact Cleveland Better Home Town. Space is limited and will be on a first come, first registered basis. For information call (706) 969-3336 or visit: www.clevelandbetterhometown.org

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