

Great Falls Rising Monthly Newsletter

October 2023

With Fall on the calendar and in the air, we hope for some cool days and beautiful golden leaves on the trees. The Great Falls Farmers' Market closed Saturday, and we can be thankful for the home-grown produce, meat, baked goods and beautiful crafts/gifts we have come to enjoy every Saturday. Halloween is only a few weeks away and pumpkins and scarecrows decorate many lawns around town.

Great Falls Rising presented a panel discussion last week "Great Falls Unhoused Population." The six members of the panel represented agencies and organizations that deal with this community problem. GFR will be coordinating with them and others to assist in whatever way we can (communication, finding volunteers, etc.) to help alleviate this very serious problem in Great Falls.

Mail ballots for the municipal election will be sent out between **October 18th** and **October 23rd**. 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 2023: Everything You Need to Know \(Almost\) – Great Falls Rising \(greatfallsrisingmt.org\)](#).

What's coming up?

Monday, October 2nd - property tax rebate applications are due.
Check out [MTRevenue.gov](#)

Monday, October 2nd - noon there is a Rally for Tax Fairness from noon to 1:00 PM at the Montana State Capitol Rotunda

Tuesday, October 3rd at 7:00 PM - City Commission meeting where library board members will be elected

Saturday, October 7th at 7:30 PM – Great Falls Symphony presents “Game Trax” - music from video games; be surprised! Mansfield Theater

Monday, October 8th - Saturday, October 14th – Indigenous Celebration: Gathering of Families; For more information: www.Gatheringoffamilies.com

Monday, October 9th at 7:30 PM - Empire Trio at Mansfield Theater

Thursday, October 12th at 6:00 PM - Island Range Chapter of Wild MT presents “One Sky Above Us: Montana and the Nez Perce Flight of 1877.” In Darkhorse at Celtic Cowboy

Friday, Saturday, Sunday October 13th, 14th, 15th - Montana Performing Arts Consortium; Mansfield Center; mtperformingarts.org

Saturday, October 14th from 1:00 - 2:30 PM - Second Saturday at The History Museum; Beyond the Grave: Researching Death and Graveyard Records

Saturday, October 14th from 4:00 – 8:00 PM Homelessness Volunteer Fair at University of Providence (University Center)

Sunday, October 15th at 2:00 PM – Great Falls Symphonic Choir presents Requiem Special Choir Concert. Mansfield Theater

Monday, October 23rd at 7:00 PM - World Ballet Series - Cinderella. Mansfield Theater

Monday, October 23rd at 7:00 PM in Fish Wildlife and Parks conference room - Upper Missouri Breaks Audubon presents “Birding the Seven Continents.”

Tuesday, October 24th at 6:30 PM Island Range Chapter of Wild Mo celebrates “Oil and Gas Lease-free Badger Two Medicine” in Darkhorse at the Celtic Cowboy

Thursday, October 26th at 6:00 PM Jenn Rowell of The Electric GF moderates a municipal candidate forum at Great Falls Public Library

Saturday, November 4th at 7:30 PM - Great Falls Symphony presents Enigma: variations; Mansfield Theater

Tuesday, November 7th - ELECTION DAY

GREAT FALLS PUBLIC LIBRARY: The library is under possible attack once again. Please read the following notice and attend if you can. Attendance alone is edifying. We need to be vigilant about the future of our GREAT Falls PUBLIC Library. Thanks for your support.

On Tuesday, **October 3rd**, the City Commission will make two appointments to the City-County Library Board. You may recall the debacle at a city commission meeting several weeks back when Commissioners Tryon and McKenney would not grant an automatic re-appointment of Anne Bulger to the library board. Anne has served admirably on the library board for one term and is/was eligible for re-appointment for a second term. Tryon and McKenney maneuvered the process and insisted that the library board conduct candidate interviews. This maneuver was a veiled attempt to change the makeup of the library board possibly creating problems with future library book selection policies etc.

The library board conducted over ten interviews and has recommended Anne Bulger be re-appointed to the library board. They also have recommended Jerry 'Hoppy' Hopkins be appointed to the library board. Hoppy is currently a librarian in the Great Falls Public Schools.

ADDITIONALLY, there may be a movement afoot (and it may be proposed by one or two city commissioners on Tuesday) that all future library board vacancies be handled SOLELY by the city commissioners. It may be suggested that the library board no longer vet candidates and make a recommendation to the city commission. Instead, the city commissioners would interview and select the library board candidates directly. This is not a good idea. The city commission does not fully understand what skills and experience are needed on the library board.

PLEASE COME to the City Commission Meeting at 7:00 PM on Tuesday, **October 3rd** to express your support so that BOTH Anne Bulger and Hoppy Hopkins are appointed. The city commission is not required to take the library board's recommendation, so your voice may be needed to ensure they accept the recommendation. ALSO, you could speak out and support the current process for the library board appointments; it works well having the library board vet the candidates and provide their recommendation to the city commission.

We appreciate your support. Library board appointments are Item #6 on the agenda, [click here](#).

PARIS GIBSON SQUARE MUSEUM OF ART: Art Classes for all ages begin the second week of October. Visit the-square.corsizio.com for the full lineup. Be sure to scroll all the way to the bottom so you don't miss anything! [Classes List — Paris Gibson Square Museum of Art \(corsizio.com\)](#). You can register online, call 406.727.8255 or visit the Gift Shop to sign up for a class.

2023 ARTIST SHOWCASE: Saturday, **October 14th**, three shows with seventeen artists. Mansfield Theater, 2 Park Drive South. Free admission, donations accepted.

Showcase I, 9:00 AM: Jazz Legacy Project, The Mari Black Trio, Pollo Loco, Tomas Kubinek, Ollee Owens, Sarah Hagen

Showcase II, 12:30 PM: How Sweet It Is!: Steve Leslie sings James Taylor, Leeroy Stagger, Duende Libre, Mud Bay Jugglers, Megan Karls, Ian Sherwood

Showcase III, 3:30 PM: The Wardens, Sundae + Mr. Goessl, Acoustic Eidolon, Phyliss Sinclair, Sam Platts and the Plainsmen

HOMELESSNESS VOLUNTEER FAIR: Housed Great Falls is holding event at the University of Providence on Saturday, **October 14th**, at 4:00 to 8:00 PM, in the University Center, Conference Room B. Come and connect with organizations working to end homelessness in our city. Find out how you can make a difference. Everyone is welcome and encouraged to attend. Snacks and refreshments are provided.

GFPS JOB FAIR: Great Falls Public Schools will be having an on-site job fair at the Paris Gibson Education Center, 2400 Central Avenue, on Tuesday, October 17th, from 3:00 to 5:00 PM. They are looking for substitute teachers, teachers aids, food service staff, para professionals, crossing guards, custodians and more. Please fill out the online application before coming to the event: [Great Falls Public Schools - Frontline Recruitment \(applitrack.com\)](https://applitrack.com).

CALUMET TOWN HALL: Calumet Montana Refining will be hosting a town hall meeting at C.M. Russell High School, Bill Will Auditorium 2281 7th Ave NW, on Thursday, **October 19th**, from 7:00 to 8:30 PM. This meeting will focus on an RFI (request for information) regarding the ongoing Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA).

THE RIVERTOWN ROUNDERS FREE CONCERT: The Rivertown Rounders will be playing a free concert at Cassiopeia Books, 606 Central Avenue, on Friday, **October 20th** from 6:00 to 8:00 PM. Richard Baker and [Diane Stinger](#) will be playing guitar, fiddle and banjo. Folk music, bluegrass, Western music, Irish music, Cajun music. Richard and Diane have been playing nightly for 34 seasons in front of an international audience at the Great Falls KOA.

MUNICIPAL CANDIDATE FORUM: Jenn Rowell of The Electric will be hosting a Municipal Candidate Forum on Thursday, **October 26th** at 6:00 PM, at the Great Falls Public Library. All candidates have been invited to participate. Facebook event here: [City Candidate Forum | Facebook](#).

Last, but not least...

CAROL BRONSON RETIREMENT: After fourteen dedicated years at Neighborworks Great Falls, Carol will be retiring. Come celebrate her retirement at Annie's Tap House, 112 Central Avenue, on Thursday **October 5th**, from 4:30 to 6:30 PM.