

Great Falls Rising Monthly Newsletter

May 2024

Greetings from Great Falls Rising and the celebration of the month of May. While April is a mix of cold, dreary days and a few sunny ones here and there, May serves up plenty of truly perfect days, full of sunshine and blooming flowers, we hope! May is a month of rebirth, inspiration and excitement, as we close out the first third of the year and look forward to a fun, relaxing summer. Happy May Day.

Before we announce what is upcoming in May in Great Falls, we want to tell you that Susie McIntyre, Director of the Great Falls Public Library, received the Sheila Cates Librarian of the Year Award at the annual Montana Library Association banquet in Butte. She is recognized for distinguished service to libraries and leadership in education and training for librarians.

Also, Great Falls Rising has taken seriously the desires of attendees at the January 16th event, ***State of Hate and Extremism in Great Falls and Montana***, to follow up with gatherings to discuss the reality and find ways to eliminate or at least lessen that reality in our community. We're working to find trainers who can assist and then schedule gatherings to listen and discuss. Stay tuned!

May is Mental Health Awareness Month. It's an opportunity for all of us to come together and remember the inherent value we each hold, no matter our diagnosis, appearance, socioeconomic status, background or ability. The National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) reports that one in five U.S. adults experience mental illness each year and less than half of them receive treatment. Approximately 55% of U.S. counties do not have a single practicing psychiatrist. No matter what, you are inherently worthy of *more than enough* life, love and healing. If someone you love is going through a hard time, you don't need to have all the answers. Just being there is more than enough.

If you didn't receive a ballot in the mail for the School Board of Trustees election and live in the Great Falls Public Schools school district, call the County Election office at (406) 454-6803. You can also check the Montana Secretary of State's [Voter Registration Page](#). Late Voter Registration is available up to and including the day of election. Late Registration requires registration forms to be filed in the Election Office. Our American Democracy allows all citizens over 18 the right, privilege and responsibility to vote in all elections. **Your vote counts.** For information on the three candidates, see: [School Board of Trustees Candidate Forum – Great Falls Rising \(greatfallsrisingmt.org\)](#).

What's coming up?

Tuesday, May 7th – Great Falls Public Schools Board of Trustees election. **7:00 am to 8:00 pm**, Montana Expo Park, Exhibition Hall; Cascade County Elections Office, 325 2nd Ave. North, **8:00 am to 5:00 pm**.

Tuesday, May 7th - City Commission Work Session **5:30 pm**, agenda [here](#); City Commission Meeting **7:00 pm**, agenda [here](#).

Monday, May 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, May 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, May 21st - City Commission Work Session **5:30 pm**, agenda [here](#); City Commission Meeting **7:00 pm**, agenda [here](#).

Monday, May 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, May 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 STATE OF GREAT FALLS PUBLIC SCHOOLS: Wednesday, **May 8th** at **6:30 pm** at The Episcopal Church of the Incarnation; 600 3rd Ave. North. Enter the south door from the alley

Great Falls Rising invites you to join Tom Moore, Superintendent of Great Falls Public Schools, and Jamie Marshall, Chair of Kids' Education YES, for an evening of information and conversation about our local public schools. Data and trends related to the state of the district as well as information on the financial landscape for coming years will be presented.

KEY will speak to the advocacy and community connections in the works as we move into 2025 and beyond. Underlying everything shared will be a focus on the needs and opportunities to best honor and support the students and teachers of our community.

EMPTY THE SHELTERS: The City of Great Falls Animal Shelter is thrilled to announce its participation in the upcoming "Empty the Shelters" event, in collaboration with the BISSELL Pet Foundation. This national initiative aims to reduce adoption fees and encourage families to open their hearts and homes to pets in need. The event will run from **May 1st to May 15th**, aligning with BISSELL Pet Foundation's mission to end pet homelessness.

As part of this event, the City of Great Falls Animal Shelter will be offering reduced adoption fees of \$50 for dogs and \$25 for cats (please note that adoption fees do not include the cost of a city license). This presents a wonderful opportunity for families in our community to welcome a new furry friend into their lives while supporting our efforts to find loving homes for all our shelter pets. For more information on adopting contact the shelter at (406) 454-2276.

WILDERNESS SURVIVAL PREPAREDNESS: Friday, **May 3rd**, Lewis & Clark Intrepretive Center, 4201 Giant Springs Road.

GREAT FALLS COMMUNITY POWWOW: Saturday, **May 4th**, CMR High School.

JEWISH HERITAGE EVENING: Great Falls Public Library, Tuesday, **May 7th, 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm**. Enjoy an evening of presentations and a panel discussion with people from our local Jewish community. We will have people from the Montana Jewish Project, the local Weissman family and others who will talk about life in Montana and how we can all build our community together. There will be Jewish food provided, as well.

YELLOWSTONE GRIZZLY FILMS: Friends of the Great Bear, Missouri River Breaks Audubon and Montana Sierra Club will screen two dynamic documentaries about Yellowstone grizzlies in the Dark Horse Hall (downstairs Celtic Cowboy) at **6:30 pm** on **May 9th**. The non-profit Save the Yellowstone Grizzly Foundation has released “*Beast of Our Time*” and “*Return of the Grizzly*” to raise awareness of the threats the bears face as they struggle to adapt to climate change and survive on a human-dominated landscape. A rapidly changing ecosystem is driving the uncertain journeys of “explorer bears” as they try to reconnect with isolated populations and spread their genes across hazardous migratory routes. Can we learn to live with grizzlies, show tolerance and make the changes needed for their long term survival? Nick Gevock, Sierra Club Field Organizer for the Northern Rockies, will be the guest speaker.

THE GOLD RUSH: Charlie Chaplin returns to the Great Falls Symphony with live orchestra. Friday, **May 10th** at **7:30 pm**. Tickets can be found here: [The Gold Rush | gfsymphony](#).

EMERGING VOICES: Friday, **May 10th** at **6:00 pm**. Celebration of outstanding high school speech and debate students. At Meadowlark Country Club. Fundraiser for their trip to Nationals. More information and tickets here: [Debate a Politician | CMR Speech & Debate](#).

YWCA SALUTE TO WOMEN: Friday, **May 10th** at **5:00 pm**, at the University of Providence. Step into a world where empowerment, recognition, and community converge at the YWCA Great Falls' annual Salute to Women Gala. This signature event, steeped in tradition and purpose, celebrates the remarkable achievements and contributions of women in our community. There will be a dessert auction, 50/50 raffle and a Wine Pull! Call 406-452-1315 to purchase a ticket or for more information, you can also go to our website at ywcagreatfalls.org and also to purchase tickets online. Tickets are \$30 each.

HUSH OF THE LAND: A Lifetime in the Bob Marshall Wilderness. Saturday, **May 11th, 4:00 pm to 5:00 pm** at Lewis & Clark Interpretive Center. Authors Smoke Elser and Eva-Marie Maggi read and tell stories from the book. Smoke has spent over 6 decades packing horses into Montana's backcountry.

2024 PRESERVATION AND LEGACY AWARDS: Saturday, **May 11th** at **1:00 pm**. The Great Falls Historic Preservation Advisory Commission and The History Museum announce the awards at the Celtic Cowboy, Dark Horse Hall.

TELL US SOMETHING: Great Falls Public Library, **May 16th** at **5:30 pm**. Storytelling workshop with Marc Moss. In the final Winter Speaker Series talk of the year, Marc guides you on a journey of finding your own story. He will help you shape that story into one you can share at a live storytelling performance the evening of the workshop. We will learn about the sense of place in a story through observation of the natural surroundings of the State Parks, learn about what a story arc is, and learn how to better speak in front of a crowd.

MEMORIAL DAY: The Memorial Day ceremony at the Montana Veterans Memorial, 84-90 Pasta Plaza, will be held on **May 27th at 2:00 PM**. The Montana Veterans Memorial Association has a website where you can search for a tile, follow their events, learn about the organization, and view memorial photographs and video. Go to montanaveteransmemorial.org.

ALLEN JONES AUTHOR TALK: Great Falls Public Library, **May 30th at 7:00 pm**. Bozeman-based author Allen Morris Jones comes to talk about his Spur Award-winning book *Montana for Kids* and his successful follow-up *Yellowstone for Kids*. Jones also is the author of a highly regarded look at the ethics of hunting, a collection of poetry (recently named a Montana Book Award honor book), and more than 100 published personal essays, profiles, short stories, and other incidental pieces. Children, families, and adults are welcome to attend this talk.

NATIONAL TRAILS DAY: Saturday, **June 1st**, check out [Get Fit Great Falls – Get Fit Great Falls](#) for hikes.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT REVIEW: Before the June primary ballots come out, please educate yourself on the Local Government Review measures that will be up for a vote for both the City of Great Falls and Cascade County. A Local Government Review was initiated by [Article XI, Section 9\(2\) of the 1972 Montana Constitution](#), and the first review was conducted in 1974. Required every 10 years, the local government review election asks voters to decide if they want to elect and fund a study commission to review their city and county forms of government. For 2024, it is a Local Government Review year. Visit the city website for more information: [Local Government Review - Study Commission | City of Great Falls Montana \(greatfallsmt.net\)](http://Local Government Review - Study Commission | City of Great Falls Montana (greatfallsmt.net)).

GREAT FALLS LIBRARY EVENTS: Whether you're looking for children's programs, adult events, storytelling, documentaries, etc. you can find the information at: [All Upcoming Events | Great Falls, MT Public Library \(greatfallslibrary.org\)](http://greatfallslibrary.org).