

**PLAIN  
HARDWARE**  
Home & Garden

(509) 763-3836

# PLAIN TALK

## WHAT'S HAPPENING

### PLANT A PANSY DAY

Plain Hardware  
Saturday, May 26 from 10 am to 2 pm  
Bring in the kids for a free pansy,  
pot and potting soil.  
For children 12 and under.

### PLAIN COMMUNITY PICNIC

Wednesday, May 16 at 6:30 pm  
Bring your favorite salad or dessert  
to share.  
Food, games and fun for all!  
Sponsored by Plain Community Church.

### VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

"Son Creek Junction"  
Plain Community Church  
June 25-29 from 9 am to 11:45 am  
Children age 4 through 6th grade.  
For more info, call Lois at 763-2927.

### YMCA CAMP OPEN HOUSE AND SPAGHETTI FEED

Lake Wenatchee YMCA Camp invites  
the community to a free dinner and  
open house.

Friday, June 29 from 4 pm to 7 pm  
15263 Northshore Drive, Lake  
Wenatchee.

Camp staff will be available to answer  
questions and to give camp tours.  
For further information or to RSVP  
please call Kurt at 763-9622.  
RSVP appreciated, but not required.

### LAKE WENATCHEE CAMPFIRE PROGRAMS

Storytelling, movies, nature talks and  
music.  
Lake Wenatchee State Park  
Amphitheater.  
Every Saturday in July and August at  
8:30 pm.  
For specific program info, call 763-3103.

### FIRE TRUCK DEMONSTRATIONS

With Smokey the Bear and Forest  
Service firefighters.  
Lake Wenatchee State Park  
Amphitheater.  
Every Saturday in July and August at  
11 am, fires and weather permitting.

**Help celebrate Smokey's Birthday!**  
August 11 at 11 am.

## Gardening During A Drought

By Connie Nichols  
*Local gardener*

It appears as if all dire predictions of a drought year are coming true. You can do your part to conserve water and make your yard and garden areas healthier in the process. Excessive watering encourages root structures to stay close to the surface, making them more susceptible to damage and wilting in hot, dry and windy weather. A weekly watering program is generally enough, as long as the water is allowed to soak deeply into the soil. Root structures are then encouraged to grow down, seeking the moisture that is still present in the deeper soils. A drip system or soaker-type hose works best for this type of watering, as the water has time to gradually penetrate to deeper levels. A drip or soaker system also makes sense from the conservation standpoint, as very little water is lost to evaporation. Plus, overhead watering is the cause of "failure to thrive" for many vegetable and flower species, including tomatoes, cabbage, beans, corn, zinnias and dahlias.

The use of a moisture probe is strongly advised. This inexpensive device will tell you instantly how far into the soil the moisture has penetrated, and will also tell you when the soil is dried out enough to require water. (No batteries required, either.)

Application of a good mulch is also quite effective in retaining moisture in your soil. We have found that the best mulch is sifted compost, as nutrients are gradually released into the soil over the course of a season.

### Beaver Valley Elementary School Opens in Plain

The new school started classes on February 12th and is located next to the Chelan County Fire Station #9 on Beaver Valley Road. It has two classrooms, one for the six Kindergartners and one for the sixteen first through fourth graders. From what we've heard, things are going great and everyone is enjoying their new space!



Photo by Karen Dickinson

**Come on in and see what's new!**

Front row left to right: Arne, Jerry, Jody, Jake, Mike, Candy and Dave  
Back row: Caren, Teresa, Kendra, Katie, Rebekah, Gwen and Rob

**W**ow, we're starting our 5th year. And as you can tell from all the smiling faces here at Plain Hardware, we are very happy to be here. We are part of a great community, in one of the most beautiful places that I know. Thanks to all who have helped make our store here in Plain so successful. We look forward to serving you for many years.

So, what's new?

As you know, we take great delight in bringing in new, useful, unique, and high quality products. It's what makes our store fun to work at, and fun to shop at. This spring, Gwen and Caren have been very busy finding all sorts of very cool, useful,

and fun stuff to stock our shelves. My favorite is the new line of colorful t-shirts and hats that say "Life is Good", with a picture of a smiling stick man named Jake biking, hiking, rafting or lounging in a hammock. This is a perfect fit for the laid back, fun loving approach to life most of us take here in Plain. I am also becoming addicted to the Jelly Belly jelly beans that we are now selling. We currently have Very Cherry, Tangerine, Juicy Pear, Buttered Popcorn (It really tastes like it!), Five Flavor Sour Mix and 39 Flavor Assorted Mix. Rumor has it that Gwen has 6 additional yummy flavors arriving any day now. Stop by, try a free sample and check out what other fun things we've got for sale this season. Happy Spring!

## New Building Project? – Why To Bid Plain Hardware

You may have noticed our "Materials Supplied By Plain Hardware" signs at most new job sites around the area. This is testimony to our success at being cost competitive with many large Puget Sound suppliers such as Parker Lumber, Oso Lumber, BMC West, Lumbermen's, as well as Marson's in Leavenworth.

Service, however, is where we differentiate ourselves from the competition. We get our customers in and out quickly and we have a well-organized yard with all items

labeled and accessible. When you call for a delivery, we show up on time and with the right materials.

Wouldn't it be nice to get service from someone who has actually been building homes for over 20 years? We don't just sell it. We know what it is and how to use it. That's why we have quickly become the "contractor's source" in the Plain and Lake Wenatchee area.

We look forward to working with you on your next project.

### Attention Builders – Now Available

- Vinylster adhesive hammer in capsules (for setting all-thread rods)
- FasTex pre-mixed spray-on wallboard texture
- Glu-lam beams
- Engineered I-joists
- Culverts 12" x 20' – steel or plastic
- Pneumatic brad nails
- Knee pads – professional grade

## PLAIN HARDWARE Home & Garden

Open Monday through Saturday  
8 am to 5:30 pm

**Sundays 9 am to 3 pm**

Phone: 509-763-3836  
Fax: 509-763-2204

18636 Beaver Valley Road  
Plain, WA 98826

**Plain Talk Newsletter**

Editor — Gwen Whitten

Graphic Design — Jonita Bernstein  
Advertising information — 763-3011

### Water Toys – Get Them Here

Don't get stranded on the beach! Get your rafts, inner-tubes, air mattresses, life jackets, water wings and more at Plain Hardware.



We also have goggles, snorkels, fins, squirt guns and water balloons - everything you need for summertime fun!

### Innertube Special

Buy an innertube for \$10, return it inflated and undamaged and get \$5 back!  
Good while supplies last.

### Spend \$7 – save \$67

Sounds too good to be true – but it is. You just need to break an old habit. Stop buying traditional light bulbs, and switch to compact fluorescent bulbs. These new bulbs use significantly less wattage, but produce the same amount of lumens. They last up to 7 years, and are equal to 13 traditional bulbs in terms of life. A 23-watt fluorescent bulb will save you \$67.00 over its lifetime compared to a standard 90-watt bulb, and it will produce more lumens! As we will be facing energy shortages this year, consider switching to the new fluorescent bulbs. Plain Hardware will have these on special through June 1, for only \$ 6.99. Compare to the big box stores at \$ 7.99.



**Rob's  
Handy Hints**

### Conserve water, but keep your yard green and fire safe

In the traditionally water rich Northwest, we take the abundance of water for granted. As a result, we over water – a lot! And we don't water at the right time of the day. We now have sprinkler timers that offer great flexibility at an affordable price. These timers will allow you to water early in the cool morning when evaporation is at a minimum, and for just the right amount of time. And the best part of all is that you won't even have to worry about it – it's all automatic! Come check out our selection, with prices starting at \$48.99.

### They're not cute – they just work

We've got some new garden gloves that we think you will really like. No, they are not pink and purple with cute little flowers on them, but these gloves will take some tough abuse and not wear out in one day. But you say you need to have a thin glove with the ability to feel things – no problem. Our new "nitrile touch" gloves fit snug, are thin enough for you to feel and handle the smallest seeds, yet they are extremely durable. Gwen loves them.

Products mentioned in Rob's Handy Hints are available at Plain Hardware.

### Dryden Transfer Station

*Hours of Operation*

Tuesday - Friday 9:30 am - 5 pm  
Monday & Saturday 8:30 am - 4 pm  
Closed Sundays and Holidays  
For more info, call 548-5592.

## The News Beat

### Chelan County P.U.D. Contemplates Power Line Through Plain – Your Help Is Needed To Stop This Plan

The PUD is considering putting a power line over Beaver Hill, through Plain along Beaver Valley Road, crossing the Wenatchee River at the new highway bridge, and connecting to the Plain sub-station. They have cited their perceived need to increase reliability as the reason for this redundant line.

**The aesthetic impact to the Plain Valley will be substantial** — starting with the clear cutting of a large swath of trees across Beaver Hill, to the large power poles that would run through Plain to the Wenatchee River, where they again would be clearing a large swath of forested land next to the highway prior to crossing the river. The beautiful views from that bridge would then be interrupted by the sight of power lines hanging just a few feet away.

The reliability of our current system has greatly increased over the last 8 years, and this new line would have only minimal impact on increasing reliability. With the ever-increasing cost now pegged at \$3.7 million, we feel that this is not a responsible use of the rate payer's money. The current line's reliability can be increased with better maintenance,

and it offers enough capacity to handle any future needs. There has been extensive public input against this plan. Over 95% of all written public input to the PUD has strongly opposed this plan, however, PUD staff has ignored the input and are now recommending proceeding with the project. You can help by writing, faxing, or calling our PUD commissioners as follows:

Chelan County PUD Commissioners  
Dave Pflugrath, President  
P.O. Box 1231 • Wenatchee, WA 98807  
Fax (509) 664-2879 • Phone (509) 663-8121

### Plain Hardware Employee Stars in Reebok Commercial

Plain Hardware's rope jumping superstar Kendra Helseth has gone big time, debuting in the "Dare to be Different" Reebok commercial. Released for the first time on Super Bowl Sunday during the Survivor show, Kendra stars with the likes of the Williams sisters among other notable athletes. Reebok ad exec's spotted Kendra on ESPN performing at the National Jump Roping Championships in Orlando, Florida last spring. They took one look at the determination on Kendra's face and knew she was what they needed for their Reebok ad. Congratulations, Kendra!

## Employee Profile



### Jody Allen

Jody Allen has followed her dreams no matter what the obstacles. When she was growing up in a family with two older brothers, she vividly remembers her father's words "Jody, you can't do

what the guys are doing because you're a girl." Well, Jody decided to prove him wrong. After graduating from high school in Kent, she was the first woman ever hired by the local Union 76 service station. She worked there for a year and decided to go to college to become a mechanic. A couple years later she earned her Automotive Certificate from Green River Community College. She was then hired by NC Machinery in Tukwila where she worked on Caterpillar machinery. She then worked for four years as a mechanic for the City of Seattle.

In 1984, while backpacking in the North Cascades, Jody was so awestruck by the beauty around her that she decided she wanted to do her part to help preserve it. She went back to college (University of Idaho) and earned her B.A. degree in Wildland Recreation. Upon graduation, she got a job working for the Lake Wenatchee Ranger Station. For the next 10 years, Jody worked for the Forest Service in the summer and for Stevens Pass Ski Area during the winter months.

Last May, Jody was hired full-time by Plain Hardware to work the front counter. Why did she leave the Forest Service and the Pass? Jody liked the idea of having shorter work days and weekends off. She wanted to be able to spend more time with her husband Steve and their eight year old son Jake. "It is nice not to have to have daycare for Jake anymore. I drop him off at school and I am there when he gets home. We have more time together and that is important to me. Plus, I love the people I work with. I've spent 15 summers alone in the woods and I am so glad to have happy people to spend my days with. We have such a great team! I also really enjoy getting to know the people in the community and I like the challenge of learning something new. I also really like the troubleshooting part of this job. It's fun to help people figure out what they need to fix this or that. It is very satisfying," she says.

During Jody's time off she volunteers a day a week at her son's school. She also cross country and downhill skis, is an avid gardener and enjoys riding her horse Sarabee. She is diligently working to finish the art studio/workshop she and her husband are building. Jody is an artist at heart. Her dream is to someday have enough time to draw, paint and carve to her hearts content. Knowing Jody, I'm sure she will make it happen!

Jody works Monday through Friday  
8 am to 3 pm.

## Frequently Asked Questions About Feeding Wild Birds

**Q:** What is the best time of year to start and when should I stop?

**A:** There isn't a good or bad time to begin feeding birds. Start whenever you feel like it and there is no reason to ever stop. It is okay to feed birds year-round, but they especially like to be fed in the spring when their natural food supply is more scarce.

**Q:** How do I attract a wide variety of birds to my backyard?

**A:** The birds you attract is determined primarily by the seeds you offer, but also by the type of feeder. Black oil sunflower is the favorite of all birds that visit tube and house type of feeders. Millet is favored by birds who visit platform type of feeders. The most effective way to attract the largest variety of birds to your backyard is to put out separate feeders for each food:

- suet feeder
- house feeder for sunflower seed
- hummingbird feeder
- house or platform feeder for millet
- wire mesh cage for peanuts
- tube feeder for thistle

**Q:** Is it best to stop feeding hummingbirds after Labor Day?

**A:** Some people believe that feeding hummingbirds after Labor Day will keep them from migrating, but in reality there is no scientific evidence to support that theory. In fact, it may actually help a weak hummingbird refuel for the long trip. Leave your nectar feeders out until the hummingbirds stop coming.

**Q:** How often do I need to clean my hummingbird feeder?

**A:** Sugar water will ferment when left in the hot sun and it is deadly to hummingbirds. It is important to clean your feeder weekly and preferably twice a week.

Plain Hardware sells 5#, 10#, 25# and 50# bags of sunflower seed and millet/sunflower seed mix at a VERY competitive price. We also have suet cakes, suet cages, bird feeders, various sizes of hummingbird feeders and hummingbird nectar.

Stop by soon. The birds will thank you!



# Flowers And Gardening Products Galore!

It's gardening time once again. Stop by Plain Hardware and check out our fresh, healthy, beautiful annuals and perennials, vegetable starts and gorgeous hanging baskets.

We also have flower and vegetable seeds, onion sets, seed potatoes, peat moss, various

types of fertilizer, steer manure, chicken manure, compost, lime, beauty bark, bark mulch, grass seed, potting soil and whimsical garden accessories - everything you need to keep your yard and garden, healthy, happy and looking good all summer long!

## BioGro Fish Fertilizer — Organic & Environmentally Friendly

And, NO it doesn't smell bad! It comes in pellet form and has a very slight fishy odor that dissipates after a couple of days. This all natural, eco-friendly product is wonderful for your lawn and flower beds. And the best part - since it is all organic it will not burn your lawn or plants. We recommend spreading this fertilizer on your lawn in the spring and fall. For new flower beds, simply mix into the soil and then sprinkle it around the base of each new plant. In established beds, sprinkle around the base of each plant in the spring and again in the fall.

Plain Hardware carries BioGro Lawn Fertilizer in 50# bags and All Purpose/Flower & Garden Fertilizer in 25# and 50# bags.

## EKO Compost — It Turns Dirt Into Soil

Let's face it - some of the dirt around here won't even grow weeds! We have the answer - EKO compost. Available in one cubic yard totes (about 1000 pounds!), EKO compost is a quality compost, dark brown with a sweet earthy aroma. The compost is manufactured slowly over a 9-month period. Bio-solids are mixed with large volumes of waste wood products, and composted using an aeration process. The temperature is carefully monitored to insure that weed seeds are eliminated, but that the beneficial microbial life is maintained. Compost will add nourishment and essential organic matter to your soil. The organic matter holds nutrients and water in the soil for stronger and more beautiful trees, flowers, lawns, and gardens.

For flower beds and gardens, mix 2 inches of EKO compost with the top 4-6 inches of soil. In heavily clay soils, mix 3 inches of EKO compost with the top 4 inches of soil. For new lawns, cover the ground at the rate of 3 cubic yards per 1000 square feet, and rototill into the top six inches. The totes sell for \$ 48.54, and are now in stock at Plain Hardware. Delivery is available.

## Vegetable Starts Grown Locally



This year Plain Hardware will be selling vegetable starts that have been grown by local vegetable gardener Connie Nichols. We will only be selling veggie starts that are KNOWN to thrive in our area. Here is a list of the tried and true varieties that we will have for sale:

### Arriving the first week in May

Walla Walla Sweet Onions  
Broccoli  
Cauliflower

### Arriving Mid-May

Early Girl Tomatoes  
Roma Tomatoes  
Cherry Tomatoes  
Green Peppers  
Yellow/Red Peppers  
Jalapeno Peppers  
Zucchini  
Patty Pan Squash  
Spaghetti Squash  
Burpless Cucumbers  
Jack -Be-Nimble Mini-Pumpkins  
Pie Pumpkins

## Now Stocking for Spring and Summer ...

- Kwik Kick lawn fertilizer (spring application)
- EKO compost soil amender (1 cubic yard totes)
- BioGro granular organic fish fertilizer (lawn or garden - environmentally friendly)
- Chicken and steer manure
- EKO potting soil
- Medium bark nuggets and bark mulch
- Miracle Gro plant food

**HOWES** Sharon and Gary Howes  
Lake Wenatchee • (509) 763-2381  
sghowes@msn.com

**Antiques \* Americana  
Cabin Collectibles**  
Plain Hardware — Apple Annie's



## Bargain Buy

SYLVANIA COMPACT  
FLUORESCENT LIGHT BULBS

Competitor's price \$7.99  
**Bargain buy price \$6.99**  
Sale price good until June 1, 2001

**PLAIN  
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18636 Beaver Valley Road  
Plain, Washington 98826

Address correction requested

Presorted Standard  
Postage  
**PAID**  
Leavenworth, WA  
Permit #3

Boxholder