

**CONTACT:**

Natalie Stavale / 248-417-8510

Zack Zinser / 248-671-0142

313-462-0808

[Natalie@CatalystMediaFactory.com](mailto:Natalie@CatalystMediaFactory.com)

[Zack@CatalystMediaFactory.com](mailto:Zack@CatalystMediaFactory.com)



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Feb. 1, 2022**

**WINTER BLAST TO HEAT UP ROYAL OAK WITH  
A LINEUP OF COOL SEASONAL FUN**

*Annual regional winter fest returns to offer attendees tasty treats,  
a local music showcase, outdoor experiences, FREE ice skating and more*

**ROYAL OAK, Mich. – Winter Blast Royal Oak** presented by the Soaring Eagle Casino & Resort is heating up to bring some cool seasonal activities to its new home in Royal Oak, Michigan on **Friday, Feb. 18 through Sunday, Feb. 20, 2022.**

“We are overjoyed to be back and have the community come together and take advantage of the many activities that people of all ages can see and do at Winter Blast Royal Oak,” said Raul Venegas, Executive Director of Marketing, Entertainment & Sales, Soaring Eagle Casino & Resort. “We’re creating a beautiful winter wonderland that’s sure to be well received by residents, metro Detroiters and beyond and become the go-to destination for a weekend of winter fun for years to come.”

Offering free admission and two hours of free parking in the structures and only \$.75 per hour after that, Winter Blast Royal Oak is affordable fun for the whole family. It will include winter-themed experiences, family activities, live entertainment and more. Winter Blast Royal Oak is open to the public from 4 p.m.-11 p.m. Friday, Feb, 18; 11 a.m.-11 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 19; and 11 a.m.- 8 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 20.

**COOL WINTER ACTIVITIES**

Winter activities pack the schedule of events at Winter Blast Royal Oak. And because 90 percent of these activities are outdoors, festivalgoers can make a blast of their time at Winter Blast exclusively out in the open air if they choose and come away with a memorable experience.

**Ice, Ice Baby!**

An outdoor ice rink sponsored by **M3 Investments** is coming to Royal Oak! This exciting new attraction in the city – **M3 Rink** – will be located in the western parking lot of the Royal Oak Farmers Market at 316 E. Eleven Mile Rd. Thanks to Oakland County, festivalgoers can lace up and **ice skate for free** all three days of Winter Blast festival. Skate rentals are \$5 for kids and \$10 for adults.

“Winter Blast just wouldn’t be the same without ice skating, so we’re proud to bring to life the M3 Rink at Royal Oak Farmers Market to give attendees the chance to glide, spin, lunge or perform whatever skills they may have on ice skates and to do it for free throughout the festival weekend,” said Jon Witz, festival producer.

The M3 Rink also can be enjoyed weeks after Winter Blast Royal Oak concludes. It will remain open through March 13. Hours and pricing will be available soon.

To add to the festival's ambiance and continue the winter theme, Winter Blast will feature a garden filled with expertly carved and stunning, Insta-worthy ice sculptures that will colorfully light up at night. Sponsored by **Henry Ford Health System**, the **Ice Garden** will be located along 3<sup>rd</sup> Street near Main Street, and also will include on-site ice carving demonstrations.

### **LOCATION, LOCATION, LOCATION!**

Winter Blast Royal Oak festivities will take place east of Main Street and south of 11 Mile Road through 3<sup>rd</sup> Street and surrounding the Centennial Commons Downtown Park, Royal Oak's new, world-class urban park. The footprint offers plenty of open space to host Winter Blast and for attendees to gather comfortably.

To break away from the cold, but not the fun, attendees will have the opportunity to step inside the festival **Comfort Zones**. These heated tents sponsored by **DTE Energy**, **House of Dank** and **United Way** offer a warm and cozy environment for attendees to enjoy food and beverage offerings, live music and family-fun activities.

### **FOOD TRUCK DELIGHTS**

Festivalgoers should bring their appetites for the large selection of delectable and creative cuisine that will be available. Along with downtown Royal Oak's large mix of restaurants that will remain open during Winter Blast, festival organizers have carefully selected a variety of food trucks that will cruise in with tasty offerings to satiate everyone's cravings. Whether looking for sweet and spicy barbeque, succulent chicken wings, exciting international flavors or refreshing and indulgent desserts, festivalgoers will have plenty of options to choose from.

Participating in this year's food truck rally are Big Bo's, Big Mike's, Chick-A-Dee, Cinnabon, Crispelli's, Del Ray BBQ, Fork In Nigeria, Imperial Tacos, Island Noodles, Mercurio's, Niko's Gyros, Panzerotti and Wing Snob.

Royal Oak favorites The Morrie and Tequila Blue will co-sponsor an official **Winter Blast After Party** for those looking to keep the revelry going after the activities end at 11 p.m. on Friday, Feb. 18 and Saturday, Feb. 19.

Additionally, **marshmallow roasting stations** located throughout the festival grounds courtesy of **DTE Energy** and **The Detroit News** will offer festivalgoers a place to warm their mitts and also enjoy a tasty, toasty treat reminiscent of summertime campfires. Marshmallow and s'more kits will be available starting at \$3 per kit.

### **LIVE MUSIC SHOWCASE**

Winter Blast, known for showcasing dozens of metro Detroit's finest musical talent, will feature a stellar music lineup of up-and-coming and longtime favorite local musical acts performing live all three days of the festival. ***See the complete Winter Blast Royal Oak Music Schedule toward the end of this press release.***

On the **Soaring Eagle Stage**, the musically-filled weekend will include performances by bands and musical acts representing a variety of genres, such as **Groove Fellowship**, a progressive-experimental group that combines elements of R&B/soul, jazz and funk; **Damon Terrell Acoustic Duet** performing jazz; **75 Days of Sun**, a high-energy band with its original blend of Alternative Ska music; **The Reefermen**, the legendary veteran rockers of the Detroit music scene; and **Jill Jack Band** (Americana), a singer-songwriter and another of the area's veteran performers whose career has spanned decades and taken her around the globe.

Soaring Eagle Stage headliners include **Cast Iron Cornbread**, a band that captivates audiences with its exciting, versatile sound from all genres; **Larry Lee & The Back In The Day Band**, one of the most popular party bands in the Midwest that combines old-school funk with many different genres of music, including R&B, pop, soul, Motown, hip-hop, disco and even rock; and the **Killer Flamingos**, whose members hail from Dearborn and are known for delivering an explosive pop/rock live show with their high energy and powerhouse vocals.

Bringing down the house on the **House of Dank Stage** include such musical acts as **Al'Exist** (Alternative Soul), a captivating artist and vocalist; Pop/R&B artist **J Santino**, a singer-songwriter with an electric sound and urban feel; **Dirty Mic and The Boys** and their psychedelic sounds; modern country band **Taylor Tucky**; and the favorite party band veterans **The Persuasion Band**.

Fans of rock can check out **Jack's Revenge**, a band that performs a mix of rock covers and originals; **CHIT!**, a band that brings humor and talent to the stage along with power rock hits from the 70s, 80s and 90s; **Avatar Mode**, an Indie Post-Rock band comprised of four cousins that generates its distinctive sound by bringing together different styles and influences; and others.

Headlining acts are multi award-winning R&B soul artist **Alise King**; **Roots Vibrations**, a musical force made up of members from the Caribbean's exotic islands and Detroit's funky streets that provides authentic Caribbean music; and veteran blues band **Motor City Josh & the Big 3**, led by founder and front man Josh Ford, an accomplished songwriter, multi-instrumentalist, and renowned slide guitarist.

Later each evening, **DJs** will hit the stage to spin tunes and drop beats. The lineup includes a promising addition to Detroit's electronic music scene, **King Saaidi**; the techy house beats spun in a hip-hop fashion by **Sonya Alvarez**; the light summer music feel of **Wave Point**; and the son of techno pioneer Kevin Saunderson, **Dantiez Saunderson**.

Families with children can look forward to the many fun-filled, entertaining activities available inside the **DTE Energy Comfort Zone**, which will feature the **Huntington Bank Stage** where musicians, puppeteers, magicians and more will have audiences on their feet, clapping their hands and laughing out loud. Scheduled acts include **3 Little Pigs Puppet Show**, **Magical Randy Lee**, **Zippity: 2 Guys & a Guitar**, **Nat Spinz Hula Hoops and Kevin Devine's Rollicking Music**. Kiddos also can engage in hands-on crafts organized and overseen by Arts & Scraps and rotating experiments from the Michigan Science Center.

Throughout the festival footprint, buskers will roam about to dazzle kids and adults alike with mind blowing feats, such as mesmerizing juggling acts and unforgettable magic tricks.

### **ZIP LINE THROUGH THE PARK**

Thrill-seeking festivalgoers also can enjoy Winter Blast from high above on a **zip line** sponsored by **Baker College**. This 300-foot long, 34-foot high zip line will offer riders panoramic views of Royal Oak's Centennial Commons Downtown Park as they soar through the brisk, winter air. Tickets are available at \$10 each, with \$2 of every ride benefiting United Way.

### **AWAY WE GO!**

What an adrenaline rush! The legendary **giant slide** will make its way into Royal Oak, sending riders through a dark tube at up to 20 mph and dropping them down at a 40-degree angle. There also is a 30-degree drop slide for children, and those who like their adventure at a gentler pace. Tickets for the giant slide are available for \$3 per ride.

### **LET IT SNOW!**

Festival organizers are forecasting snow for the weekend, making way for another traditional winter pastime as part of Winter Blast Royal Oak – **free snowshoeing**. Attendees will have the opportunity to try out and learn the basics of this activity in an urban setting, while incorporating an element of fitness into their Winter Blast visit. Snowshoes will be available in a variety of sizes for children and adults, so visitors of all ages can get up and get moving in the festival's winter wonderland of snow.

### **FREEZIN' FOR A REASON**

Festivalgoers daring to go to the extreme are encouraged to participate in the **Winter Blast Polar Plunge**, a fundraiser for Special Olympics Michigan that involves jumping into a pool of freezing water. Winter Blast Polar Plunge is sponsored by **Howard & Howard** and participants who raise \$500 or more are eligible to win a free weekend at Soaring Eagle Casino & Resort. Anyone interested in becoming a plunger can register at <https://www.classy.org/event/winter-blast-polar-plunge-2022-royal-oak/e381914>. Those wishing to support Special Olympics Michigan, but not willing to brave the cold water, can make a donation on site at Winter Blast Royal Oak. All funds raised by plungers will directly benefit kids and adults with intellectual disabilities in southeast Michigan.

### **SPEND THE NIGHT IN THE CITY**

Festivalgoers looking to elevate their experience can opt for overnight stays at the **Hotel Royal Oak, the official hotel of the 2022 Winter Blast Royal Oak**. The boutique hotel, with stylishly retro-modern touches and a resort vibe, will welcome many of the festival's performers and staff, as well as make room for festivalgoers with a 15 percent off all rooms special during Winter Blast weekend. In addition to the convenience of being located just steps away from the festival and offering guests the opportunity to enjoy a mini-vacation in downtown Royal Oak, the hotel indulges the senses with amenities such as concierge service, a hot breakfast, high-speed WI-FI, HDTV flat screen TVs and perks at local restaurants and clubs.

### **WINTER BLAST ROYAL OAK PRESENTED BY SOARING EAGLE MUSIC LINEUP**

*All performances are subject to change*

**SOARING EAGLE STAGE**  
**In the United Way 211 Comfort Zone**

**FRIDAY, FEB. 18**

4:15 - 5:00 p.m. Acoustic Ash (Acoustic/Songwriter)  
5:30 - 6:30 p.m. REDD (Pop/Hip-Hop)  
7:00 - 8:00 p.m. Groove Fellowship (Funk/R&B Fusion)  
8:30 - 9:30 p.m. Strange Heart (Indie/Rock)  
10:00 - 11:00 p.m. Cast Iron Cornbread (Rock)

**SATURDAY, FEB. 19**

11:15 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Damon Terrell Acoustic Duet (Jazz)  
12:30 - 1:30 p.m. Nique Love Rhodes & the NLR Experience (Hip-Hop/Fusion)  
2:00 - 3:00 p.m. All Grown Up (Rock)  
3:30 - 4:15 p.m. 75 Days of Sun (Ska)  
4:45 - 5:30 p.m. Ryan Jay (Country)  
6:00 - 6:45 p.m. New World Soul (R&B)  
7:15 - 8:00 p.m. Frame 42 (Rock/Classic Rock)  
8:30 - 9:30 p.m. The Reefermen (Rock)  
10:00 - 11:00 p.m. Larry Lee & Back in The Day (R&B/Motown)

**SUNDAY, FEB. 20**

11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Mark Reitenga (Acoustic Folk Rock)  
1:00 - 2:00 p.m. The Jacki Daniels Show (Pop/Country)  
2:30 - 3:30 p.m. Maraj Virtuoso & Friends With The Better Things Band (Neo-Soul/Latin Lo-Fi Rock)  
4:00 - 5:00 p.m. Dave Hamilton Band (Rock)  
5:30 - 6:30 p.m. Jill Jack Band (Americana)  
7:00 - 8:00 p.m. Killer Flamingos (Pop/Rock)

**HOUSE OF DANK STAGE**  
**In the HOD Comfort Zone**

**FRIDAY, FEB. 18**

4:30 - 5:15 p.m. Al'Exist (Alternative Soul)  
5:45 - 6:30 p.m. Royal Oak Blues Band (Blues)  
7:00 - 7:45 p.m. J. Santino (Pop/R&B)  
8:15 - 9:15 p.m. Dirty Mic and The Boys (Psychedelic)  
9:45 - 11:00 p.m. Alise King (R&B Soul)

**SATURDAY, FEB. 19**

11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Marquette (Alternative R&B)  
1:00 - 2:00 p.m. Jack's Revenge (Rock)  
2:30 - 3:30 p.m. Standing Room Only (Classic Rock)  
4:00 - 5:00 p.m. Taylor Tucky (Modern Country)  
5:30 - 6:30 p.m. CHIT! (Classic Rock)  
7:00 - 8:00 p.m. Spiral Crush (Rock)  
8:30 - 9:30 p.m. The Persuasion Band (High Energy Party)

10:00 - 11:00 p.m. Roots Vibrations (Reggae, Soca)

**SUNDAY, FEB. 20**

11:15 a.m. - 12:15 p.m. ABI (Songwriter/Acoustic)  
12:45 - 1:45 p.m. Avatar Mode (Indie Post-Rock)  
2:15 - 3:15 p.m. In Flow (Reggae/Hip-Hop)  
3:45 - 4:45 p.m. The Band Mint (Hip-Hop/Rock)  
5:15 - 6:15 p.m. Big Pappa and the Machine (Variety)  
6:45 - 8:00 p.m. Motor City Josh & the Big 3 (Blues)

**HUNTINGTON KIDS STAGE & FAMILY ACTIVITIES  
In the DTE Energy Comfort Zone**

**FRIDAY, FEB. 18**

4:00 - 4:30 p.m. 3 Little Pigs Puppet Show  
5:00 - 5:30 p.m. Magical Randyl Lee  
6:00 - 6:30 p.m. 3 Little Pigs Puppet Show  
7:00 - 9:00 p.m. Sonya Alvarez  
9:00 - 11:00 p.m. Wave Point

**SATURDAY, FEB. 19**

11:00 - 11:30 a.m. Zippity: 2 Guys & a Guitar  
12:00 - 12:30 p.m. Nat Spinz Hula Hoops  
12:45 - 1:15 p.m. Zippity: 2 Guys & a Guitar  
1:30 - 2:00 p.m. Michigan Science Center  
2:15 - 2:45 p.m. Magical Randyl Lee  
3:00 - 3:30 p.m. Nat Spinz Hula Hoops  
4:00 - 4:30 p.m. Zippity: 2 Guys & a Guitar  
5:00 - 5:30 p.m. Nat Spinz Hula Hoops  
6:00 - 6:30 p.m. Magical Randyl Lee  
7:00 - 9:00 p.m. Dantie Saunderson  
9:00 - 11:00 p.m. King Saaidi

**SUNDAY, FEB. 20**

11:00 - 11:30 a.m. Kevin Devine's Rollicking Music  
12:00 - 12:30 p.m. Magical Randyl Lee  
12:45 - 1:15 p.m. Kevin Devine's Rollicking Music  
1:30 - 2:00 p.m. Michigan Science Center  
2:15 - 2:45 p.m. Zippity: 2 Guys & a Guitar  
3:00 - 3:30 p.m. Magical Randyl Lee  
4:00 - 4:30 p.m. Kevin Devine's Rollicking Music  
5:00 - 5:30 p.m. Zippity: 2 Guys & a Guitar  
6:00 - 6:30 p.m. Kevin Devine's Rollicking Music  
6:30 - 8:00 p.m. House Music

**SPONSORS**

Winter Blast Royal Oak is grateful for the generous support from its presenting sponsor Soaring Eagle Casino & Resort, as well as the following: Allied Marketing, Baker College, City of Royal Oak, City of Royal Oak DDA, Detroit News, DTE Energy, Faygo, Henry Ford

Health System, Hotel Royal Oak, House of Dank, Howard & Howard, Huntington Bank, Imperial Beverage, Makers Mark, M3 Investments, Oakland County, Rasor Law Firm, Tequila Blue, The Morrie, Tito's Vodka, United Way and US Park.

###

**About Winter Blast Royal Oak**

*Winter Blast Royal Oak is a celebration of winter experiences, dining, music and family fun, originally created as the backdrop for Super Bowl XL. For additional information, visit [WinterBlast.com](http://WinterBlast.com).*