



Great Falls Public Radio Association board members: (VP) Joe Moll, (Secretary) Diane Stinger, Dan Manella, Lonnie Hill, Matthias Schalper, (Pres.) Richard Liebert; Gabe Vasichok, program director  
[www.kgpr.org](http://www.kgpr.org)

## **KGPR FCC THIRD QUARTER 2023 REPORT – ISSUES/CONCERNS**

From 1 July to 30 September 2023, KGPR broadcasted 18-19 hours of local programming opposite its partner station's (KUFR Missoula, MT) local programming, as well as airing KUFR programming all other hours, 24 hours per day. KGPR continued to have every mid-day show spot filled to provide great music, local community events, PSAs and engaging hosts for the listening public, and Doug Wendt – in addition to his Monday mid-day show of world music – volunteered to carry on our Tuesday mid-day show featuring 'The Deep Sixties.' The KGPR team has worked diligently to share as much as possible for all listeners and posted Podcasts for the public's benefit. Our Friday night show called 'Biscuits and Groovy' has ended as our host had to relocate. We are welcoming back Josh Dowdy for his contributions with his 'First Friday with Dow.' show as he's moved on and we wish him great success

KGPR has continued to develop a brand new public service feature on our website called 'The Electron' which is a community events calendar created by KGPR underwriter David Saslav and currently moving from the 'Beta' version and [Kgpr.org/electron](http://Kgpr.org/electron) and also from a tab on the homepage. This is a critical 'branding' opportunity as no other media Platform has tried this to the extent we're doing this so we have more to report on this vital public service and we hope to get more donors and especially underwriters. KGPR has scheduled a formal Launch event on October 23<sup>rd</sup> with the Chamber of Commerce and the Electron is fully ready for event organizers and the public to utilize.

The Great Falls Public Radio Association continues to work with the Great Falls Chamber of Commerce and we've worked to collaborate and in particular feature many of the Chamber's non-profit members in coordination with the Chambers' communication team. Eric Peterson has also expanded his new feature highlighting 'Crimestoppers' which is a local civic group of volunteers dedicated to that task and is broadcasted on Tuesdays each month and the second show went on the air for our 'Talk Tuesday' and also podcasted. Eric recorded a public safety seminar at the University of Providence and prepared portions for broadcast over several weeks as a vital public service.

KGPR hosts mid-day music shows Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, 10:55am – 12:30pm, a jazz show on Thursday afternoon from 2-4 p.m., a classical music show on Sat. 2-5pm, with special local showcase at 4 p.m. of classical music talent, the Great Falls symphony and other local artists. On each Friday from 8-10 p.m. we have an eclectic mix of music and added two new Friday evening radio hosts in June. Thanks to host Liz Jennings (Thursday mid-day show), she found a volunteer with broadcast experience. Jeff Jaraczski has returned for the fall and doing very well with 'Gravel Roads' and features 'Americana', alternative and tradition country sounds, Bluegrass and more. Our Friday mid-day show host is Eric Peterson, who alternates featuring 'Horns O' Plenty' dedicated to musicians and groups that play horns, and the next Friday features music of 'The Seventies' along with 'Land of Grass' from Lisa Schmidt' who is KGPR's 'Prairie Poet' and a local rancher.

KGPR continued its transition to an all-volunteer team of live hosts, board members, and technical support volunteers assisting with recording and editing for airing locally produced shows inside and outside the studio while maintaining COVID public health protocols.

A new public engagement offering is Electric City Currents, created by program director and host Gabe Vasichok and now Matt Donnelly. It airs on alternating weeks from Voices and Views and is a shorter format show highlighting interviews with local citizens, businesses, officials, artists and much more. Eric Peterson also created another KGPR broadcast featuring the city's ten Neighborhood Councils, for broadcast and on podcast.

Eric also produced broadcasts featuring very important forums addressing public safety and what 'Crimestoppers' are doing and also a panel on the forthcoming Public Safety Levy discussed at the local University of Providence.

On Point: Veterans' Talk Radio airs every other Tuesday at 3pm and is a show dedicated to discussion of vital veterans' and local military issues, aired proudly as a public service, hosted by Joe Parsetich. KGPR aired special 'encore' broadcasts of 'On Point' founder Rodger McConnell and has started new in-studio broadcasts with guest host Rich Liebert. On Point also broadcasts very useful and informative Podcasts from the DAV and American Legion websites that impact local veterans. KGPR – with assistance from Eric Peterson – conducted interviews with the volunteers at the 18th Annual Vets4Vets Stand Down held 15-16 Oct at the Cascade County Fairgrounds in Great Falls. These interviews with the American Legion, Opportunities, Inc. and others are posted on the KGPR Podcast/Podbean, and a special focus on the new GRACE HAVEN, a new facility for female veterans and children modeled on the GRACE HOME that has been operating for years for male veterans.

KGPR has vigorously broadcasted community events, news releases and public services announcements, including outreaches to the Charlie Russell and History Museums and many other non-profit organizations that can benefit from KGPR's broadcasting help. Station engineer Greg Muir also enhanced our broadcasting capabilities and reliability with addition of a new dome cover for our satellite dish. We have also invested in vastly improving our STREAMING capabilities. Gabe Vasichek and Greg Muir have also installed a new, faster and more capable computer in our studio, another critical expense but vital investment that will be a tremendous tool for our volunteer hosts in broadcasting, recording interviews, selecting music and more. We're subscribing to Youtube premium, spotify and other sites to gather the best available music and entertainment for our listeners.

Thomas Risberg – our host of 'Voices and Views' which airs on Tuesday afternoons – interviewed Professor Elfie Neber at the Great Falls College about substance abuse treatments. Additionally, he's done many interviews with key local 'movers and shakers' and had a show with Lacey Gallagher, the director of the Cascade County/City Health Department. These are all podcasted and a vital source of critical and thought provoking communications we share for the community.

Matt Donnelly – who hosts Saturday's 'Classical Journey' – has been regularly featuring local classical music talent and interviews at the 4pm hour, after his 2-4pm Classical Journey show. Matt's interviewed the Great Falls Symphony conductor Grant Harville and other musicians to highlight the talent and contributions of the Great Falls Symphony, and local ensembles the 'Chinook Winds' and 'Cascade quartet'. KGPR is very supportive and proud to promote the wonderful local talent of all our musicians no matter the genre. KGPR continues to promote local musicians and the Great Falls Symphony and their guest performers. KGPR has invested in purchasing a season ticket for Matt so he can attend all the concerts and that adds value to the interviews. Matt and KGPR also strongly promoted 'Jazz at the Ozark' night on 16 Sep, and featured superb musicians performing at the History Museum's iconic 'Ozark Room' which for decades in from the Forties to the Sixties was the hub of music excellence, and featured many African-American musicians and artists.

KGPR has continued in-studio production of new recordings of Front Range Outdoors. Hosts Amy Grisak and Marty Bannon feature interviews with local wilderness groups, trails organizations, bicylists, Glacier National Park staff, and multiple outdoor enthusiasts about all things outdoors in the area, state, and region. The station also broadcasts encore shows of vital interest, particularly about safety around bears and other survival topics for the listening public. Amy also conducted some very timely interviews with outdoor experts and staffs at our local national and state parks.

KGPR continues to air Land of Grass, during COVID and currently, a four minute piece written and recorded by an local area rancher in which Lisa Schmidt explores events great and small in her life as a dry land rancher raising sheep and cattle north of Great Falls. Production of Land of Grass moved seamlessly from the former staff to current volunteers and is anticipated each week by many faithful listeners. Land of Grass is also podcasted on the KGPR website. MTPR's KUFM station in Missoula has suspended playing 'LOG' for now.

KGPR has been diligently posting all locally produced shows as podcasts to our website, [kgpr.org](http://kgpr.org), immediately after airing. In addition to the Celtic Cowboy, Montana State Parks and Big Sky Country National Heritage Area, KGPR has picked up several new sponsors. Briant's Triangle Piano Service, The Decorating House, Kellergeist, Wild Montana Island Range Chapter, Montana Farmers Union and Renditions Music underwrite KGPR directly. KGPR also obtained a new undewriter, BEST MED Urgent Care and has attracted interest in future sponsors.

KGPR, in conjunction with KUFM (operated by Montana Public Radio), broadcasted the recent news and interviews and all live national news events. KGPR has continued to upgrade studio and broadcast operations in coordination with MTPR and completed negotiating a broadcast agreement with KUFM for the 2022 broadcast year which allows KGPR to share Missoula's KUFM and MTPR programming with the North Central MT community.

Gabe Vasichcek and Lonnie Hill (board member) work diligently to post Podcasts in a timely manner and share vital information via the KGPR Facebook page. The board has also started meeting in public with hybrid 'Zoom' options for the public and volunteers.

KGPR continues to air our Friday night show hosted by Shannon Wilson called 'CELTIC FALLS' in the 8-10pm time slot and features Irish, Scottish, Welsh and Celtic music artists and sponsored by the local Ancient Order of Hiberian chapter.

Submitted by Richard D. Liebert, 31 Mar 2023, President, Great Falls Public Radio Association (which operates KGPR, [kgpr.org](http://kgpr.org))