



# Festival Media Advisory

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **National Cherry Festival Celebrates 100 Years with a Community Legacy Day Honoring First Responders**

**TRAVERSE CITY, Mich. (April 17, 2026)** - As part of its 100th celebration, the National Cherry Festival invites the community to come together for a special **Community Legacy Day** on **Sunday, May 3** from **11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.** The event will take place on the front lawn of the Grand Traverse Commons.

This family-friendly event honors the everyday heroes who keep the Grand Traverse region safe. Community Legacy Day will feature a full afternoon of engaging activities for all ages, including a cake walk, hands-on crafting tables, a petting zoo, and a wide variety of interactive games and experiences for children. Guests can also enjoy live entertainment throughout the day, along with a diverse selection of food offerings, creating a festive and welcoming atmosphere for the entire community.

Attendees will have the opportunity to meet and interact with local first responders, including police officers, firefighters, and EMS personnel. The event will also showcase emergency vehicles, giving families a unique, up-close look at the tools and equipment used to serve and protect the community.

“Community Legacy Day is an opportunity to pause and recognize the individuals who are always there when we need them most,” said Kat Paye, Executive Director. “As we celebrate 100 years of the National Cherry Festival, we are especially grateful for our first responders, whose partnership and dedication are essential to the safety and success of the Festival each year. This day is a small way to give back and say thank you for all they do.”

Community Legacy Day is presented in partnership with Oleson’s Food Stores, which is also celebrating 100 years of serving the community, making this event a shared milestone of local pride and tradition.

“As both organizations celebrate 100 years of service, Oleson's Food Stores is honored to partner with the Festival to support the first responders who serve as the backbone of our community,” said Sam Oleson.

Guests are encouraged to bring the whole family and take part in this meaningful day of gratitude, connection, and celebration. Admission is free, with food and select activities available for purchase. Proceeds from these offerings will support local first responders.

For more information about Community Legacy Day and other National Cherry Festival events, visit [cherryfestival.org](http://cherryfestival.org).

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