

# NEWSLETTER

MARCH 2024

## Mayor's Message

I would like to remind everyone that parking a licensed vehicle, such as a car or pickup, on a city street right-of-way is allowable provided it is not stored there. If you do park along a city right-of-way, please be sure to stay clear of sidewalks so that you are not obstructing pedestrian traffic (which includes electronic wheel chairs and scooters). If you park in an alley, you must park on private property as alleys are not wide enough to allow parking on the city right-of-way.

The City will be doing another City-wide Clean-Up Day in April. This is a good time to start thinking about sorting through stuff that you want to get rid of. We should be able to take things like old furniture, clothing, empty and dried paint cans, appliances (large and small), metal, tires, computers, TVs, etc. We won't take normal household garbage or things that can be recycled, such as magazines, newspapers, glass jars, milk jugs, or cardboard. The brush pile will be open for yard debris.



## New Library

The library Request for Proposal (RFP) notice for an Architect/Engineer was published on February 10th and RFPs are due by March 18th.

The Architect/Engineer will be responsible for completing the final project design which will include a schematic design of the building along with landscaping and parking.

A committee to review the RFPs will meet on Thursday, March 21st. RFPs will be scored on experience, history of working on community facilities in small communities, available resources and staff, and references. The committee will make a recommendation to the City Council to award a contract at the following Council meeting on April 1st.



## Wastewater Project

Once again, we must remind everyone that the sewer system is NOT a garbage disposal. A big part of the problem we are having at the lagoons is due to a high volume of solid matter that is not properly breaking down.

Even though some things, like vegetables, paper towels or wipes, are bio-degradable, they do not breakdown in a timely manner so they create more solid build up in the sewer pond. Since these things do not decompose at a rapid rate, they create what is known as "suspended solids", or particles that are waterborne that exceed 2 microns in size.

The DEQ sets limits to the total number of suspended solids (TSS) allowed under the City's wastewater discharge permit. There are also limits on things like BOD (biochemical oxygen demand), ammonia, pH, E.coli, alkalinity, and nitrate, just to name a few. When solids don't break down properly, it can, and often does, cause these components to exceed the limits set in the discharge permit.

Over the course of many years, the build up of solids has caused numerous problems which have led to fines and a mandate from the DEQ that the City must dredge the lagoons by September 2024. The estimated cost of the project is about \$850,000. Because there are not a lot of grants available for this kind of project, the City must take out a loan to cover the bulk of the expense, which requires a substantial increase in sewer rates by the end of the project.

It is generally recommended to dredge sewer ponds every 20 years or so, depending on the amount of bio-solids buildup. The last time the City ponds were dredged was September of 1998, 26 years ago.

So, keep in mind, every time you flush something other than human waste, it contributes to the problem.

*"When life hands you lemons, throw them back and ask for chocolate."*

*-Unknown*

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- ◆ Mar 4 City Council Meeting  
7PM City Hall
- ◆ Mar 5 Grange Meeting  
6:30PM Wolf Creek Grange
- ◆ Mar 7 Library Board Meeting  
5PM Library
- ◆ Mar 10 Daylight Savings Time Begins
- ◆ Mar 15 Food Bank  
2PM to 4PM Community Church
- ◆ Mar 16 Halibut Feed
- ◆ Mar 17 St. Patrick's Day  
"Knick-Knack & Bake Sale"  
Wolf Creek Grange 2PM-4PM
- ◆ Mar 19 1st Day of Spring
- ◆ Mar 25 -28 Spring Break
- ◆ Mar 26 School Board Mtg.  
6PM
- ◆ Mar 30 Community Easter Egg Hunt  
9:30AM NP Community Church
- ◆ Mar 31 Easter

*City Council Meeting  
March 4, 2024  
7PM City Hall*

*Welcome/Pledge of Allegiance  
Public Comment (allow 4 minutes each)  
Amend/Accept Agenda  
Amend/Accept Minutes  
Accounts Payable  
Library Report  
Huckleberry Festival Report  
Public Works Report  
Ordinance Enforcement  
City Recorder Report  
Mayor's Message  
New Business-  
- Annual Clean-Up Day  
-  
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 library now has more than 400 books (and counting) that are available thru the Sage System. Books in the Sage System can be checked out locally or from other libraries in 15 counties across Eastern & Central Oregon by going on-line and using your library card at <https://catalog.sage.eou.edu>. You can also check out videos, audio books, e-books, large print books, and newspapers and magazines.

The Reading Rag Rug Sale is over. Thanks for your contributions.

Beginning March 11th until Easter, the library will have free "Easter Bunny" doorknob hangers for all of the "kiddos" who come into the library

The next Library Board Meeting will be Thursday, March 7th at 5PM at the Library.

### Library Hours-

Tuesday & Wednesday Noon to 4PM  
Friday & Saturday 10AM to 2PM  
Phone 541-898-2175

Email: [npcitylibrary1@gmail.com](mailto:npcitylibrary1@gmail.com)

### Annual Community Easter Egg Hunt

Saturday, March 30, 2024

Starts promptly at 9:30AM

North Powder Community Church  
(formerly known as the United Methodist Church)

Open to all children ages 0 thru 5th grade.

Don't be late or you will miss the fun!



## Local Writers Group

The local group, Oregon TrailWriters, first meeting was held on Feb. 17. Interest is high and we are currently not accepting new members. However, watch for community based writing/book themed activities beginning in April. For information please contact Glenda. 541-898-2332

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

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

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

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

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

## History of Water System

In 1906, at a regular election held in North Powder, the City Council was given authority to spend public funds to construct a ditch and divert water for public use.

In 1908, Ordinance #24, was passed to create a water commissioner to be in charge of distributing water for irrigation and domestic use. A penalty of \$5 to \$50 was set for the unlawful use of the water. The idea of laying pipe to distribute water was introduced in 1913.

In October 1919, the City held an election and approved issuing bonds in the sum of \$30,000 to pay the cost of constructing, maintaining and operating a waterworks system. Thirty bonds were to be sold in the amount of \$1000 each. They would mature in 20 years with a 6% per annum interest rate.

In April 1921, another bond issue was put to a vote, for \$7500, to "make additions, extensions and betterments to the City water system."

By June 1921 the water system was finally completed and water rates were set at \$1.50 per month for each residence, bare lot for sprinkling, office building, drug store, grocery store, pool hall, warehouse, opera house, & the M&M Co. Restaurants and barber shops were to pay \$3per month, hotels and garages, \$5 per month, and school building and grounds paid \$10 per month.

The total cost of the system, including a pump station, water lines and water tower, came to approximately \$37,500. Construction of the pump house was another \$695.

Wolf Creek Grange

### "Knick Knack and Bake Sale"

Sunday, March 17, 2024  
2PM to 4PM

## Basketball Championship

Congratulations to the North Powder HS Girls Basketball Team for making the State Playoffs.

The State Tournament begins on Thursday, February 29th and runs thru Saturday, March 2nd in Baker City.

The North Powder Girls will play their first game against Echo on Thursday, February 29th at 6:30PM.

Good Luck, girls!

"May you never forget what is worth remembering nor ever remember what is best forgotten."

-Irish Proverb



*Q: What do the Easter Bunny and Michael Jordan have in common?*

*A: They are both famous for stuffing baskets.*

## Voter Registration

Don't forget the primary election coming up on May 21st. If you haven't registered to vote or need to make changes to your current voter registration, you have until April 30th to do so. If your voter registration is not up to date you may not receive the correct ballot or even not at all.

Coming soon! April 20, 2024  
Wolf Creek Grange Chili Cook-Off and  
Pie Sale  
To enter, call Barbara at 541-962-5376

## Air Purifiers

Congratulations to those who received the free air purifiers provided by Northeast Oregon Network (NEON).

We gave away 20 units to local citizens with health conditions, primarily senior citizens. Unfortunately, we don't have any more units.

### 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

(Palm Sunday Brunch, Sunday, March 24th, 9AM)

### 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

Email: [cityofnp@eoni.com](mailto:cityofnp@eoni.com)

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

Closed Holidays

North Powder is an Equal Opportunity Provider