



The Stouffer Report: *Enjoy the Free Ride on the Fourth*

A rare treat will happen over the Fourth of July weekend. Not only will we be celebrating the birth of our nation, but there will be an opportunity for you to enjoy one of rural Missouri's treasures without having to pay to get there.

[MoDOT](#) will offer free ferry service on the Missouri River at [Glasgow](#) over the Fourth of July weekend (Saturday, July 4, and Sunday, July 5). Letting folks ride for free across the river is being offered as a special incentive to encourage visitors to come to Glasgow, ride the ferry and see how the new bridge is coming along. The ferry runs from 6:30 in the morning until 6:30 in the evening, seven days a week.

The idea of the free ferry rides started when a constituent of mine asked if MoDOT would be willing to do this. I am pleased they were able to make it happen. I think this will bring more folks to the Glasgow area for the holiday weekend. I also want to thank MoDOT for making this partnership such a success over the past year.

The [Missouri River Bridge at Glasgow](#) was closed last August, so crews could start to tear out the bridge truss, girders and deck and replace them with a wider bridge. MoDOT expects to have the new bridge opened to traffic by August 4, 2009. They will still have other work to do on the bridge, which they hope to complete by the end of the year.

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Glasgow is a great community with a lot to offer, especially on a patriotic day like the Fourth of July. In the early 1500s, the area now known as Glasgow was home to the Missouri tribe. In 1836, it was settled by 13 men who named the settlement after one of its founders, James Glasgow. The town was considered to be the second great river port, behind St. Louis, due to its location and available access to the Missouri River.

Among the gems you can find in Glasgow is the Lewis Library, the second-oldest library in the state and the oldest library building in continuous use west of the Mississippi. The library was built in 1866 by Colonel Benjamin Lewis and his brother, James. The building also served as the first site of Lewis College, until the college moved to another location in 1891. There are also city parks, swimming pools, camp sites, restaurants and unique places to shop.

I hope folks take advantage of the free ferry rides on July 4th and 5th and visit Glasgow. Seeing how rural Missouri — the backbone of America — celebrates the birth of our nation's independence is something everyone should experience.

Senator Stouffer serves the counties of Carroll, Chariton, Cooper, Howard, Lafayette, Macon, Ray, Saline, and a part of Clay.

If you have questions or comments about this or any other issue, please call toll free (866) 768-3987 or by e-mail at bstouffer@senate.mo.gov.

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