



Celebrations delayed, but not cancelled



This is not the newsletter I expected to be writing for the 25th anniversary of A Carousel for Missoula. This newsletter was to be full of all of the celebratory events we had planned over Memorial Day weekend: our annual Kids' Day, when everyone rides free as part of our birthday party; a Friends and Family evening, with free rides and ice cream; a VIP party, to honor our most generous and consistent donors and volunteers of the past quarter century.

This newsletter should also be telling the tale and showing photos from our spring clean-up of Dragon Hollow. After a protracted but very successful refurbishment and expansion last year, we have a few little things to take care of to make the playground perfect. It would have been our pleasure to handle those items early this spring, and to install the permanent signage to honor donors and volunteers.

We had plans for programs and projects leading up to our celebration to engage and involve the community that has supported us so well for all these years. We wanted

(and still want) to hear your stories, see your photos, and learn what the Carousel has meant to you, personally and as a symbol of the community.

Our plans have changed.

We are not the only group whose plans have been thwarted and, in fact, as difficulties go, ours have been small. We have missed watching you ride the brightly painted ponies (and dragon), and hearing children playing in Dragon Hollow, but we know those days will come again. We are sorry not to be celebrating with you exactly 25 years after

our May 27, 1995 Grand Opening, but we **will** celebrate when it is safe to do so, and we will invite you to do so with us.

We are glad to do our part to flatten the curve to keep our employees and our visitors safe. Twenty-five years of bringing joy to our community **is** a big deal, but after that long, another few months won't matter. What matters is that we are all safe and able to celebrate when the time is right. Stay safe – we will see you soon.

When will the Carousel and Dragon Hollow reopen?

We get numerous inquiries each day about when the Carousel and Dragon Hollow will reopen. We wish we had solid answers for you, but right now we are still working day-by-day with the current situation in our community, the Governor's directives, local requirements, and the wisdom of Carousel board members and staff.

When we train new Carousel employees, and at all our employee meetings, we emphasize that the most important word for a Carousel worker is SAFETY. Pre-COVID19, this referred mainly to checking belts, keeping an eye on riders to be sure they were riding safely, and saying at least 306 times each hour, "walk, please."

We will still be doing all of that, but we'll be adding new precautions to our routine when it is safe to reopen. We will determine those precautions at the time of opening. Here are some things you might expect.

Inside the Carousel, employees may wear masks. We may be asking you to wear a mask, as well, to help contain the spread of germs as you talk and laugh in line and while riding the Carousel. We will be suggesting that we all continue social distancing, and will have decals on the floor in and around the building to help determine how far six feet is. We will be cleaning the bathrooms, the horses, the gates and other touchable surfaces more often and will have hand sanitizer stations throughout the building. We may change the rules so a rider can stay on the same horse for two rides instead of one, reducing contact between employees and riders. We will not be using rings (the dragon will be wearing a mask) and will use paper tickets to avoid cross-contamination with tokens. We may also go to shorter hours to avoid employee fatigue and to help keep costs in line.

In Dragon Hollow, we will ask that you remind your children about social distancing, and help them wash their hands and/or use hand sanitizer often. It just is not possible to clean the playground equipment on a regular basis and kids forget easily that they should not be so close to each other.

You may be 100% virus free and not afraid of contracting the virus from another Carousel visitor, but we ask that you respect our efforts to keep everyone safe. Some of our employees and many of our visitors are in high risk groups. We will do everything we can to keep everyone safe. Please help us without complaint, regardless of your own thoughts on the matter. The Carousel and Dragon Hollow are safe and friendly places. Let's keep them that way.

THANK YOU to our 2020 Donors

If you belong on any of these lists (including the list of donors to our mirror replacement, found elsewhere in this newsletter) and we have missed you, or we have you on the wrong list, please call 549-8382 to let us know, so we can thank you, apologize, and fix our records!

COMMUNITY POWERED (* indicates a Missoula Gives donation)

\$10,000+

Penny Oncken

\$500+

Daniel Kemmis & Jean Larson
Missoula Downtown Lions Club
Kimberly & Mike Roth*

\$100+

Becky Byrne*
Renda Greene
Jim & Dee Strauss
Montana Security &
Communications, Inc
Kelly & Lisa Gregory
Phil & Brenda Lande
Bill & Dori Johnston
Doosy Habbe
Maureen & Alexander Howard
in memory of Lawrence J Coan
Molly & Andy Nelson
Kitte Robins
Harry & Kari Watkins
Diane Welty
First Interstate BancSystem
Jim Dunlap
in memory of Lois Dunlap
Dennis & Angela Lind
Leon Harden
Geoff Badenoch
Hope Campbell
Cats on Broadway Veterinary
Hospital
Theresa Cox*
Julie & Jim Foley*
Elizabeth Grimley*
Kathy Harris*
Pete & Giny Heyler
Marjorie Jacobs
Land Lindbergh
Madison Marie McIntosh
Janelle Milodragovich*
Sandy S Mitchell
Carole Monlux
Bob & Kim Murray
David & Monica Paoli
Allen Pickens

David & Linda Rice
in memory of Burke
Mellem*John & Sue Talbot
Kathleen Turner*
Alan & Karen Wagner
Judy Whiddon

Up to \$100

Painting with a Twist*
Jim & Julie Foley
Tom & Kathy Anderson*
Sharon Bennett*
Linda Rae Blakney
Holly Borghello
Earl & Dottie Collins
Mary Jane Cowdrey
Marshall & Willie Farmer
Diana W Hatch
Bill & Ramona Holt*
Cathy & Winton Kemmis
Ed & Cindy Kurtz
Gary & Judy Matson
Charles & Colleen McHugh
Don Shattuck
Shirt Shop – Rob Reesman*
J Marie Smith
David & Lillian Stack
JoAnne Stewart
Jim & Dee Strauss*
Mary Welch
Jean Whaley & Scott Whaley
Phyllis & Lou Whitsell
Lesley Washburn*
Brittany Broder
Doris Lambert
Mary Archibald*
Red & Linda Barringer
Dolores Criswell
Jennifer Fortin
Mike & Dayl Fredrickson
Kim Kaufman
Glenn & Noreen Kozeluh
Kathy Lockridge*
Lynda Frost*
Douglas Grimm
Amy Hetzler*
Lynea*
Fred Liberatori
David Bentley
Mary Yarrow-Hoppe
MM
Sarah Anderson*

EVENT SPONSORS

These businesses and individuals have agreed to sponsor an event at the Carousel in 2020. Because we are not yet sure which events will happen, we are going to thank them all in one spot for now and fill in the details later.

Headwaters Foundation
First Security Bank
Merrill Lynch
Roth Eicholtz Group
Mike and Kimberly Roth
Good Food Store
Hobby Horse Arts
Pepsi of Missoula
Morrison Maierle, Inc
Wozniak Freeman Jensen
Investment Group
Baskin Robbins
PayneWest Insurance

GRANTS 2020

**Max & Betty Swanson
Foundation**
\$1800

**Selma & Alvin
Silverman Foundation**
\$500

IN KIND(ness)

Black Knight Security
Five Valleys Restoration
P.E.T.E.S. Electric Technology
TC Glass

Please see the following page for information about donating or sponsoring.

Thanks to our Monthly Sponsors



Quarter One



Advanced Imaging

BE WELL.



Quarter Two



Quarter Three



GARLINGTON | LOHN | ROBINSON
MONTANA'S ATTORNEYS SINCE 1870



Quarter Four

**DECEMBER 2020
Sponsor of the Month
Needed
Interested?
Call 370-3922**

How to donate or sponsor an event

Like many other not-for-profits, and many for-profit businesses, the Carousel has been affected financially by a COVID19 closure. Approximately 75% of our expenses are covered by operating income.

If you would like to help us make up for some of the income we have lost, we would be most grateful. We are a 501(c)(3), so your donation is deductible to the full extent allowed by law.

To donate, please send a check made out to A Carousel for Missoula (or ACFM), to PO Box 3345, Missoula, MT 59806; or donate online at <http://carouseelformissoula.com/donate/>

When you donate, please let us know if you do or do not want an "I Ponied Up" lapel pin.

We are also always looking for sponsors for our events, and we are currently seeking a December Sponsor of the Month. For information about sponsorship opportunities, please call Theresa at 370-3922.

Mirror, mirror, on the Carousel who are the fairest of them all? You are!



More thanks! This time to those of you who responded so quickly and so generously when three of the mirrors on the outside of the Carousel building were broken.

TC Glass replaced the mirrors at a discount, and the wonderful people listed below donated the rest of the funds needed to pay for the repairs.

Visitors often tell us their communities could not have done what Missoula did in building a Carousel and playground with volunteers. We agree! More than that, however, we know very few communities have the will and spirit to sustain such treasures. We are blessed to be in Missoula with all of you.

Aimee Rickard
Allison Kelly
Alyssa Johnson
Ane Shields
Berta Duckhead
Bryan Cochran
Clem Lockman
Colleen Glavin Holzheimer
Courtney Clark Hodek
Crystal Liberatori
Daniel Michael Roberts
Daria Swift
Debbie Hanson
Debra Orozco
Dianne Rallis Peterson
Donna Upson Correia
Faith Duke
Geoff Tiger Prawn Badenoch
Ginger Yates
Jamie Lynn Greenwood-Wilson
Jeff Herman
Jess Coulter
Jess Hale
Jim Coulter
Jodi Mackey
Jody Duff McKernan
Joey Deschamps Hennes

Julie Foley
Katie Tenold Guenzler
Katrina Espinoza
Kelsey Cote
Laura Henning
Laura Lee
Marilyn Ryan
Mark Juedeman
Mark Roberts
Mary Pittaway
Meghan Lamson
Melani Hansen Best
Mike Haynes
Mountain Broadcasting - Max Murphy
Naomi Lynn Chamblin Rummel
Patty Jayne
Rachel Albers
Renda Greene
Rhonda OldHorn
Ryan Girouard
Ryan Yearous
Seisin Eyer
Sheila Mac
Sky Stolp
Tara Leslie Werner
Terri Sullivan Voeller
Tessa Fraser

Keeping the little ones safe

Unfortunately, we are cancelling the Fairy Tale and Superhero Festival and Haunted Hollow for 2020. Both events pose significant risk of exposure to hundreds of children and their grownups.

Cancelling the events is another effort to keep our little ones safe.

If possible, we will be celebrating the themes without the events.

Preliminary ideas include asking little ones to wear costumes when they come to ride during the weeks when the events would have been held, posts about the theme and related activities on the Carousel's Facebook page, and requests for kids to submit stories and drawings about their favorite fairy tale characters, superheroes or Halloween happenings.

If you have other ideas to share, please send them to mslacarousel@gmail.com, or tell us about them on Facebook.

Keeping the grownups safe, too

All of our visitors and supporters are important to us, so along with cancelling some of our kids' events, we will be combining some of our adult events. Our events team is busy thinking/creating/reimagining our combined event, but we are currently envisioning a Garden Party/25th anniversary celebration/Ride-a-Thon/Rocking Pony raffle drawing evening.

We are almost certain the event will be virtual, because we are committed to keeping all of us safe.

You can see why that's going to take some thought.

The next few months we will be working hard to operate on a day-to-day basis, while adjusting to the new normal, but behind the scenes we will be creating this amazing event. We hope you will join us and will continue to support the Carousel and Dragon Hollow as you are able.

A few services we can provide

I have met some of the nicest people the last few weeks, as they have checked in to see if they could purchase some Carousel notecards, a poster, a magnet, or some miniatures to add to their collections. You'll find a poem by one of these shoppers in the next column.

Though the Carousel is not open and only a few employees and repair people are allowed into the building, we are still able to mail out ship gift shop merchandise. If you have something in mind or need a frequent rider card for a gift, please email us at mslacarousel@gmail.com. We'll get back to you as soon as we can to make arrangements to get your merchandise to you.

Keeping in touch

It has been pretty quiet at the Carousel and Dragon Hollow the last couple of months, but our presence on Facebook and Instagram has never been stronger. We are offering activities for kids to do at home, videos from those who miss the Carousel, bite-sized history lessons, and some short spots with our Executive Director and Director of Operations (socially distanced) telling some of the secrets of the Carousel.

We want to hear from you. Keep in touch with us on Facebook (A Carousel for Missoula and Dragon Hollow) and on Instagram ([acarouselformissoula](https://www.instagram.com/acarouselformissoula)).

Circle of Joy by: Leon C Harden

*The strains of the calliope reached deep
Into the past, to that innermost secret
Place of vanquished hope and unrealized
Dreams, wrapped in layers peeled from
the
Heart, preserved there by the salt of
Long-ago tears.*

*The music broke the crust that sealed
The memories, made them dance and
Jitter like coins on a pie tin in a
Black minstrel's hand, to the cadence
Of long silent songs, punctuated by the
Upward surge and downward glide
and
Roundward whirl of the ghosts from
Yesteryear.*

*With nostrils flared, they circle,
Decked out in red and gold and silver
Trappings on nature's coats of white
And black and gray between, their
Hearts of wood, brought to life by
Urging hands, dug in heels and slaps
Of reins against shining flanks.*

*They rise and fall as they race ever
Forward to youthful tunes of bright
Young minds and joyful hearts, who ride
to a
Thousand victories over imaginary foes
And future fears, unmindful of the
Barefoot boy who wistfully watches
In outgrown clothes.*

*Round and round they go, carrying their
Youthful burdens, who with peals of
Laughter and shining eyes, had the
Price of a ride on the Carousel.*

This poem was printed in the International Poets Society's annual anthology, and is reprinted here with Leon's permission. He tells me that visiting our Carousel was a very emotional experience for him.

Leon "...wrote the poem somewhere in Wyoming, at two o'clock in the morning, on a napkin. It captures that experience."

We love hearing stories of how this Carousel and its history have touched people's hearts.



Carousel Ups and Downs

When we are asked how things are going at the Carousel, we often say they are going up and down. Like any business, we do have our ups and downs, but overwhelmingly things are up at the Carousel. A few examples...

DOWN: Three of decorative mirrors at the Carousel were broken in mid April, about a month after we closed to keep the community safe. With little money coming in, the additional expense of replacing the mirrors was daunting.

UP: We posted our mirror misadventure on our Facebook page with a donate button, and the community answered immediately with the funds needed to replace the mirrors.

UP: TC Glass came the morning after the breakage to assess the damage. They have replaced the mirrors and have even given us a discount on the final invoice. **See photo on the right...**



UP: When Wade Herbert, owner of Black Knight Security, heard about the mirrors, he realized the lack of activity in Caras Park really puts us at risk for vandalism. He immediately arranged for his team to patrol around the Carousel to help us avoid additional problems. Wade and his crew are providing these services free of charge.



DOWN: Throughout the course of a year, things go wrong. In general, when little things go wrong, we wait until there are enough of them to justify calling a professional like a plumber or an electrician so we can get the most bang for our money.

UP: One day on Facebook, we found that PETE'S Electronic Technologies had tagged us, along with several other not-for-profits, offering free labor during the virus crisis. We called to schedule one repair, but by the time they were done, the electricians had fixed every electronic issue we could think of, patiently and professionally. The donated labor made a huge difference on our bill.

DOWN: As much as we love all our visitors, we can all agree a building full of people is going to get dirty. We do a thorough cleaning of the Carousel building once a year, and keep up as we can, but dirt and germs are a fact of life. Dragon Hollow is even more difficult to keep clean.

UP: Five Valley Restoration Services has offered to do a thorough cleaning of the Carousel building and Dragon Hollow before we reopen to the public. One of our Dragon Hollow renovation Committee Chairs, John Maki, and Matt Cavanaugh, owner of Five Valleys Restoration, contacted us offering their services whenever we are ready to go. We are pretty excited to have a complete cleaning of the building and Dragon Hollow, especially when someone else is doing the heavy lifting!



UP: Republic Services was very gracious about adjusting our pick up schedule during our shutdown, resulting in a reduction of our bill for their services. These days, it all helps!



UP: The Missoula Parking Commission waived parking fees for a portion of the time many non-essential downtown businesses were closed. This was a tremendous financial help to all downtown businesses, as well as those who work at, and those who use the services provided by, downtown businesses.



So, in the last few weeks, that's three **DOWNs** and seven **UPs**, on top of the major **DOWN** of being closed, and the even better **UP** of helping keep everyone safe. Looks like, as usual, the **UPs** are outnumbering the **DOWNs**. Thanks to all of the individuals and businesses who are making good things happen in the face of an unprecedented crisis.

New (tentative) date for the Rocking Pony Raffle in Dec. 1

One-of-a-Kind Art by *Larry Pirnie* and the Carousel carvers

Were you sad when May 23 came and went, and no one called to tell you that you had won Spot?

We have good news for you! Because the Carousel was closed, and the board has not been able to get out and about to sell raffle tickets, we've moved the raffle. The tickets already purchased are, of course, still valid, but now those of you who didn't know about the raffle, or forgot to purchase tickets, have another chance to buy tickets to win Spot and support the Carousel.

The drawing is currently scheduled for Dec. 1, but things are fluid, so all we can promise is that we will give plenty of notice before Larry draws the winning ticket.

There's no time like the present, though, so feel free to hit up a Carousel board member, call Theresa at 370-3922, or send a check made out to A Carousel for Missoula to PO Box 3345, Missoula, MT 59806. Let us know if you want us to send you the stubs from your tickets; if you don't ask for the stubs, we will save the postage.

We are working to set up our website so you can purchase tickets directly from that site. Check www.carouselformissoula.com, or send an email to mslacarousel@gmail.com to let us know that you want to be notified when that option is available.

Tickets are \$25 each, or FIVE for \$100

**Drawing scheduled for Tuesday, December 1, 2020,
at A Carousel for Missoula**

**You do not need to be present to win, but you are responsible for
getting the completed rocking pony from where we are to where you are.**

ROCKING PONY RAFFLE TICKET ORDER

I would like _____ tickets for the Rocking Pony ____ @ \$25 and/or ____ sets of five @ \$100

Total = _____ Check enclosed: _____ or Please charge my credit card _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City Line: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Credit Card Number: _____

Expiration date: _____ Code: _____

Signature: _____