

# NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY 2024

## Mayor's Comments

Thanks to everyone who has been helping with snow removal. Whether it be shoveling or plowing sidewalks or clearing driveways it is appreciated.

Thanks again to everyone who decorated for Christmas and took part in the City Christmas Celebration! And, congratulations to the winners of the Christmas Lighting Contest!

We are looking for people interested in helping with the Main Street Beautification project. Though the project may be titled "Main Street Beautification" we would like to expand to other areas all around town and would love to hear your thoughts and ideas. Anyone interested should contact City Hall.

Speeding has become one of the top two complaints made to City Hall. Many of you may have noticed the Radar Speed Sign. This is the City's newest purchase in a effort to promote safety by making drivers more aware their speed vs. that of the speed limit. The sign will periodically be moved to different locations around town to remind drivers of the speed limit.

We are excited to get started on the new library. Grant contracts have been signed and preparations are underway for procurement of an architect to finalize a design and draw up plans for construction of the new library. Please keep in mind that the overall project will take two to three years to complete.

## Dogs

Again, we remind everyone to PLEASE keep your dogs contained. Do NOT let them run at large. This has become such a problem that the City Council is looking at any and all options regarding dog control and citizens are beginning to arm themselves with sticks, sprays and other things to protect themselves when walking around town.

Options such as adopting a "one bite" policy in which if a dog is reported to have bitten someone, it must be removed from city limits, has been suggested. Other options include limiting to one dog per household, or hiring someone to do more animal control.

So, if you love your dogs, PLEASE, PLEASE, keep them confined to your property or on a leash when you are out walking with them.

## Wastewater Project

Plans for dredging the lagoon are moving forward. Anderson Perry and Associates (AP) is working on a plan for the sludge removal to present to the DEQ for approval. They have done some sludge testing at the lagoons and soil sampling of the area in which we hope to land apply the sludge. In the meantime, the City is still looking for funding to cover the cost of the project. Unfortunately, there are not a lot of grant opportunities for this type of work. As noted before, we have been approved to use the small amount of funds left in our current block grant to apply to the cost. We also have approximately \$97,000 in ARPA funds that can be used in addition to a previously approved loan of \$390,000. The total project is estimated to be in excess of \$850,000 (including engineering and administrative costs).

At this point, it seems there are two options. The first option is to remove all the sludge from both of the original ponds. By removing it all, it should take care of the sludge problem for a number of years. This would require taking out an additional loan/grant to pay the funding short fall. It also means citizens should expect a substantial increase in sewer rates, about \$13, this fall. Option number 2 is to use what funding we have and only remove part of the sludge. This would not require as much of a rate increase, but it also would not alleviate the sludge problem. It would only postpone it for a few years. The City Council has decided to go with option one. To wait any longer to dredge the lagoons will only delay the issue and possibly create further problems.



**Wolf Creek Grange**  
**Annual Valentine's Day Dinner**  
**Wednesday, February 14, 2024**  
**4PM or 6PM Seatings**  
**Walk-ins and carry out are available.**  
**Couples and Singles are welcome.**  
**Cost: \$20 per person.**

*For more information or to make a reservation, call Barbara at 541-962-5376.*

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*"February feels like life. Short but sweet."*  
*-Riya Choudhary*

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- ◆ Feb. 2 Groundhog Day
- ◆ Feb. 5 City Council Meeting  
7PM City Hall
- ◆ Feb. 6 Grange Meeting  
6:30 PM Wolf Creek Grange
- ◆ Feb. 8 Library Board Meeting  
5PM Library
- ◆ Feb 14 Valentine's Day  
Grange Valentine's Day Dinner  
4PM and 6PM
- ◆ Feb. 16 Food Bank  
2PM to 4PM Methodist Church
- ◆ Feb. 19 President's Day  
City Hall CLOSED
- ◆ Feb. 27 School Board Meeting  
6PM
- ◆ Feb. 29 "Leap" Day (aka Leap Year Day)

*City Council Meeting*  
*February 5, 2024*  
*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—Union Co Sheriff*  
*City Recorder Report*  
*Mayor's Message*  
*New Business-*  
*-*  
*-*  
*Old Business-*  
*- Wastewater Project Update*  
*- Library Update*  
*- Meeting Room 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

The City has been awarded a \$1.2 million CDBG grant for a new library. It will be built onto the south end of the City Hall building. Please keep in mind that it will be at least two years before we have everything complete and can move in.

Anyone interested in joining a local writing group should contact Glenda at 541-898-2332 or [glndctr@yahoo.com](mailto:glndctr@yahoo.com).

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

There is an opening on the Library Board. Anyone interested should submit a letter of interest to Lisa at the library. (PO Box 309, 290 E Street, or email to [npcitylibrary1@gmail.com](mailto:npcitylibrary1@gmail.com))

The next Library Board Meeting will be Thursday, February 8, at 5PM 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](mailto:npcitylibrary1@gmail.com)

## North Powder History

Local resident, Debby Schoeningh, is seeking items including historic photos, personal stories, newspaper clippings, and documents for a book she is writing on the history of North Powder. All proceeds from the book will be donated to the Powder Valley Historical Foundation. If you have anything to share, please contact her by email at [debs@eoni.com](mailto:debs@eoni.com) or by phone at 541-403-0581.

Due to weather, the Suite Blue Open House was cancelled but it will be re-scheduled at a later date.

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.

## Snow Removal

The long range forecast, for the next few weeks, shows that even though temperatures have warmed up, we are not done with snow yet. As you shovel and plow snow, please remember to watch for water meters and shut-off valves, and fire hydrants. Please keep these cleared and accessible in case of an emergency.

In addition to plowing streets, the city will continue to help clear alleys and driveways as time allows but our first priority will be streets.

We would also like to remind everyone to move your garbage cans, vehicles, trailers, etc. back off of the right-of-ways so the plows can get through.

## Burn Permits

Don't forget that with the new year comes the time to renew your burn permits. Permits are available, free of charge, at City Hall.

## Sidewalks

Maintenance of sidewalks is the responsibility of the landowner abutting the sidewalk, even though it may be located on city right-of-way. Maintenance includes keeping sidewalks in good repair and safe condition.

If you have any plans or desire to replace, repair, or build a sidewalk, they must be constructed, altered or repaired in accordance with standards and specifications determined by the City. Please

be aware that you will need to present your plan to the city council for approval prior to constructing or removing any sidewalk.

## Air Purifiers

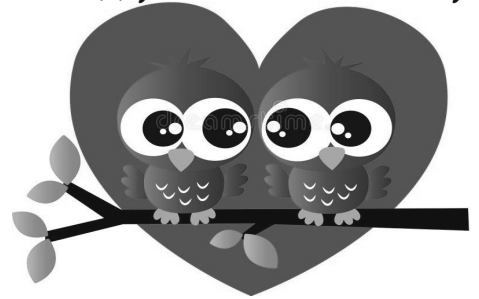
City Hall still has a few air purifiers to give away to qualifying residents of the community. The units were provided by the Northeast Oregon Network (NEON) through a grant. They are distributed on a "first come, first serve" basis and when units are gone, that is it. To receive an air purifier, contact North Powder City Hall at 541-898-2185.

For more information about NEON and services they provide, check out their website at [www.neonoregon.org](http://www.neonoregon.org) or call 541-642-5101.

*"February: The month when the groundhog comes out of hiding to predict the weather and we get all excited about an extended forecast from a jittery, inconsistent, reddish-brown rodent."*

-Unknown

Happy Valentine's Day



## Freeze Credits

Just a reminder that during these extreme cold weather spells, the City will issue a "freeze credit" for up to 10,000 gallons of water per month, above the base amount, to encourage residents to let water drip in order to keep pipes from freezing. The City is NOT responsible for frozen pipes beyond the water meter.

Freeze credits will be issued during any month when there have been 3 or more days of continuous temperatures of 32 degrees, or lower. Credits are issued to any and all customers who have not received a leak notice for more than 2 consecutive months.

Letting water drip may trigger a leak indicator, but doesn't necessarily mean there is a leak. If you get a red "leak" notice with your monthly bill and you feel it is in error, please notify City Hall, especially if you have received more than one notice.

### Church Services:

#### Cornerstone Baptist Church-

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

#### St Anthony's Catholic Church-

Sunday Mass—11:30AM

#### North Powder Community Church-

Sundays 10AM

Community Lunch- Fridays at Noon at the Wolf Creek Grange. (cost is by donation)  
Open to the public.

### City Council Members-

#1 Vicki Townsend	#4 Justin Wright
#2 Jeff Nielsen	#5 Lindsey Thompson
#3 Don McClure	#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](http://www.northpowderoregon.org)

Closed all Major Holidays

North Powder is an Equal Opportunity Provider