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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Prominent Saint Paul events join forces
to kick off summer together**

Grand Old Day and Flint Hills Family Festival to partner for fun-filled weekend, June 1-3

SAINT PAUL, Minn. (March 23, 2018) — The [Grand Avenue Business Association](#) and [Ordway Center for the Performing Arts](#) this morning announced a new partnership between the organizations' longstanding summer events: [Grand Old Day](#) and the [Flint Hills Family Festival](#). This year, the festivals will join forces for a fun-filled weekend in Saint Paul, running from Friday evening, June 1, to Sunday evening, June 3.

The two festivals offer a combined 63 years of experience and attract nearly 300,000 people to Saint Paul each year. The announcement of this partnership was made this morning at the Ordway's 2018 Community Partners Breakfast, an annual event to celebrate and kickoff the Flint Hills Family Festival.

"These fantastic events are annual traditions for hundreds of thousands of people," said Jamie Grant, president and CEO of Ordway Center for the Performing Arts. "With the Flint Hills Family Festival moving to Friday and Saturday this year, it's a perfect time for us to partner with our friends on Grand Avenue. We can't wait to create new ways for people of all ages to celebrate the start of summer in Saint Paul."

"Our events combine to offer something spectacular for everyone," said Connie DeLage, executive director of the Grand Avenue Business Association. "By joining forces, we'll make each festival shine even brighter."

The weekend will kick off at 4 p.m. on Friday, June 1 through Saturday, June 2 with the 18th annual Flint Hills Family Festival in downtown Saint Paul. The two-day festival – sponsored by Flint Hills Resources – features free outdoor performances, crafts and activities, and affordable indoor performances for children and families. Then on Sunday, June 3, the 45th annual Grand Old Day will bring food vendors, artists, merchants, and a variety of activities out to Grand Avenue for the largest one-day street festival in the Midwest.

“The Flint Hills Family Festival’s new format and coordination with Grand Old Day provide an outstanding opportunity for families to enjoy many of the great things Saint Paul has to offer during one extraordinary weekend in June,” said Heather Rein, director of community affairs at the Flint Hills Resources Pine Bend refinery in Rosemount.

ABOUT ORDWAY CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS

For over 30 years, Ordway Center for Performing Arts has been telling stories that exemplify the human experience. Our stage has been a dramatic canvas for artists to create worlds of love and loss, hope and despair, war and peace, victory and defeat. Audiences have been transported to exotic locations, met iconic characters, and embarked on exhilarating adventures. Recognized as one of the U.S.’s leading not-for-profit performing arts centers, the Ordway presents and produces a wide variety of performances throughout the year that encompass the finest in musical theater, concerts, dance and vocal artists. In addition, each year the Ordway presents its Flint Hills Family Festival and serves over 60,000 children through its education programs. The performing arts center houses a 1,900 seat Music Theater, a 1,100 seat Concert Hall, two large rehearsal halls and magnificent lobbies. The Ordway is a proud member of the Arts Partnership, a collaboration comprising the Minnesota Opera, the Ordway, The Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra and Schubert Club. For more information, visit ordway.org.

ABOUT GRAND AVENUE BUSINESS ASSOCIATION

The Grand Avenue Business Association provides marketing, advocacy, and education to help member businesses prosper and enhance the quality of life along the Avenue and surrounding community. For more information, visit grandave.com.

ABOUT FLINT HILLS RESOURCES

Flint Hills Resources Pine Bend refinery produces transportation fuels used throughout the Midwest, including most of Minnesota’s gasoline, diesel fuel, jet fuel, as well as other products people rely on such as propane and asphalt. Located 17 miles southeast of Minneapolis, Pine Bend has a capacity of 339,000 barrels per day and is among the cleanest, most efficient, and safest oil refineries in the country. Flint Hills Resources directly and indirectly supports more than 4,000 Minnesota jobs and has invested nearly \$1.7 billion on upgrades and improvements to its Minnesota facilities since 2010. With about 1,000 full-time employees, the Flint Hills Resources Pine Bend refinery is one of the largest employers in Dakota County. More information about the company is available at pinebendrefinery.com.

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