

# Community Newsletter



City of North Plains, 31360 NW Commercial Street, North Plains, OR 97133  
(503) 647-5555 [info@northplains.org](mailto:info@northplains.org) [www.northplains.org](http://www.northplains.org) Events: [www.npfun.org](http://www.npfun.org)

Your City Council: [Mayor David Hatcher](#), [Council President Teri Lenahan](#),  
[Robert Kindel](#), [Sandi King](#), [Charlynn Newton](#), [Sherrie Simmons](#), [Scott Whitehead](#)



## Important Envision North Plains Updates

**Thank you** to all who participated online and in person to create the City's 2035 Vision. Based on the guidance of more than 200 participants, the Envision North Plains process engaged new and long-time residents in describing a positive future for North Plains.

### North Plains in 2035...

... Residents of North Plains enjoy a safe and welcoming community as a livable place for people of all ages. North Plains is an independent community within Washington County that maintains a small town character while accommodating current and future residents. Community participation is strong and community members can see the results of their involvement. Community gathering places and events form the heart of North Plains.

*The full vision and goals language can be found at this link: [www.envisionnp.org](http://www.envisionnp.org)*

**Vision Implementation!** Our next step is to implement the 2035 vision through a series of Comprehensive Plan updates. Please let us know at [www.envisionnp.org](http://www.envisionnp.org) if you are interested in serving on the **Vision Implementation Work Group**. We anticipate meeting six times over the next year. Applications are available online. Please see [www.envisionnp.org](http://www.envisionnp.org) for more details or to sign up to receive periodic updates.

**Thank you for your input to help Create Our Economic Future!** Along with strengthening our neighborhoods, refining our economic development focus is a top priority. We recently asked **all businesses** to complete a business survey that was mailed out and was on the website. We will use the information received from business owners as we work on economic development planning.

## Library News

**Blind Date with a Book.** Can't decide what to read next? Looking for something new? Let us surprise you. We are playing matchmaker for our library patrons, introducing you to our favorite titles! With Valentine's Day fast approaching, this is the perfect way for you to fall in love with our books. Throughout the month of February, you will find specially-wrapped books next to our new book display covered in plain brown paper. No authors listed, no titles, just hints about the genre and age group (teen or adult). Choose one, take it home, unwrap, and read! Then, fill out the review card found inside the book and bring it back to the Library where it will be entered in a drawing to win a \$20 Barnes & Noble gift card. Return the book, and go on another blind date!

**Art Exhibit.** John Driscoll, North Plains resident, photographer and naturalist, will be exhibiting some of his favorite photos at the Library through the month of **February**. His works feature local images as well as those captured while traveling to western British



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Columbia and Alaska. He has been photographing for several years, especially focusing on nature. John is also a volunteer naturalist for Metro and Tualatin Riverkeepers, leading field trips for school-aged children.

**Quilt Display.** The quilt on display above the checkout desk throughout the month of **February** was created by Marcia Elliott and is titled, *Japanese Lanterns*. Many thanks to Westside Quilters Guild members for their generous donation of this colorful quilt as a raffle fundraiser for the library. Tickets will be sold throughout the coming year until the winning ticket is drawn at the annual Elephant Garlic Festival in August 2016. Each ticket is \$1, or 6 tickets will be issued for \$5.

**Storytimes.** Children ages 0-6 are invited to participate every Wednesday at 11:30 a.m. in the children's section of the library.

- **February 3** Storytime with Miss Marion: Hearts and Flowers
- **February 10** Storytime with Teacher Barbara: Hats
- **February 17** Special Guest Storytime: Firefighters from WCFD #2
- **February 24** Storytime with Youth Librarian Jackie: Pirates

**Writers' Group.** Share your writing projects and receive feedback from peers on **Thursday, February 4** beginning at 6:30 p.m. at the library. New members are welcome to join. (This is not a teacher/trainer-led class.)

**First Friday Flick.** Join us at Jessie Mays Community Hall on **Friday, February 5** at 6 p.m. to watch a PG-rated, computer-animated family comedy film from Universal Pictures. This is a spin-off/prequel to the *Despicable Me* movies.

**Friends of the Library.** There will be a general meeting of the Friends on Monday, February 8 at the library beginning at 7 p.m. New members are welcome to attend.

**Super Saturday** – The Curt Show. Join us at the Jessie Mays Community Hall on Saturday, February 13 from 1-3 p.m. for some seriously funny juggling. With a style all his own, Curtis Carlyle fuses world-class juggling skills and fresh, innovative comedy. He has been touring the country and astounding audiences for more than ten years, receiving enthusiastic praise for his unique take on classic circus skills. An award winning juggler, Curt has received a bronze medal from the International Jugglers' Association along with

countless accolades from regional juggling festivals and competitions. Curt will make our event one you will never forget. All ages are welcome to attend.

**Lego Palooza.** Drop in between 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. on the holiday, **Monday, February 15**, for Lego Palooza at the Jessie Mays Community Hall. Hang out and build with Legos or Duplos that we provide. (Please leave yours at home and ours there.) Kids, teens, and adults are welcome to participate.

**Library Board.** There will be a general meeting of the Library Board on Wednesday, February 17 at the library beginning at 7 p.m.

**Library Book Club.** On **Wednesday, February 24** beginning at 7 p.m. at the Library, the first book choice of the new year will be discussed. New members are welcome to attend. Refreshments will be served.

#### Save the Dates:

**Art of the Story.** Washington County Cooperative Library Services (WCCLS) will host its **12th Annual Storytelling Festival from April 2-9**. The week-long extravaganza features twelve unique storytelling performances throughout Washington County. Admission is always free and all festival performances are designed for the enjoyment of adults. The North Plains Public Library will host national storyteller Kevin Kling (<http://www.kevinkling.com/>) on **Friday, April 8** beginning at 7 p.m. at the Pumpkin Ridge Golf Club.

**Ten-Year Library Anniversary – Friday, April 29**

## North Plains Senior Center News

**ROUNDUP TIME IN TAXES**—AARP will once again be at the Center to review taxes, beginning February 4<sup>th</sup>. Call 503-647-5666 to make your appointment. You need not be a senior to have your taxes done. Bring your photo ID, Social Security Card or ITIN letter for everyone on your return, and all the documents related to your income and tax-related expenses for the year. Also bring a copy of last year's tax return if you have it.

**VALENTINE-A-GRAM**—Give a **Valentine-A-Gram gift box, filled with delicious goodies, to someone special and support Meals on Wheels People, an organization working to ensure that no senior will go hungry or experience social isolation.** Valentine-A-Grams are only \$29.95 and include free delivery on Friday, February 12. Each Valentine-A-Gram includes

Heart-shaped, Frosted Fudge Brownie, Moonstruck Drinking Chocolate, Salted Butter Toffee Gourmet Popcorn, Dark Chocolate Nuts & Sea Salt KIND Bar, Benzel's Twist Pretzels, Tillamook Cheese Snack, Beaverton Foods Napa Valley Sweet Hot Mustard, Stash Tea sampler, Kobos Coffee, Jamba Juice free smoothie coupon, and a special message from you! Order online at [support@valentine-a-gram.org](mailto:support@valentine-a-gram.org) or call 503-953-8219. Let them know if you'd like free delivery or wish to pick up your Valentine-a-Gram gift box at the North Plains Senior Center.

**A GREAT DAY FOR THE IRISH**—We'll be fixing and serving a traditional corned beef and cabbage dinner on St. Patrick's Day, Thursday, March 17 at 6:00 p.m. Along with the corned beef & cabbage, carrots, potatoes and onions, we'll have Irish soda bread, dessert and coffee. Cost is \$25 per person. Call 503-647-5666 to reserve a spot.

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**—The North Plains Meals on Wheels program is always looking for volunteers. We need drivers to take meals to homebound senior citizens, as well as kitchen help (prep, serve, & cleanup)

Monday-Friday every week. You can pick which days and hours fit your schedule.

**FEBRUARY CALENDAR**

POP 'N' PAINT WORKSHOP—Feb. 17, Mt. Hood & Tulip Fields; 6:30 p.m.

BINGO—Feb. 23<sup>rd</sup> (date changed due to conflict); Cards and food ready at 6; start calling numbers at 6:30.

LIVER & ONIONS LUNCH—Tuesday, Feb. 16.

BUNCO—Feb. 4 & 18; starts at 1:15.

**EXERCISE CLASS**

The class meets on Monday and Friday from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. at the North Plains Senior Center. It is low impact exercises



using weights, bands and movement to increase balance, flexibility and strength. The class is FREE!

**Those were the good old days...**

**Passing of the Outhouse**



**By Melvin Van Domelen  
Mountaindale, OR**

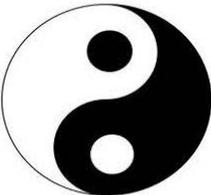
When someone reaches the age group that I am now in, the 80 year olds, we realize we are the last of a vanishing group.

These folks have lived through the great depressions and experienced the one room school. We survived without all of today's technology and were familiar with the outhouse. Or, as we reminisce at our senior center, we are indeed, the outhouse generation.



When I was a child almost every home site still had an outhouse somewhere. Now they are almost a thing of the past.

My parents' home at Mountaindale was what was called a "Craftsman Bungalow", and now, over 100 years old. This house always had indoor facilities. But, a matching craftsman bungalow outhouse stood out across the garden spot, still quite useable. The



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**Tuesdays & Thursdays**  
Knights of Pythias building, second floor  
31520 NW Commercial St.

Beginners at 6 pm, Regular class from 6:30 -7:30  
\$35 per month (family rates available)

For information CALL or TEXT  
**503.319.2519 or 503.319.2135**

distinguishing feature of this outhouse was the star vent in the peak of the roof.

We have all seen the familiar crescent moon vents, the diamond and square vents. But a star, a star was real class. I've never seen another.

Once, while one of my older brothers was occupying our outhouse, that star presented a challenge to me. On about the fourth attempt I was able to chuck a dry dirt clod right through the star. Now, you can imagine this had the effect of a hand grenade going off inside a tank. That brother would have tanned me good but I was saved by hiding out in a nearby sweet corn patch.

These brothers developed a way to warm the seat if the days were cold. They would touch a match to a handful of newspapers and throw it down the hole. My Father soon put a stop to that maneuver.

The back wall of our outhouse was blackened from a candle holder installed there, melted wax splattered the seat. The joke about the Montgomery Ward catalog being ever present was all too true. The index pages usually disappeared first.

My Father told me about a building in Banks that had a dance area on its second floor. He said there was also a boardwalk that connected to a second story outhouse. I would have loved to see that.

John Crocker had the W.P.A. (Work Project Administration) outhouse that was installed at his parents' farm in the late 1930's. This was a "make work" project brought in by the great depression. A

couple of men would show up and dig a hole lined with plywood. Several days later a pre-formed concrete base was laid. Later on an assembled outhouse was set on that base. Almost like an assembly line.



John said there was a clever pulley and cord system that lowered the lid covering the seat when the outhouse door was closed.



We had a W.P.A. outhouse behind our barn, but Crocker's must have had the deluxe model because ours didn't have the lid-closing system.

Mountaindale School had a pair of W.P.A. outhouses and they were in use until the mid-1950's.

Our neighbors to the east had a 3-holer outhouse. This had a split level seat with the children's place on the lower level. I always admired this one. It was a thing of beauty, the only one around.

Back again in the late 1930's there were five families in the neighborhood that had children in high school. One of these boys had a stripped down Model "T" Ford with just a flatbed on back. They could pile enough kids on that Ford to lift it up and turn it around whenever they wanted to change direction.

One Halloween this group zeroed in on two families that lived just across the road from each other. This was in the area of the community hall or as some called it, the "Hooligan Hall" about 2.5 miles north of the Mountaindale store.

Instead of just pushing over these outhouses, a common practice, this gang switched them at night. When the folks woke in the morning they had the neighbor's outhouse in working order. I don't believe they were ever returned to the original locations. I was too young for this event.

I still have our Craftsman outhouse. It was moved over into our woods when we built our home in 1961. The shake roof has been replaced twice over the years. No longer operational, only used for storage. Whenever I go by and look at that star, I think of that dirt clod and it brings a smile – memories.



## HITS THE SPOT CAFÉ

Join us and celebrate Valentine  
Day. Offering a special menu  
for both breakfast and dinner.

Make your reservation today.

503-647-7732

# North Plains Historical Society

Our motto is: *You are history in the making*  
 Please join us, on February 1<sup>st</sup>, at the Jessie Mays Community Hall at 1:00 pm: Churches of the North Tualatin Plains. Please bring pictures, stories and memories to share. Did your church have a compiled history book? Bring it along! Call 503-647-2285 for additional information.

## February 2016 Calendar

- 02/01 Historical Society 1 p.m. at Jessie Mays
- 02/01 City Council Meeting 7 p.m. at North Plains Senior Center, 31450 NW Commercial Street
- 02/05 First Friday Flick 6 p.m. at Jessie Mays
- 02/10 Garden Club 9:00 a.m. at Jessie Mays
- 02/10 Planning Commission 7 p.m. at North Plains Senior Center, 31450 NW Commercial Street
- 02/13 Super Saturday 1:00 p.m. at Jessie Mays



## Fun Fact!

Did you know...



The North Plains Vet Clinic is offering a low cost male cat neuter clinic? It's only \$50 for surgery, or a donation that fits your budget. Please call 503-647-0928 to schedule an appointment.

- 02/15 President's Day City Offices are closed.
- 02/15 Lego Palooza 11:00 a.m. at Jessie Mays
- 02/16 City Council Meeting (Tuesday) 7 p.m. at Jessie Mays Community Hall-30975 NW Hillcrest Street
- 02/17 Library Board 7:00 p.m. at the Library
- 02/17 Planning Commission Workshop 7 p.m. at North Plains Senior Center, 31450 NW Commercial Street
- 02/24 Parks Board 6 p.m. at North Plains City Hall

10395 NW Glencoe Rd. #600 North Plains • 503-647-5761

<p><b>We Deliver!!</b>                  Thursday, Friday &amp; Saturday                  5 – 7:30 pm                  \$20 minimum \$3 delivery fee</p>	<p><b>VIDEO LOTTERY</b>                  PLATINUM SERIES                  New platinum games                  Enjoy free soda, cookies and chips while you play!</p>	<p><b>Happy New Year!</b>  </p>
<p><b>GERALDI'S West</b>                  The Italian Eating Place</p> <p><b>\$4 off</b>                  ANY X-LARGE PIZZA  <b>\$3 off</b>                  ANY LARGE PIZZA</p> <p>Expires in 30 days                  North Plains Location only</p>	<p><b>GERALDI'S West</b>                  The Italian Eating Place</p> <p><b>\$10.00</b>                  LARGE PEPPERONI PIZZA</p> <p>Expires in 30 days                  North Plains Location only</p>	<p><b>GERALDI'S West</b>                  The Italian Eating Place</p> <p><b>\$1 off</b>                  ANY SANDWICH</p> <p>Expires in 30 days                  North Plains Location only</p> <p>Find us on Facebook                  Like our facebook page for special offers just for our followers!</p> 