

GREATER BIG RAPIDS

CONVENTION & VISITORS BUREAU

Catch-A-Fish, Grant-A-Wish Fishing Tournament To Be Held Saturday - June 13th, 2009

For Immediate Release

Wednesday – May 4th, 2009

**Contact: Connie Koepke, Mecosta County Area CVB - Executive Director
(231) 796-7640**

**Cliff Thornton, Ferris Stars – President
Thornton.clifton@gmail.com**

Plans are underway for the Fourth Annual Catch-A-Fish, Grant-A-Wish Fishing Tournament to benefit the Make-A-Wish Foundation ® of Michigan along with promoting our prestigious Big Rapids Riverwalk. This tournament is again being brought to Big Rapids during the DNR's free fishing weekend, so no licenses are required! Just bring your pole, tackle and get set for a great day of "reel" fun for everyone. If you do not have access to a pole and tackle it's not a problem, a limited supply will be available to borrow during the event by the Recreation, Leisure and Wellness Department at Ferris State University.

Prizes will be awarded to the winner in each of the following age categories: 0-6 years, 7-11 years, 12-17 years and 18+ years. "The original idea was inspired by the Riverwalk itself", said Connie Koepke - Executive Director for the Mecosta County Area CVB. "With this wonderful facility here in the area we needed to come up with a great marketing idea to promote the Riverwalk not only to the local public but to visitors from outside the community as well". "With its numerous and fully accessible fishing platforms a fishing tournament seemed to be the

246 NORTH STATE STREET - BIG RAPIDS, MI 49307

(231) 796-7640 - FAX (231) 796-0832 EMAIL DIRECTOR@BIGRAPIDS.ORG

GREATER BIG RAPIDS

CONVENTION & VISITORS BUREAU

natural choice". The Mecosta County Area CVB along with the Ferris Stars for the Make-A-Wish Foundation® of Michigan have joined forces for the past three years making this great idea a reality.

The tournament is scheduled for Saturday, June 13th at the Big Rapids Riverwalk and Hemlock Park with the first casts starting at 9AM and the final casts ending at 12PM – on site registration will begin at 8AM. The cost to participate is just \$8 per person for pre-registered anglers and \$10 per person the day of the event. Proceeds will be going to the Make-A-Wish Foundation® of Michigan. "The past three years have been a huge success, not only in promoting awareness of the Riverwalk but for the Ferris Stars as well in our goal to help grant children's wishes here in our community" stated Cliff Thornton for the Ferris Stars. "The Ferris Stars have helped two children in our community thus far with having their wishes granted and are looking forward to a third this fall".

Hurry and get your registration form submitted as the first 50 registered anglers will be receiving a FREE fishing t-shirt along with other fishing novelties and free bait provided by Grunst Brothers of Big Rapids.

Other activities planned for the day of the tournament are a clown with balloon animals, face painting, FREE fishing activity books for the kids provided by the DNR, live musical entertainment and of course a food vendor.

Plans are also underway for fish planting in the Muskegon River to ensure everyone has a "stringer" full excitement. In addition to Brown Trout, which the DNR plants in the Muskegon River, the Mecosta County Community Foundation are graciously providing funds toward planting Rainbow Trout prior to the tournament. The entire Catch-A-Fish, Grant-A-

246 NORTH STATE STREET - BIG RAPIDS, MI 49307

(231) 796-7640 - FAX (231) 796-0832 EMAIL DIRECTOR@BIGRAPIDS.ORG

GREATER BIG RAPIDS

CONVENTION & VISITORS BUREAU

Wish committee would like to thank the Mecosta County Community Foundation for their continued and gracious support of this wonderful event. Donations for next years fish planting are also being accepted at this time.

Don't miss this great day of family outdoor fun for anglers of all ages and fishing abilities!

Contact the Mecosta County Area CVB at (231) 796-7640 or go online to

<http://www.bigrapidsriverwalk.com/> for your registration form today!

(end)

246 NORTH STATE STREET - BIG RAPIDS, MI 49307

(231) 796-7640 - FAX (231) 796-0832 EMAIL DIRECTOR@BIGRAPIDS.ORG