



North Plains Connected

A monthly newsletter from the City of North Plains | January 2022

City of North Plains

31360 NW Commercial St.
North Plains, OR 97133

City Hall is open
8:30 am to 5:00 pm
Monday-Friday.



(503) 647-5555



www.NorthPlains.org



Contact Your Council:

[Mayor Teri Lenahan](#)

[Robert Kindel](#)

[Russ Sheldon](#)

[Cameron Martinez](#)

[James Fage](#)

[Rickey Smith](#)

[Trista Papen](#)

Mayor's Corner



Happy New Year North Plains

2021 was a balancing act. We were all hopeful that life would

return to normal, and while we continued to feel the impacts of COVID-19, we began to find our work-life balance through a hybrid approach of living our lives and doing business. The year also ushered in new challenges and hopes in the form of vaccines to combat this virus. The last year and a half (almost two years now) has been challenging but one thing I know to be certain is we are a community with the heart and soul of a lion.

When I signed on to be your mayor, I committed to focus on our strategic plans, an improvement of service efficiencies, and maintaining a balanced budget. Here are just a few of our accomplishments this past year: a new Water Reservoir; a new Emergency Management Plan; stellar library service to help many at-home parents and those

impacted by the pandemic; improvements at Jessie Mays Community Park; a Biennial City Budget, and improvements to our roads and sidewalks, including the West Union Pedestrian Path, that were funded in part by the 2020 fuel tax passed by voters. We have partnered with so many great people in the region to accomplish these goals.

What's next for North Plains in 2022? Here are just a few projects and items on the agenda: The City Council will review the current City goals and set new ones; the Urban Growth Boundary Expansion work will continue to identify growth expansion areas; the Urban Renewal Agency will commit to substantial progress on attracting a grocery store on Glencoe Road, and the Downtown Improvement Plan Advisory Committee will focus on action items for the downtown revitalization efforts. We will also put new energy into maximizing public safety service levels and how we can confront those challenges. Community input will be important, so please watch all social media outlets for more information.

As you can see, we are busy looking at what is working and what isn't, in order to find the right balance for our community. A new year provides us with the opportunity to engage in conversation with you and others to set goals that meet our needs. I am only a phone call or email away whenever you want to talk. Here's my email: teri.lenahan@northplains.org. If you have any thoughts, concerns or ideas on how we can make things better for you, please don't hesitate to reach out to me. Here's to an exciting NEW YEAR.

-Mayor Teri

Library News

North Plains Library Presents: A New You in '22! For Adults and Teens

Beginning in January 2022 and running through March, we're offering a series of exciting programs to help you with New Year resolutions: Create a vision board, start a bullet journal, introduce yourself to tai chi and mindfulness breathing, learn a healthy new recipe – and more!

Start a Bullet Journal. Wednesday, January 5th at 6:30 p.m. on Zoom. We'll set up a bullet journal using a dot grid notebook and learn the basics. Discover a creative and efficient way to plan, dream and record your schedules, events and tasks with a format that works for your needs and interests. A free bullet journal and other materials will be provided.

Create a Vision Board. Wednesday, January 19th at 6:30 p.m. on Zoom Let's make a vision board for the New Year! A vision board is way to project your hopes and goals for the coming year as an artistic creation, using photos, newspaper and magazine clippings, postcards, greeting cards, keepsakes and memorabilia, that combined inspire, uplift, and motivate you. A free packet of basic art materials will be provided. Launch into the New Year by registering at <http://wccls.bibliocommons.com/events>

Everyone Can Cook: Mrs. Emily's Five-Time Award Winning Secret Chili Recipe & Southern Cornbread! Virtual Cooking Class

Wednesday, January 26th at 5:00p.m. we will make **Mrs. Emily's five-time award winning secret chili recipe!** We will wrap up with an awesome southern cornbread recipe all live from our kitchens! Feel free to invite a friend or family member. **This secret recipe will only be revealed once - this is it!** Don't miss out! Register at <http://wccls.bibliocommons.com/events>

Storytime & 3 Levels of Kindergarten Readiness

Mrs. Emily continues to offer an online interactive storytime each **Tuesday at 10 a.m.** The library provides three levels of Kindergarten Readiness classes for preschoolers and kindergarteners. These adaptive, live, online class are designed to help

preschoolers and kindergarteners whose preschool education was disrupted by COVID-19 or who desire more of a challenge. See complete schedule on our website <https://www.northplains.org/library> and sign up here: <http://wccls.bibliocommons.com/events>

Bilingual Hindi Storytime

We're excited to continue offering Bilingual Hindi Storytime **Wednesdays January 19th, February 2nd & 16th, and March 2nd & 16th at 10:00a.m.** Kids will learn new Hindi words, enjoy rhymes and stories. Stories will be told in both Hindi and English. Register at <http://wccls.bibliocommons.com/events>

Teen Game Night

Teens in 6th-12th grade join us **Friday, January 7th at 5:30 p.m.** to play Broken Picturephone the live game where you and your friends create books of drawings and phrases, one page at a time, only being able to see one previous page. Then, everyone experiences each full book together. Register at <http://wccls.bibliocommons.com/events>

Chief's Corner



Safe driving habits are a year-round necessity but driving requires special care and preparation as we near winter weather conditions. North Plains Police Department

urges community members to take special precautions for winter driving conditions this time of year. After months of mild weather, we can all use a refresher when it comes to making our way through a winter wonderland.

- Ensure you and all your passengers wear seat belts for **every ride**.
- Children should be in age-appropriate child seats – no exceptions!
- Watch the road and avoid any distractions.
- Drive slowly; it's harder to control or stop your vehicle on slick or snow-covered roads.
- Increase your following distance.

- Before heading out, know the weather and driving conditions and plan your route accordingly.
- Give yourself more time to get to where you're going.
- Keep blankets, flashlights, jumper cables, and emergency lights in your vehicle. Even if you don't need them, you may encounter someone else in need on the road.
- Keep your headlights on for visibility in fog, rain, and snow, even during the day.

Visit the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's (NHTSA) website for more information on safe winter driving:

<https://www.nhtsa.gov/winter-driving-tips>

TVF&R News



Winter storms can be dangerous, bringing heavy winds, freezing temperatures, power failures, as well as icy or flooded roads. Tualatin Valley Fire & Rescue encourages you to prepare yourself and your family for winter storms by following these safety tips:

Indoor Safety

- Have a professional perform annual inspections of your heating system and make any necessary repairs. If you have a fireplace, have the chimney inspected and cleaned annually.
- Bring pets and smaller animals inside to keep them warm and dry.
- Keep heating sources at least 3 feet away from materials that can burn, and never leave lit candles or other flames unattended.
- Have a disaster supply kit with bedding, clothing, first-aid supplies, flashlights, food, a battery-operated radio, and water to be self-sufficient for the first 72 hours of any emergency. For more information on 72-hour kits, visit www.tvfr.com.
- Know the shut-off locations for your electricity, natural gas, and water.

- During a power outage, turn off major appliances to reduce power demands when electricity is restored.
- Install smoke and carbon monoxide alarms in the home and test them regularly.

Outdoor Safety

- Minimize outdoor activities whenever possible. If you must venture outdoors, dress appropriately for the weather conditions you may encounter and avoid getting wet to prevent hypothermia.
- Don't overestimate how far you can walk on extremely cold, rainy, or snowy days.
- Use extreme caution when stepping outside in icy conditions, particularly in the morning when it's coldest and the ice hasn't had a chance to melt.
- Insulate exposed water pipes with fiberglass or foam to protect them from freezing.
- Report power outages to your electric company and NEVER touch a downed power line!
- If you have pets or livestock that must be outside, provide a sheltered area and access to non-frozen drinking water.

Safety Behind the Wheel

- Avoid traveling when the weather service issues storm advisories.
- If you must drive, drive much slower than you would in ideal weather conditions.
- Have your car inspected to ensure it's in proper running condition. A breakdown during extreme weather can put you and your passengers in danger.
- Replace worn tires, belts, leaking radiator hoses, and burned-out headlights and taillights.
- Ensure your radiator has appropriate antifreeze for the conditions you will encounter.
- Have an emergency kit in your car equipped with blankets, flashlights, snacks, tools, a shovel, and kitty litter or sand for traction in case of an unexpected delay or emergency.

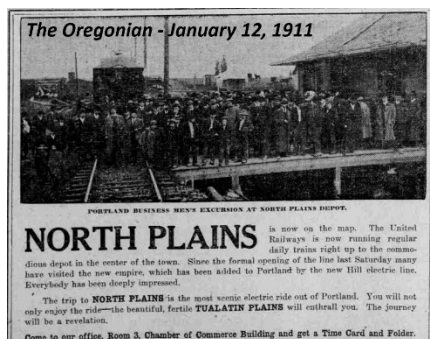
- Keep your gas tank more than half full. Should a power outage occur, you may have difficulty finding a service station that can fill your tank.
- If you plan to travel in the mountains, carry the appropriate chains or traction devices required by law.

North Plains History

North Plains Rail Line: Then and Now

History and Promise

Around 1908, when Jim Hill's United Railways announced plans to expand the rail line to help grow the population in the area, the Ruth Trust Company of Portland bought a large tract of land in the North Plains area. A few years later, the rail line - including the Cornelius Pass tunnel - was built and then operated as a Portland short line that ran from Portland to Banks, and eventually connected to the Oregon Coast.



The Ruth Trust Company platted what would eventually become the town of North Plains around 1910. Residents and businesses began leaving the low-lying

“Glencoe” area south of today’s North Plains and moved to the newly platted town higher up near the railroad tracks. Some existing buildings were even moved. Passenger and freight trains stopped in North Plains up to four times each day at a railroad station along the current Main Street. Freight leaving North Plains included fruits, vegetables, animals, and logs.

While the advertising promise of the Ruth Trust Company positioned North Plains as a “necessity and its future is guaranteed” because of the rail line to convey both goods and people, that did not come to fruition. Soon roads began to replace railroads for most travel and freight transport.

Today's Rails

After a few ownership changes over the years, [Portland & Western Railroad](#) (PNWR) now owns the rail line, and the ground under it is owned by the State of Oregon and managed by the State Department of Transportation. While it is not heavily used, trains come through a few weekdays each week carrying freight from local industries. The City of North Plains does not control when trains may run through town, and the sounding of a locomotive horn is governed by Federal Railroad Administration rules.

While some of the rail line and adjacent unused rail property within North Plains have been suggested for various community uses, at the current time this is not being considered. The rail line presents PNWR with current and future business opportunities, and it connects with PNWR’s 520-mile regional system of rail lines in western Oregon with freight capacity and connections across the country. There are also future spur line opportunities for businesses along the North Plains corridor.

North Plains was a railroad town, presenting new opportunities for this area. As with many places across the country, the rail line is part of North Plains’ interesting and promising history, present, and future. What will the next opportunity be for this rail line?

January Calendar

All items on this calendar are taking place in-person and virtually (subject to change).

Please visit www.northplains.org/calendar for information on how to join in.



- **01/03 City Council** 7 p.m. with 6 p.m. work session.
- **01/05 Economic Development Committee** 6 p.m. via zoom
- **01/10 Parks and Recreation Board** 6 p.m.
- **01/12 Planning Commission** 7 p.m.
- **01/17 City Offices closed for MLK Day**
- **01/18 City Council** 7 p.m.



Apply to join the Planning Commission

We are searching for an interested resident who is passionate about making our community the best it can be to fill a current planning commission vacancy.

The Planning Commission meets once per month (2nd Wednesdays at 7 pm) and reviews standards for building in North Plains, type III-IV land use applications, and the City's comprehensive plan.



Get involved and make a difference in North Plains - apply today!

Find an application online at www.northplains.org
or email lori.lesmeister@northplains.org

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PEPPERONI PIZZA**

Cannot be combined with any other offers
Expires 12/31/2022.





CHRISTMAS TREE RECYCLING

WE PICK UP AT YOUR CURB



**We'll pick up your
bottles & cans too!**

Place top portion of flyer in bag provided, with your donation. Attach to base of tree. Leave tree curbside by **9 AM** on either the 8th or the 15th.

Bottles and cans DO NOT require a donation; just leave them in a bag at the curb.

Your support directly benefits North Plains Boy Scouts camping programs & activities.

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2021 / 2022 Donation Record

Thank you for you generous donation to North Plains Boy Scout Troop 275
Amount: \$10 ☐ \$20 ☐ \$30 ☐ Other \$ _____

We are always looking for new Scouts, ages 11-17.
For inquiries about our existing BSA Troop, or a possible girls Troop, please contact Darrel Smith (Scoutmaster) at: (503) 648-1488

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