

Great Falls Rising Monthly Newsletter July 2025

July is the seventh month of the year, name after Julius Caesar, Roman General and first dictator, in 44 BC. Independence Day, commonly known as the 4th of July, is a federal holiday in the US which commemorates the ratification of the Declaration of Independence by the Second Continental Congress on July 4, 1776, establishing the United States of America.

The founding fathers' delegates of the Second Continental Congress declared that the thirteen colonies were no long subject (and subordinate) to the monarch of Britain, King George III, and were now United, free, and independent states. The Congress voted to approve independence by passing the Lee Resolution on July 2 and adopted the Declaration of Independence two days later, on July 4.

July is Disability Pride Month, a time to celebrate the history and contributions of people with disabilities and to advocate for their rights. The month also recognizes the ongoing fight for disability rights and accessibility, particularly the legacy of the Americans with Disabilities Act.

What's coming up?

Tuesday, July 8th – 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, July 15th - City Commission Work Session **5:30 pm**, agenda [here](#); City Commission Meeting **7:00 pm**, agenda [here](#).

Monday, July 21st – 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).

Tuesday, July 22nd – 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).

ARTS ON FIRE T-SHIRT DESIGN CONTEST: Deadline **July 15th**. North Central Montana K-12 students (including homeschool) may submit a design. The design must be black line-art only in ink or marker. Your signature is required on your artwork. Note: This should be an original, creative design that will be printed on t-shirts for this year's festival. The winners will be notified in late July!

First place will be recognized by having their design printed on the shirts for the 14th Annual Arts on Fire Festival. They will also receive a free youth art class of choice, and of course, a t-shirt! Second place will have their design printed on stickers and will receive a selection of them with a t-shirt!

*Admission to activities, demonstrations, performances, and Artist Alley is free for everyone!

NOTE: All students under 18 must submit a waiver/application form signed by a parent or guardian for their entry to be valid. All entries must include a completed entry form to be valid. Black Line Art Submissions Only: (Please only use black ink or marker with no shading. Remember that your design

could be printed on a t-shirt, so bold lines are best! Be sure to sign your work)! Images that are drawn by hand using software like ProCreate or Illustrator are acceptable, but we will not accept any AI-generated images for this contest. Bring your completed artwork to Paris Gibson Square Museum of Art (The Square) at 1400 1st Ave N, Great Falls or a high-resolution file to sjohnson@the-square.org by July 14th, 2025.

Questions? Please contact Sara Johnson, Operations Manager at sjohnson@the-square.org. Download form [here](#).

VETERANS COFFEE SOCIAL: Held at the Great Falls Senior Center (upstairs) on the third Tuesday each month at **8:30 am**. This month, on **July 15th**, Roger Hagan of the American Legion Department of Montana will talk about what happened in the legislature this year on veteran issues. Free and open to the public.

BACK TO SCHOOL BLAST: Held on Friday, **August 15th** at Montana Expo Park. Pre-register by **July 30th** to get early entry and guarantee your child a stuffed backpack. Visit the website [here](#).

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES: Looking for meaningful ways to spend your time and help your community? Consider volunteering for the approximately 50 organizations listed on the [United Way website](#) or helping the city out by [volunteering at various departments](#).