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Community members invited to coalition meeting

Greater Falls Connections will be holding a coalition meeting on Monday, May 8, at 5:30 p.m., at Parks Place Community Resource Center. The Advisory Board has reviewed the vision, mission statement, and bylaws to ensure they match the work that the board and staff at GFC are doing. Coalition members are invited to review the changes and comment on them at the coalition meeting. You can find the document highlighting the changes [here](#). The coalition will then vote on the changes at the annual meeting, which will be held in June.

What's a coalition?



Coalitions connect multiple sectors of the community—including businesses, parents, media, law enforcement, schools, faith organizations, health providers, social service agencies, and government—to collaborate and develop plans, policies and strategies to provide a proven comprehensive public health approach to support prevention efforts. This means pretty much anyone in the WNESU school district can be a member of the Greater Falls Connections coalition—including you! It is free and all you need to do is support our work by attending events, meetings, or sharing about our work.

LGBTQ+ Community Nights planned

GFC is sponsoring a free activity group for LGBTQ+ community members in the Bellows Falls area who are 18-25 years old. The group will start on Thursday, May 4, at 5:30 p.m., on the second floor at Parks Place. Bring a group game to play or an arts & crafts project to work on while you hang out. For more information, please text or call Neil at 802-952-6283 or email them at neil@greaterfallsconnections.org.

Advisory Board members sought

Do you support GFC's work in preventing substance misuse/abuse for youth and improving the wellness of the WNESU communities? If you do and have a few hours a month to volunteer, then we want to hear from you! The board meets the second Monday of each month, from 5:30 to 7 p.m., plus the annual meeting in June and a board retreat in the fall. New members will be voted on at the annual meeting on June 28. For more information, call Neil at 802-463-9927, ext. 208 or fill out the application [here](#).

Family dinners to start in May

GFC and some community partners will be hosting free family dinners for Bellows Falls parents with children 8 years and younger. The dinners are for anyone who identifies as a mom or dad. Moms and the kids will have dinner together on the second Wednesday of each month at 5:30 p.m., and the dads and

at 802-463-9927 and ask for Neil or Jenn.

April is National Alcohol Awareness Month

Alcohol Awareness Month is a public health program organized by the National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence as a way of increasing outreach and education regarding the dangers of alcoholism and issues related to alcohol. Underage drinking is still a major problem in Vermont. Underage drinking and other drug use can have severe consequences for children under 21, including the following:

- Injury or death from accidents;
- Poor school performance;
- Poor judgment and decision-making; and
- Alcohol and other drugs can also harm child brain development.

Find tips on how to talk to your kids and more at [ParentUp](#).

Parks Place diaper drive in May

Parks Place Community Resource Center is holding a diaper drive with partners Chroma Technology and Edward Jones (BF). The community is invited to donate diapers all month long to support the Time for a Change Diaper Bank. Our community diaper bank, housed at Parks Place, offers free diapers and wipes to families in the Greater Falls area and we need your help! Specifically, we are in need of diaper sizes 4, 5 and 6, as well as all sizes of pull ups and baby wipes.



Drop-off sites include Chroma Technology (for employees), Parks Place Community Resource Center, Edward Jones (BF), Sonnax, Cota & Cota (Green St), the Rockingham Free Public Library, and the local elementary schools. For more information, call 802-463-9927 ask for Jenn or Julie.

Ready to give up smoking?

If your New Year's resolution to give up smoking or vaping is not going as well as you hoped, cessation classes can help get you going or stay on the path and provide support with patches, gum, and a teacher that understands the struggle. You can register for classes at myhealthyvt.org. While you're there, check out the other healthy lifestyle programs available.



GFC Annual Meeting and Community Potluck BBQ

We will be holding our Annual Meeting and Community Potluck BBQ on Wednesday, June 28, starting at 5:30 p.m. Everyone in the community who supports our work is invited to attend. Enjoy a marvelous array of food created by fellow community members, learn more about our organization, and vote during the annual meeting, which will include the director sharing about the past year and future plans, voting in Advisory Board members, and voting on changes to the vision, mission statement, and bylaws. For more

Join us for a Chamber Mixer

Stop by Parks Place for a Greater Falls Chamber of Commerce Mixer on Thursday, Aug. 17, from 5:30-7 p.m. Meet the new director and other new staff members as well as members of the Advisory Board. You'll have a chance to learn more about what we do and how you can become part of the coalition. Those who come will be entered into a drawing for a special door prize!



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