

Chamber News

» Official Business Publication Of The Kalispell Chamber Of Commerce «



Flathead Event Expo June 14

The Chamber's June luncheon will be a Flathead Event Expo featuring dozens of event and attraction operators on Tuesday, June 14. Expo vendors will

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Rockin' the Boat Chamber Summer Cruise on the Far West

Join us for an evening of fun and fellowship at "Rockin' the Boat", the Chamber's summer party on Flathead Lake aboard the Far West. The event will be held Wednesday, July 27. Boarding begins at 6:30 and the ship sets off promptly at 7:00, returning at 9:00. Departure and return are from The Docks in Lakeside. The cost is \$20 per person

continued on page 3 >>



Kalispell Visitor Information Center Grand Opening

More than two million visitors every year travel to Glacier National Park. Many of these visitors spend additional

continued page 3 >>



Chamber Snapshot

Visitor's Center Information Requests:

	April '11	YTD
Phone Calls:	216	802
Walk-ins	117	492
VACATION		
Email Inquiries	130	454
Packets	128	512
RELOCATION		
Packets	38	76
Phone Books	0	2
Misc & Maps	1	1
WEB ACTIVITY		
Unique Visits	3,796	14,254
TOTAL VISITS	4,425	16,595

At a Glance

- >> **Visitor Center Open House & Ribbon Cutting**
Wednesday, June 8
12:30-1:30 pm
15 Depot Park
Kalispell, MT
- >> **June Luncheon**
Flathead Event Expo
Tuesday, June 14, 2011
Red Lion Hotel
20 N. Main
Kalispell, MT
- >> **UNWIND**
Wednesday, June 15, 2011
Sleep City
155 Hutton Ranch Rd
Kalispell, MT
- >> **UNWIND**
Wednesday, June 22, 2011
The Animal Clinic of Kalispell
1408 Airport Rd
Kalispell, MT

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Officers

Tom Lund, Chairman of the Board, Rocky Mountain Bank

David Mitchell, Vice Chairman of the Board, CTA Architects and Engineers

Jim Ness, Secretary/Treasurer, Glacier Bank

Terry Kramer, Immediate-Past Chairman, Kramer Enterprises

Directors

Susie Burch, Flathead Valley Community College

Kris Carlson, A+ Plus Healthcare

Brian Clark, Fun Beverage

Mark Gronley, Northwestern Energy

Reed Gunlikson, R. Gunlikson CPAs

Scott Hagel, Crowley Fleck Law Firm

Mark Johnson, Merrill Lynch

Jason Manger, Applied Materials - Semitool

Denise Nalty, Nalty Real Estate

Chris Ohler, Insured Titles

Jim Oliverson, Northwest Health Care

Kelly Robinson, Plum Creek Timber Company

Loren Sallee, Loren's Automotive

Bob Schneider, First Interstate Bank

Holly Walsh, Western States Insurance

Dave Waldenberg, Central Heating and Cooling

Rick Weaver, Daily Inter Lake

Ex-officio Directors

Mike Pence, Flathead County Administrator

Jane Howington, Kalispell City Manager

Professional Staff

Joe Unterreiner, President 758-2804

Cary Aubrey, Executive Assistant 758-2803

Diane Bebee, Receptionist 758-2809

Doug Bolender, Government Contracting. 755-4221

Diane Medler, CVB Director 758-2808

Chris Parson, Small Business Development 758-2802

Jill Seigmund, Leadership Flathead. . . . 758-2810

Consultants

Anderson, Baker & Swanson - Government Affairs

Edge Communications - Media & Public Relations

JCCS - Tax & Audit Counsel

Janet Schwalk - Bookkeeping

Partners Creative - Creative Agency

Kalispell Chamber of Commerce Mission Statement

The central mission of the Kalispell Chamber of Commerce is the cultivation and development of entrepreneurs and communities through the spirit of enterprise.

New Members

Please welcome these new members with your business.

HARTZ ROOFING, INC

PO Box 1666
Columbia Falls
270-0215



Roofing Contractor-No job too big or too small

NORTHWEST MONTANA KIDSTUFF MAGAZINE

PO Box 4871
Whitefish
890-4902



'Go To' guide to connect kids and families to all the amazing things that are here for them in NW Montana, including activities, services, clubs, sports events and recreation ideas.

TASTE THIS!

460 First Ave EN
Kalispell
260-6093



FINE CUISINE DELIVERED

WWW.TASTETHISFLATHEAD.COM

Wholesome, real food delivered fresh. We prepare everything with high quality ingredients utilizing local produce, meat and dairy whenever possible.

Renewals

10 Plus Years

Aero Inn
Corental Property Management Inc
De Pratu Ford
Dr Peter Nelson DMD
Eisinger Honda
First American Title Company of Montana
Glacier Pines RV Park
Hooper's Garden Center
Jackola Engineering & Architecture, PC
Johnson Berg McEvoy & Bostock
Radioactive

5 to 9 Years

Addus Healthcare Inc.
Best Western White Oak Grand Hotel & Business Center
Flathead CARE
Montana Ace Hardware
Payne Financial Group
Whitefish Credit Union

1 to 4 Years

Bigfork Web Development
Farm Bureau Financial Service
Glacier Quilts, Inc
Greenwood Corp 1
Olson Search International
State Farm Insurance-Chad Miller

Flathead County Cost-of-Living Figures For First Quarter 2011 Released

Information released by the Kalispell Chamber of Commerce revealed that Flathead County cost-of-living is 1 % above the national average. The ACCRA Cost of Living Index measures regional differences in the cost of consumer goods and services, excluding taxes and nonconsumer expenditures, for professional and managerial households in the top income quintile. It is based on more than 90,000 prices covering 60 different items for which prices are collected quarterly by chambers of commerce, economic development organizations, and university applied economic centers in each participating urban area.

The composite index is based on six component categories – housing, utilities, grocery items, transportation, health care and miscellaneous goods and services. Local data, collected by the Kalispell Chamber of Commerce, is combined with information from 320 other communities across the United States to create the ACCRA Cost of Living Index. ACCRA is the national association of community and economic research professionals. Other Montana areas participating in the survey include Bozeman and Missoula.

The ACCRA Cost-of-Living Index for the Kalispell area during the first quarter of 2011 is as follows (average of 320 urban areas = 100):

Composite.....	96.3
Grocery	109.1
Housing	91.6
Utilities.....	78.8
Transportation.....	103.2
Health Care.....	107.0
Miscellaneous	97.3
Composite Index for Other Communities	
Bozeman, MT	104.3
Missoula, MT.....	100.2
Twin Falls, ID.....	94.4
Spokane, WA	92.7
Laramie, WY	99.1

For full report details please visit <http://www.kalispellchamber.com/kalispell/costofliving.php>

Visitor Center Grand Opening

>> from cover

time in the Flathead Valley enjoying a wide range of recreational activities. To better serve our visitors, the Kalispell Chamber of Commerce and the Kalispell CVB have spent several months upgrading and improving the Kalispell Visitor Information Center (VIC). Grand opening for the new VIC is scheduled for Wednesday, June 8, 2011 from 12:30 until 1:30 pm. Coldstone Creamery will be here to help us celebrate.



The Visitor Information Center is located in the historic Depot Building next to the Kalispell Chamber offices and is open Monday through Friday, 8 am until 5 pm. The expanded center includes a spacious reception area with two wall-mounted televisions to provide visitors with up-to-date information. The amount of shelving has been increased to ensure enough display space for all members' brochures. The reception desk offers enough space for maps and for several center employees to meet with visitors and provide information and advice to the traveling public.

Rockin' the Boat

>> from cover

for members and \$25 for non-members. Your reservation includes passage on the cruise and light dining fare. There will be a cash bar. Reserve your seat by making payment at kalispellchamber.com or by calling 406-758-2800 for the first 150 people.



Flathead Regional Business Center

15 Depot Park
Kalispell, MT 59901
(406) 758-2800
(406) 758-2805: Fax

Business Expansion and Retention

Chris Parson
(406) 758-2802
sbdc@kalispellchamber.com
www.nwmontanabear.com

Flathead Community Foundation

Marc Lorenzen, Board President
(406) 756-9047
info@flatheadcommunityfoundation.org
www.flatheadcommunityfoundation.org

Flathead Job Service Workforce Center

Mora McCarthy, Business Resource Consultant
Mike Jackson, Business Resource Consultant
(406) 758-6241
mmccarthy@mt.gov
www.employflathead.com

Flathead Valley Community College

Jodi Smith, Workforce Training Director
(406) 758-2809 (by appt.)
jsmith@fvcc.edu
www.fvcc.edu

Kalispell Chamber of Commerce

Joe Unterreiner, President
(406) 758-2800
joe@kalispellchamber.com
www.kalispellchamber.com

Kalispell Chamber Foundation

(406) 758-2800
info@kalispellchamber.com
www.kalispellchamber.com

Kalispell Convention & Visitor Bureau

Diane Medler, Director
(406) 758-2808
dianem@kalispellchamber.com

Leadership Flathead

Jill Seigmund, Manager
(406) 758-2810
seigmund@centurytel.net
www.leadershipflathead.com

Montana Manufacturing Extension Center

Bill Nicholson, Manager
(406) 756-8329
bnicholson@coe.montana.edu
www.mtmanufacturingcenter.com

Northwest Montana SCORE

Scott Roberts, Chapter Chairman
(406) 756-5271
nwmntscore@montanasky.net

Procurement Technical Assistance Center

Doug Bolender, Director
(406) 755-4221
ptac@kalispellchamber.com

Small Business Development Center

Chris Parson, Director
(406) 758-2802
sbdc@kalispellchamber.com
www.kalispellsmallbusiness.com

"Funded in part through a Cooperative Agreement with the U.S. Small Business Administration."

UNcover What's Interesting, New and Developing



The weather may have been a bit chilly and overcast but that didn't discourage folks from celebrating

Cinco de Mayo at Kalispell's Home Depot store for our May 5 UNWIND. At least one sombrero was spotted. The outdoor garden department made a great setting with the spring plants on display. Mariachi music in the background was a nice touch. Home Depot employees hosted tables filled with chips, nacho cheese topping, guacamole, 7 layer dip and veggies. Cold drinks, coffee and cookies rounded out the fare.

Heidi Bain of Jake Bain & Company won Split the Pot. Socket Sets were won by Wendy Vernon of Paper chase, Patti Carlson of The Daily Inter Lake, and Mark Gronley of Northwestern Energy. Sherri Tappan of Alpine Lighting and Ron Flenor of Windmill Storage & Business Park both won tools. Kasey Smith of Kasey, the Health Coach won a shop vac.



May 18 provided a taste of spring-like weather for our second May UNWIND

on the 18th at Windmill Storage & Business Park. Amazing Crepes provided, well, amazing crepes! Guided bus tours of the facility were available that included a stop at The Engraver. Several other local businesses were spotlighted during the festivities. The drive to Windmill was little longer than to most UNWINDS, but it was well worth it! This was unlike any other UNWIND.

Brien Kreps of Swiftcurrent won Split the Pot. Liberty Shamp of Amirah Bella Designs won the 'Fed & Pampered Package' that included gift certificates from Amazing Crepes & the Engraver, Colter Coffee's Windmill Blend and some Pampered Chef goodies. Rachel Haskovec of Family Heritage won the 'Springtime Sunshine Package' that included gift certificates from Windmill Storage, Extra Pair of Hands and the Engraver and a terra cotta pot with floral bulbs and a pair of gardening gloves. Bob Gardner of CTA won the 'Spring Cleaning Package' that included certificates from Neva's Final Touch, Signature Homestyles & upper case Living and the Engraver and Homeology plant-based cleaning products.



Drawing for prizes at the Home Depot UNWIND



A packed house at the Home Depot UNWIND



Networking around the crepes station inside Windmill Storage & Business Park



Libby Shamp is a happy winner at the Windmill Storage & Business Park UNWIND

Next UNWINDs

Wednesday June 15, 2011
5-6:30 pm



Sleep City
155 Hutton Ranch Road
Kalispell, MT

Wednesday, June 22
5-6:30 pm



The Animal Clinic of Kalispell
1408 Airport Rd
Kalispell, MT

Chamber Calendar

June 2011

Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

Look for these events in July:

- 4 4th of July Parade
- 8-10 Artists & Craftsmen of the Flathead Summer Show
- 22-24 43rd Annual Arts in the Park
- 27 Rockin' the Boat

1
Education & Communications Committee Meeting
8:00am-9:00am

Kalispell Tourism BID Meeting
3:00pm - 5:00pm

2
Associated Chamber Meeting
10:30am - Noon

3

4

5

6
Leadership Flathead
3:00pm - 5:00pm

7

8
Chamber Visitor Center Open House
12:00pm- 2:00pm

Ambassador Meeting
4:00pm - 5:00pm

9

10

11

12

13

14
Luncheon Flathead Events Expo
11:00am - 1:30pm



Flag Day

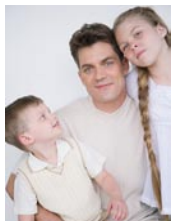
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16

17

18

19



Father's Day

20

BEAR Meeting
4:00pm - 5:00pm

21

Executive Board Meeting
7:30am - 8:30am

Flathead Community Foundation
2:45pm - 5:00pm

22

23

Montana Super Host Training
Red Lion Hotel
9am - 12 noon

24

25

26

27

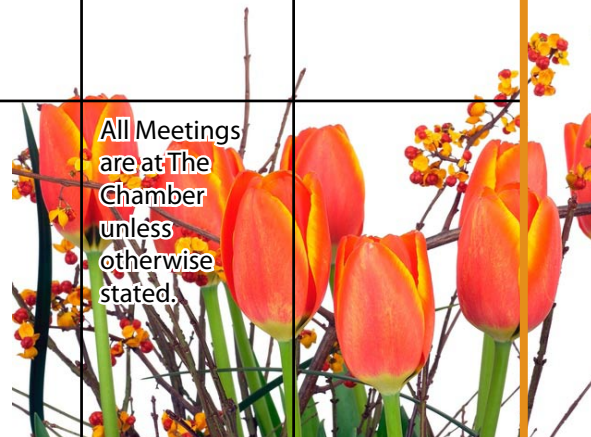
28

Board Meeting
7:00am - 8:30am

29

30

All Meetings are at The Chamber unless otherwise stated.



Incumbent Workforce Training Grants

The State Legislature has just approved funding for Incumbent Workforce Training (IWT) Grants for the next two years. The funding received overwhelming support as a tool to help small businesses train employees, be more productive, and allow businesses to compete in local, national & global economies.

The IWT Grants are made available through the Montana Department of Labor and are available to most businesses with no more than 20 employees in one location AND no more than 50 employees statewide. The local Business Expansion And Retention (BEAR) partnership consisting of members representing Small Business Development Center (SBDC), Montana Manufacturing Extension Center (MMEC), Flathead Job Service, Flathead Valley Community College, Montana West Economic Development, the City Kalispell, Kalispell and Whitefish Chambers of Commerce, are responsible for accepting IWT Grant Applications.

Local businesses may qualify for up to \$2,000 per year for full time employees and \$1,000 per year for part time. The business is required to demonstrate how the investment in their employees will make the business more profitable, more productive, more efficient, more competitive, or that the support will help retain valuable employees.

The Business Expansion And Retention partnership has approved \$100,000 in training grants over the past 12 months to 49 companies and is training 122 employees in the Flathead.

Examples of the training supported by the program include college courses to educate the workforce in software applications, technical skills, and business and marketing education. The training grants may also be used to attend specialty training that will take employees skills to a new level or enhance the skill level within an employees' line of employment. The Grant may include travel and lodging expenses.

For information regarding the IWT Grant applications go to the SBDC website at: www.nwmontanabusiness.com/businessservices/training. Or, call Chris Parson at the Kalispell Chamber, 758-2802, email SBDC@kalispellchamber.com.

Ribbon Cuttings



Stifel Nicolaus Ribbon Cutting



Goodwill Easter Seals Ribbon Cutting



GNC Naturally Clean Ribbon Cutting



Riley Landscaping Ribbon Cutting

Volunteer Opportunity

The Summer tourist season has already begun. We are anticipating a lively tourist trade this summer. Whether you are a native to the Flathead Valley or a transplant, if you are friendly and like people, you will be an asset in the Visitor Center. Here's your opportunity to share the wonders and sights of our unique corner of the USA. We are currently looking for volunteers to help out in the Visitor Center from June 1 through September 2. We have openings for both the morning and afternoon shifts. Shifts run from 11-2 and from 2-5. The Visitor Center is open Monday through Friday. Most of our volunteers commit to a single shift on the same day each week. If you, or someone you know, would be interested in this opportunity or need a little more information please call the Chamber at 758-2809.



43rd Annual Arts in the Park July 22-24

Preparations have begun for the 43rd Annual Arts in the Park, July 22-24, 2011. The event attracts over 10,000 attendees and features over 100 talented artists and craftsmen. There are several ways you can partner with the Hockaday to make Arts in the Park 2011 a success. For sponsorship information call 755-5268 or contact communications@hockadaymuseum.org.

Congratulations Class of 2011!

Please join us in congratulating the following members of the Leadership Flathead Class of 2010 who have completed their two-year commitment and will officially graduate on June 10:

Connie Behe
Paul Burnham, City of Kalispell
Rick Connell, Flathead National Forest
Mark Foust, Glacier National Park
Bill Frings, Plum Creek Timber
Terri Haueter, Flathead Job Service
Derek Houseworth, Houseworth Consulting
Chuck Jensen, Flathead Valley Community College
Ulla Kaski, Jackola Engineering & Architecture
Brad Kelsey, First Interstate Bank
Joe Krueger, Flathead National Forest
Cathy Loucks, Rocky Mountain Bank
EJ Lundgren, Flathead Electric Coop
Maren McCleary, Community Action Partnership
Jeff Meredith, Glacier Bank
Cynthia Mullaney, Office of Emergency Services
Roger Nasset, City of Kalispell
Tony Nelson, Department of Natural Resources & Conservation
Chany Ockert, Nonprofit Development Partnership
Chris Ohler, Insured Titles
Gil Parsons, Flathead County IT
Chris Parson, Small Business Development Center
Annegret Pfeifer, JCCS, PC
Hannah Plumb, Flathead Youth Home
Sherry Schauble, Flathead Food Bank
Dave Stenberg, Thrivent Financial for Lutherans
Kelly St. Onge, Mountain West Bank
Samantha Travis, Department of Environmental Quality
Steve Tuhy, Subway
Pat Van Eimeren, Flathead National Forest
Holly Walsh, Western States Insurance
Tiffany Wehrmann, Kalispell Regional Medical Center

We thank outgoing Class Officers Tony Nelson (Department of Natural Resources & Conservation), Chris Ohler (Insured Titles), and Pat Van Eimeren (Flathead National Forest) for their excellent service over the past year, and we welcome

incoming Class Officers Aimee Cawrey (Blue Cross Blue Shield), Angie LeDuc (Kalvig & LeDuc, PC), and Matt Springer (Flathead Valley Community College) and who are ready to serve the Class of 2012. We also thank outgoing Chair Brad Buls (Mountain West Bank) and we welcome incoming Chair Cindy Walp (North Valley Hospital).

NOW RECRUITING FOR CLASS OF 2012

If you or someone you know would make a great candidate for the Leadership Flathead Class of 2012, let us know. Send name(s), business affiliation(s), and contact information to jill@kalispellchamber.com and we will mail information about the program. Applications are due June 15, 2011 and selections will be made by mid-July. Questions? Call Jill Seigmund at 758-2810.



Leadership Flathead's Class of 2011 recently elected Angela LeDuc of Kalvig & LeDuc, Matt Springer of Flathead Valley Community College, and Aimee Cawrey of Blue Cross and Blue Shield to serve as Class Officers for the Class of 2012.



Fourth Annual Public Safety Day

June 18, 11am – 4 pm

The Kalispell Police Advisory Council the Kalispell Police Department, and Target would like to invite the public to meet and interact with your local Public Safety officials. Agencies from around the Flathead Valley (Law Enforcement, Fire, EMS) will have equipment and vehicles on display. You will have the opportunity to view some of the valley's most advanced life saving equipment.

Please bring your family and join us for this 3rd annual event. Meet and greet your local law enforcement officers, firefighters, paramedics and many others who are dedicated to serving the community.

Planning Underway For 107th Annual Banquet & Auction

The Flathead's premier business event of 2011... the 107th Annual Chamber Banquet and Auction... is scheduled for November 17 at the Hilton Garden Inn. Chamber Ambassadors are already preparing for the big event and are assembling unique and valuable auction prizes, including a trip to the 2012 Rose Bowl Game & Parade in Pasadena. Other popular prizes from last year that we expect to see again include weekend getaways, remodeling services, and business advertising packages. Last year's auction raised \$10,000 for the remodel of the Kalispell Visitor Center. We hope you'll join us for the Grand Opening on June 8 from 12:30 to 1:15! Proceeds from this year's auction will be used for improvement and maintenance of the historic Depot Building, now housing the Kalispell Chamber and the Flathead Regional Business Center, and for equipment. If you'd like to contribute services, product, gift certificates, or art to the auction, we'd greatly appreciate your support. Donations are tax deductible. For more information, contact Jill Seigmund at jill@kalispellchamber.com or 758-2810.

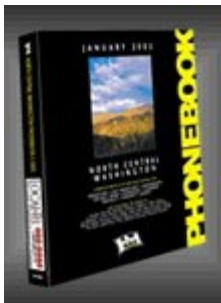
Flathead Event Expo June 14

>> from cover

offer raffle prizes to attendees including free tickets, passes, and gifts to those attending the luncheon. The luncheon program will feature Mayor Tammi Fisher and Glacier Park Superintendent Chas Cartwright introducing the abundance of events and activities in Kalispell and Glacier Park.

Diane Medler, the Kalispell CVB Director, will emphasize how we are all ambassadors for Kalispell and the Flathead Valley and demonstrate the positive economic impact that would occur if we were able to entice our visitors to stay just one more day. She will provide a master summer event calendar for attendees to share with visitors, friends, and relatives.

The luncheon and Expo are sponsored by Hagadone Directories. The Black Book, your local directory, is excited to be a part of this community for 15 years. Hagadone Directories takes pride in publishing an environmentally friendly book that is the information source for the entire Greater Flathead area.



The Expo event will be from 11:00 am to 1:30 pm. The luncheon program will be from 12:00-1:00 pm on Wednesday, June 14, at the Red Lion Hotel. Luncheon tickets are \$16 each. Members of the public are welcome to view the program and Expo, without lunch, for free. Luncheon tickets are \$16 each for Chamber members; \$21 for non-members; \$120 for a reserved table of eight. Ask about Business Card Express Check-in.



EAP and Your Company's Success

Your company's success depends on how you attract and retain valuable employees and help them stay productive. Outside of the office, employees have personal goals and challenges in their lives. Finances, family conflicts and life changes occasionally follow them into the office, shifting their attention and energy away from your business and decreasing your company's overall productivity.

Give your staff a means of finding solutions to challenges with the UNUM work-life balance employee assistance program (EAP). If you are not familiar with the concept of an EAP, take a few moments to read the Unum materials on our website at chamberchoices.com. This is a value added member feature for employer members of Montana Chamber Choices Health Insurance Program, a benefit of membership in our Chamber of Commerce.

Work-life balance EAP provides both telephonic and in-person counseling for employees who are facing a personal crisis—you, your employees, and their dependents have access to this confidential benefit either by calling the toll-free, 24 hour phone line at 1-800-854-1446, or going online to lifebalance.net. Whether it is a financial concern, drug or alcohol issues, divorce, or other challenge, you can now provide help for your employees through tough times without the fear of interfering in their private life.

Learn more about Montana Chamber Choices Health Insurance Program for your small business insurance needs and about the work-life balance EAP at chamberchoices.com or contact your local, health insurance agent and fellow Chamber of Commerce member.



ChamberMaster
Serve and Empower Your Members.

Are You Reaching Your Targeted Market?

Chambermaster Member Benefit Campaign Statistics indicate that consumers searching the Internet are experienced, educated shoppers that use the web to help make purchase decisions. And 63% of them are more likely to purchase from chamber members!*

We have invited a representative from ChamberMaster, our software partner, to come and explain how to get the most from your current Online Business Directory listing on our chamber website - - your free listing already available to you. Upgrade opportunities will also be presented including the ability to display your logo in our Online Business Directory, increase visibility to your own web link, and provide enhancements that give a more professional first impression. How to gain additional exclusive exposure to the Chamber website traffic is something that will also be discussed. Watch for emails in the coming weeks to find out how to set up a short meeting with our ChamberMaster representative or call Cary at 758-2801 for more details.



15 Depot Park
Kalispell, MT 59901

OCCUPANT / POSTAL PATRON

PRSRTD
U.S. Postage
PAID
Kalispell, MT
Permit #13



Kalispell's Annual 4th of July Parade

Monday, July 4th
Main Street • Kalispell
10 am



Line up at 8th St. and 1st Ave. W at 9 am

Sponsored by



Parade Entry Form

Entry type (circle one): float vehicle(s) animal(s) pedestrian(s)

Short description: _____

Primary Contact Name: _____ Phone: _____

Business/Organization Name: _____

Address: _____ City/State/Zip: _____

Email: _____

Mail entry forms to: Kalispell Chamber of Commerce, 15 Depot Park, Kalispell, MT 59901 or FAX to: (406) 758-2805.

**For more information contact the
Kalispell Chamber at 758-2800**

Parade Guidelines

- No throwing of candy or any promotional items to the spectators. Items must be handed out.
- No alcoholic beverages to be consumed or exposed during the line up or procession.
- Each entry should be decorated with a patriotic theme.
- A representative for each entry must check in at the Flathead High School Parking Lot.
- **BE CAREFUL AND MINDFUL OF THE STREET CONDITIONS.**
- Every animal entry is responsible for cleaning up after their animals in the lineup area and along the parade route.