

Great Falls Rising Monthly Newsletter

January 2026

Great Falls Rising wishes you a HAPPY NEW YEAR

January is known as the start of the new year, symbolizing fresh starts, New Year's resolutions, and reflection, named after the Roman god [Janus](#), the two-faced Roman god of beginnings, gates, and transitions, looking to the past and future. It's the coldest month in the Northern Hemisphere and warmest in the Southern Hemisphere, featuring holidays like Martin Luther King Jr. Day (US) and [Burns Night](#) (Scotland), plus awareness campaigns for blood donation, vision, and mental health.

Data Centers in Great Falls

A special event that will be happening on January 8 is a presentation on data centers. It will be held at the Haute Hive, 721 Central Ave, from 5:30 to 7:30 pm. Capacity is only 60 to 65 people, so come early to get a seat.

A panel will explore **recent changing energy policy at the state and federal level**, updates on NorthWestern Energy's new Integrated Resource Plan (IRP), and data center proposals around the state, all of which could raise electricity bills and impact water resources. It will be discussed how to "vet" a Data Center project for appropriateness to a geographic area and an existing energy grid.

Panelists:

Anne Hedges, Montana Environmental Information Center

- Federal and state energy policy overview
- Updates on NorthWestern Energy's IRP / plans to serve data centers

Richard Liebert, Citizens for Clean Energy

- Lessons learned from the last round of energy deregulation
- Public engagement and the Highwood Coal Plant

Guy Alsentzer, Upper Missouri Waterkeeper

- Impacts on regional water resources
- Scarcity and contamination, existing issues, and regulatory frameworks

Mike McDearmon, Central Montana Resource Council

- Big Tech is not going to police itself
- The overeager juggernauts of progress

Other Events in January

Friday, January 9

Americans Hockey at Great Falls Ice Plex

Banff Mountain Film Festival at Great Falls High School

The Magic of Motown at The Mansfield Theater

Saturday, January 10

Americans Hockey at Great Falls Ice Plex

2026 Electric City Winter Classic Basketball Tournament at Great Falls

Sound of Montana at The History Museum

Monday, January 12

Toast - The Best of Bread at The Mansfield Theater

Thursday, January 15

Lady Argo's Wrestling at McLaughlin Center Gymnasium

Montana Pro Rodeo Circuit Finals at Montana Expo Park

Bringing the U to You: Seth Bodnar at Great Falls College, MSU

Friday, January 16x

Argo Basketball at McLaughlin Center Gymnasium

Argo Ladies Basketball at McLaughlin Center Gymnasium

Bingo Loco at The Newberry

Argo Hockey at Great Falls Ice Plex

Montana Pro Rodeo Circuit Finals at Montana Expo Park

Saturday, January 17

Argo Basketball at McLaughlin Center Gymnasium

Argo Ladies Basketball at McLaughlin Center Gymnasium

Montana Pro Rodeo Circuit Finals at Montana Expo Park

Justin Bieber Dance Party at The Newberry

Tap Into Soul at Belt Performing Arts Center

Rooster Reynolds Memorial Exceptional Rodeo at Montana ExpoPark

Tuesday, January 20

Argo Men's Wrestling at McLaughlin Center Gymnasium

Wednesday, January 21

The MAGIE at Montana Expo Park

Thursday, January 22

The MAGIE at Montana Expo Park

Friday, January 23

The MAGIE at Montana Expo Park

Comedy Night with Mark Lundholm at The Heritage Inn

Saturday, January 24

Burns Night at the Celtic Cowboy 6 - 8 pm. Celebrate Robert Burns in style

Thursday, January 29

Bringing the U to You: Dr. Brock LaMeres at Great Falls College, MSU

Friday, January 30

Argo Men's Wrestling at McLaughlin Center Gymnasium

Wallace Marine Boat Show at Montana Expo Park

Margarita Meltdown at Montana Expo Park

Saturday, January 31

Gavin DeGraw at The Newberry

Wallace Marine Boat Show at Montana Expo Park

What else is coming up?

Tuesday, January 6 – Special City Commission Work Session **4:30 pm**, agenda [here](#); City Commission Meeting **7:00 pm**, agenda [here](#).

Monday, January 12– Great Falls Public Schools Board of Trustees Meeting, **5:30 pm**. Agenda will be posted here when the date nears: [Agendas & Meetings - Great Falls Public Schools](#).

Tuesday, January 13 – 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, January 20 - City Commission Work Session **5:30 pm**, agenda [here](#); City Commission Meeting **7:00 pm**, agenda [here](#).

Monday, January 26 – Great Falls Public Schools Board of Trustees Meeting, **5:30 pm**. Agenda will be posted here when the date nears: [Agendas & Meetings - Great Falls Public Schools](#).

Tuesday, January 27 – Cascade County Commission Meeting, **9:30 am**. Agenda can be found here as the date nears: [Agenda Center • Cascade County, MT • CivicEngage \(cascadecountymt.gov\)](#).

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](#).