

Great Falls Rising Monthly Newsletter

November 2023

November is the month of Thanksgiving and let us remember to offer a smile and greeting to people we pass on the street and a friendly call to those who can't get outside. Put aside grudges (sometimes really hard to do) and try to think positive thoughts. Gratitude is a word that comes up frequently and being grateful increases the joy in all our lives. Happy Thanksgiving to all our Great Falls Rising supporters and your families.

November is American Indian Heritage Month. In 1990 Congress passed and President George H. W. Bush signed into law a joint resolution designating the month of November as the first National American Indian Heritage Month (also known as Native American Indian Month). "American Indians were the original inhabitants of the lands that now constitute the United States of America," noted H.J. Res. 577. "Native American Indians have made an essential and unique contribution to our Nation" and "to the world."

November is also the month when we have the opportunity to vote. Unfortunately there are those who would like to limit our freedom to vote to "their precious few." Don't let them take it away from you. We all need to cast our ballots for those we wish to have as our leaders. If you don't know the candidates, call a trusted friend and ask that person to advise you. Never leave a ballot uncast. IT IS YOUR RIGHT!

If you didn't receive your ballot in the mail, check to see if you are still registered here: [My Voter Page - Montana Secretary of State \(mt.gov\)](https://mt.gov/elections). The polls will not be open at the Montana Expo Park for this election. You must visit the Cascade County Elections Office at 325 2nd Ave. North Monday through Friday, 8:00 am to 5:00 pm, before Election Day, and 7:00 am to 8:00 pm on Election Day to reregister and to vote. If you did receive a mail ballot, make sure it is returned by

November 7th. If it is too late to mail, drop off at the election office. The ballot box is out again inside the front entrance door.

GREAT FALLS RISING NOVEMBER GATHERING: Great Falls Rising presents *Unhoused Women and Children Forum* on **Tuesday, November 14th** at **6:30 pm** at the Episcopal Church of the Incarnation, 600 3rd Ave. North.

Panelist are:

Deborah Kottel - St. Vincents DePaul

Morgan Bourbeau - Rescue Mission Women's Shelter

Julie Prigmore - Many Rivers Whole Health

Sandi Filipowicz - YWCA of Great Falls

Ryan Hart – Great Falls Public Schools

Each panelist works on a daily basis with women and children in need of shelter and safety. This forum is open to any person interested in learning about vulnerable populations in Great Falls. Mark your calendar and join us. The forum will be moderated by former Cascade County Commissioner Don Ryan.

What's coming up?

Tuesday, November 7th – Election Day. The municipal election is by all mail ballot.

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

Monday, November 13th – 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, November 14th – 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, November 21st – City Commission 5:30 pm [Work Session Meeting, November 21, 2023 | City of Great Falls Montana \(greatfallsmt.net\)](#), 7:00 pm [City Commission Meeting, November 21, 2023 | City of Great Falls Montana \(greatfallsmt.net\)](#). Agendas will be posted at these links as the date nears.

Monday, November 27th – 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, November 28th – Cascade County Commission Meeting, 9:30 am. Agenda can be found here as the date nears: [Agenda Center • Cascade County, MT • CivicEngage \(cascadecountymt.gov\)](#).

THE ELECTRON LAUNCH AT KGPR: Join KGPR for a ribbon-cutting ceremony launching the Electron, Great Falls' newest event-finding resource on **Wednesday, November 1st at 2:00 pm** at the KGPR Studios located at the Great Falls College-MSU campus, [2100 16th Avenue South](#) in room G118. If you want to know what is happening in Great Falls or even in surrounding areas such as Belt, the Electron is your place to go, giving you dozens of categories ranging from trivia night to karaoke, kid-friendly events, fundraisers, or concerts going on at either the Newberry or the Mansfield Center for the Performing Arts and more, all at [kgpr.org/electron](#), completely free of charge for event organizers and Great Falls residents. Event organizers can submit their upcoming events at any of the known venues and in multiple event categories at <http://kgpr.org/submit-event>. Come experience the official unveiling of The Electron right here at KGPR Studios. They look forward to seeing you.

KEN ROBISON EVENT: Great Falls Public Library, **Thursday, November 2nd, 6:00 pm to 7:00 pm.** Author Ken Robison will discuss the controversial Métis leader Louis Riel. He will shed light on the man who has been called an "eloquent, brilliant, mystical Métis leader," and how Montana and Fort Benton share his powerful tale. A hero to his people, a villain to many English Canadians, Louis Riel spent five years from 1879 to 1884 in exile in Montana before his death by hanging for leading the Red River Rebellion of 1885. Ken will also sign copies of his new Historic Tales of Fort Benton.

SPEECH AND DEBATE TOURNAMENT: Do you want to help with local school activities? Come and judge the upcoming speech and debate tournament on **Saturday, November 4th.** This year they are hosting the opening one-day tournament and hope to make it a great success, but for this to happen they need you. Each prelim round needs 60-70 judges and final rounds need over 100 judges to keep things running. They hope that you can consider helping them out this year. At this time all events will be held at CMR High School (288 17th Ave NW) starting at **7:30 am**, with new rounds starting every two hours.

They still need judges, especially for the later rounds at **1:30/2:00 pm** and **3:30/4:00 pm.**

Below is an online sign-up form. Please fill it out with the times you can support. Food and drinks will be provided all day via some great local sponsors.

Students are being asked to provide judges this year. If you are supporting a student, please make sure to fill their name in on the bottom of the form so they can track this.

[Great Falls Speech & Debate Tournament Nov 4th \(google.com\)](https://www.google.com)

EMPTY BOWLS: Please join the YWCA for the 31st Annual Empty Bowls, a Mercy Home Emergency Shelter Program fundraiser, **Saturday, November 4th,** at University of Providence's University Center (1301 20th St. S.), **11:00 am to 2:00 pm.**

Purchase a unique hand thrown or wood turned bowl, created by local artists, and enjoy a variety of soups, rolls, and desserts donated by their community partners. Music provided by Joe Ryan!

Tickets: \$30 (includes handcrafted bowl and meal)

Tickets available for purchase at the YWCA (220 2nd St. N.) or over the phone: (406) 452-1315. Additional donations accepted at the event. Facebook event here: [31st Annual Empty Bowls | Facebook](#).

LEWIS & CLARK EXPEDITION: The Island Range Chapter of Wild Montana presents the following program on **Thursday, November 9th at 6:30 pm** in the Lewis and Clark Interpretive Center auditorium, 4201 Giant Springs Road. A typical day's hiking and rowing by the Lewis and Clark expedition would exhaust today's hardy outdoors folks. But the captains and crew members did it daily in little-known territory for over two years.

Retired history teacher, Lewis and Clark expert, and member of the Lewis and Clark Honor Guard, Norman Anderson will describe the physical rigors the explorers faced in their 1804 to 1806 journey. In the presentation, Anderson will highlight a few of the explorers' wildest experiences while taking a month to portage around five waterfalls in the current Great Falls area. He'll also highlight some hikes that people can take in the Great Falls area today in the footsteps of Lewis and Clark.

VETERAN'S DAY: The ceremony will begin at **11:00 am on Saturday, November 11th** at the Montana Veteran's Memorial, 1009 25th Street North. It coincides with other holidays including [Armistice Day](#) and [Remembrance Day](#) which are commemorated in other countries that mark the anniversary of the end of [World War I](#). Major hostilities of World War I were formally ended at the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month of 1918 when the [Armistice with Germany](#) went into effect. At the urging of major U.S. veteran organizations, Armistice Day was renamed Veterans Day in 1954.