



# North Plains Connected

A monthly newsletter from the City of North Plains - December 2023

## City of North Plains

31360 NW Commercial St.  
North Plains, OR 97133

City Hall is open  
8:30 am to 4:00 pm  
Monday - Friday.



(503) 647-5555



[www.NorthPlains.org](http://www.NorthPlains.org)



## Contact Your Council:

Mayor Teri Lenahan

Robert Kindel

Russ Sheldon

Cameron Martinez

James Fage

Rickey Smith

Trista Papen

## History: Christmas Eve at Dale & Jerry's



*Melvin next to his shop where he made wreaths (Dec. 2020)*

*From Melvin Van Domelen, Local Historian and 4th Generation Area Resident*

Christmas is just around the corner, and this seemed to bring back food memories to me of Christmas times past. There was the decorating of our farmhouse a week beforehand. A spindly tree from the woods. Red and Green paper streamers strung from the corner of our living room through a light fixture in the ceiling. Cedar boughs behind every picture and an evergreen garland around the old Seth Thomas clock on the fireplace mantle (right).



Another highlight was the Christmas program put on by our one-room school. This school still stands at Mountindale. There was the hike in the woods with my brother and our two daughters to find the perfect tree on a snowy day.

And later, the wreath-making activity when our daughters and granddaughters worked in my shop. A fire burning in the stove, Christmas music on the radio, singing and laughter. My wife bringing us coffee and cookies, all this along with the smell of evergreens. To me, this was Christmas, a lot of good memories of the past. I would like to zero in on Christmas eves our family spend with my brother and his wife, Jerry. My wife, Mary Ellen, and I married in 1957 and lived in a very small house on my brother's place. The location was just across the garden from my brother's home.

We moved into this house just before Christmas in time to put up a decorated tree. My brother, Dale, and his wife Jerry invited us over on Christmas Eve for a drink, conversation, and to inspect their tree. That evening started a tradition that lasted 19 years without a miss.

It started with just the four of us and Jerry's two children. Over the following years this Christmas Eve gathering would attract 25 or more people. Weddings and births increased the turnout. Jerry's children, Steve, and Linda both married and had children. Mary and I added two more. A son, David, was born to Dale and Jerry. Some people from the neighborhood were always included. Folks were coming and going all evening long. Dale and I had both built new homes by the 1960's.

*...continued on page 2*

## Christmas Eve... *continued from page 1*

Jerry would set out a grand all-you-can-eat buffet. My favorite was her rolled chocolate log cake. A ham that had been grown on their farm was served. Bake beans and little smokies in crock pots. The little serving knife with green peas in the handle stuck in the cheese ball. Homemade pastries, and children running around with olives stuck on their fingers. Can you just see it?



The water supply for my brother's farm was a pipe from a spring back in the hills. This waterline was left by John Nyland after he removed his sawmill from up the valley. My sister, Betty Jean, was here one Christmas Eve with her family. When she was asked for and given a glass of water there was a small fish swimming in it. We all had a good laugh over that.

One year my wife had found a little used bicycle with training wheels for our daughter Vanessa to learn to ride on. This bike needed a paint job, so Dale and I painted it on the afternoon of December 24th in his basement. When it came time to give some gifts to the children that evening, we were amazed to find that the paint had dried. We would often refer to this as a Christmas miracle.

My brother usually wore his faded, almost orange, tank top shirt. He loved that shirt and had it for years. He really enjoyed this Christmas Eve gathering and was always the perfect host. Dale left us in 1977 and this put an end to this Christmas tradition as we knew it. This was something that was hard for me to let go.

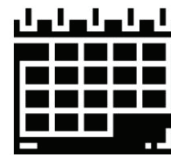
The next year on Christmas Eve, after my family had gone to bed, I walked up to my brother's backyard. I went across the fields on a night that was as clear as it could be. And I stood outside at midnight and relived the past over and over in my mind. Now, I can honestly say that I spent twenty years at Dale and Jerry's on Christmas Eve.

Now, this holiday is just around the corner. Have a good Christmas season, and above all, make memories. Memories, you know, last forever!



## December City Calendar

Public meetings and events below take place in-person and many also offer virtual options. Visit [www.northplains.org/calendar](http://www.northplains.org/calendar) for more events and details.



- 12/4 City Council (6 pm work session) - 7 pm
- 12/6 Economic Development Committee - 6 pm
- 12/7 Holiday Jingle Thru North Plains Parade and Tree Lighting - 6:30 pm
- 12/11 Parks & Recreation Board - 6 pm
- 12/13 Planning Commission - 7 pm
- 12/18 City Council - Cancelled
- 12/25 Library and City Hall Closed for Christmas
- 1/1/24 Library and City Hall Closed for New Year's Day
- 1/2/24 City Council (6 pm work session) - 7 pm
- 1/3/24 Economic Development Commission - 6 pm

## Holiday Giving Options

Help fulfill local holiday wishes and needs! The City is helping two local community organizations this holiday season, and you are invited to participate:



### North Plains Food Bank Food Drive

The new North Plains Food Bank ([npfoodbank.com](http://npfoodbank.com)) is having their first food drive from December 4th until December 30th! Donate non-perishable food items at the

North Plains Public Library and City Hall during open hours.

### Giving Tree for North Plains Seniors

Stop by the Library to pick a wish from the Giving Tree to fulfill holiday wishes for seniors at the North Plains Senior Plaza. Items must be dropped off at the Library by December 15.

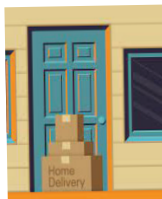


## Chief's Corner: Home Safety for the Holidays



**Chief James Haxton**  
**watchful eye.** Consider leaving them a key to stop by and ensure everything is in order. If anything is alarming, like a broken window or a forced open door, they can alert you and law enforcement immediately.

**Adjust mail deliveries.** Ask someone to collect your mail or place a vacation hold through the United States Postal Service website: [www.usps.com](http://www.usps.com). Make sure to do the same for any scheduled package deliveries as well.



**Make a plan for trash pickup.** Ask a neighbor to pull in your bins. If left on the street, it could signal no one is home.

**Program your home with safety tools.** A smart plug allows you to control or schedule your lights and other devices with an app. And mechanical timers work well when scheduled in advance. Alarm systems can be effective tools, including video doorbells and cameras.



**Limit content shared on social media.**

Consider waiting until you get home to share the details of your trip.

Stay safe this holiday season!

### **City Public Works fall leaf pick-up is on!**

Fall leaf pick-up continues. Help us collect leaves and prevent flooding from clogged storm drains. Rake your leaves into a windrow parallel and 18 inches from the curb and no higher than 3 feet. Our public works crew will collect them as needed through December (weather-dependent). You can also drop off extra leaves to Recology.



## Evolving Communications

*From City Manager Andy Varner*

Think about how you receive news and information. How about your spouse or your partner, your coworkers, or your neighbors? We all receive a lot of information every day, and we all have our own preferred ways of receiving information. These days it requires a variety of efforts to keep people informed. As the traditional news media has become less relevant, social media has filled some of that void. Social media has delivered many benefits to society, and is where many individuals are staying up to date on news, events, announcements, and more. It also presents challenges for delivering information to many folks who do not have social media accounts or check them infrequently. That is why a modern, multi-pronged approach to communication is so important in trying to reach audiences at different levels, at different times, and in different forms.



The City Council adopted a communications strategy a few years ago which led to many improvements in how we reach our audiences. That strategy was meant to change and evolve over time, and the City has been working on a new, updated strategic communications plan over the last several months.

The City Council is committed to adding resources to support the plan, and we will be working on enhanced and new ways to connect with residents and businesses. You can expect improvements to our standard methods (website, MyNorthPlains app, newsletters) while we also explore new and modern tools that people use every day and that also help us engage with and hear from our community more. Our updated communications plan incorporates things like short videos and podcasts to help explain confusing topics. We will continue to use digital resources, while also doing more event tabling and focus groups with residents on certain issues to emphasize basic human connections. And next fall we plan to launch the first North Plains Civic Academy where a group of residents can learn more about our local government functions, while working together to improve the community.

You'll hear much more about these improvements in the coming months. We look forward to hearing from you and keeping you in the know about City services, projects and opportunities.



# News From Your Library

***\*If accommodations would help you to attend any library programs - contact us!***

**Holiday Handicraft Faire Thursday November 30th - Saturday December 23rd during open library hours.** Find a



great handmade gift for someone special at our library. All funds collected will help support the purchase of a new craft table in the children's area. If you'd like to donate handmade items, please attach your name and a suggested price for each item.

**Homework Help each Monday at 5 pm and 5:30 pm in the library.** Homework Help is offered for all subjects, specializing in English, French, and Math and Science for all grade levels, K through College Level. Tutoring with Jenna W., PHD, is offered for all subjects. Sessions are a half hour each. Register online at [wccls.org/events](http://wccls.org/events). No library card needed.

**Storytime Wednesdays at 11 am.** Time for stories, songs and bubbles and songs! Following story time Mrs. Emily will teach children to identify and sound out letters of the alphabet and counting basics. Parents and caregivers learn meaningful techniques that will help expand learning experiences at home with your child. Drop in, no registration required.



**Bookbabies Fridays at 10 am.** Miss Chris guides parents and caregivers through some inspirational early development activities for babies and toddlers. Adults learn techniques that help expand learning experiences at home with your child. Bonus: Visit with other parents and care givers while entertaining and educating your little one. No registration required.

**4-H Explorstation Workshop Wednesday, December 13th at 3 pm in the library.** Join Alice Phillips, 4-H Youth Development from the Oregon State Extension Service, Washington County, and Mrs Emily, our Early Literary Specialist, for an hour of STEAM (science, technology, engineering, arts math) hands-on fresh cut wreath making! We will learn how to make a wreath. Participants will leave with a fresh-cut handmade wreath! Register online at [wccls.org/events](http://wccls.org/events). No library card needed to register.



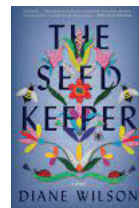
**Tech Help Thursday, December 14th from 1-3 pm in the library.** Want to learn more about using your phone, tablet, laptop or other device? Reserve your spot for free, one-on-one tech troubleshooting.

Bring your devices or use the library computers. Get help creating, saving and sharing documents, composing and sending emails, navigating the internet, using dictation or text-to-speech, and other basic computer skills. No library card needed. Register at [wccls.org/events](http://wccls.org/events), or call us at 503-647-5051 and we'll register you.



**Craft Guild Tuesday December 5th at 5:30 - 7 pm in the library.** Join our informal group of knitters and quilters on the first Tuesday of each month. Anyone interested in gathering for camaraderie as you work on your individual craft project is welcome to drop in (no formal instruction).

**Teen Council Friday, December 8th at 4:30 pm in the library.** Are you a teen who wants to make a difference in our community? Do you want to connect with other teens? Do you have ideas on how the North Plains Public Library could better serve teens? We want YOU to join! Drop in - no registration required.



**Book Club Wednesday, December 27th at 7 pm at the library or Zoom.** Join us for a discussion of [The Seed Keeper by Diane Wilson](#). New patrons are welcome to join. To receive a link and passcode, please email Carolyn at [carolyn@markleavitt.com](mailto:carolyn@markleavitt.com)

## 20th ANNUAL JINGLE THRU NORTH PLAINS

**Thursday, December 7  
6:30 - 8 pm**

Parade starts at 6:30 and lasts about 30 minutes before ending in front of the Senior Center where a tree lighting will be held.

**For details (including a parade map) and to register go to:**

[www.northplainsevents.com](http://www.northplainsevents.com)

# Prevent Carbon Monoxide Poisoning in Your Home



Carbon monoxide (CO) is an invisible, odorless, and colorless gas that can cause sudden illness and death for people and pets. It is created when fuels such as gasoline,

wood, charcoal, kerosene, natural gas, propane, methane, and petroleum products burn incompletely.

CO alarms alert you and your family when there are dangerous levels in your home. Alarms can be purchased at any home improvement store.

## SAFEGUARD YOUR HOME

- Install and maintain CO alarms to provide early warning. CO alarms should be installed in a central location outside each sleeping area and on every level of the home.
- Choose a CO alarm that has the label of a recognized testing laboratory.
- Follow the manufacturer's instructions for placement and mounting height as well as cleaning and replacement guidelines. Instructions are included in the package or can be found online.
- CO alarms are not substitutes for smoke alarms. Combination CO and smoke alarms are also available.
- Know the difference between the sound of your smoke alarms and the sound of your CO alarms. Test alarms monthly and replace them if they fail to respond.
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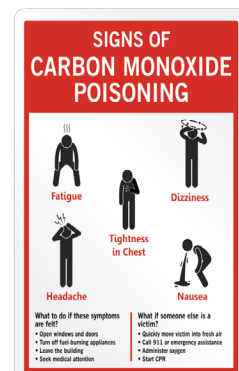
CO poisoning happens when you breathe too much of the gas. What makes CO so dangerous is that when you breathe it, it replaces the oxygen in your blood. Without oxygen, cells throughout the body die and the organs stop working.

Symptoms of CO poisoning include slight headache, dizziness, nausea, drowsiness, confusion, irritability, and unconsciousness.



## Causes of CO poisoning include:

- Operating poorly maintained or unvented furnaces, boilers, and other fuel-burning equipment Using gas stoves or ovens to heat the home.
- Clogged chimneys and heating exhaust vents.
- Running cars, portable generators, or gas-powered tools in enclosed areas such as garages.
- Malfunctioning or improperly vented water heaters or clothes dryers.



If your CO alarm sounds, immediately evacuate your home and call 911. Tualatin Valley Fire & Rescue firefighters will be dispatched to check your home for the presence of CO and let you know if it is safe to reenter.

## Do you use an old wood stove for heat?



You may be able to trade it in for a new, more efficient and cleaner heating device!

You could get a **\$1,500–\$4,000 rebate**

when you exchange for a new device. Some households may be eligible for a **free** heating device!

Older and uncertified wood stoves use a lot of wood, hurt your health, pollute the air and may no longer heat well.

**Apply today!**



WASHINGTON COUNTY  
OREGON

503-846-4425 [WoodStoveExchange.com](http://WoodStoveExchange.com)

## ¿Está usando una chimenea vieja de leña como calentón?



¿Usted podría cambiar su chimenea vieja por una nueva, una más eficiente y limpia!

Usted podría recibir un reembolso de **\$1,500–\$4,000**

cuando cambie su chimenea vieja por una chimenea más nueva. ¡Algunos hogares podrían ser elegibles para una chimenea nueva **gratis**!

Chimenea viejas no certificadas usan mucha leña y podrían no calentar bien, dañar su salud y contaminar el aire.

**¡Aplique Hoy!**

## Haystack Acupuncture & Infrared Sauna

Haystack Acupuncture is now open! We are located right next to Cuppa Yo in the Roll Tide Plaza. Stop by and learn



about the ways Acupuncture and Infrared Sauna therapy can help you lead a healthier life with less aches and pains. Currently running 40% off all services through the end of

the year- contact us to schedule a free consult!

30860 NW Pacific St, Suite D  
971.930.2127

[www.HaystackAcu.com](http://www.HaystackAcu.com)  
[info@HaystackAcu.com](mailto:info@HaystackAcu.com)


## TENINTY'S PIZZA & SUBS

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503-647-5761 [WWW.TenintysPizzaAndSubs.COM](http://WWW.TenintysPizzaAndSubs.COM)




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Please consider shopping locally with us for all your holiday floral needs:  
Gifts for a Loved One, Everyday Arrangements, Weddings, & Funerals.  
We would love your support!

**\*\*We are located in this community. We care about North Plains!\*\***



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**CASEY @ 971-708-2322**

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