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# CHASKA HERALD

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# 'It's gonna be fun'

FILE PHOTOS BY MARK W. OLSON

The Minnesota Valley Community Band packs the park for River City Days in 2019. The band returns 1 p.m. Saturday, performing under the big tent on Walnut Street.

## River City Days returns July 23-25

BY AMY FELEGY  
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After a year off, Chaska's beloved River City Days is back.

Friday, July 23 through Sunday, July 25 will mark the 45th gathering of the city's big festival, meant to benefit community groups and area nonprofits.

"I think we need it," said Christen Swift, filling in as RCD executive director.

People are craving connections, fun, and things to do after a beyond-adverse year, she said. Luckily, River City Days is ready to provide just that this weekend.

Under hopefully-sunny skies, returning festivities will include a parade, car show, craft and vendor fair, family fun run and music from prized local bands



Devon Worley keeps the big tent rocking during a 2019 River City Days concert. She is scheduled to return at 8:30 p.m., Friday, July 23.

(like the Minnesota Valley Community Band and Jamboney Music) throughout the weekend.

"Everyone's excited about those," Swift said, of the music lineup.

Volunteer and community participation is unknown — it could go either way, she said, depending on people's pandemic

comfort — but she and board member James Courneya think people will fill City Square Park more than usual.

"We're expecting big," Courneya said. "It's gonna be fun."

There aren't any COVID-specific restrictions for this weekend's RCD, per state protocol.

"People need something to do," Swift said. "I'm excited."

That excitement comes partially from Sunday's schedule, more robust than previous years.

"Sunday has really grown. Sunday is now a legit day instead of just kind of a 'meh' day. The car show (on Sunday) is gonna be bigger than ever this year," Swift said.

Seven food trucks had already registered for the day, as of early last week, she said.

### TOE-TAPPING RETURNS

The Minnesota Valley Community Band started meeting again in early June

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PHOTO BY LYDIA CHRISTIANSON

Payton Fogarty has been a lifeguard for around three years. In this photo, Fogarty is lifeguarding on a quiet afternoon at Clayhole Beach in downtown Chaska.

## On guard

### Lifeguard shortage impacts some areas

BY LYDIA CHRISTIANSON  
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Lifeguarding, the quintessential job for teens and college students home for summer vacation. While lifeguards' red swimsuits and exasperated yells of "walk, don't run" are nothing new, staffing levels have seen a change this year.

According to Scott Lhotka, lifeguard services and training coordinator for Minnetonka Aquatics, there is a national shortage of lifeguards. They've seen it in the Twin Cities, but also in the Minnetonka and Chanhassen area, he said. The aquatics organization oversees nine different beaches in the area, including Lake Ann in Chanhassen.

Lifeguard certification classes have to be in person and require physical contact. Trainings for things such as CPR posed a

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