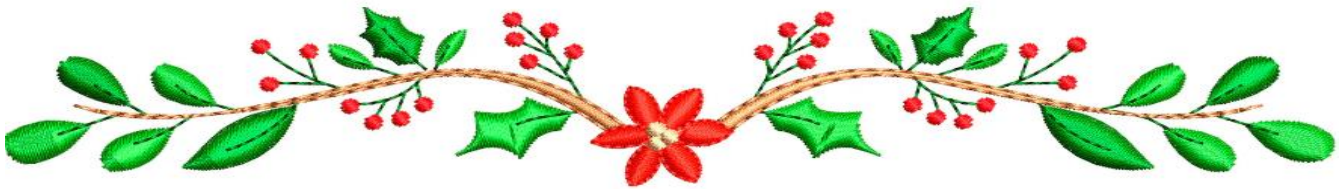


Great Falls Rising Monthly Newsletter

December 2023



The Holiday Season is here despite the continuing fall temperatures and lack of snow. However, the beautiful house decorations, Great Falls amazing evergreen in front of the Civic Center, and the bustling in stores and dining places make us realize that indeed the holidays are approaching. However you celebrate, Great Falls Rising wishes you a fun, family celebration and a New Year that heralds peace and justice for all.

What's coming up?

Tuesday, December 5th – City Commission **5:30 pm**, Work Session Meeting, December 5, 2023 | City of Great Falls Montana (greatfallsmt.net); City Commission **7:00 pm**, City Commission Meeting, December 5, 2023 | City of Great Falls Montana (greatfallsmt.net). Agendas will be posted at these links as the date nears.

Monday, December 11th – Great Falls Public Schools Board of Trustees Meeting, **5:30 pm**. Agenda will be posted here when the date nears: [Agendas & Minutes / Agendas & Meetings \(gfps.k12.mt.us\)](#).

Tuesday, December 12th – Cascade County Commission Meeting, **9:30 am**. Agenda can be found here as the date nears: [Agenda Center • Cascade County, MT • CivicEngage \(cascadecountymt.gov\)](#).

Tuesday, December 19th – City Municipal Swearing-in Ceremonies and Open House **5:00 pm to 6:45 pm**, Commission Chambers/Gibson Room; City Commission **7:00 pm**, [City Commission Meeting, December 19, 2023 | City of Great Falls Montana \(greatfallsmt.net\)](#). Agendas will be posted at the link as the date nears.

Tuesday, December 26th – Cascade County Commission Meeting, **9:30 am**. Agenda can be found here as the date nears: [Agenda Center • Cascade County, MT • CivicEngage \(cascadecountymt.gov\)](#).

VOLUNTEER GREAT FALLS: Volunteer Great Falls is a great resource to find volunteer opportunities from local organizations. No ads, no opportunities that aren't local, and fully searchable. Check out [United Way of Cascade County \(galaxydigital.com\)](#) today.

CHRISTMAS CONCERT: Sunday, **December 3rd, 3:00 pm**, Mansfield Center for the Performing Arts. Great Falls Symphony & Symphonic Choir. The spirit of the holiday season in music and song Let our annual holiday concert kick off your seasonal festivities with the March from Babes in Toyland, Respighi's Magic Toyshop, Three Holiday Songs from Home Alone (John Williams), plus our traditional singalong and a surprise guest conductor for audience favorite Sleighride. Facebook event here: [Christmas | Facebook](#).

ELDER JUSTICE EDUCATION: Monday, **December 4th, 2:00 to 3:30 pm**. Great Falls Public Library. Elder Justice Prosecutor for the Assistant Attorney General Michael Fanning will speak at the Great Falls Public Library about scams targeting elders and how to avoid them. He also will discuss what elder

abuse is and how to contact Adult Protective Services or local law enforcement when there is an emergency. Everyone is welcome to attend, especially those with elders in their family or living alone.

BISON VIDEO PRODUCTIONS: Please join Bison filmmakers to unveil their latest public service announcement for The Great Falls Public Library Foundation's annual Book-A-Thon event for the purchasing of children's books for the community. Thursday, **December 7th, 10:00 to 10:30 am** at the Great Falls High Davidson Family Auditorium.

MEALS ON WHEELS: Meals on Wheels is seeking new long-term volunteers interested in serving at Meals on Wheels. Their program delivers hundreds of meals weekly to homebound residents of Cascade County, making it possible for them to remain in their homes safely.

Kitchen volunteers start serving at 8:30 am. The shift is two hours, during which food is prepared and packaged into coolers. Volunteers need to be able to move around and stay on their feet for two hours. Drivers begin at 10:00 to 10:30 am and make deliveries along pre-planned routes. These volunteers will take the coolers to the homes and deliver meals to the residents. Volunteers also serve a brief wellness check for the residents, having a quick visit with them before moving on to the following location. If you're interested in helping, please contact Jessica at jbriggs@uwccmt.org or call 727-3400, ext. 500.

CHILDREN'S RECEIVING HOME: The Great Falls Children's Receiving Home's annual gift wrap fundraiser is starting Monday, **December 11th** and will run through early afternoon of **December 24th**. Volunteers can sign up for available shifts to gift wrap at the link below. They will be at Kaufman's during the day and Mighty Mo in the evenings Mondays through Fridays, Saturdays at both places, and Sundays at Mighty Mo only.

Gift wrapper volunteers will sign up for two-hour shifts and will work with at least one other volunteer at all times. Volunteers must be able to wrap presents, but they will also learn some tricks from their fellow volunteers. The dress code is business casual, and volunteers should have good customer service skills. This annual event is their second-largest fundraiser of the year and helps the Receiving Home provide the services to protect local children.

Sign up online at [Great Falls Childrens Receiving Home: 2023 GFCRH Gift Wrap Volunteer Calendar \(signupgenius.com\)](https://signupgenius.com).

WE SKI COUSINS: Friday, December 8th, 6:00 to 9:00 pm. Celtic Cowboy, 116 1st Avenue South.

HISTORY MUSEUM EVENTS: Gift Shop Open House, Saturday, December 9th, 12:30 to 5:00 pm. The History Museum, 422 2nd St South. Special events: *Walkin' Down the Middle: The Hi-Line Métis* with Candi Zion at **1:00 pm**; tours of the Second Floor Remodel Project with Executive Director Kristi Scott at **2:30 pm and 3:30 pm**.

CELEBRATE THE HOLIDAYS: Lewis & Clark Interpretive Center, **December 9th, 9:00 am to 1:00 pm**. Event here: [News & Events | Lewisclark \(lewisandclarkfoundation.org\)](https://lewisandclarkfoundation.org).

STEVE OLSON CHRISTMAS CONCERT: Sunday, **December 10th, 2:00 pm and 4:00 pm**. Belt Performing Arts Center, 58 Castner St. Steve Olson returns home to Belt with the Steve Olson Orchestra's 5th Annual Christmas Concert. Steve is a gifted composer, pianist, and violinist. Everyone's favorite baritone and the Sip 'n Dip music maker, Joel Corda, will join Steve and the Orchestra. Tickets

are \$10, and a can of food for the local food bank with a choice of two show times. Call 277-3844 to reserve your tickets today.

A CHARLIE BROWN CHRISTMAS: University of Providence Theater, 1301 20th St. South. **December 14th, 15th and 16th.** Great Falls Theatre Company is pleased to present A CHARLIE BROWN CHRISTMAS! A Charlie Brown Christmas is a 1965 animated television special. It is the first TV special based on the comic strip Peanuts, by Charles M. Schulz. Produced by Lee Mendelson and directed by Bill Melendez, the program made its debut on CBS on December 9, 1965. In the special, Charlie Brown finds himself depressed despite the onset of the cheerful holiday season. Lucy suggests he direct a neighborhood Christmas play, but his best efforts are ignored and mocked by his peers when he chooses a real, but puny, Christmas tree as a centerpiece. Please join us as GFTC brings this classic to life. Get tickets here: [Tickets | GFTC presents A Charlie Brown Christmas | ShOvation.](#)

RIVERTOWN ROUNDERS: Friday, December 15th, 6:00 to 8:00 pm, Cassiopeia Books, 606 Central Ave. The Rivertown Rounders will perform a free concert. It will feature various forms of folk music and some traditional Christmas Carols.

HOLIDAY MOVIE NIGHT: Holiday Movie Night at The Newberry featuring The Grinch, Thursday, **December 21st.** Door at **5:00 pm**, Show **6:15 pm**. Event here: [Holiday Movie Night at The Newberry, featuring The Grinch | The Newberry \(thenewberrymt.com\).](#)

SKI WITH SANTA: Showdown Ski Resort, **December 23rd.** Event here: [Calendar of Events | Showdown Montana.](#)

NEW YEARS EVE TORCHLIGHT PARADE: Showdown Ski Resort, **December 31st**. The Torchlight Parade starts when the sun sets (**6:00 - 6:30 pm** usually) and the fireworks show quickly follows as the finale. It is free to watch from the base area & the bar will stay open later than usual. The kitchen will also be open later than usual selling snacks such as nachos. Guests are not allowed to participate in the torchlight parade. All employees who want to participate in the Torchlight Parade must be approved by Operations Director.

UNHOUSED: Great Falls Rising hosted two homeless panels recently. We have also sent out lists of needs for these unhoused members of our community. We hope that you are able and willing to purchase some of the items for the folks in the various shelters.

Remember that the unhoused need blankets which can be taken to the First United Methodist Church between 10:00 am and 2:00 pm on weekdays. Thanks for your assistance to our vulnerable neighbors.

Watch these videos:

[Great Falls Rising hosts forum to discuss homelessness - YouTube](#)

[Great Falls Rising - Unhoused Women and Children Forum - YouTube](#)

PLEASE HELP THE FOLLOWING ORGANIZATIONS PROVIDE FOR THE NEEDS OF THEIR CLIENTS

BLANKETS FOR THE UNHOUSED

Housed Great Falls is asking for blankets especially as the weather turns to winter. They say, "We get folks who are grateful for any kind of blankets, but I think most popular are waterproof or resistant sleeping bags. Truth be told, we accept and will use blankets of any size, shape, color or style. We are non-exclusive when it comes to blankets for our unhoused. We sincerely appreciate your efforts and help."

You can drop off clean "coverings" at the First United Methodist Church (610 2nd Ave, N.), the Angel Room (St. Vincent de Paul 426 Central Ave. West), or you can call Andrew at (406) 564-0850 and he will come to pick them up.

GREAT FALLS PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Adult bus passes: We have them for students ONLY. This is part of our program and is funded. Our job is KIDS. We do not, however, have them for parents. It would be great if we could get the parents out to allow them the means to get around when their kids are in school. (Ultimately this will end up helping their kids.)

GRACE HAVEN

Grace Haven is the new home for homeless female veterans and their children. Their needs include:

- Shampoo - besides larger bottles, those small travel bottles that you get at hotels are always welcomed.
- Tampons
- Laundry soap (pods are preferred)
- Dish Soap
- Dryer Sheets
- Paper Towels
- Toilet Paper
- Hand and Feet warmers
- Emergency (mylar) sleeping bags

Food Items that they need:

- Pancake Mix

- Large containers of oatmeal
- Salad Dressings
- Coffee
- Powdered creamer
- Sugar
- Peanut Butter and Jelly
- Raman Noodles
- Pasta Sauce

We serve many individuals with dogs. We need dry dog food on a regular basis.
(Dog treats are always appreciated.)

RESCUE MISSION

Food and supplies needed:

- Milk & Juice
- Fresh Fruits & Vegetables
- Beef
- Breakfast Sausage
- Eggs
- Flour
- Coffee
- Cream & Sugar
- Salt & Pepper
- Popcorn & Pretzels
- Snacks for Kids
- Cereal

Household supplies needed:

- Sheets, Pillows, Pillowcases
- Blankets & Quilts
- Towels
- Aleve, Ibuprofen, Tylenol & Kids Tylenol Cough drops
- Kid's band aids (assorted sizes)
- Tissues
- Napkins & Paper Plates, Disposable Silverware

- Feminine Hygiene Products
- Diapers (All Sizes) & Wipes
- Dishcloths & Kitchen Towels
- Birthday gift bags/wrapping paper

Cleaning supplies needed:

- Paper Towels
- Sanitizing Wipes
- Toilet bowl cleaner
- Dawn dish soap liquid
- Disinfectant cleaner
- Kitchen all-purpose cleaner
- Vinegar (1-gallon containers)
- Cleaning rags
- Magic erasers
- Brooms & Dustpans Vacuums
- Carpet Cleaning Machines

Office supplies needed:

- Packaging Tape
- Jump Drives
- Lamination Sheets
- Scotch Tape Double-sided
- Tape Staplers
- Scissors
- AA & AAA batteries
- Expo markers (multi-color pack)
- Elmer's Glue Sticks Command Hooks
- Pens
- Sticky Post-it notes
- Crayola marker

Clothing for adults and children needs:

- Pajamas & Sweats
- New Underwear
- New or Gently Used Tennis Shoes, Flip Flops
- Swimsuits & Swim Trunks

Drop Off or Send Donations via mail: Great Falls Rescue Mission Administrative Office, 408 2nd Ave. South. Great Falls 59405, (406) 761-2653.

YWCA GREAT FALLS/MERCY HOME

Current needs:

- Toilet paper, 60 rolls/month
- Paper towels, 10 rolls/month
- Reams of office paper (500 sheets), 30/month
- Feminine Hygiene products, 20/month pads, tampons
- Deodorant, toothpaste
- Milk, 4 gallons/month
- Cold cereal, 8 boxes/month (Cheerios, Rice Krispies)
- Fruit, 60 servings/month -any basic fruit-canned
- Keurig Coffee pods, 300/month
- Laundry detergent, 160 loads/month
- Clorox wipes, 30 canisters/month
- 5 family sized/month
- Soap and shampoo,
- Dish soap
- Floor cleaner

ALLIANCE FOR YOUTH

Clothing needs:

- Hoodies CMR/Bison or other: S, M, L, XL
- Winter coats: sizes S, M, L, XL
- Snow boots: Male size 8-14; Women size 6-10
- Underwear: Men's boxers/briefs: S, M, L
- Women's Underwear: S, M, L

Note: Please only donate new clothing as AFY does not have the specialized sanitizing equipment needed to meet the health and safety standards for processed used clothing.

Food needs:

- Individual snacks - the kids' favorites are Lay's potato chips, fruit snacks, fruit roll ups, Little Debbie cakes and Ramen cups.
- Canned Chili and soups
- Dry goods: rice, black and kidney beans, cereal, pasta
- Fresh fruits and vegetables (please bring early in week)
- Gift cards: Walmart, Albertsons, Super One, Taco Johns, Starbucks, Little Caesar

Other needs:

- job applications, laptops youth can use for homework, and writing scholarship, college applications
- Ear buds and headphones
- Paper towels, paper plates and cups
- Zip Lock bags
- Tissues
- Basketballs
- Fleece blankets

As you can see the needs are great and the choices you have are many. These people are our fellow citizens. **PLEASE HELP!**