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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Community Day and Two Ribbon-Cutting Ceremonies at YOUR Civic Center**

**August 10, 2017**

**Traverse City** – The Grand Traverse County Civic Center Park will be transformed into a festival-like setting on Saturday, August 19 for “Community Day,” a community-wide celebration from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

“This is a really special occasion, with something for everyone,” said Kristine Erickson, Director of Grand Traverse County Parks and Recreation Department, which is co-hosting the event with the Friends of Easling Pool, a citizens group committed to raising funds to update Easling Pool at the Civic Center.

Free for all ages, the three-hour celebration kicks off the Friends of Easling Pool’s campaign to raise \$625,000 to refurbish the over-40-year-old community pool. Friends’ president, Bridget Thuente says the three-hour event will be packed with fun, featuring free food, live music, a bounce house, carnival games, Bingo, youth cycling with Norte’, open swimming in Easling Pool with the Grand Traverse Bay YMCA’s giant Aqua Glide interactive water feature, and more. “We’re so excited to bring the community together to celebrate the vision for our pool, the new playground, and our beautiful Civic Center Park,” said Thuente.

According to Erickson, the highlight of the event is the official ribbon-cutting ceremony for the new Campbell Community Playground, scheduled to begin at 12 p.m. “Our community residents and supporters from around the nation helped raise funds for the playground last year at this time,” said Erickson, “and less than three months ago, nearly 170 volunteers built it. It’s time for us all to recognize and take pride in this milestone, and celebrate the play structure’s contribution to future generations of our children.”

The ribbon-cutting will take place at the entrance of the new playground, located just northeast of the Civic Center Park’s Titus Street entrance. The donor sign listing the names of all who contributed dollars and labor to the “Get-Out-and-Play” playground project also will be unveiled for public viewing. Free lunch from Jimmy John’s will immediately follow the ceremony.

On Friday, August 18, a “preview” ribbon-cutting ceremony with Chamber of Commerce Ambassadors will be held at 11:30 a.m. at the playground to recognize the contributions of Meridith and Dan Falconer, the “Get-Out-and-Play” project’s largest donors. The Campbell Community Playground is named in memory of Dan Falconer’s father, Bruce Campbell Falconer.

For more information about the Community Day event and playground ceremonies, visit [www.grandtraverse.org/parks](http://www.grandtraverse.org/parks) on line, or County Parks and Recreation’s Facebook page. The public is invited to attend both ribbon-cuttings.

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