

Great Falls Rising Monthly Newsletter

June 2024

June is upon us and that leaves winter behind with the hope of warmth, flowers and lazy days. Well, with primaries coming up and election season upon us, our days will be anything but lazy. We hope you are all registered to vote. There is still time, if you go to the Election Office at 325 2nd Ave. N. #100. Remember that it is our privilege and duty to defend our Democracy with our vote. There are also graduations, weddings, outdoor festivals, and celebrations.

During the month of June, we celebrate several awareness events, including Juneteenth, Pride Month, PTSD Awareness Month, and Men's Health Month. In honor of Juneteenth: Juneteenth, also known as Freedom Day, is observed on the anniversary of June 19th, 1865. Read on:

What's coming up?

Tuesday, June 4th - City Commission Work Session **5:30 pm**, agenda **here**; City Commission Meeting **7:00 pm**, agenda **here**.

Monday, June 10th – 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, June 11th – 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, June 18th - City Commission Work Session **5:30 pm**, agenda **here**; City Commission Meeting **7:00 pm**, agenda **here**.

Monday, June 24th – Great Falls Public Schools Board of Trustees Meeting, **5:30 pm**. Agenda will be posted here when the date nears: [Agendas & Minutes / Agendas & Meetings \(gfps.k12.mt.us\)](https://gfps.k12.mt.us/agendas-minutes/).

Tuesday, June 25th – Cascade County Commission Meeting, **9:30 am**. Agenda can be found here as the date nears: [Agenda Center • Cascade County, MT • CivicEngage \(cascadecountymt.gov\)](https://cascadecountymt.gov/agenda-center).

GREAT FALLS FARMERS MARKET: Great Falls Farmers' Market began its season **Saturday, June 1st** and goes every Saturday at **8:30 am** until the end of September. It's held in the Civic Center parking lot. The market has 130 vendors, according to the organizers. For more information and updates, follow their Facebook page: [Facebook](#).

INTERNATIONAL EXCHANGE STUDENT PROGRAM: ASSE International Student Exchange representatives will speak at the Great Falls Public Library on **June 3rd at 4:30 pm** in the Cordingley Room to inform interested people about becoming a host family.

Learn about the process, the rewards, and all the reasons you should open your home to a student. Each year, ASSE and its affiliates place several thousand exchange students, ages 15 to 18, in host families like yours throughout the world.

From the ASSE International Student Exchange press release, "When you host a foreign exchange student, your entire family will discover a world of fun and enlightening adventure. Simply by sharing your home for as little as three months, a semester or a school year, you will be giving an exceptional young person from another country the opportunity of a lifetime—to live with your family and experience the language, customs and culture of our country. In return, your exchange student will bring to your family a bit of his or her homeland. Students come from Europe, Asia/Pacific, the Middle East, the Americas and Africa.

Each year, ASSE and its affiliates place several thousand exchange students, ages 15 to 18, in host families throughout the world. ASSE International Student Exchange Programs invites local families to join all the families in our country and throughout the world in this memorable and valued cultural experience."

For more information, contact Jake Sorich at jsorich@greatfallslibrary.org or 406-453-0349 ex. 220.

MONTANA FREE PRESS EVENT: You won't want to miss ["Unpacking the Primary: Who's still on the ballot?"](#) on **Wednesday, June 5th, at 7:00 pm**. Join our editorial team as they break down the results of the June 4th primary election and what it means for the general election in November.

AP ART EXHIBIT: Dahl Gallery, 1900 2nd Ave North - The 2024 AP Studio Art & Design Exhibit will be closing the morning of **June 6th**. If you have not had a chance to come see the body of work presented by this year's AP Art cohort, I hope you will make the chance to do so. In addition, they wrapped up the annual AP mural project in the CTE hallway by the auto shop. It is well worth the walk down to see it. A video of the eleven-day effort is also looping in the gallery.

ELECTRIC CITY WATERPARK: Electric City Water Park 2024 Schedule, Operating Hours **June 7th** through **August 25th**:

12:00 pm - 6:00 pm Daily
Lap Swim

June 10 - August 23

9:00 am - 11:00 am Monday - Friday
The swimming pool may close earlier than noted hours on low attendance days (usually based on adverse weather).

SUMMER LIBRARY BASH: Great Falls Public Library is deeply grateful to the voters of Great Falls for choosing to invest in our community by funding improved Library services. On Saturday, **June 8th** from **3:00 to 6:00 pm**, join us for the party of the year with live music, food trucks, activities, and more.

Jamie Ford, author of *The Many Daughters of Afong Moy*, *Love and Other Consolation Prizes*, and *On the Corner of Bitter and Sweet*, will be present to give a talk about the benefits of community libraries and the importance they hold for towns like ours.

Also, come celebrate our new hours and services such as:
The Library will be open 7 days a week—including opening at 9:00 am Monday through Saturday. Sunday **June 9th** will be our first Sunday open.

The Bookmobile will serve more daycares and assisted living centers AND will provide Homebound services for those who qualify. With almost double the Youth Services staff, Summer Reading 2024 will be the biggest one yet!

Summer 2024 at the Library will include nine great musical acts AND Shakespeare in the Parks.

The Library will have more book clubs, more author talks and more educational programs all year round.

And BOOKS. From mysteries to romances to biographies to cook books, we have the perfect print books, audiobooks, or eBook for you. (YES! The Library has free downloadable eBooks and eAudiobooks through the Libby App.) Finally, local musician Clint Reimann performs from **3:00 to 5:00 pm** and food trucks will be on hand if you get hungry.

For more information, contact Jake Sorich at jsorich@greatfallslibrary.org or 406-453-0349 ex. 220.

SPARK THE ARTS SOIREE: **June 8th** will be the signature fundraising event of a new nonprofit in Great Falls, Spark the Arts, whose mission is to support music, drama, and visual arts in the public schools. The Soiree is a ticketed event with

performances, catered dinner, as well as auctions of original works of art as well as desserts. The event will be hosted at the Civic Center. More information about the event, or to purchase tickets, email sparktheartsgf@gmail.com or call Mandy Brumwell @ 406-868-9315. We hope we will see you there! Can't make it? Spark the Arts can always use donations to support their cause.

POLITICAL POLARIZATION: Political polarization discussion with Aedan Bingham. Event Date: **Tuesday, June 11th**, Great Falls Public Library, **7:00 to 8:00 pm**. Aedan Bingham is a recent graduate of C.M. Russell High School and is planning to attend to Worcester Polytechnic Institute in Massachusetts this fall. For this program, Aedan will be leading a discussion based on hours of research regarding political polarization. He plans on informing attendees on this research, how to expand our knowledge while also discussing the ins and outs of politics, historical trends, where we are headed now, and solutions all of us can engage in. Aedan said he hopes to help us as a community to start strengthening our democracy. It is his goal to strengthen humanity's commitment to self-preservation and progress.

MUNICIPAL BAND SUMMER CONCERTS: Great Falls Municipal Band performs every **Wednesday at 7:00 pm** in Gibson Park. Concerts begin on **June 19th** and run through mid-August each year. Entertaining for all ages, concerts are free to the public and sponsored by Park and Recreation Department and free-will donations. Limited bleacher seating is available, or bring your own chair or blanket. Concessions and restrooms are available. For additional information contact Phil Burton, Band President at 406-899-9982.

LEWIS AND CLARK FESTIVAL: Come and enjoy this **FREE** event at the Lewis & Clark Interpretive Center, 4201 Giant Springs Road. It's **FUN** for the whole family. **Friday, June 21st, 7:00 to 8:00 pm, Saturday, June 22nd, 9:00 am to**

4:00 pm. More information here: [News & Events | Lewisclark \(lewisandclarkfoundation.org\)](https://www.lewisandclarkfoundation.org/news-events).

JUNETEENTH: Help make the Great Falls 2024 Juneteenth event a success! We will be celebrating together on **Saturday June 22nd** from **12:00 to 3:00 pm** at Gibson Park. There are several ways you can assist!

Setup Volunteers:

Time frame: 10:00 am to 12:00 noon

Number of Volunteers needed: 10 - 15

Volunteer duties: Help set up tables, coolers of food, games, and other activities and supplies prior to the start of the event.

Transport grills to Gibson Park:

Transport tables, chairs, coolers of food and other supplies from Great Falls Public Library and the YWCA to Gibson Park

Set-up the tables, food, grill and games at Gibson Park

Serving Volunteers:

Time frame: 12:30 pm to 2:30 pm

Number of Volunteers needed: 4-6

Volunteer duties: Serve food to participants (I believe that we already have people committed to cooking the hotdogs & hamburgers on the grills.)

Cleanup Volunteers:

Time frame: 3:00 pm to 4:30 pm

Number of Volunteers needed: 10 - 15

Volunteer duties: Take down the tables, food, grill and games at Gibson Park
Transport grills from Gibson Park back to their rental location. Transport tables, chairs, coolers of food and other supplies from Gibson Park back to Great Falls Public Library and the YWCA. These volunteers should have a vehicle they are use to help move supplies.

To sign up, contact Susie McIntyre at smcintyre@greatfallslibrary.org or call 406-453-0349.

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 \(galaxydigital.com\)](http://galaxydigital.com) for opportunities.