City of North Plains
31360 NW Commercial St.
North Plains, OR 97133

City Hall hours are
8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Monday-Friday.

(503) 647-5555

www.northplains.org

Contact Your Council:
Mayor Teri Lenahan
Sherrie Simmons
Robert Kindel
Larry Gonzales
Russ Sheldon
Cameron Martinez
Garth Eimers
Mayor’s Corner
By Teri Lenahan

Happy Holidays North Plains!

With the winter weather knocking at our door, I thought I would just offer some tips and reminders about what you can do to prepare yourself for the colder weather.

Winter storms can bring extreme cold, freezing, rain, snow, ice and high winds and can result in closed highways, blocked roads and downed power lines; which all have potential to interrupt our lives. If we are under a winter storm warning, find shelter right away. In case of extreme temperatures, the City of North Plains has a warming location at Jessie Mays Community Center.

Here are just a few ideas to plan ahead:
- Develop a communication plan with your family members, co-workers and neighbors.
- Prepare your vehicle with jumper cables, flashlight, warm clothes, bottled water, non-perishable snacks, flares or reflective triangle, ice scraper, car cell phone charger, blanket, a paper map and in some cases, cat litter or sand for better tire traction. Keep the gas tank full.
- Prepare your home by checking the caulking and weather stripping around windows and doors, learn how to keep pipes from freezing, check your batteries in your smoke alarms and carbon monoxide detectors.
- Gather extra supplies you might need in your home if the power should go out. Keep in mind your specific needs, like medications. Don’t forget your pets. Have extra batteries for radios and flashlights.
- Have a list of emergency phone numbers posted on the fridge, 911, the Non-Emergency number 503-629-0111 and the American Red Cross, are just a few examples.
- Know the signs of hypothermia and frostbite.
- And please, check on your neighbors.

If you have any questions about emergency winter weather planning, please feel free to contact Blake Boyles at 503-647-5555 (option 2).

OBOB Writers Club
The OBOB Writers Club has a great lineup for the fall. The OBOB Club gathers to read, write, and discuss one book per month for both 3-5 and 6-8 grade divisions.

3rd-5th Grade Wednesday, November 28th 3:30-4:30pm When the Sea Turned to Silver by Grace Lin.
6th-8th Grade Wednesday, November 28th 4:30-5:30pm Wolf Hollow by Lauren Wolk.
3rd-5th Grade Wednesday, December 19th 3:30-4:30pm In the Footsteps of Crazy Horse by Joseph Marshall III
6th-8th Grade Wednesday, December 19th 4:30-5:30pm Absolutely Truly by Heather Vogel Frederick

Book Babies story times
Babies 0-12 months are invited to hear stories, enjoy finger plays, and share songs and rhymes with Early Childhood Specialist, Ms. Em, every Tuesday at 10:00am in the program room in the library.

Story times
Children ages 0-6 are invited to participate every Wednesday at 11:30am in the children's section of the library. Here is a rundown on some of our upcoming story time themes for the next few months:
Wednesday, November 21, 2018 – Turkey time!
Wednesday, November 28, 2018 – Old and new with Mr. Will.
Wednesday, December 5, 2018 – Opposites with Mr. Will.
Wednesday, December 12, 2018 – Out for the Count with Mr. Will.
Wednesday, December 19 & 26 – No story time, planning for 2019!

Model builders club
We have decided to extend our model building club running in collaboration with North Plains Elementary School until December 5. The group will consist of 5th and 6th grade students and cover a full range of STEAM and historical activities.

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.
Holiday Jingle and Dickens Carolers
As we did last year, we will be hosting the amazing Dickens Carolers at the Holiday Jingle on December 6. The performance will fit into the overall Jingle plan with the following timeline: Visit with Santa & parade at 6:30pm, hot chocolate & goodies inside 6:45pm with the tree lighting and Dickens Carolers at 7:30pm. We hope that everyone will join your friends and neighbors for a delightful evening’s entertainment.

Mind Your Yoga
Our skilled Yoga volunteer Meena will continue to guide patrons on the path to better health and flexibility. Due to the constraints of booking Jessie Mays, Mind Your Yoga sometimes meets at the North Plains Senior Center. The yoga sessions run from 6:30pm until 7:30pm on the listed dates.

Meena will be running additional Yoga sessions most Monday mornings at the Jessie Mays Center from 9:30am. Please check the city calendar for all the details.

December Yoga Classes
Week 1: December 4, Jessie Mays Community Center
Week 2: December 11, Jessie Mays Community Center
Week 3: No class
Week 4: No class

January 2019 Yoga Classes
Week 1: No class
Week 2: January 8, Jessie Mays Community Center
Week 3: January 15, Jessie Mays Community Center
Week 4: January 22, North Plains Senior Center
February 2019 Yoga Classes
Week 1: February 5, Jessie Mays Community Center
Week 2: February 12, Jessie Mays Community Center
Week 3: February 19, Jessie Mays Community Center
Week 4: February 26, North Plains Senior Center

Library Book Club
New members are always welcome to join in the monthly discussions. The group meets regularly once a month, usually on the last Wednesday of each month at 7pm at the North Plains Public Library. Here is the rundown of upcoming titles for 2018:

December 26 - Before We Were Yours – Lisa Wingate (Suggested by Jennifer Knowles).

Mark your calendar

Coming in 2019, the Library will be proud to host a new adult group called Word Play. This will be a Writers' Group for those 18 and older, it will begin in January 2019 and meet once a month on the first Thursday of the month from 5pm until 7pm at the library.

Here is a statement from the organizer Marie Buckley:
“If you like to write and would enjoy meeting with others to exercise your creative muse, this is the opportunity! Come and play with words at the library! Each meeting will begin with a short shared writing warm-up and then move into the monthly topic. We will discuss the topic, brainstorm ideas, and spend 20 to 30 minutes writing. After that, we will take turns sharing what we wrote by reading aloud. Participants will gain new ideas to write about and commit memories and life experiences to paper. This is not a critique group, but rather a time to create, move words around, and have fun”

Clothing Drive
The North Plains Library is collecting socks, underwear, and small toiletries for all ages and genders from December 1st-31st to give to the Sonrise Church SOS Shelter. No food donations please. Please ask a staff member if you would like more information.

December Calendar

12/03 Historical Society 1 p.m. at Jessie Mays
12/03 City Council Meeting 7 p.m. at North Plains Senior Center with 6 p.m. work session
12/06 Jingle Parade departs Jessie Mays at 6:30 p.m.
12/07 Family Fun Night 6:30 p.m. at the Library
12/12 Planning Commission 7 p.m. at North Plains Senior Center
12/13 Food Pantry 5 p.m. at the Yellow House, 31311 NW Commercial St
12/13 North Annexation Development Neighborhood meeting 6:30 p.m. at Jessie Mays
12/17 City Council Meeting 7 p.m. at North Plains Senior Center
Spread Holiday Cheer for Children in Need
By TVF&R Captain Mick Carey

Tualatin Valley Fire & Rescue firefighters are dedicated to responding to the fire and emergency medical needs of the community at a moment’s notice. This holiday season, firefighters are asking community members to help them come through for less-fortunate children as well.

Station 17 is once again collecting new, unwrapped toys for the North Plains Lucky to Serve toy drive and looks forward to distributing the toys to families in our community on December 19 with the help of dedicated volunteers.

This marks the ninth year of the toy drive that brightens the holidays of about 175 families right here in North Plains.

You can help us continue this holiday tradition by dropping off toy donations at our station, 31370 NW Commercial St., now through December 14. There is a need for unique family games, youth-sized bike helmets, bike locks, and items for teens.

TVF&R knows that we serve a generous, compassionate community. Thank you in advance for helping us contribute to brighter holidays for children and teens in need.

If your family could use some help this year, please stop by City Hall or North Plains Elementary School to pick up an application. More information is also available at https://www.mowp.org/news-events/donatedinner/.

If you would like to help wrap gifts, you can assist Lucky to Serve volunteers on Saturday, December 15, beginning at 9 a.m. at North Plains Elementary School, 32030 NW North Ave. Volunteers are encouraged to bring scissors, tape, and any wrapping paper they want to donate.

EXERCISE CLASS: Every Monday, Wednesday & Friday from 9:30 – 10:30 AM, down stairs at the Senior Center, this class is FREE and open to anyone.

Meals on Wheels People volunteer opportunity...

It’s called “DONATE DINNER!”
Donate Dinner provides shoppers at local grocery stores the opportunity to “donate dinner” to a homebound senior when they do their holiday shopping the five days before Thanksgiving (November 17-21 between 11am and 7pm).

How does it work? Volunteers greet customers and hand them a card that explains how they can “donate dinner” when they check out. Each volunteer shift is only two hours!

Please go to https://www.mowp.org/news-events/donatedinner/ to register. You can choose any location, but for the North Plains/Forest Grove/Banks location, Jim’s Thriftway is the place to be! We still need volunteers the 19th through the 21st- all shifts.

BINGO: Bingo at the Senior Center on the first Wednesday evening of each month, starting at 6PM.

By Melvin Van Domelen
Mountaindale, OR

After the first of December, much of our time spent at my one-room Mountaindale School was in preparation for our Christmas program. Paper chains and strings of popcorn were made to decorate our Christmas tree that had been pulled in over a foot log across Dairy Creek.

There was a warm feeling of the folks coming together at the school program. They could still sing the traditional songs. We have now lost our one-room schools, their Christmas gatherings and the end-of-the-year school picnics. As a result, our community
also lost its identity, and it has never been the same since.

For December, I’ve invited a long-time friend, Don Bills, to contribute his memories of Christmas in the little one-room Shady Brook School that was located a couple of miles north of North Plains. We lived these times, Don and I. We are part of a vanishing generation.

Christmas at Shady Brook School

By Don Bills

When he appeared at the end of the Christmas program, Santa had a hole in the seat of his pants. The depression budget didn’t allow the School Board to buy a new costume. Santa’s mask and beard were crumpled and ugly from years of storage and use. He frightened little preschool kids enough to make them cry, but the crying stopped when Santa handed out brown bags containing hard candy, unshelled almonds, and an orange. The sticky candy was coated with almond-shell dust, but it was the only Christmas candy some would have.

In old age, I may not remember what happened a few days ago, but I clearly remember Christmas programs of 75 years ago at Shady Brook School. In this one-room school, one teacher taught all eight grades. Every December thirty or more kids and their parents crowded into the school for the evening Christmas program. Singing served as the backbone. We sang Christmas carols and happy songs, such as Jingle Bells and Up on the Housetop. Santa’s team hadn’t yet been corrupted with Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer, nor had Frosty the Snowman started running here and there all around the square saying, “Catch Me if You Can.”

One year in the Christmas program, wearing our mother’s bathrobes and turbans, Elton Parrish, Tom Ryan and I entered the darkened schoolroom singing We Three Kings of Orient Are. As we made our way to the front bearing gifts for the Christ Child, a kid with a flashlight dramatically lighted the star of Bethlehem that was cut from cardboard, covered with foil, and taped high on the front wall.

A huge Douglas fir Christmas tree decorated the schoolroom. A kind neighbor allowed a couple of school boys to cut the tree on his property where the little firs grew like weeds. In those early years, no one could have foreseen the development of a big business of growing Christmas trees for sale. The tradition of displaying a decorated evergreen tree in celebration of Christmas dates back hundreds of years. The origin of the tradition is still a subject of debate, but its appearance in America can be traced back to the arrival of German immigrants in the late 1700s. Though hard to imagine now, Christmas trees were not a central part of holiday celebrations in most American homes until the mid-1800s. Initially, Americans cut their own trees from local forests, but as more people flocked to larger cities, there was a need for a central Christmas tree market. Forested areas adjacent to urban areas were quickly picked clean of all Christmas-suitable firs, and it was clear that a new tree farming system was needed.

Today, Oregon is the leading state for growing and marketing Christmas trees with 42,000 acres planted by 700 growers. Our state produces over 5 million trees with a value of $90 million per year, and over 90 percent of the trees grown in Oregon are sold out-of-state. To grow a six-foot Douglas fir Christmas tree takes seven years, and it takes nine years to grow a six-foot Noble fir. The state of Washington has just 18,000 acres of Christmas trees, but nationally a total of 350,000 acres is devoted to Christmas tree production. Big business!

Some small Christmas tree farms allow customers to select and cut their own tree. This can be exciting for kids, especially city kids who have never used a saw to cut down a tree.

By 1938, Christmas trees at Shady Brook School had electric lights, thanks to the Rural Electrification Act of 1936. But many Local Residents, especially those farther up the road, still didn’t have electricity in their homes. Before he married, my Dad built the house I
lived in until I was 16 years old. It originally was built to serve as a toolshed, but as his family developed Dad added space by building rooms around the perimeter. The house lacked electricity, running water, a telephone, and indoor plumbing. It was located over half-a-mile from the County road where the public telephone line and the new electric lines were strung. It would have been too expensive to string private lines from our house to the County Road to hook up for electricity and telephone service. We jokingly said that we had running water...when we needed water we ran downhill to a spring and filled a galvanized bucket with sweet cold water then ran back uphill to the house.

Though we didn’t have running water, my poor overworked Mom fancied having a sink. She found a chipped green-enameded sink in the Montgomery Ward Bargain Room priced at $1.49. My Dad agreed to connect it to a drainpipe so that waste water wouldn’t have to be carried out. They bought the sink and Mom loved it. When Grandpa John stopped in for a visit, Mom proudly showed him her new sink and told him how convenient it was for washing dishes and hands. Grandpa looked at the sink and said, “Hmmpf, a lot of things are nice if you can afford them.”

Life at Shady Brook School was uncomplicated. Amenities were few. Just like my home, the school didn’t have indoor toilets or running water. A student pumped buckets of water and filled a fountain and two wash basins located between the cloak rooms. Cloak rooms were little rooms just inside the main entrance...one for the boys and one for the girls. We hung our coats on hangers and put our lunch pails on shelves in the cloak rooms. At lunch time we all washed our hands in the same water, but we used good old Lifebuoy soap that was believed to be able to prevent the spread of germs. The same student that carried water, split and carried in wood to start a fire in the huge wood-burning stove on cold mornings. The library consisted of a single bookcase with an encyclopedia and 30 or 40 other books. An upright piano provided music when we had a teacher who knew how to play it. Floors were oiled wood. Two students swept the floors every afternoon after classes...they each received seventeen cents a day for this effort. Except on rainy days, a flag flew from the large wind-up clock that had Roman numerals.

Because one teacher taught all eight grades, younger children could hear the recitations and see the blackboard work of older children. Students learned as much from each other as they did from their teachers. They learned to read and write and do arithmetic, but just as important, they learned how to get along with each other. A worthwhile life requires abilities often evaluated on old-time report cards under the heading of “Works and Plays Well with Others.” Those traits developed readily at Shady Brook School.

At 86 years of age, I feel privileged to have had the experience of education in a one-room school. That part of my life has served me well through careers and situations I could never have imagined as a kid.

Shady Brook School offered classes for about 80 years in three different wooden buildings. The last class to finish the eighth grade at Shady Brook graduated in 1949. The third building, complete with bell tower and bell, still stands and serves as a private residence. This building is located about two miles north of North Plains on Shady Brook Road. My dad, Roy Bills, completed the eighth grade 104 years ago in this same building. – Don Bills
Board & Commission Openings

Interested in volunteering for your community? The Parks & Recreation Board and Planning Commission both have vacancies!

The Parks & Recreation Board meets once a month, on the 4th Wednesday at 6 p.m. Members of the board oversee park and trail development, park maintenance, and make recommendations regarding projects, budgets, and fees.

The Planning Commission meets once a month as well, but on the 2nd Wednesday at 7 p.m. The Commission reviews standards for building in North Plains, type III-IV land use applications, and the comprehensive plan.

To fill out an application for either board, please visit our website, www.northplains.org.
Hobson 24hr Fitness

Holiday Food Drive

All Donated Food will go to the North Plains Senior Center!
Most Needed Items:
peanut butter, chili, beans, rice, tuna, canned soup

Option #1: Bring any items to our gym for donation during listed hours below

Option #2: Pick any 7 items from list and get FREE sign up. (Discount applies to joining gym same day as food drop off/new members only)

Option #3: Pick any 7 items from list and add a person onto your membership and get 2 months free and they get 1 month free. (Deal applies to current members)

DEC 10TH-22ND M,T,W,F 4P-6P, SAT 10A-12P
CALL 503-447-1366 TEXT 503-819-4024
10170 NW GLENCOE RD NORTH PLAINS