Welcome, Andy Varner!

Andy Varner is the new City Manager of North Plains. He was the previous City Administrator of Sand Point, Alaska, a small fishing village in the Aleutian Islands. Sand Point is only accessible by boat or plane and is 500 miles from Anchorage, Alaska’s largest city. Andy was previously Executive Director of the Southwest Alaska Municipal Conference (SWAMC), a regional economic and community development organization for the Southwest region of Alaska. SWAMC gave Andy a unique exposure to the challenges and opportunities of many different communities in the region, from Kodiak to Bristol Bay to the isolated Pribilof Islands. This regular contact with Mayors, Managers, and organizations all throughout Southwest Alaska led Andy to joining the Sand Point staff. Prior to leading SWAMC, he was the Economic Development Coordinator for the City of Kenai, Alaska as an AmeriCorps VISTA volunteer. A native of rural Missouri, Andy graduated from the University of Missouri with a degree in business, and from the University of Alaska Anchorage with a master's degree in Public Policy and Administration. Andy and his wife Kim have two small children, Sabina (6) and Cecil (3), and one Labradoodle. Andy loves to explore the wilderness of Alaska and will do his best to do the same in Oregon. The whole family is very excited about the move and in getting to know the people and places of North Plains and the surrounding area.

E-Water Bills

Tired of waiting for your statement to come in the mail? Register and receive e-bills! Unfortunately, payment is not able to be submitted directly through the statement view at this time. For the time being, you can always make a payment through the website www.cityofnp.org. Click the red button that says “Pay Online” and you will be directed to the payment portal. To set up e-bills visit https://northplains.moonlightbpo.com/default.aspx First time users will need to register. Enter your name and account number exactly as it appears on your water statement. Once registered go to your profile and select “send e-mail” under Delivery Method. You will receive an e-mail to the e-mail address you provided during registration once the new water statements are ready, typically around the 1st of each month.

Library News

TUTORING SERVICE

Stacie our tutoring volunteer will provide Homework Help on Wednesday evenings from 5pm until 7 pm. Please contact the Library to schedule a no cost session. The tutor will provide help with all subjects including math from an elementary school level through calculus.

Police Officer Matt Glem will offer math help, specializing in Junior High through College Mathematics including College Prep (CPM). These sessions will run on Saturdays from 3:30pm until 5pm beginning January 6. Students are welcome to come on a drop in basis or by signing up.

Book Babies Storytimes

Babies 0-12 months are invited to hear stories, enjoy finger plays, and share songs and rhymes with Early Childhood Specialist, Lauren, every Wednesday at 10:30am in the children’s section of the library.

Storytimes

Children ages 0-6 are invited to participate every Wednesday at 11:30am in the children’s section of the library. Here is a run-down on some of our upcoming story time themes for the next few months:

February 2018 North Plains Community News - [1]
Wednesday, January 24, 2018 – ANTS IN MY PANTS
Wednesday, January 31, 2018 – AUSTRALIA
Wednesday, February 7, 2018 – BEARS
Wednesday, February 14, 2018 – LOVE AND HUGS
Wednesday, February 21, 2018 – SPECIAL GUEST MEGA TURTLES
Wednesday, February 28, 2018 – BUBBLE BATH
Wednesday, March 7, 2018 – BUG OUT
Wednesday, March 14, 2018 – SPECIAL GUEST SUPER BUNNY
Wednesday, March 21, 2018 – SPECIAL GUEST CANDII (buses / cars)
Wednesday, March 28, 2018 – SPECIAL GUEST CANDII (cats)

Family Fun Night
Join us at the Library on the First Friday of each month for a free showing of a PG-rated movie, and a chance for parents to get their holds or have a quiet moment! Board games are available for older kids to enjoy.

February 2, 6:30pm, Rock Dog.
For the Tibetan Mastiffs living on Snow Mountain, a dog’s life has a simple riff: Guard a peaceful village of wool-making sheep from the thuggish wolf Linnux and his rabid pack. To avoid distractions, Mastiff leader Khampa forbids all music from the mountain. But when Khampa’s son Bodi discovers a radio dropped by a passing airplane, it takes just a few guitar licks for his fate to be sealed: Bodi wants to be a rock ‘n’ roll star.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: ADULT SERVICES
Here is a rundown on the adult focused news and programs that occurred recently or are scheduled to occur next month. All are welcome at our programs.

One city one book! Worthy Brown’s Daughter - March 10, 7pm until 8pm.
Over the last few months many of our patrons have gotten together to enjoy the pleasure of reading with Phillip Margolin’s Worthy Brown’s Daughter. Known for his critically acclaimed contemporary thrillers, New York Times bestselling author Phillip Margolin explores an intriguing tale of the old west in Worthy Brown’s Daughter, a compelling historical drama, set in nineteenth-century Oregon. This tale combines a heartbreaking story of slavery and murder with classic Margolin plot twists. Join us for a fascinating book talk with the author on the listed date. Refreshments will be provided for this special occasion. To reserve your spot just call the library.

International Movie Night
With the kind support of the Cultural Trust of Oregon, the Cultural Coalition of Washington County, and the Abbey Creek Winery, we are able to bring you fresh foreign film every month. All showings occur at the Abbey Creek Winery tasting room on Commercial Street. Fine wine is available for purchase.

Thursday, February 15, International Movie Night will be The Teacher from Slovakia and the Czech Republic. In a middle school classroom in Bratislava in 1983, a new teacher, Maria Drazdechova (Maury), asks each student to stand up, introduce themselves and tell her what their parents do for a living. It slowly becomes clear that perhaps the pupils' grades are related to how willing their guardians are open to helping her out with her errands, her housecleaning, and other random services. After one of the students attempts suicide, however, the director of the school has no choice but to call for an emergency parents' meeting to remove the teacher, but because Ms. Drazdechova is also a high-ranking official of the Communist Party.

Those Were the Good Old days…
A Schefflin Landmark
By Melvin Van Domelen
Mountaindale, OR
I realized I missed a story for the newsletter last month, and believe me, I heard about it. The problem being my backlog of stories is running out and I was into making Christmas wreaths and cracking walnuts.

Just before Christmas, on a trip to the Cornelius Fred Meyer for last minute shopping, I passed these two trees. They grow on the northwest corner of what now is Milne road and Zion Church Road. These trees once stood along the east side of the Zion Lutheran Church that occupied this site. I realized then that there is a story here.

The Lutheran Church was built in 1904. A parsonage for the pastor was built to the west in 1909. A parish hall was added in between the Church and parsonage in 1913 and added onto in 1938. This hall served as a
space for church gatherings, receptions and was the site for a parochial school, 1913-1955.

This old church parsonage has been moved to the west a bit on Zion Church Road and still stands there today, 2018. In years past Milne Road also served the old Columbia Academy School a mile to the north of this corner. This gravel road, in early days, was one of the main routes into Hillsboro for the folks living in the north valley.

I have mentioned elsewhere that these Lutherans realized that they didn’t have to go to Africa or South America to do mission work. They came and held Sunday school classes at the one-room Mountaindale School on Sunday mornings. This was during the time of the 1930’s, early 1940’s. Walter Kahle taught the older group, Anna Schwanke taught the little kids, my group.

My sister, Betty Jean, and I often walked the mile to Sunday school with Ruby Reynolds from the Mountaindale Store. Sister and I would have each been given a penny for the collection plate. It was depression times.

I still have the Bible Stamp Album from Sunday school. Each Sunday we would be given stamps to paste in the book that related to Biblical events, 96 stamps in all. My book is missing one stamp. This had always bothered me.

A few years back, a lady introduced herself to me at our North Plains Senior Center. She had been my Sunday school teacher way back then. She had married and was now Anna Salzwedel. I told Anna about the missing stamp in my Bible Album. I took my book back to her and she OK’ed the missing stamp and signed my keepsake album, Anna Schwanke Salzwedel. I felt good about that.

For several years our Mountaindale Sunday School members would go to the Lutheran Church at Schefflin to take part in the Christmas program there. One can never have too many shepherds and angels. One year I ended up in the Parish Hall next to the Church on program night.

The older Lutheran boys had been practicing “Oh Come All Ye Faithful” to sing as they walked over and into the church. The problem was, what do we do with Melvin? Curtis Sahnow says “We will put him right up in front and he can carry our staff and banner”. That was big stuff for a little kid to do.

The young Lutheran pastor at this time was Reverend Carl Nitz. I’ll always remember Carl for laying under the Christmas tree, on his tummy, turning a color wheel to highlight scenes during a program.

During one of the Christmas programs at the church, it snowed a couple of inches during the evening. When we left, no other vehicle had gone before us and as they say “we broke track” going home. Our mother then told my sister and I to always remember the beauty of that Christmas Eve and I do.

While taking pictures for this story, I was amazed to find the sidewalk that surrounded the church are still there. And, I thought of all the steps taken there for learning, fellowship and worship.

Now, I see the tops are dying on the two trees remaining there that grew along the sidewalk. When they are gone, it’s all gone. Another historic landmark will have disappeared. So when you drive Zion Church Road and pass this corner, give a thought about all of the activities that have taken place there over the years.

By 1971 this Lutheran congregation had built a new church on the corner of Evergreen and Glencoe Roads.

Early church history coming from a book loaned to me by Doloris VanDomelen.

February Calendar

02/02  First Friday Flick  6 p.m. at Jessie Mays
02/03  Crab Feed  3 p.m. at Jessie Mays
02/05  City Council Meeting  7 p.m. at North Plains Senior Center
Fire Department News

Voters Will See TVF&R Annexation

Measures on March Ballot

Measures 34-280 and 34-281 Would Allow Newberg and Rural Area to Join TVF&R

North Plains voters will be asked in the March 13 election to consider whether to allow annexation of the city of Newberg and Newberg Rural Fire Protection District territories into Tualatin Valley Fire & Rescue’s service area.

Approval of Measures 34-280 and 34-281 will not increase taxes paid by existing TVF&R residents. Because property owners in Newberg and the surrounding rural area would pay the same rate upon annexation as existing TVF&R patrons, the tax rate paid on bonded debt could actually decrease across TVF&R’s entire service area.

You might be wondering why you are being asked to vote on measures that affect Newberg and the Newberg Rural area.

Since July 1, 2016, TVF&R has provided fire protection, emergency medical, and ambulance transport services to the city of Newberg and surrounding rural area under a two-year contract. Newberg asked TVF&R to serve the city and honor its arrangement with Newberg Rural Fire Protection District due to budget constraints that limited the city’s ability to provide adequate staffing, maintain equipment, and comply with national standards given increased service demands.

Much like the process that took place with North Plains and Washington County Fire District 2, during the contract, elected leaders of TVF&R, the city of Newberg, and Newberg Rural evaluated the feasibility and cost-benefit of annexation. All agreed that it was a mutually beneficial decision and offered the most stable solution for long-term service to the city and rural communities.

Voters residing in both the city of Newberg and Newberg Rural areas voted in favor of annexation to TVF&R in the November 2017 election. The outcome was 69.32 percent voter support in the city and 62.99 percent voter approval in the rural area.

Despite strong approval by voters residing in Newberg and Newberg Rural to join TVF&R permanently through annexation, Oregon law allows 100 or more existing TVF&R voters to file petitions with Washington County during the annexation process to request that the Board of Commissioners require an in-district election on the proposed annexations. In December, petitions were filed and accepted by the Washington County board.

Since then, TVF&R has placed Measures 34-280 (city) and 34-281 (rural) on the March ballot. If voters pass both Measures 34-280 and 34-281, TVF&R will finalize the annexation process. The city of Newberg and Newberg Rural Fire Protection District will permanently join TVF&R on July 1, 2018.

Property owners in the city of Newberg and Newberg Rural would pay the same tax rate as existing TVF&R patrons.

If either or both measures do not pass, TVF&R will work with Newberg and/or the rural district to ensure an effective transition, whether TVF&R continues to provide service through a contract extension or Newberg reverts to its former model.

TVF&R’S history is based on similar voluntary and mutually beneficial annexations. TVF&R took shape as a fire district between 1972 and 2016, as a number of
city fire departments and rural districts, including Washington County Fire District 2, consolidated to share limited resources and save money. Collectively, communities can leverage their resources to have more sophisticated services at a lower cost than they could have on their own while reducing administrative overhead, buying trucks and equipment in bulk, garnering better borrowing rates, and leveraging a system of response to locate stations, resources, and personnel strategically.

For more information on these measures, please contact Public Affairs Chief Cassandra Ulven at 503-649-8577.

**Did you Know?**

- In the City of North Plains you are allowed to have up to three chickens? No roosters are permitted, though.
- If you are building a fence, you will need to obtain a fence permit. However, if you are making repairs to the fence, no permit is necessary.
- If you have a home alarm, you do not need to register it with the North Plains Police Department.
- Backyard sheds under 200 sq. feet do not need a permit.
- You can make a payment on your water account through our website! Look for the big red button on the left hand side!
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