

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MAIN STREET BRIDGE FESTIVAL IN EAGLE RIVER (MI) AUGUST 13

Main Street Eagle River will come alive on Friday, August 13 from 5:30-10:30 p.m. The third annual Eagle River Bridge Festival will feature music, food, and fundraising designed to renovate the historic span.

Musicians playing the festival include former Hancock resident Erik Koskinen, whose country and rockabilly roots have built a steady following throughout the Midwest. Koskinen will be playing songs from his newest CD. The Uptown Swingsters bring their unique mix of standards and jazz to the show while Sheriff Ron Lahti will entertain with his traditional country repertoire. The show kicks off with Huffing Pink, featuring Melissa Davis and the stunning harmonies of her female bandmates. Attendees are encouraged to bring lawn chairs to watch the show, but the music will offer plenty of opportunity to dance in the street.

Food sales, a silent auction, and a 50-50 raffle will also take place over the course of the evening. According to Jim Vivian, Township Supervisor, "We're improving the show each year, and we've already had plenty of interest expressed about this year's event." Vivian said the event would not be possible without the generous donations from local businesses and artists that generated sizeable donations during last year's silent auction.

All funds raised will contribute to the renovation begun in 2008. Eagle River resident, Mark McEvers, a vocal proponent of the project notes, "The bridge is an integral piece in the National Historic District of Eagle River, and it literally brings the community together by joining the east and west sides of the village." With the help of independent bridge engineer Bill Kallman, the renovation committee initially replaced the bearings under the four corners of the bridge; last year's festival financed a permanent rolling scaffold slated for installation this year that will permit deck repairs and future maintenance

Main Street will be blocked off during the night of the festival, but there will be plenty of parking available on adjoining streets as well as near the schoolhouse and waterfall in Eagle River. Those unable to attend the festival but interested in supporting the renovation can send checks to the Houghton Township Board, 5059 Fourth Street, Eagle River, MI 49950 in care of "Bridge Renovation Fund."

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