



CITY OF GREAT FALLS
RiverFest 2008

PRESS RELEASE: For Immediate Release
DATE: June 11, 2008

FROM: City of Great Falls
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***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>.

In 2004, the inaugural year, more than 3,000 patrons attended, that number increased to around 5,000 in 2005 and has been steadily growing. The entertainment, events and activities have continued to be free and each year the offerings continue to grow – we've got something for everyone!

The success and viability of *RiverFest* is due in part to our major sponsors: Creative Wave Design; Fisher Radio; Great Falls Great Falls Clinic; Great Falls Tribune; KFBB-TV; Pepsi and Pacific Steel. Please join us in thanking them.

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.

Scheduled Events/Activities

- Live music featuring national & local entertainers, concessions & beer garden in Sight & Sound Park from noon-8:00 p.m.
- *RiverFest* t-shirt sales in Sight & Sound Park from noon-8:00 p.m.
- Hands on activities for kids & families including: face painting, comedic magician Jeff Martin a sand castle competition, a "penny" carnival, Great Falls Gymnastics "Cheer Force" Team in the park by the Girl Scout Cabin from noon-6 p.m.
- Skateboard competition & concessions at the Riverside Railyard from noon-6:00 p.m.
- Enjoy a plethora of activities in Fisher Alley including an Art Show and Sale, the Red Raja Belly Dancers, body art painting, *River Ink* removable tattoos and chalk art on the sidewalks – all between noon-6:00 p.m.
- Sea planes from noon-4 p.m.
- Volleyball tournament the "Grass Stain Open" in Elk's Riverside Park from noon-6:00 p.m.
- Canine demonstrations by the Great Falls Police Department at 1:00 and 3:00 p.m.
- Displays by MANG, Malmstrom, Great Falls Fire Department
- Compact fluorescent light bulb give-a-ways by NorthWestern Energy, starting at noon in front of the skatepark
- Canoes/kayak demonstrations by Adventures Abound & Montana River Outfitters

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Scheduled Events/Activities

- Enjoy the thrill of the large cranes provided by H&H Enterprises and the allure of the “movies” as provided by the staff and actors of Yellow Wood Films
- Roving appearances by characters from *Peter Pan*. Pretty One Productions will be doing performances of this play at the Mansfield Theater on July 12, and again Wednesday, July 16-Saturday, July 19.
- Great Falls Tribune Literacy Wheel, Petting Zoo, Pony Rides, first aid station, information booths, people movers
- Electric City Water Park special of \$6.00 for all day admission, available until 6:00 p.m.

Live Entertainment from 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.

Live Entertainment from 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.

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| • The Vintage Band | noon, 2:00 and 4:00 p.m. | They perform ... <i>no song before its time</i> |
| • TrickRider | 1:00, 3:00 and 6:00 p.m. | Country and rock from the 60s, 70s & 80s rock |
| • The Blues Brothers Revival | 5:00 and 7:00 p.m. | Blues |

The Vintage Band is from Helena, Montana and TrickRider from Great Falls. 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/>

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