



Promoting, Supporting & Enhancing the Vitality of Downtown Missoula for the Betterment of Our Community

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**President's Message**  
 by Brent Campbell  
 WGM Group  
 bcampbell@wmggroup.com

June is always an exciting time in Downtown Missoula, as we roll out summer in a community that loves the outdoors. Excitement is in the air with things like high school graduations, Saturday morning markets, and of course the commencement of the Out to Lunch and Downtown ToNight Sum-

mer Series.

Out to Lunch starts its 29th season on Wednesday, June 4. For 13 straight weeks Missoulians will congregate in Caras Park for lunch, live music and family fun between 11 am and 2 pm each Wednesday.

Downtown ToNight kicks off its 14th season on Thursday, June 5 and each Thursday for the next 13 weeks, we'll have live music, exceptional food and beverages and lots of play space for kids of all ages from 5:30-8:30 pm.

*President's message cont. p2*

The Downtown Dialog should be shared with all your staff members! Please pass it around your office.

Staff Member	I've read it!
_____	<input type="radio"/>

## Community to Celebrate Pat Simmons Out to Lunch, July 2

Pat Simmons served as the first paid staff member and the first Executive Director of the Missoula Downtown Association from 1985 to 1992. Pat led the efforts to create the Out to Lunch program in Caras Park 29 years ago, and was an early and enthusiastic supporter of A Carousel for Missoula. She passed away on February 8, 2014, just 10 days after attending the MDA Awards Dinner with John and Linda Torma. She followed her husband Don, UM music professor and another beloved community leader, just 18 months after his passing on July 9, 2012.



Pat Simmons' contributions to the life of downtown Missoula and the love of Pat and Don for the Missoula community will be celebrated at Out to Lunch in Caras Park on Wednesday, July 2 with formalities to occur around 12:15 pm. Joining in on the festivities are A Carousel

for Missoula, the Jeanette Rankin Peace Center, and the "Ice Cream Socialists" (organizers of the annual University Community Ice Cream Social started by Don and Pat) for a heart-warming celebration. Don and Pat's children will be there, along with Mayor John Engen and the Big Sky Mudflaps. The Carousel will host a Silent Ride around 12:45 pm in honor of Pat Simmons.

Join us in recognizing and sharing the contributions of Pat Simmons to Missoula's downtown, and of Pat and Don to our community on Wednesday, July 2. This is a special week for the Simmons family: Pat and Don were married on July 1, also Don's birthday, and they celebrated 61 "birth-versaries" together. Thinking of July 4 as "Interdependence Day" is another Simmons family custom, reminding us that we are – as families and communities – interdependent.

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**President's message cont.**

In addition to hosting thousands of Missoulians and their guests each Wednesday and Thursday, the MDA is also hosting the 14th annual Garden City River Rod Run Friday and Saturday, June 27-28. The Show & Shine will draw 200+ classic cars and their families and more than 3,000 spectators for two days of fun in Caras Park. The highlight of the month – the Hot Rod Parade – will be Friday night (June 27) at 9 pm on Higgins Avenue.

Missoula is loaded with exceptionally-talented entertainment, and Downtown is the destination for immersing yourself in the most culturally-diverse community in the State of Montana. The Missoula

Downtown Association Board of Directors is grateful for all the businesses that serve as vendors, sponsors and activity providers for our programs. Our programs have a significant economic impact on our downtown community, and keeping our community events admission free is good for all.

Information on all downtown activities can be found online at [www.missouladowntown.com](http://www.missouladowntown.com) and on the Missoula Downtown Facebook page.

Downtown looks beautiful right now with flower baskets, colorful banners, and blooming plants in the North Higgins bulb-outs. Programming is at its height, so join us in celebrating summer in the great outdoors.

**MDA Committee Meetings**

**Advocacy**

Tuesday, June 10  
4-5 pm Downtown Partnership Office

**Master Plan**

Thursday, June 19  
12-2 pm at 140 West Pine

**Membership**

Thursday, June 19  
4-5 pm Downtown Partnership Office

**Marketing**

Thursday, June 26  
1-2 pm Downtown Partnership Office

**River City Roots Fest**

Fridays  
11am Downtown Partnership Office

**River Rod Run Returns June 27-28**



The 14th Annual Garden City River Rod Run will hit Downtown Friday and Saturday, June 27-28, at Caras Park in Downtown Missoula. The annual event celebrates the 50th Anniversary of the Ford Mustang.

Just as the Mustang is an icon in the world of muscle cars, so too is

the River Rod Run for car culture in Western Montana and beyond.

The Classic Car Show & Shine will be Friday, June 27 from 5-9pm with the Hot Rod Parade at 9pm. Saturday's activities include the Show & Shine from 11am-4pm and the Awards Presentation beginning at 3pm. Of course, Missoula's favorite food and beverage vendors will be on site for the duration.

Please join us to celebrate another iconic event in Downtown Missoula's culture and see the car that defined the history of 'cool.' Cars can be registered for the event for \$30 and the event is admission-free thanks to the generous support of our sponsors: Zip Beverage, Rick's Auto Body, Bitterroot Motors, and 16 others.

**Last Best Solstice June 21**

The Missoula Cultural Council will host the third annual Last Best Solstice on Saturday, June 21 in Caras Park from 10 am to 10 pm.



The event will feature a Live Art creative and silent auction; a family-friendly art festival featuring free art workshops with the ZACC and Clay Studio; a live auction from 7-8 pm and cocktail party from 8-10 pm. Live music will be provided by the Whizpops and the Captain Wilson Conspiracy with beer, wine and cocktails offered by the Badlander.

The Last Best Solstice is MCC's open air art celebration designed to highlight some of Missoula's best visual artists. For more information, visit [www.missoulacultural.org](http://www.missoulacultural.org) or call the MCC at 541-0860.

**MDA Membership BBQ July 15**

Downtown Missoula is starting to heat up, which means the MDA's Annual Membership is just around the corner. Mark your calendars for Tuesday, July 15 from 5:30-8:30pm and come down to Caras Park to celebrate summer with fellow MDA Members. This year's BBQ will feature Brazilian bowls from Five on Black, salads and desserts from your favorite res-

taurants, beer and wine from your favorite local microbreweries and wineries, and fun live music. Don't forget about the immensely popular raffle! Any business interested in donating a salad, desert or raffle item for the event of the summer should contact the office at 543-4238 or e-mail [jenny@missouladowntown.com](mailto:jenny@missouladowntown.com).

CONNECTING OUR COMMUNITY

## Member Spotlight:



**GECKODESIGNS**

by **Brooke Redpath**

*Missoulian*

**G**ecko Designs is a graphic design and marketing firm located in Missoula, Montana specializing in web and e-mail marketing. Gecko Designs is one of the oldest web design companies in Montana, established by Gabriel Silverman in 1996 during his sophomore year of high school while he was a student at Hellgate High. Gabriel attended college in Oregon and from there moved to Chicago where he was able to gain a strong national client base. After he married his wife Melissa, their family packed up and moved back to Missoula.

Gecko's seven employees work closely with marketing teams and businesses of all sizes in a variety of media. While most of their clients are national companies, they love to work with local clients and meet face to face with business owners. It gives them the opportunity to see their talented work around town. Gecko Designs is unique in the fact that they are able to use the

success and experience with their national client base to give local businesses access to a team with national campaign experience.

Interactive CDs, magazine ads, email and direct-mail campaigns, online feedback and registration systems, invitations, posters, banners, stickers, brochures, sales sheets, case studies, white papers, postcards and folders are all offered in one place. They can even create custom graphics to illustrate complex data. If you are looking to develop attractive presentations to help you market your products and services, look no further, Gecko Designs is just a phone call away.

Silverman notes Gecko are involved with all aspects of branding and have helped develop new identities for businesses, as well as modernizing current brands. Business owners who want to maintain their own websites are offered hands-on training courses.

Gecko Designs recently purchased the building at 523 N. Higgins in downtown Missoula and has brought new life to the building with their design talents and innovative ideas. They anticipate participating in First Friday so watch for them in the coming months and check out the coolest new office Downtown.

## Welcome New Members!

**Bart Holt**

Private Member  
Rattlesnake  
542-7663

**Camp Mak-A-Dream**

Laura Bianco-Hanna  
2110 S Johnson St.  
549-5987  
laura@campdream.org

**Crackle Photography**

Crackle Bingham  
231 E Alder St. #8  
721-8208  
crackle@cracklephotography.com

**Missoula International Airport**

Cris Jensen  
5225 Highway 10 West  
728-4381  
cjensen@flymissoula.com

## Give LOCAL Missoula Day a Winner for Downtown

**G**ive LOCAL Missoula was a huge success! The Missoula community rallied and gave a total of nearly \$136,000 in one 24-hour period on May 6, 2014 to local Missoula non-profit organizations.



The Missoula Downtown Foundation (MDF) received a prize of \$250, awarded to the non-profit organization which had the most donors between the hours of 1am-5am. The MDF raised nearly \$1,800 total on the day of giving, with the main goal to raise awareness of the MDF's mission. Thank you to the Missoula Community Foundation, all volunteers, the media, and everyone who kindly donated to this inspiring community effort.

## Osprey, MDF Team Up for Downtown

**W**hat do the Missoula Osprey & the Missoula Downtown Foundation (MDF) have in common? In the spirit of baseball and community endeavors, getting you to Ogren Park at Alligience Field to support both organizations is our common goal.

The Missoula Osprey is the MDF's fundraising host for the Tuesday July 22, 2014 7:05pm game versus the Orem Owls. The MDF is selling \$10 tickets to this game, of which \$5



goes directly to the MDF. The MDF, as part of the Downtown Missoula Partnership, is proactively working to deepen our Downtown Missoula experience by engaging in historical, cultural and economic projects; connecting us all to our community.

Stop by or call our office to purchase or reserve tickets and help support the MDF. Thank you to the Missoula Osprey for this opportunity and we hope to see you on game day!



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 Ph: 406.543.4238  
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[www.missouladowntown.com](http://www.missouladowntown.com)

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## Our Missoula: Voices Wanted

Please join Mayor Engen and City of Missoula Development Services for the kick-off of Our Missoula: Looking inward. Moving forward. Our Missoula is the year-long community process to create a policy for growth in the Missoula urban area. The City needs to hear your voice and your ideas to identify what matters most and help determine how we grow as a great community. This kick-off meeting will describe the project in more detail and how the community can get involved. Nationally renowned Urban Planner, Ed McMahon, Senior Resident Fellow at the Urban Land Institute will keynote the event with a presentation on the Secrets of Successful Communities.

**Wednesday, June 4, 7-9pm,  
 Double Tree Hotel, 100 Madison.  
 More information: 552-6628**

## Get Tagged? BID Can Help!

The Downtown BID of Missoula offers graffiti removal service during warm weather months, and the power washer is back in action for 2014.

The BID continues to give great support for removing graffiti from Downtown. Please do your part by reporting incidents to Missoula PD (552-6335) and the Downtown Ambassadors (396-7806).

**BID maintenance can offer bids for graffiti removal or power washing (728-1140). Please visit [missouladowntown.com](http://missouladowntown.com) for info.**



## Member Shout Outs

**E3 Convergence Gallery** presents photographer Tara Barreiros and painter Kayde Kaiser. Drawing inspiration from the everyday surroundings of life, both artists explore those moments frozen in time, seemingly insignificant at first, yet adhered to the memory for life. Opening reception will take place First Friday June 6, 5pm-9pm. The gallery will also feature live music by Gerygone & Twig, and kick off the month long fundraiser for Animal Wonders. Exhibit runs June 6-28th. Please visit [e3convergencegallery.com](http://e3convergencegallery.com).

### A Carousel for Missoula offers family fun, giving opportunities.

The **Fairy Tale and Super Hero Festival**, from 10am to noon, on July 26, is all about imagination and fun. Children dress as their favorite fairy tale characters or super heroes and enjoy a variety of FREE activities and snacks. In 2013, our fifth year, over 500 children participated in the Festival.

In October, Dragon Hollow will once again become **Haunted Hollow**, with a witches hovel, mad scientist lab, fortune teller and other scary creatures. The scare is carefully calibrated for the under-12 crowd.

*Financial, media and in-kind support is needed.* There just might be a homemade pie in it for supporters who come through by the end of June.

For more information about sponsoring, check out [carouselformissoula.com](http://carouselformissoula.com), or call director/baker Theresa at 549-8382.

Stay up-to-date by visiting [www.missouladowntown.com](http://www.missouladowntown.com).