



**For Immediate Release**

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### **FALL FORECAST: FESTIVALS, FOOD & FUN IN GRAND RAPIDS**

**(September 9, 2008 – Grand Rapids, MI)** As the weather cools, festivals and special events heat up throughout the Grand Rapids area, celebrating everything from seasonal delights to historical homes to local food and wine.

**32<sup>nd</sup> Annual Rockford Harvest Festival** Taking place in picturesque downtown Rockford, the Harvest Festival is a three-weekend event celebrating the end of the summer growing season and featuring food and family fun. September 26 – 28; October 4 – 5; October 11 – 12.

**40<sup>th</sup> Annual Fallasburg Fall Festival** Featuring 85 exhibiting artists, musical entertainment, children's activities and more, this beloved fall event takes place in Lowell near the historical Fallasburg Covered Bridge which was erected in 1871. September 27 – 28.

**Colorfall** Frederik Meijer Gardens & Sculpture Park's annual celebration of the autumn season features an extensive chrysanthemum display with hundreds of flowering plants in both interior and exterior areas. Indoor highlights include varieties on display along the winding Scenic Corridor and the Seasonal Display Greenhouse, while outdoor plantings are featured in the English Perennial Garden, Michigan's Farm Garden and Volunteer Tribute Garden. Color tours, tram rides and seasonal children's activities offer a unique way to experience autumn. September 13 – October 31

**Heritage Hills Tour of Homes** Heritage Hill, just outside downtown Grand Rapids, is one of the largest urban historic districts in the country. The 39<sup>th</sup> Annual Home Tour allows visitors to experience the eight distinctive homes, some which were once on the brink of demise. October 4 - 5

**Voigt House German Fest** Enjoy an authentic Oktoberfest experience under the tent at the Voigt House Victorian Museum. Come for toe-tapping beer garden music and German beer and wine, along with delicacies prepared by Austrian native (and Museum Chef) Hans Dokl. Saturday, October 4 • 11am – 8pm; Sunday, October 5 • 11am – 6pm.

Built in 1895, the Voigt House Victorian Museum offers visitors an intimate view of the life of a prominent Michigan family in the late 19<sup>th</sup>/early 20<sup>th</sup> century. Located at 115 College Ave. SE in historic Heritage Hill, the three-story treasure was home to the well-known Voigt family, successful Grand Rapids merchants and flour mill entrepreneurs.

**Grand Rapids International Food & Wine Festival** Local culinary experts are set to take center stage at this inaugural event at DeVos Place. From the casual foodie to the connoisseur, there's sure to be something to please every palette, including wines, beers, culinary delights from area chefs and gourmet specialties. November 21 – 23.

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