

# *Great Falls Rising*

## *Monthly Newsletter*

### *November 2021*

As we enter the season of Thanksgiving, let's remember the words of President John F. Kennedy, "As we express our gratitude, we must never forget that the highest appreciation is not to utter words, but to live by them."

**MUNICIPAL ELECTION:** Did you know that the Municipal Election on November 2nd is by mail ballot only? Regular polling places will NOT be open. If you did not receive your mail ballot and you believe you are registered, or still need to register to vote, please call the Cascade County Election Office to see about registering or to get a ballot at (406) 454-6803. You have until Monday, November 1st, at noon to be able to do late registration.

**TWELVE TEEPEES ON THE HILL:** You can see them from afar! Twelve teepees are set up (representing each tribe) and lit to recognize Native American Month at the Great Falls Public School Administration Building (1100 4th Street South). They will stay up until November 30th. Thanks to Indian Education Director Dugan Coburn and his crew for sharing the beauty and heritage with our entire community.

**First Week:** Multi-colored lights to represent the diversity among our twelve tribal nations.

**Second Week:** Red lights to recognize the Missing & Murdered Indigenous People Crisis.

**Third Week:** Multi-colored lights to represent the diversity among our twelve tribal nations.

**Fourth Week:** Orange lights ~ Every Child Matters: movement to recognize all Indigenous children of the boarding school experience especially those who did not come home

**HIGHWAY CLEANUP:** On Saturday, October 23rd, a small group gathered to do highway cleanup on the I-15 section just north of Cascade GFR adopted "In Memory of Stagecoach Mary." It was our third cleanup. We have picked up 37

huge bags of trash from the sides of the road. We may try to do one more cleanup event in November if the weather holds out.

**SUPPORTING LOCAL YOUTH DURING PANDEMIC:** This past Wednesday, October 27th, Great Falls Rising presented a program on the youth in Great Falls and the programs that help them and encourage them toward success. Check the link below for the program. We're sure you will enjoy and learn from it. Many thanks to our presenters from the Alliance For Youth, Big Brothers Big Sisters of Central Montana, Boys & Girls Clubs of Cascade County and Fresh Rescue Kitchen Development. [Local Agencies Help Youth Through Pandemic – Great Falls Rising \(greatfallsrisingmt.org\)](http://greatfallsrisingmt.org)

**BIG SKY COUNTRY NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA, INC IS ALIVE AND WELL:** The effort to create the first National Heritage Area (NHA) in Montana is moving forward. The final Feasibility Study will soon be submitted to the National Park Service and verify central Montana's national significance to America's heritage. Like other NHAs, Big Sky Country NHA will help bring together people who wish to honor our culture, share our unique history, and promote beautiful places *under the big sky*.

NHAs were first established under Ronald Reagan's presidency to allow local communities to determine how best to tell and preserve their history. It is puzzling why some have tried to politicize the Big Sky Country NHA effort when Mitch McConnell is currently spearheading an initiative to establish the first NHA in Kentucky. For goodness sakes, the entire state of Tennessee is an NHA!

NHAs have no legal authority and cannot influence local, state, or federal policies, laws, or regulations (i.e. zoning, planning, hunting/fishing, land use). Enabling legislation language in all newly established NHAs specifically forbids NHAs from impacting private property rights. Congress can remove NHA designation if violations occur, and a Government Accountability Office Report in 2004 reviewed all existing NHAs and found no evidence of impacts to private landowners. In truth, NHAs simply convene people who want to do a project together - no landowners are coerced into participating in a project. NHAs elsewhere have stimulated the economy and brought business to local communities.

You can help by sending a letter supporting the Big Sky Country NHA effort. Just mail your letter to: BSCNHA, PO Box 1323, Great Falls, MT 59403. If you want to do more, please consider a tax-deductible contribution to our effort. Visit our website [www.bigskycountrynha.org](http://www.bigskycountrynha.org) for more information or contact Jane Weber, BSCNHA Chair at [jwebers5@msn.com](mailto:jwebers5@msn.com)

**SILENT VIGIL AGAINST VIOLENCE:** In the early hours of Saturday, October 23<sup>rd</sup>, there was a vigil held downtown over the violence against the homeless. See video and story from KRTV:

<https://www.krtv.com/news/great-falls-news/vigil-against-violence-in-great-falls>

**2021 DOWNTOWN SAFETY ALLIANCE:** According to the Downtown Safety Alliance, the goal of the plan is to create a downtown that is vibrant, livable and safe. The Downtown Safety Alliance says the Downtown Safety Plan was built in deep analysis of best practices for crime, safety and community revitalization.

Safety Plan / Recommendations:

<http://exploredowntowngf.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/08/SAFETY-PLAN-FINAL-DOCUMENT-2021.pdf>

**GREAT FALLS NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL FACEBOOK PAGES:** The City of Great Falls has been encouraging the Neighborhood Councils to have some presence on social media to better inform neighbors. Some of the things the councils have been doing is posting weekly neighborhood crime statistics and events in their neighborhoods. Four councils have set up their Facebook pages, and more are expected to come soon. So far, the neighborhoods with Facebook pages are:

NC#2: <https://www.facebook.com/NeighborhoodCouncil2>

NC#3: <https://www.facebook.com/NeighborhoodCouncil3>

NC#8: <https://www.facebook.com/GreatFallsNeighborhoodCouncil8>

NC#9: <https://www.facebook.com/NeighborhoodCouncil9>

**Here are some stories that will make us all smile and be grateful for people like these**

This Is Anthony Borges. He Used His Body To Hold A Classroom Door Shut During The Florida School Shooting, Protecting 20 Other Students Inside As The Gunman Fired Through The Door Hitting Him Five Times. May He Have A Speedy Recovery.



Firefighters In Arizona helping Put Out A Mexican Fire.





When You Reach 100 Years Old In Barbados,  
You Get A Stamp In Your Honor. Lovely.



A Middle School Started A "Breakfast With Dads" Program.  
But Many Dads Couldn't Make It. And Several Students Didn't Have Father  
Figures. The School Posted A Facebook Request For 50 Volunteer  
Fathers. 600 Fathers From All Backgrounds Showed Up.



Every Morning, My Father Places Bird Food In The Yard  
SO My Mother Can Wake Up To This View...



The Bride's Father Died Ten Years Ago And His Heart Was Donated.  
The Man Who Received The Transplant Walked Her Down The Aisle



"Life Gave Me The Gift Of You" -  
Marine's 4 Year Old Son Cries Tears Of Joy

After Hearing New Step-Mom's Vows For Him.





This Old Lady Goes To The Supermarket To Read Books All The Time  
So The Manager Installed A Little Bench For Her.



*Happy Thanksgiving from  
Great Falls Rising*



