

# *Great Falls Rising*

## *Monthly Newsletter*

### *July 2022*

**JUNETEENTH - WHAT DO WE KNOW ABOUT IT AND DID WE CELEBRATE IT?** Juneteenth (short for “June Nineteenth”) marks the day when federal troops arrived in Galveston, Texas in 1865 to take control of the state and ensure that all enslaved people be freed. The troops’ arrival came a full two and a half years after the signing of the Emancipation Proclamation. Juneteenth honors the end to slavery in the United States and is considered the longest-running African American holiday. On June 17th, 2021, it officially became a federal holiday.

Confederate General Robert E. Lee had surrendered at Appomattox Court House two months earlier in Virginia, but slavery had remained relatively unaffected in Texas—until U.S. General Gordon Granger stood on Texas soil and read General Orders No. 3: “The people of Texas are informed that, in accordance with a proclamation from the Executive of the United States, all slaves are free.”

The Emancipation Proclamation issued by President Abraham Lincoln on January 1st, 1863, had established that all enslaved people in Confederate states in rebellion against the Union “shall be then, thenceforward, and forever free.”

But in reality, the Emancipation Proclamation didn’t instantly free any enslaved people. The proclamation only applied to places under Confederate control and not to slave-holding border states or rebel areas already under Union control. However, as Northern troops advanced into the Confederate South, many enslaved people fled behind Union lines.

**GREAT FALLS MUNICIPAL BAND ANNOUNCES SUMMER CONCERTS:** The Great Falls Municipal Band has started its summer season of free concerts in

Gibson Park. With just one exception, all concerts will be at the bandshell beginning at 7:00 pm. There will be full-band concerts on July 6th, 13th, 20th, 27th, August 3rd and 10th. For more information, visit the band's [Facebook page](#).

**GREAT FALLS PARK & RECREATION SUMMER CAMPS:** Park and Recreation is offering summer camps that cover a wide range of interests including art, science, sports, dance and hiking through the Community Recreation Center. They provide quality instruction and a substance free environment. They make your child's camp experience fun, eventful and fulfilling in all aspects of their learning. Their staff is certified in first aid and child/infant CPR. Check out the [Annual Summer Guide](#) for further information. All Summer Camp registration forms are attached.

***Kiddie Kamp - All day Camp***

Grades K-1 • must be 5 by January 1st of each year.

Field trips

Games

Crafts

***Rugrats - All day camp***

Grades 2-3 • must be entering fall school year

Field trips

Games

Crafts

***Explorers Camp - All day Camp***

Grades 4-6 • must be entering fall school year

Field trips

Games

Crafts

***Outdoor Adventure Camp - All day Camp***

Grades 6-8 • must be entering fall school year

Field trips

Challenges

Adventures

***Art Camp - Partial Day Camp***

Ages 4-6 (preschool)

Ages 7-12

Themed Art Weeks

***Sports Camps - Partial Day Camp***

Basketball - Football - Softball

**MONTANA STATE FAIR 2022:** The Montana State Fair will be celebrating its 91st anniversary with another summer full of fun and great concerts. Dates are July 29th through August 6th. Visit the [Montana State Fair](#) website for more information.

**HUNTING FILM TOUR IN GREAT FALLS:** The Montana Wildlife Federation is hosting a Hunting Film Tour on July 7th at The Newberry in downtown Great Falls. The Newberry offers state of the art film equipment so come out and help

us celebrate the heritage and tradition of hunting through film as we gather together before hunting season opens. Doors open at 5:30 pm and the films start at 7:00 pm.

You'll have the opportunity to visit with local and statewide organizations and groups in the conservation and hunting space, such as One Montana, Wild Montana, Friends of the Little Belts, Sporting Lead Free, Montana Conservation Corps, On Water App, Venery, Friends of the Missouri River Breaks, Sun River Watershed Group, Artemis Sportswomen, Great Falls Trail Bike Riders Association, Project Healing Waters, Backcountry Fuel Box, and Lincoln Prosperity Plan.

We'll have raffles so if you're lucky, you may walk away with some awesome gear and goods from folks like Stone Glacier, Sitka Gear, FHF Gear, Behring Made, Backcountry Fuel Box, a Tony Bynum print, a subscription to On Water App, Henry USA, Maven Outdoor Equipment Co., Ducks Unlimited, Vortex Optics, Kenetrek, Wild Sheep Foundation, and Montana Mex and OnX!

Many, many thanks to the Hunting Film Tour sponsors: Sitka Gear, Ducks Unlimited, Kenetrek, Vortex Optics, Badland Aircraft, Mathews, and Wild Sheep Foundation.

Tickets can be purchased through [https://thenewberrymt.com/event/the-forging-friendships-hunting-film-tour/?fbclid=IwAR2coJUpMV8YrNvceHlCdEcXr8Hm\\_yAXnPK08UrxJ0MmuAcNC79XiaOXv4g](https://thenewberrymt.com/event/the-forging-friendships-hunting-film-tour/?fbclid=IwAR2coJUpMV8YrNvceHlCdEcXr8Hm_yAXnPK08UrxJ0MmuAcNC79XiaOXv4g).

### **GREAT FALLS PUBLIC SCHOOLS SUMMER FOOD SERVICE PROGRAM:**

This essential program began June 8th and is running through August 10th, 2022. Students under the age of 18 can get breakfast at Paris Gibson Education Center and lunch at a number of locations throughout our school district and in

the community. For a complete list of times of service and locations visit the [GFPS website](#) and [GFPS Facebook Page](#).

#### **4TH OF JULY FIREWORKS REGULATIONS AND SAFETY REMINDERS:**

Many families in Great Falls enjoy the 4th of July holiday with fireworks displays at home. Before discharging fireworks within the City limits, the Great Falls Fire Rescue (GFFR) reminds the public to be aware of the City's fireworks rules and regulations.

Primary rules and regulations include:

- The selling and discharging of fireworks within the incorporated limits of Great Falls can only take place on July 2, 3, and 4 from 8:00 a.m. to midnight.
- Children 9 and younger partaking in the firework festivities must have a supervising adult within 10 feet, in order to control the application of flame or other means to discharge the firework.
- Residents should only discharge fireworks on private property (sidewalk leading to your residence and or driveway) and should always clean up any trash that is left behind from the discharging of fireworks.

Residents can learn more about the City's rules and regulations relating to fireworks by referring to the Great Falls Code of Ordinances, Chapter 9 – FIREWORKS. The City's Fireworks Ordinance is enforced by the City's police officers and firefighters.

GFFR also wants to remind those setting off fireworks over the holiday to take the necessary steps and precautions to keep themselves and others safe. Always be aware of the risks of accidents, personal injury, and fires associated with the use of fireworks.

"Our goal at Great Falls Fire Rescue is to educate residents about fire prevention and safety. Annually, fireworks start over 19,000 fires and send over 9,000 people to the Emergency Room each year. We hope that through proper education and use of fireworks, the citizens of Great Falls will not be part of these statistics. Know the rules, pay attention, and stay safe," stated Mike McIntosh, Great Falls Fire Marshal.

4th of July Fireworks Safety Tips:

- Read Directions – Read the cautionary labels and directions before discharging.

- Discharge Outdoors – Always use fireworks outside in a clear area, away from buildings and vehicles.
- Keep Fireworks away from Others - Never point or throw fireworks at another person or place any part of your body directly over a firework when lighting the fuse.
- One at a Time - Light fireworks one at a time, then move back to a safe distance quickly.
- Have Water Handy! – Have a bucket of water or a water hose nearby to prevent a possible fire. Always remember to douse discharged fireworks with water once they have completely burned before throwing the fireworks away to prevent a trash fire.
- Adult Supervision - A responsible adult should always closely supervise all fireworks activities. Never allow young children to play with or ignite fireworks.
- Clean it Up - Always clean up used fireworks when finished (make sure they are doused with water!).
- Prevent Injury – Fireworks should never be carried in a pocket or be shot off in metal or glass containers. Fireworks should be used on a solid, flat level surface. Never use altered fireworks. Not only are they dangerous, they can also be illegal.
- Sparklers - Sparklers can burn at temperatures of about 2,000 degrees. Parents may not realize that young children suffer injuries from sparklers.
- It Didn't Light - If a firework does not work, leave it alone. Do not try to relight it. Pour water on it.
- Buying Fireworks – Purchase fireworks only from reliable outlets. Avoid buying fireworks that are packaged in brown paper or packaging. This is often a sign that the fireworks were made for professional displays and could pose a danger to consumers.

Remember that not everyone loves fireworks. Be a good neighbor and be sensitive to others when choosing to discharge them. Fireworks can disrupt those sleeping, scare pets, and can be an issue for veterans. Great Falls Fire Rescue wants the community to enjoy the 4th of July and remember that fireworks, even when used properly, can cause fires and accidents. Follow the law, have fun, and be safe! For more information about 4th of July safety, contact Great Falls Fire Rescue at 406-727-8070.

***Have a happy and safe Independence Day and enjoy the rest of the month!***

