

Great Falls Rising

Monthly Newsletter

September 2022

The campaign season kicks into high gear this month for the upcoming November 8th general election. Check to make sure you are properly registered here: [My Voter Page - Montana Secretary of State \(mt.gov\)](#). For more information, see our post on elections this year: [Elections in Great Falls for 2022: Everything You Need to Know – Great Falls Rising \(greatfallsrisingmt.org\)](#). Mail ballots will be sent out on October 14th.

Candidate yard signs will be allowed within the city limits starting September 9th. Show support for our progressive candidates, who will represent your values and wishes, by displaying a yard sign or two (or more!). We have an excellent voter's resource guide: [Great Falls Rising 2022 Voter's Guide – Great Falls Rising \(greatfallsrisingmt.org\)](#). For detailed information about our Congressional candidates, both Eastern and Western Congressional districts go to [2022 Montana election guide \(montanafreepress.org\)](#). It's the election guide from the Montana Free Press with a lot of good information about each candidate.

FREE MOVIE IN GIBSON PARK: Friday, September 2nd, 8:00 pm. City of Great Falls Park and Recreation and the Gibson Park Snack Shack will be hosting "Movie in the Park" on Friday, September 2nd. "The Bad Guys" will begin at **8:00 pm** in Gibson Park near the bandshell. The movie is free, so grab the lawn chairs or a blanket and take the family to the park for an evening under the stars.

But wait, there's more! The family friendly event will include fun kids' activities such as face painting and balloon animals. These activities will be **6:00 - 8:00 pm** so you'll want to come early and enjoy the festivities! Concessions will be available for purchase through the Snack Shack. The film will be presented by

FunFlicks of Montana on a 32' viewing screen with premium cinema projection and a concert grade sound system.

REDISTRICTING HEARING: Wednesday, September 7th: Please try to attend the redistricting hearing to be held in Great Falls. Rumor has it that being there in person is very important. Let our voices be heard. Here are the event details:

Location: Great Falls College MSU Heritage Hall

Date: Wednesday, September 7th

Times: 9 am – 12 pm and 1:30 pm – 5 pm

Some ideas for talking points are below. You don't have to say much just tell them you support one of these maps: HDP2 and HDP3. Here is a link to the currently proposed maps: <https://mtredistricting.gov/state-legislative-maps>

HDP1 and HDP4 would allow for conservatives to win over 70 seats while only receiving 57% of the vote. That's completely wrong for Montana.

Great Falls is one of the few places in the state that can provide competitive seats for the map, something that has been clearly and loudly advocated for by the public. This Commission should take the opportunity by voting for one of the maps that creates more competitive seats in Great Falls.

HDP4 proposed by Commissioner Stusek would limit competition in our city, leaving us with only one competitive seat on the map. This isn't what's best for a community like ours with varied viewpoints. Please don't vote for HDP4.

HDP2 proposed by Commissioner Lamson would acknowledge major East-West traffic flows in Great Falls. This makes sense for our community.

HPD3 proposed by Commissioner Miller would create the largest number of competitive seats for Great Falls, all while creating a statewide map that is fair for Montana.

This Commission should opt for as many competitive districts in Great Falls as is possible while still creating a map that is fair statewide. That isn't only the best thing for our community, but it's also the best thing for Montana as a whole.

General:

HDP2 and HDP3 are fair and proportional and meet all the criteria and goals of the Commission.

The conservative plans are partisan power grabs that have the statewide effect of unconstitutionally eliminating minority representation and enormously advantaging conservatives, in violation of this Commission's criteria and goals.

COFFEE WITH A COMMISSIONER: Do you have questions or concerns about Cascade County? County Commissioner Don Ryan has open hours on **Thursday mornings** from **7 am to 9 am** for citizens to come in to his office and talk about issues in the county (exceptions listed below).

Exceptions to the office hours in the coming weeks: On Thursday, **September 8th, 8 am to 10 am**, Commissioner Ryan will be at the Cascade Wedsworth Library. On Thursday, **September 15th, 8 am to 10 am**, he will be at the Belt Senior Center. Come have a cup of coffee and discuss issues like ARPA funding recently approved, the proposed Public Safety Levy coming up this November, zoning issues, or anything else that affects Cascade County.

LARRY SLONAKER: If you are in the 'hood (i.e., downtown Great Falls) on **September 8th** at 6 pm MDT, hope you can stop by for a (brief!) reading and discussion of my novel, **Nothing Got Broke**. I'll sign books if there's any interest, but no obligation, of course.

[Cassiopeia Books](#)

606 Central Avenue, Great Falls
(406) 315-1515

In case interest flags, and if time and the management permit, I can segue into a medley of your favorite show tunes! ...complete with costume changes. Can't be there in person? With luck, it will be available on Zoom. Check out the bookstore site for the Zoom link when we get closer to the event. I sincerely appreciate your interest and support.

ARTS ON FIRE: Saturday, September 10th. Paris Gibson Square Museum of Art, 1400 1st Avenue North. Join the fun at The Square's annual free community art celebration from **10 am to 4 pm**. Free arts and crafts for everyone. Free root beer floats. Ceramics for sale to benefit the Education Department at The Square. Artisan vendor booths and food trucks and stands will be available. Music, performers, and artist demonstrations all day.

HIGH SCHOOL HOUSE GROUNDBREAKING: Tuesday, September 13th, 11:30 am. Join Great Falls Public Schools, NeighborWorks Great Falls, and the 35 High School House students at 512 6th Avenue South, to celebrate building for the future.

JUDICIAL CANDIDATE FORUM: Thursday September 15th, 6:00 pm. The Great Falls Chamber of Commerce in association with The Cascade County Bar Association will be hosting a public forum for the 8th District Court Judge candidates, David Grubich, and Michele Levine. This "Meet the Candidates Forum" will give everyone the opportunity to directly hear from our 8th District Court Judge candidates. Moderated by Holly Kopeikin with Omni Marketing & Design, it will take place at Great Falls College MSU at 2100 16th Ave South, in room B101. The Great Falls Area Chamber of Commerce will also provide a livestream of the event at 6:00 pm for those who cannot attend.

The Great Falls Area Chamber of Commerce does not endorse either of the candidates being considered for the position of 8th District Court Judge. But to better our community, and the businesses within our community, the Chamber wishes to make a place where voters can better understand the options placed before them. Attendance to the event is free of charge and open to the public, but if anyone wishes to follow it on Facebook you can find more information on [Facebook.com/greatfallschamber](https://www.facebook.com/greatfallschamber) where the livestream will go live at 6:00 pm. For further questions contact The Chamber of Commerce at 406-761-4434 or email them at reception@greatfallschamber.org.

SCAPEGOAT WILDERNESS 50th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION:

September 16th through 17th. Celebrate the Scapegoat at a FREE wilderness and recreation festival. Join us at Hooper Park in Lincoln, MT for live music, hikes, campfire stories, games, science talks, exhibitions, and a film debut. The Scapegoat Wilderness was the first citizen-led wilderness initiative in the United States. Today, Lincoln is a gateway to the Continental Divide Trail, the Blackfoot River, and the Bob Marshall Wilderness Complex. For more information, visit [Scapegoat 50th Anniversary Celebration - Scapegoat 50th Celebration](#).

If you're interested in joining a hike on Saturday, **September 17th**, please register first and then you can sign up for a hike. Hike registration begins today.

CONGRESSIONAL DEBATES: Three debates among the candidates for Montana's Eastern Congressional District have been scheduled for:

Wednesday, September 28th, sponsored by the League of Women Voters

Saturday, October 1st, sponsored by Montana Television News

Wednesday, October 5th, sponsored by Lee Newspapers

Great Falls Rising will inform you of times, locations and how to connect virtually when we receive the information. Stay tuned.

JAMIE FORD: He has a new book out called The Many Daughters of Afong Moy. He spoke to an overflowing crowd last week at Cassiopeia Books, Great Falls only independent bookstore at 606 Central Avenue.

LAST, BUT NOT LEAST: Electric City Currents ~ Delegate Lyle Monroe - The Montana Constitution. Broadcast by our public radio station, KGPR 89.9 FM, on August 23, 2022. This edition of Electric City Currents features an interview with Delegate Lyle Monroe, who was a part of the 1972 Montana Constitutional Convention that made integral changes to our founding document. Gerry Jennings also joins us in the conversation about the Convention, issues that Lyle

is passionate about, and our current legislative environment. Listen to the podcast here: [KGPR-Public Radio Podcast - Electric City Currents ~ Delegate Lyle Monroe - The Montana Constitution | Free Listening on Podbean App.](#)