



Great Falls' Original Farmer's Market **Scarecrow Report**

September 2013

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OUR 31ST SEASON!

Farmer's markets around the country are getting more popular every year and ours is no exception. Just a few years ago we were averaging 130 vendors on Saturdays and now we average 145 vendors every week. Our special events this year will end with our Customer Appreciation Day on September 21st where we'll be giving away balloons and 50 tote bags filled with goodies from vendors and local businesses. There's entertainment every Saturday, 10 daily Market Bucks prizes and our grand prize for the season which will include lots of merchandise donated by our generous vendors. For more details on all of these upcoming events please read the rest of this newsletter and follow us on facebook at farmersmarketgf.

We look forward to seeing everyone - vendors and customers alike – and hope that you enjoy your time at the Market. Be sure to come back often because there are new vendors almost every week – that's what keeps us fresh and fun!

THANK YOU

To all my friends at the Great Falls Farmer's Market:

It is with great joy that we, the LaBelle family, are once again.....home. Granted it is not our old home that Wyatt grew up in or that we laughed and cried in, but it is a new and exciting time in our lives. We have so many people to thank and I am writing this to thank each and every vendor, manager, and customer that contributed to our cause to get us back to a normal life. Many of you visited and felt for us and all that was lost in the fire that consumed our home last year. I want to visit you all personally and have you come by my booth to look at the pictures of the new home. It is a very well built and solid place that will grow a bunch of new memories for us in the years to come. I am looking forward to this year's Market as it seems to look like a great year coming up. Once again thank you all!!!

Forrest, Laura and Wyatt LaBelle

WEDNESDAY MARKETS

The Wednesday Markets are open from 4:30-6:30pm in Whittier Park. It's a smaller Market but there's still plenty of produce, baked goods, crafts, and more. It's as fresh and fun as the Saturday Markets. And we give away Market Bucks and prizes on Wednesdays, too!

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

SEPTEMBER

- 7....Valhalla Vixens
- 14...Music by Tim Fast
- 21...Customer Appreciation Day
- 21...T.J. Lee Live Radio Broadcast
- 21...Jeffrey Brockman Music
- 25...Last Wednesday Market
- 28...Great Falls Electrix Cheer Team
- 28...Last Market of the Season

FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK

The Great Falls Farmer's Market is on facebook and twitter, and we have a website. Our facebook page is the best way to get the most up-to-date information on what's happening at the Market, who our prize winners are and see photos of the Market. New photos are posted after every Market. You can find us at facebook and twitter at farmersmarketgf and our website is at www.farmersmarketgf.com.

VENDOR CELEBRITIES

Several of our vendors are award-winners including Alma Winberry - The Fudge Lady, for her fudge, Izora Gallagher for her crochet items, Diane Morris of Baroque N Stones for her jewelry, the Lissie's Luv Yums story won a student Emmy award, and Big Sky Rustics and Montana Sweetgrass, have won awards at the Made in Montana show.

GIFT CERTIFICATES

Farmer's Market gift certificates are available for \$5 each and can be used just like cash at any vendor. Tuck one in with a card or gift and share the fun of the Farmer's Market with friends, family and co-workers. Gift certificates don't expire so you can buy them now and give them as gifts during the holidays.

VENDOR SPOTLIGHT BOOKLET

Ever wondered how our vendors got started, what motivates them, or how long they've been a vendor? Our Vendor Spotlight booklet will answer your questions. Pick up your free copy at the information table.

MARKET SURVEY

The Farmer's Market is doing a survey to find out where our customers are from, what they like and don't like about the Market, etc. It's just 11 short questions so don't hold back...tell us what you really think about us. Survey forms are at the Information Table.

FIRST AID

A first aid kit is available at the Information Table for minor injuries. Also 2-way radios are stationed with selected vendors in case of problems or emergencies.

PRIZE SCHEDULE

Sat, September 7

- \$10 Gift Certificate from Murfield Crafts & Stationery
- Christmas Hand Towel from D's Fashions
- \$25 Gift Certificate from Faith Garden & Ranch

Wed, September 11

- \$10 Gift Certificate from Montana Huckleberry Lemonade & Nancy Blatnik Anderson Artistry
- \$10 Gift Certificate from Teresa Brewer-Rimkus

Sat, September 14

- \$10 Gift Certificate from Rush for Fun Crafts/Quilts
- \$5 Gift Certificate from Desiree Soap Co.

Wed, September 18

- \$10 Gift Certificate from Luna Design Corp. (customer) & a pack of note cards from Dave Maloney (vendor)
- \$5 Gift Card from Five Loaves Coffeehouse & Bakery

Sat, September 21

- \$10 Gift Certificate from Furst Class Cards & Yarn Crafts
- \$10 Gift Certificate from Murfield Crafts & Stationery
- \$10 Gift Certificate from Yummie's Concessions
- \$20 Gift Certificate from Parker Farms Greenhouse
- \$20 Gift Certificate from Butterflies & Berries
- \$10 Gift Certificate from Montana Huckleberry Lemonade & Nancy Blatnik Anderson Artistry
- \$5 Gift Certificate from Papercrafts by Erin
- \$5 Gift Certificate from Desiree Soap Co.
- \$15 Gift Certificate from SilverLily
- \$25 Gift Certificate from Faith Garden & Ranch
- Grand Prize Drawing

Wed, September 25

- \$10 Gift Certificate from Murfield Crafts & Stationery for the customer & \$20 Gift Certificate from Butterflies & Berries for the vendor
- \$25 Gift Certificate from the Fudge Lady

Sat, September 28

- \$10 Gift Certificate from Ming's Chinese Restaurant
- \$5 Gift Card from Five Loaves Coffeehouse & Bakery

PRIZE WINNERS AUGUST

Customers RJ & Kate Grimly, Veronica Moldenhauer, Lorrie Cory, Peg Zeels, Shelly Walter, Thatcher, Zac Dorr, Jackie Weist, Brandy Stoos, Karen Gerber, Hannah Sullins, Jo Dee Black, Jill Storbakken, Ella Beth Deitle, Scott Hrusla, Denice Baune, K. Krentz, Arlene Bust, Steve Beaumont, Brayden Hammond, Maria Elings, Cassie True, Michael Burtch, Debbie Coucy, Mary Beil, Srlee Hutchinson, Becky Drewvey, Randy Triplett, Cara Maclean, Karilynn Frank. **Vendors** Mr. Bill, Nancy J Jewelry, Charlene Veltkamp, Rockport Colony, Pleasant Valley Colony, Alma Shaum, Jen Stephens, Jane Somppi, J. Quinn, Chapter Q PEO, Mama Cassie's, Deena Humphrey, To Dye For, Amanda Larsen, Lori Becker, Fantastic Flies & Crunchies, Bear Paw Meats, Birch Creek Colony, Pam Brundage, Alma Winberry, Soul Kitchen Naturals, Pigwheat Crafts.

JULY

Customers Paul Mantel, Owens, Kevin Cortes, Aaron Peterson, Lisa Walker, April Tatarka, Alice Ortiz, Jennifer Lewis, Kari Lynn Frank, Seth Johnson, James Panlar Shield, D. Lewis, Gary Prinzing, Audrey Steen, Ingrid Callahan, Brayden Hammond, and Gene Davis. **Vendors** include Mary Beil, Wallace Fried, Griz Biz, Kneading the Falls, To Dye For, Charlene Veltkamp, Jane Somppi, Shonna Larkey, Alma Winberry, Jennie Graham, Kleffner Krafts, Pleasant Valley Colony, Big Stone Colony, Bob Shaffer, Kathie Hall, Ivy's Wand Shop, and Rockport Colony.

JUNE

Customers Stacy Smith, Jackie Arp, Beverly Koch, Kathi Lehman, Tracy, Anne Rose Rogers, Laura O'Day, Denise Silva, and Denise Gresham. **Vendors** include African Treasures Online, Cosmic Couture, Stacey Johnson, Ge Moua, Montana Sapphire Jewelry, Maxine Nakai, Soul Kitchen Naturals, Pleasant Valley Colony, and Sweetspire.

If you see your name above and you haven't received your prize you can claim it at the Market Information Table.

MARKET DAYS & TIMES

The Great Falls Farmer's Market is open every Saturday from 7:45am to noon from June through September. In mid-July we add a Wednesday evening Market from 4:30pm-6:30pm. The last Wednesday Market for this year will be on September 25 and the last Saturday Market will be September 28.

OUR MISSION

Our mission is to promote and nurture the buying and selling of Montana-produced products and services by direct consumer sales. 95% of merchandise at the Market is homemade, handcrafted, homegrown, home-baked, etc. by the vendor.

BOARD MEETINGS

The Farmer's Market board meets on the 4th Tuesday of the month from January through October at the Park Manor, 100 Central Ave. at 6:00pm. Vendors and the general public are encouraged to attend. We want this Market to be the biggest and best in Montana and we need your input to make that happen.

If you are interested in serving on our Board please talk with one of our current board members or email gffm@farmersmarketgf.com.

Great Falls Original Farmer's Market

MARKET MANAGER

Pam Feist

ASSISTANT MANAGER

Kenny Thornton

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WHAT ARE MARKET BUCKS? HOW DO I WIN A PRIZE?

Market Bucks are your entry tickets for our daily prize drawings. Collect Market Bucks from participating vendors when you spend \$5 or more. For every \$5 spent at a participating vendor you receive one Market Buck. Spend \$10 get two Market Bucks, etc. Print your name and phone number on your Market Bucks and drop them in one of the collection cans around the Market. No need to be present to win...we'll call you.

At the end of the Market Day prize winners are chosen by random drawing from all the Market Bucks received that day. Prizes are awarded to both the customer and vendor whose names are on the winning Market Buck. And some days we may have two or more prizes depending on donations and sponsors.

Didn't win one of the daily prizes? Don't be discouraged because we keep all the Market Bucks and toss them together for the grand prize drawing on Customer Appreciation Day so every Market Buck gives you at least two chances to win!

Prizes change weekly and include merchandise and gift certificates donated by our vendors, sponsors, and the Farmer's Market.

FARMER'S MARKET HISTORY

The origin of the Great Falls Original Farmer's Market dates back to the 1970's when Hutterite colonies sold their products door-to-door. In the late 1970's a handful of Colonies and local farmers started setting up by the Civic Center and thus began the unofficial Great Falls Farmer's Market. They made it official in 1982 when they adopted bylaws and became a non-profit trade association known as the Great Falls Original Farmer's Market.

The Market started in Margaret Park on the north side of the Civic Center. When they outgrew that space they moved to Whittier Park on the south side of the Civic Center. Mike Winters, former market manager, recalls that when he became manager in 1993 there were 35-40 vendors and when he left in 2000 there were 110 vendors. As the popularity of the Market grew so did the number of vendors so when it needed more space it expanded onto Park Drive and into the parking lot across the street known as the Downtowner Lot.

Today the Great Falls Original Farmer's Market boasts that it is the largest farmer's market in Montana with 135-160 vendors every week and, based on visitor comments, also claims to be the best farmer's market in the country. And the Market isn't just about fresh veggies anymore. There are unique handcrafted items of all kinds, baked goods, jams, jellies, and syrups for every taste bud, ready-to-eat foods including fry bread, crepes, Chinese food, porkies-on-a-stick, and more for patrons to enjoy while they shop, entertainers of all ages scattered around the Market, featured entertainment in Whittier Park, pony rides for the kids, and prizes at every Market.