



CITY OF GREAT FALLS
RiverFest 2008

PRESS RELEASE: For Immediate Release
DATE: July 2, 2008

FROM: City of Great Falls
CONTACT: Patty Rearden, 771-1265

***RiverFest* Event Highlights**

At a time when progress is making cities and towns across American look more and more similar, festivals like *RiverFest* are helping to preserve the unique personality and traditions of Great Falls. Now in its 5th year, *RiverFest* is becoming Great Falls' signature free summer celebration that dazzles both locals and visitors. Each year, the committee strives to deliver a free unforgettable cultural experience designed to celebrate our fair city. This year, *RiverFest* is set for Saturday, July 12, 2008 with the fun starting at noon. For more information visit the *RiverFest* website <http://www.greatfallsmt.net/events/riverfest/index.htm>.

The success and viability of *RiverFest* is due in part to our major sponsors: City of Great Falls, Great Falls Clinic, Pacific Steel and Pepsi; and additional support from AirTel, Creative Wave Design, Davis Business Machines, Fisher Radio, Great Falls Sand & Gravel, Great Falls Tribune, Holman Aviation, KFBB, Lamar Outdoor and Swain's Spring Service

The committee strategically positions *RiverFest* on the same weekend as other activities (such as *Blue Grass on the Bay* and Farmer's Market) which increases the likelihood of patrons staying an additional day and spending additional dollars in our community on restaurants, shopping and other amenities.

RiverFest brings non-stop music from two stages within the walking venue.

Main Stage in Sight & Sound Park

Action at main stage gets underway starting at noon and goes until 8:00 p.m. Also enjoy concessions and the beer garden at this venue.

- The Vintage Band noon, 2:00 and 4:00 p.m.
- TrickRider 1:00, 3:00 and 5:00 p.m.
- The Blues Brothers Revival 6:00 and 7:00 p.m. Blues

The headliner at main stage is the Blues Brothers Revival. Revival is not a presentation of The Blues Brothers movie brought to stage, nor simply a revival of the characters Jake and Elwood Blues. Blues Brothers Revival is foremost an homage to Chicago's rich history of Blues, Gospel, and traditional Soul music as presented by our talented music director Ron Walters Jr. and his sizzlin', jump for joy, powerhouse band. The theme of Revival is the dream of salvation. Jake has spent most of the last several last years stuck in purgatory and the Blues Brothers are on a mission: to get Jake into the Kingdom of Heaven. With the help of Sister Callie, preacher man, three intriguing choir singers and the band, Jake seeks redemption through melody, rhythm and verse. After some reminiscing with the band, some impassioned preacher and inspired music, the audience is enticed, ready and willing to join the mission by joining the choir which gets to the heart of the show—it's about the music. Upbeat and uplifting, Blues Brothers Revival is fun for all ages. For more information visit <http://www.bluesbrothers-revival.com/>

The Blues Brothers Revival Band Biography

The Blues Brothers Revival is the coolest, most authentic Blues Brothers show to ever hit the stage. Officially sanctioned by the John Belushi Estate and Dan Aykroyd, these guys aren't messin' around. After several years working from coast to coast in the award winning Las Vegas show "Legends in Concert", they were approached by filmmaker Paul Jay with an idea, the outcome was A&E's highly praised docudrama "Lost in Las Vegas".

The A&E film caught the attention of Victor Pisano and Judy Belushi Pisano who asked Wayne and Kieron if they would come to Chicago and audition for the stage musical The Official Blues Brothers Revival. After auditioning dozens of 'Blues Brothers' hopefuls from all over America, they decided on Wayne and Kieron for the roles of Jake and Elwood, "... We learned that day how hard it is to do what John and Dan did" says Judy Belushi Pisano, "...some looked the part but nobody had the whole package until Kieron and Wayne arrived".

The Blues Brothers Revival is guaranteed to keep hands clapping and feet stomping with their full throttle rhythm & blues review. Join Jake & Elwood, they're on a mission from God!

**Please contact Wayne Catania from Blues Brothers Revival at
(905) 715-2548 for interviews**

The Vintage Band is from Helena, Montana and they "perform no song before its time!"

TrickRider from Great Falls performs country and rock from the 1960s, 70s & 80s.

**Please contact Cory Thompson from TrickRider
at (406) 899-3619 for interviews**

Fisher Alley Stage

Fisher Alley Arts is the brainchild of *RiverFest* committee member Dona Hughes and this venue was added to *RiverFest* in 2006. All the events and activities at this venue showcase the arts as a tribute to celebrate the memory of Great Falls' own muse, Jack Fisher. Fisher died from cancer in February, 2006 at age the age of 49 before he was able to complete his vision for participating in *RiverFest*. He is remembered as a generous and loving person, a fearless artist and a teacher who encouraged his students to soar on their dreams. To honor his memory, *RiverFest* fills this venue with a variety of visual arts, vendors and performing artists to make Fisher Alley Arts as special as Jack.

Besides the activities mentioned above, enjoy live music starting at noon and going until 6:00 p.m.

- Grant Stebbins, noon
- Jeni Dodd, 1:00 p.m.
- Jacob Stevens, 2:00 p.m.
- Rick Tryon, 3:00 p.m.
- And jam sessions featuring a combination of musicians at 4:00 and again at 5:00 p.m.

(continued)

RiverFest – page 2

Grant Stebbins is a local singer and songwriter – as well as acting as the master of ceremonies for the Fisher Alley Stage. Joining him will be other local favorite singer/songwriters, Rick Tryon and Jeni Dodd as well as local musician Jacob Stevens.

Please contact Grant Stebbins at 727-8390 for interviews

Please contact Rick Tryon at 727-7008 for interviews

Skateboard Competition at Riverside Railyard

Registration is still open for the 2008 Montana Skate Park Championships held at *RiverFest* on July 12. Prizes and state championship titles will be awarded in six age categories. The competition is being run in a timed run format with the top three skaters being awarded prizes in each age division. Registration is limited to the first 65 competitors. Competitors are encouraged to register in advance either online at www.skateparkshowdown.com or at the Great Falls Parks and Recreation office located at 1700 River Drive North. The competition is open to all ages and ability level skateboarders, age groups include:

- 10 and under
- 11-12
- 13-15
- 16-18
- 19 – 35
- 35 + (Masters)

Registration will also open at 10:00 a.m. at the Riverside Railyard skate park on Saturday, July 12 with the competition getting underway at 11:30 a.m. The registration area is located on the deck of the Girl Scout Cabin located directly next to the Riverside Railyard Skatepark

Fisher Alley Arts & Crafts Show

RiverFest is still accepting participants to sell their wares at the 2008 Fisher Alley Arts & Crafts Show and Sale. The registration deadline is Thursday, July 10 and the cost is \$75 for a 15'x15' booth space. Participants need to provide their own tables, chairs, tents, structures and other items essential to the outdoor venue. Interested participants please contact Cindy Stein for information and permit form, 771-1265, cstein@greatfallsmt.net or download the form www.greatfallsmt.net/events/riverfest/involve.htm

Volleyball Tournament: Grass Stain Open

The Great Falls Volleyball Association is hosting its second annual men's and women's doubles Volleyball Tournament on Saturday, July 12 in conjunction with *RiverFest* in Elk's Riverside Park. The event debuted to rave reviews in 2007. This year it's back and bigger and better than ever. Cost is \$40/team due by Saturday, July 5, 2008 to secure entry. Access registration forms at the GFVA website <http://gfva.home.bresnan.net/DOWNLOAD/>. There will be cash prizes to top teams; all players get a T-shirt, lunch, drinks and fruit.