

NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2023

Mayor's Comments

We have lots of people to thank this month for the many things that have been happening around town.

Thanks to the North Powder Rural Fire District for their help in trimming some trees and shrubs around town that have been blocking visibility or creating a safety hazard along streets and right-of-ways. The Rural Fire District is willing to help homeowners as well. If you have a tree or some shrubs, or even some tall grass or weeds that you need help with, please contact City Hall and we will do our best to help get you on a list and in touch with the Rural Fire Department. Please note your project must fit criteria of what they are able to do. Due to things such as location or size, they may not be able to do much.

Thanks to Dave Hoene and Alan Brown for their help in spreading rock on the road side next to the freeway exit near to the Café. And thanks to the work crew who cleared the weeds and to the Union Co. Road Department for hauling the rock.

Thank you to everyone who donated to the Annual Christmas Celebration. Thanks to the Ford Family Foundation for sponsoring the Chili Feed. Thanks to the North Powder Café for making the chili; to Logan & Mary Alice McCrae and family for getting and putting up the Christmas tree; the Rural Fire District for helping to organize the parade and hayride and for hosting the chili feed; Cj's Country Store for providing the fire pit and cups; Jeff & Shawna Grende, Jered Kmetec, Dave Townsend, and everyone else who donated time or money to help make this celebration happen. The City was able to purchase new lights and bows for the wreaths on 2nd Street, lights for the City tree, and materials for a tree stand. We hope this adds a little extra holiday cheer this Christmas season! Merry Christmas!

Wolf Creek Grange
Annual Christmas Bazaar
Saturday, December 2, 2023
9AM to 4PM
Gifts, Crafts, Food, and More!



Vendors are needed but space is limited.
For more information or to reserve a table, call Linda at 541-709-1045 or Susie at 541-403-1930.

Wastewater Project

The City Council held a second Public Hearing on Monday, November 6th to hear comments from the public regarding the Wastewater System Improvement Project.

The City is temporarily operating under two DEQ permits— an NPDES permit to discharge effluent water to the river and a WPCF permit to discharge to the new evaporation pond. In a few months when everything for the evaporation pond has been tested and assured that it is all working correctly, we will discontinue the NPDES permit.

A Bio Solids Removal Plan has been submitted to DEQ. The plan is to dredge the wastewater ponds and to apply the sludge in liquid form at an approved site no later than September 15, 2024. A Bio Solids Management Plan is due March 1, 2024.

The city has approximately \$80,000 left from the CDBG grant that can be applied to the cost of dredging and the Council has approved spending the remaining ARPA funds on the project. We also have an approved loan of \$390,000. Depending on how much sludge has to be removed at this time, we may have to look for additional funding.

Community Christmas

The Third Annual Community Christmas Celebration will be Sunday, December 10th. The Celebration will kick-off with a lighted Christmas parade at 5PM. Parade line up is at 4:45PM in front of the old high school, on G Street. No registration is required and anyone can enter. We just ask that your entry be lighted as the parade route will be kind of dark. The parade will go down 2nd Street from G Street to E Street and will end at City Hall (340 E Street) where activities will continue with caroling, tree lighting, and decorating the tree. Everyone is encouraged to bring a special ornament to hang on the City tree. Following the tree lighting, the Rural Fire District will offer hayrides to transport folks to (and from) the fire station for free chili and hot chocolate and a visit from Old St. Nick. Everyone is invited to join us for a fun filled Community Christmas Celebration!

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- ◆ Dec. 2 Grange Holiday Bazaar
9AM– 4PM Wolf Creek Grange
- ◆ Dec. 4 City Council Meeting
7PM City Hall
- ◆ Dec. 5 Grange Meeting
6:30 PM Wolf Creek Grange
- ◆ Dec. 6 Santa Shop
- ◆ Dec. 7 Library Board Meeting
5PM Library
- ◆ Dec. 10 Community Christmas Celebration
- ◆ Dec. 13 School Christmas Concert
6:30PM
- ◆ Dec. 15 Food Bank
2PM to 4PM Methodist Church
- ◆ Dec. 17 Grange Community Christmas Dinner/Potluck 1PM Grange
- ◆ Dec. 24 Christmas Eve
- ◆ Dec. 25 Christmas Day
City Hall CLOSED
- ◆ Dec. 31 New Year's Eve

City Council Meeting
December 4, 2023
7PM City Hall

Welcome/Pledge of Allegiance
Public Comment (allow 4 minutes each)
Amend/Accept Agenda
Amend/Accept Minutes
Accounts Payable
Library Report
Public Works Report
Ordinance Enforcement Report
City Recorder Report
Mayor's Message
New Business-
 -
Old Business-
 - *Wastewater Project Update*
 - *City Hall/Library Update*
 -

Council Comments
****Additions and/or Changes may be made to the agenda.***
 If special accommodations are needed, please notify City Hall at 541-898-2185 by noon on Friday prior to meeting.

Library News

Please note the Library's new "Winter" hours. **OPEN** Tuesdays and Wednesdays from Noon to 4PM and Fridays and Saturdays from 10AM to 2PM. The Library will be **CLOSED** for Christmas on Saturday, Dec. 23rd and Tuesday, Dec. 26th. Come visit the Library in the month of December and receive a "free" hand-made Christmas ornament from the new librarian.

The Library is selling "Reading Rag Rugs" for \$20 each. Check them out at the Library and CJ's Country Store. Proceeds from the sale will go to the new Library.

There's been a lot of reorganizing and cleaning at the library. Lisa has been spending a lot of time visiting other libraries in the area to see what they have to offer that might also be of interest to the North Powder community.

The next Library Board Meeting will be Thursday, Dec. 7th, at 6PM at the Library. Everyone is welcome to join us.

Library Hours-

Tuesday & Wednesday Noon to 4PM
Friday & Saturday 10AM to 2PM

Phone: 541-898-2175

Email: npcitylibrary1@gmail.com

Grange Christmas Dinner

The Wolf Creek will host a Community Christmas Potluck/Dinner on Sunday, December 17th at 1PM. The Grange will furnish turkey with dressing, mashed potatoes and gravy. Community members are asked to bring vegetables, salads and desserts. There is no charge and everyone is welcome to attend.

Hey Kids! Bring your letters to Santa Clause to City Hall and drop them in Santa's special mailbox. If you include your return address, maybe Santa will answer your letter. But don't wait too long as he is very busy this time of year.

If you are experiencing problems with your water or sewer, please contact City Hall.

City Hall Phone: 541-898-2185
(8:30AM-12:30PM Monday thru Friday)

Public Works: 541-786-4600
(7:00AM-3:30PM Monday thru Friday)

After Hours Emergency: 541-786-4600 or
541-975-0422

*Please call during business hours if at all possible as a fee will be charged for after hours calls.

License & Permit Renewals

It is time to start thinking about business license and burn permit renewals.

All city business licenses must be renewed no later than January 31, 2024, regardless of the date it was issued. All businesses operating in the city limits are required to have a business license. The annual fee is \$15 and due no later than January 31st. A \$10 late fee will be applied to any license not renewed by the due date.

ALL burn permits expire as of January 1st. Again, it doesn't matter when they were issued in the previous year, they are only valid thru December of that year. Burn permits are required for any type of burning done within City limits. There is no charge for a burn permit. Permits are available at City Hall.

Santa Shop

The annual "Santa Shop" will be Wednesday, December 6th at the Wolf Creek Grange. North Powder elementary classes K-5 will be scheduled to visit the Santa Shop throughout the day during school hours. The shop will be open to the public for preschool children and children who weren't able to attend with a class after 3PM. For more information or to make a donation, call Chris at 541-910-4397.

Air Purifiers

The Northeast Oregon Network (NEON) is committed to creating a healthier Eastern Oregon by helping to reduce barriers that support health. One of the many ways they are doing this is by providing FREE air purifiers to qualifying residents of Union, Baker and Wallowa Counties. To qualify, you must be someone of low income, a senior citizen, veteran, or someone who has issues with air quality. You **cannot** be on the Oregon Health Plan, as there is an avenue for you to receive a unit thru OHP (NEON can help you with that). To receive an air purifier, contact North Powder City Hall at 541-898-2185. Quantities are limited and will be distributed on a "first come, first serve" basis. For more information about NEON and services they provide, check out their website at www.neonoregon.org or call 541-642-5101.

"May this Christmas end the present year on a cheerful note and make way for a fresh and bright New Year! Merry Christmas."

-Unknown



Christmas Lighting Contest

Deck the halls, trees, fences, and anything else you can find! Get ready for the Annual Christmas Lighting Contest!

Prizes will be awarded for 1st, 2nd and 3rd place winners. The 1st place winner will receive a gift certificate for \$60 off on your OTEC bill. 2nd place will receive a gift certificate for \$40 from OTEC and 3rd place will receive a \$25 OTEC gift certificate. All you have to do to enter is light up your home.

You can even pick your favorites to win! Simply submit your choices to City Hall by December 19th and they will be included in the tally vote. You can set your own criteria, such as best theme, most lights, most fun, etc. Whatever strikes your fancy. Winners will be announced (by postings at City Hall and the Post Office) on Wednesday, December 20th.

Don't forget to leave your lights on!

Church Services:

Cornerstone Baptist Church—

Sundays 10AM & 11AM and 5PM
Wednesdays 6PM

St Anthony's Catholic Church—

Sunday Mass—11:30AM

Community Church—

Sundays 10AM

"Lunch Bunch" - Fridays Noon to 12:30PM at the Wolf Creek Grange. \$3 per meal. Open to the public.

City Council Members-

#1 Vicki Townsend

#2 Jeff Nielsen

#3

#4 Justin Wright

#5 Lindsey Thompson

#6 Logan McCrae

Mayor John Frieboes

City Hall Office Hours

8:30AM to 12:30 PM

Monday thru Friday

Phone 541-898-2185

Fax 541-898-2647

www.northpowderoregon.org

Closed all Major Holidays

North Powder is an Equal Opportunity Provider