December, 2012

Community News

City of North Plains, 31360 NW Commercial Street, North Plains, OR 97133  www.northplains.org

Jingle - December 6 at 6:30 p.m.

The Jingle is a unique type of decorated vehicles found in North Plains tradition to celebrate the holidays. It starts at 6:30 p.m. at Jessie Mays Community Golf Carts on Main Street. Each year, residents drive in decorated vehicles to view homes with holiday lights. The parade lasts about a half hour and ends at Jessie Mays, where hot chocolate, coffee, cider and cookies are served. A prize is awarded for the Best Parade Entry.

This is a free event.

You do not have to register in advance to ride in the Jingle. Just show up on the evening of the event. Vehicles will be lined up in the parking lot and along Hillcrest. All addresses are added.

Registration is free.

Trophies awarded for decorated homes include:
- Best Holiday Spirit
- Best Lighted House
- Best Street Spirit
- Most Likely to be Seen from Space

Houses will be judged by December 4. A People's Choice: Best House award will be selected by parade participants the day of the event.

This year's event is sponsored by the North Plains Events Association, a new volunteer organization that will host a variety of community events.

Donations for Gnos Family

On Saturday, November 10, Bob and Jean Gnos of North Plains lost their home of 50 years and everything in it to a devastating fire.

Unfortunately the home was under-insured, so their many friends are asking the community to help with the necessities that they will need to rebuild their lives.

Cash donations are encouraged and will gladly be accepted at West Coast Bank for the Gnos family and also at the Jingle in keeping with our community's Christmas spirit.

Any new or gently used items or non perishable foods, blankets, towels and any other household items would also be appreciated and can be brought to the North Plains Jingle on Thursday, December 6 at 6:30 at the Jessie Mays Community Center.
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Library News

**Storytimes.** Children ages 0-6 are invited to participate every Wednesday at 11:30 a.m. in the children's section of the Library. Storytime with Miss Marion on December 5 will feature tales about Winter. Youth Librarian Jackie will host Storytime on December 12. On December 19, come meet our VERY Special Guest, Santa Claus! On December 26, Miss Marion will return with stories featuring a Boxes theme.

**Writers’ Group.** Share your writing projects and receive feedback from peers on Thursday, December 6 at 6:30 p.m. at the Library.

**First Friday Flick.** Free family movie nights occur on the first Friday of each month beginning at 6 p.m. at the Library. The PG-rated animated movie by Pixar to be shown on December 7 is the adventure story of the king’s daughter and the trouble she brings to the Highlands of Scotland. Seating is limited. Refreshments will be served.

**Friends of the Library Meeting.** There will be a regular meeting of the Friends on Monday, December 10 at the Library from 7:30-9 p.m. New members are welcome.

**Holiday Closures.** The Library will close early, at 5:30 p.m. on Christmas Eve, Monday, December 24 and will remain closed on Christmas Day, Tuesday, December 25. The Library will close early, at 5:30 p.m. on New Year’s Eve, Monday, December 31 and will remain closed on New Year’s Day, Tuesday, January 1.

**Library Book Club.** Come to the Library on Wednesday, December 26 at 7:30 p.m. for a discussion of The Cat’s Table by author Michael Ondaatje. This coming-age novel, by turns poignant and electrifying, is about the magical, often forbidden, discoveries of childhood and a lifelong journey that begins unexpectedly with a sea voyage. New members are welcome. Refreshments will be served.

**Craft Night.** Bring your knitting, crocheting, or other personal craft projects to the Library on Thursday, December 27 from 6-8 p.m. for an evening of camaraderie and dedicated handiwork time.

**Monthly Art and Quilt Exhibits.** Displayed in the computer/program room throughout the month of December is artwork by Valerie Sjodin. Displayed above the checkout desk throughout the month of December is a Christmas quilt by Kellie Shulruff.

**Digital Drive Campaign.** The Digital Drive Campaign funds will replace all computers and upgrade to the latest Windows operating system and Microsoft Office software. Please help with a tax-deductible donation. You can do this online at [www.nplibrary.org](http://www.nplibrary.org), by dropping off a check (made payable to Friends of the North Plains Public Library) at the Library, or by mailing your check to the Friends at PO Box 525, North Plains OR 97133.

**Library Remodel.** If you have been to the Library lately, you will have noticed some wonderful changes in the decor! The Friends of the North Plains Public Library have graciously donated funds to add two ranges of Adult Fiction shelving and to remodel an Adult Non-Fiction shelving unit in order to house more materials. They have also purchased a 3M Self Check machine that allows Library patrons to check out their own items without having to wait in line. A new entryway carpet welcomes you to the Library. Coming up next is a project to move the photocopier into the computer room enabling patrons to release and pay for their own printing jobs without assistance.

**Silent Auction - Japanese Gifts in a Themed Basket.** Look for the basket of intriguing items from Japan at the front door. Bid on the basket by writing your name and the amount you are willing to pay on the form next to the basket. You have until 7:30 p.m. on Wednesday, December 19 to place your bid, at which time the highest bidder will be announced and can claim the basket. Items include a doll, coins, magnets, 1000 Yen, postcards, stationary, chopsticks, a mug, a tapestry bag, stickers, a decorative plate, handkerchiefs, a lithograph, a wooden fan with a display stand, The Samurai’s Garden by Gail Tsukiyama, and an English-Japanese dictionary, among other things.

**Pay Library Fines by Debit or Credit Card.** It is now possible to pay with debit or credit cards at the...
North Plains Public Library! The minimum payment amount is $15.00. All major cards are accepted - Visa, Mastercard, Discover, American Express.

Library open hours are Monday – Wednesday 11:00 a.m. to 7:30 p.m., Thursday – Saturday 11:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. The Library is located at 31334 NW Commercial Street. Call 503-647-5051 or visit our website at www.nplibrary.org for more information. You can also find us on Facebook!

Election Results
Residents of the City of North Plains have reelected David Hatcher as Mayor. Robert “Butch” Kindel and Teri Lenahan were also reelected as Councilors. Charlynn Newton will replace Councilor Ana Singh-Gill who opted not to run for reelection. Ms. Newton will be sworn in this January.

4th of July Celebration Volunteers Needed

In 2013, the City of North Plains will host another 4th of July celebration, and we could use your help. Volunteers are needed for both advance planning and to work on the day of the event. Activities that require volunteers include the Cruisin’ Car Show, kids’ play area, contests (like pie eating), and a parade. This year we hope to add a BBQ dinner event.

We are hoping next year’s event will also include more vendors of food and crafts and fireworks.

If you would like to participate in either planning or volunteering on the day of the event, please contact info@northplains.org or call Blake Boyles at (503) 647-5555.

Discarded Vehicles

Did you know the City has an ordinance prohibiting discarded vehicles in view from the public street?

Municipal Code section 5.10 states “No person shall park, store, leave or permit the parking or storage of an abandoned, disabled, discarded, off-road, or destruction derby vehicle upon private property within the City in excess of seven (7) days, unless the vehicle is completely enclosed within a building, garage, or covered trailer. Temporary movement of the vehicle shall extend the seven (7) day time limit. This section shall not apply to the operation of a business enterprise conducted in a lawful place and manner and properly licensed. Further, it shall not apply to vehicles surrounded by a sight-obscuring commercial fence or concealed by a cover in good repair which is approved by the City.”

Such vehicles are considered a nuisance as they promote blight and reduce neighborhood property values.

The Code defines a discarded vehicle as “a vehicle which does not have lawfully affixed to it an unexpired license plate, and is in one or more of the following conditions: a) inoperative, b) wrecked, c) dismantled, d) partially dismantled, e) abandoned, f) junked. Discarded vehicles may be considered to include major parts of vehicles, including but not limited to bodies, engines, transmissions and rear ends.”

The City of North Plains will start enforcing the ordinance more aggressively in the coming months.

Residents who need assistance determining if a vehicle can be considered as discarded or abandoned should contact the City at (503) 647-5555 or info@northplains.org.

Initially, warnings will be given to residents, with a 30-day grace period to resolve the issue. If discarded vehicles are left in place, the City may proceed with a citation and abatement of the vehicle.
Senior Center News

THANKSGIVING THANKS
Thank you to all who attended the great Thanksgiving dinner at the Senior Center on Turkey Day! We had a good turnout, lots of good food and good friends and family with whom to visit. Thank you also to Margaret and all the volunteers who helped cook, set up, serve, and cleanup.

DECK THE HALLS--December 8
Come out and join us at the North Plains Senior Center at 9:00 Saturday morning, December 8, as we "deck the hall." We'll have lots of fun putting up the tree and decorating the inside and outside of the Center. There'll be some Christmas music playing and refreshments and coffee. Remember . . . many hands make light work . . . so if you can spare some time, please come and help us out.

FUDGING ALLOWED--Now until December 24
As our holiday fundraiser, our Mrs. Claus and her elves are making homemade fudge with walnuts for Christmas. The cost is $10/lb. and orders are being taken. Call the North Plains Senior Center and place your order today. You can't ever have too much chocolate . . . ho-ho-ho!

GETTING CRABBY!--January 19
Tickets are on sale now for our 5th annual Crab Feast to be held at Jessie Mays Community Hall, Saturday, January 19 beginning at 3:00 p.m. Sponsored by the City of North Plains, Washington County Fire District #2, and Loch Lolly Christmas Forest, the menu will include fresh Dungeness crab, coleslaw, pasta salad, roll, dessert and beverage. Tickets are $25 each, and proceeds will benefit the North Plains Loaves and Fishes Center and its senior nutrition program. A surf and turf menu is also available for $35. Seatings will be at 3:00, 4:30 and 6:00. For event information, call Patti Burns 503-647-2619, and for tickets call Margaret Wold, 503-647-5666.

For information about activities or events, other questions about the Center, or suggestions for what would be of interest to you, please call Margaret or Karen at 503-647-5666.

Prevent Crime:
Lock Your Car
Recently, the North Plains Police Department has received numerous reports of thefts from cars. In most cases, the cars were left unlocked overnight. The criminals are striking in the wee hours of the morning to take cell phones, GPS units, electronics, purses, and any other item left in plain view.
Please take an extra moment to remove valuables from plain view and lock your vehicle to avoid becoming a crime victim.

November Water Use Estimated
Due to a heavy rain storm, the City was unable to read water meters in November. The two-day process of reading meters coincided with very heavy rains that drowned most water meters, making them impossible to read.
This month, water utility bills are based on property owners’ use of water during November 2011. Thus, it is possible that a few residents will see unusually low or high bills this month. The amounts will be corrected when meters are read in December.
The City apologizes for any inconvenience this may cause, and we will work with residents who have unusual bills.

Volunteers needed for Neighborhood Watch
Please contact Chief Snyder if you can spend a hour or two a month preventing crime in our community. Please call the NPPD at (503) 647-2031.
The Washington County Board of Commissioners will be considering an extension of the test period for the acceptance of food waste at Nature’s Needs facility. This discussion is likely to occur in early December. The Board has the discretion to 1) accept the application to modify the franchise to accept food waste on a permanent basis, 2) continue the test period to allow time for physical improvements to be fully evaluated, or 3) deny the application for food waste. It is the City’s understanding that the Board is likely to approve the extension. The Board has asked for the City’s comments on proposed odor-monitoring methods.
**Council Agenda**

Issues that will be coming before City Council in December include:

- Discussion of County consideration of food waste acceptance at Nature’s Needs facility
- Revision of municipal code sections regarding procedural rules
- Acceptance of Design Guidelines for commercial zones
- Approval of Music Show and Concert in Park programs
- Approval of playdate program
- Draft supplemental budget
- Discussion of Finance Department status
- Discussion McKay Fields Park System Development Charge credits

City Council has regular meetings scheduled at 7:00 p.m. on the first and third Monday of each month. All meetings are open to the public. Agendas are published on the City’s website the week before the meeting.

**Dates to Remember**

City Council - December 3 and 17 at Jessie Mays at 7 p.m.

Jingle – December 6 at 6:30 p.m. Jessie Mays

Chamber of Commerce – December 11 at the Fire Station at Noon

North Plains Garden Club – December 11 at Jessie Mays at 9 a.m.

Planning Commission – December 12 at Jessie Mays at 7 p.m.

Recology Stake Holders Meeting – December 19 at 6 p.m. at the Library

Library Board – December 19 at the Library at 7:30 p.m.

Parks Advisory Board – December 26 at Jessie Mays at 6 p.m.

**Nature’s Needs/Recology’s Stake Holder Meetings**

Recology hosts meetings at the North Plains Library at 6:00 p.m. on the third Wednesday of the month to discuss issues related to the operations of Nature’s Needs including odor complaints. December 19 is the next meeting. Please call Recology if you would like additional information or wish to provide comments - (503) 647-9489.