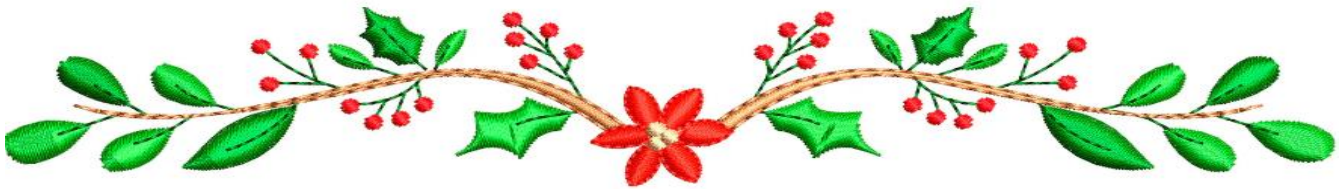


# *Great Falls Rising Monthly Newsletter*

## *December 2024*



December is probably one of the busiest months of the year and rings in the holiday season. It's a month when many of the world's religions celebrate holidays, such as Christmas, Hanukkah, and Kwanzaa. World Aids Day on December 1st raises awareness of the AIDS pandemic, Pearl Harbor Day of Remembrance takes place on December 7th, National Wreaths Across America, on December 17th, is our commitment to remember our veterans, and December 21st is the Winter Solstice, the astronomical day when Earth is farthest away from the Sun. Of course, for kids it's Santa Claus, vacation from school, travel to relatives and visits to far-off places. What's in your Yule?

### **What's coming up?**

**Tuesday, December 10th** – Cascade County Commission Meeting, **9:30 am**. Agenda can be found here as the date nears: [Agenda Center • Cascade County, MT • CivicEngage \(cascadecountymt.gov\)](#).

**Monday, December 16th** – 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 17th** - City Commission Work Session **5:30 pm**, agenda [here](#); City Commission Meeting **7:00 pm**, agenda [here](#).

**Tuesday, December 24th** – Cascade County Commission Meeting, **9:30 am**. Agenda can be found here as the date nears: [Agenda Center • Cascade County, MT • CivicEngage \(cascadecountymt.gov\)](#).

### **Friday, December 6th**

[The Art of Christmas](#) at The Paris Gibson Square Museum of Art  
[Christmas Stroll](#) at Downtown Great Falls  
[First Friday Art Walk](#) at Various Venues  
[Symphony Preview - Christmas](#) at Great Falls College MSU  
[Trim a Tree](#) at First Peoples Buffalo Jump  
[Winter Star Party](#) at First Peoples Buffalo Jump  
[Pirates of Penzance](#) at CMR High School  
[University of Providence Men's Wrestling](#) at McLaughlin Center  
[Tom Catmull](#) at Celtic Cowboy

### **Saturday, December 7th**

[The Art of Christmas](#) at The Paris Gibson Square Museum of Art  
[Christmas Solstice Art & Craft Show](#) at Holiday Village Mall  
[Fusion Fight League](#) at Montana ExpoPark  
[Voodoo Cadillac](#) at The Do Bar  
[University of Providence Men's Wrestling](#) at McLaughlin Center  
[The Lucky Valentines](#) at Mighty Mo  
[Pirates of Penzance](#) at CMR High School

**PEARL HARBOR REMEMBRANCE DAY:** Family Living Center at Montana Expo Park, **Saturday, December 7th** at **11:00 am**. Guest speak will be Joe Parsetich, Past National Commander of the Disabled American Veterans. Everyone in the community is invited to attend.

**WRITER'S MEETUP:** Event by [Jake Sorich](#) and [The Greatest Great Falls Writers' Group](#). Being held at Luna Coffee Bar, 9 5th St. North, **Saturday, December 7th**, from **1:00 to 2:00 pm**. We will be holding our Writers Group weekly on Saturdays at 1 pm. You need not attend every meeting! This Saturday we will do some writing exercises and let people read some of their work if they're open to hearing suggestions!

**FAMILY FRIENDLY HOLIDAY PARTY:** Event by the Great Falls Rec Center, 801 2nd Ave. North, **Saturday, December 7th** from **5:00 to 8:00 pm**. Entry fee is \$5.00. Games, Prizes & Ugly Sweater Contests, Concessions Available! Facebook event [here](#).

**PARTY WITH A PURPOSE:** World AIDS Day, event at Luna Coffee Bar, 9 5th St. North, **Saturday, December 7th**, from **7:00 to 10:00 pm**. After a somber week of HIV/AIDS awareness event with rededicated of the AIDS memorial rock at Central Christian Church and showing of the documentary of How to Survive a Plague at the Great Falls Public Library, we invite you to a Party with a Purpose, with a live DJ, testing resources, silent auction and prizes!

Join members of our community while we remember those lost and are still affected with love and life. An opportunity for our community to expand connections to make positive changes for the future. Sponsored by Independence Rock Coalition and the Great Falls LGBTQ+ Center, the gathering combines HIV awareness with health screenings, silent auction and prizes. If you are interested in being a sponsor, reach out to Lela at [indyrockcoalition@gmail.com](mailto:indyrockcoalition@gmail.com) for more information.

**Sunday, December 8th**

[Christmas](#) at Mansfield Theater

[Christmas Solstice Art & Craft Show](#) at Holiday Village Mall

**Monday, December 9th**

[The Fab Four](#) at The Newberry

**BLOOD DRIVE:** Event by Alliance for Youth, 3220 11th Ave. South, **Monday, December 9th**, from **2:00 to 6:30 pm**. Join us for a community blood drive. Your donation can help save lives, and every pint makes a difference. Walk-ins are welcome, but appointments are encouraged to ensure a smooth experience. Give the gift of life this holiday season and help us make a positive impact in our community! Visit this [website](#) to register.

**ARMCHAIR TRAVELER:** Event by the Great Falls Public Library, 301 2nd Ave North, on **Thursday, December 12th** at **7:00 pm**. We are sailing through the Adriatic Sea in the Cordingley Room of the Library with Susie McIntyre, Director of the Great Falls Public Library. She took a vacation this year and learned to sail with friends. She will be talking about that experience and will maybe show us how to tie some knots as well! Facebook event [here](#).

#### **Friday, December 13th**

[F\\*Bomb](#) at The Do Bar

[University of Providence Men's Basketball](#) at McLaughlin Center

[Pirates of Penzance](#) at CMR High School

[Firebird](#) at Celtic Cowboy

#### **Saturday, December 14th**

[F\\*Bomb](#) at The Do Bar

[Last Chance Christmas Bazaar](#) at Montana ExpoPark

[Twisting in Air: The Sensational Rise of a Hollywood Falling Horse](#) at The History Museum.

[Kids' Secret Shopping Day & Tree Trimming](#) at the Lewis and Clark Interpretive Center

[Free Admission](#) at C.M. Russell Museum

[Fusion Fight League](#) at Montana ExpoPark

[Holiday Open House](#) at The History Museum

[Pirates of Penzance](#) at CMR High School

**125th ANNUAL CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT:** Event by Giant Springs State Park, 4803 Giant Springs Road, on **Saturday, December 14th** at **8:00 am**. The annual Christmas Bird Count (CBC) is a census of not just the species seen but also the

numbers of birds seen on a single day within a set time frame. Great Falls has a 'count circle that is 15 miles in diameter. Teams of birders set out on the same day to cover the entire area to count all the birds they can find.

The CBC at Giant Springs State Park will be led by members of the Upper Missouri Breaks Audubon Society, and registered participants are to meet at the Giant Springs Ranger Station on December 14th at 8:00 AM. Participants can spend an hour or the entire morning with the counting crew.

If you can't identify birds, you will learn some basics. If you can count, record numbers, or bird names you can also help. If you are just curious what kind of person goes out in the winter to see and count birds you can come too.

Sometimes there are thousands of ducks, surprise vagrant ducks, or the river is frozen and there are almost no ducks. There are also songbirds to find. This will be outdoors, dress for the weather, bring your own drinking water, and be prepared to walk around the park. Binoculars will be available to borrow if needed. There is no age limit for this event, and participants under 12 should be accompanied by an adult.

**Attending this event requires registration.** To request sign up, please visit the Giant Springs Ranger Station, or click [here](#) to complete the form. Park staff will then confirm your attendance via email.

**SOCIAL WITH A PURPOSE:** Gift wrapping for the Children's Receiving Home. Event by the Junior League of Great Falls, being held at the Mighty Mo Brewing Company, 412 Central Ave., on **Saturday, December 14th**, from **4:00 to 6:00 pm**. Open to all current, sustaining, and prospective members. Join us to learn about the Junior League of Great Falls' involvement in opening and sustaining the Children's Receiving Home, while wrapping gifts for patrons during one of the Home's annual fundraisers.

**Sunday, December 15th**

[The Steve Olson Orchestra](#) at Belt Performing Arts Center

**EXPRESSIONS OF SILENCE:** Event by the Montana School for the Deaf and the Blind, 3911 Central Ave., on **Sunday, December 15th**. Please join us for the annual Expressions of Silence Christmas Program. Students from Montana

School for the Deaf and the Blind (MSDB) will perform Christmas music using sign language. This is a heartwarming and fun time for the entire family. The performance is open to the public and costs \$5 per person (pay at the door). The program is at MSDB in the Mustang Center. The door will open at **12:30 pm**, and the program will start at **1:00 pm**.

**AUTHOR TALK WITH LARRY PLANT:** Event by the Great Falls Public Library, 301 2nd Ave. North, on **Thursday, December 19th at 6:30 pm**. Larry Plant, Physical Therapist, Author, Father, and Friend to the Library, was born and raised in the one and only Last Best State of Montana; before the advent of computers, social media, and the twenty-four-hour news cycle. Bird Food for Life, is Larry's first book of little stories aimed at the light, the bright, and the beauty of Life, that abounds all around. He is the youngest of four children, which was instrumental to his growth, maturity, and the variety of opportunities available to him for trying new things; and for not being afraid to come up short. With the help of his wife at the time, his family, and his friends, Larry became a Physical Therapist after recovering from a Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) in a motorcycle accident that nearly took his Life at 18 years of age. Larry has enjoyed working with wood from a young age and now he also enjoys working with words, but he had never considered writing a book until things changed for him in Lake Havasu City, Arizona in the Spring of 2022. That's where Larry's eyes were opened, the lights came on, and the words started to flow forth like a river. His work in healthcare, since graduating from the University of Montana in 1990, as a Physical Therapist with a focus on long-term care has given Larry a unique perspective on Health, Healing, Hope, Humor, Happy, Harmony, and Hallelujah, which are the first seven chapters in his book entitled Bird Food for Life. CHEERS!! Facebook event [here](#).

**Friday, December 20th**

[Big Sky Country](#) at The Celtic Cowboy

**Friday, December 27th**

[Allegedly Red](#) at Whiskey Ridge

[The Unpredictables](#) at The Celtic Cowboy

**MOBILE INTEGRATED HEALTHCARE:** Event by [Great Falls Public Library](#) and [Great Falls Emergency Services](#) on **Friday, December 27th**, 301 2nd Ave. North, at **2:00 pm**. Great Falls Emergency Services, as part of the Mobile Integrated Healthcare Program will be at the first-floor display table at the library to offer blood pressure checks, pulse oximetry checks, blood glucose checks, medical referrals, medication checks and will answer other medical questions as needed.

**Saturday, December 28th**

[Rock Art Hike](#) at First Peoples Buffalo Jump

**Sunday, December 29th**

[University of Providence Ladies Basketball](#) at McLaughlin Center

**Tuesday, December 31st (New Year's Eve)**

[F\\*Bomb](#) at Whiskey Ridge

[Americans Hockey](#) at Great Falls Ice Plex

[Cale Younce](#) at The Celtic Cowboy

[Annie Moses Band](#) at The Mansfield Theater