



North Plains Connected

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

City of North Plains

31360 NW Commercial St.
North Plains, OR 97133

City Hall is open
8:30 am to 4:00 pm
Monday-Friday.



(503) 647-5555



www.NorthPlains.org



Contact Your Council:

Mayor Teri Lenahan

Robert Kindel

Russ Sheldon

Cameron Martinez

James Fage

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Trista Papen

Mayor's Corner: *Improving Downtown*



This past October, we invited you to take a survey to help inform the creation of a North Plains Downtown Improvement Plan to strengthen downtown in a way that enhances community livability and economic vitality. Your responses included more dining options, create and maintain historical charm and buildings, sidewalk improvements and options for daily needs.

We are committed to preserving our small-town charm, and after our project team took your feedback from last fall and created draft land use and transportation concepts and alternatives for Downtown, we want to hear more from you!

On April 12th, the City is hosting an in-person Downtown Improvement Plan Open House at BFree Woodworking, 31465 NW Commercial St from 5 to 7 pm. Drop by to learn more about these concepts and share your thoughts. An online survey will go 'live' on April 4th where you can also provide feedback on the project. Watch www.northplains.org/downtown for updates.

Over the last year, the Downtown Revitalization Project Advisory Committee (PAC) has helped guide the process to review and provide comments on the analysis and recommendations developed by city staff and professional planners. The PAC's goal is to create a plan that encourages smart, cohesive and welcoming contributions to our town. There is much more work to be done.

I have lived in North Plains for 15 years and to some, that makes me relatively new to this established community. What drew me to this little town (besides the love of my life) was the community spirit and small-town charm. Preserving this value is very important to me. Growth is challenging on many fronts, but let us remember

that planning is strategic and necessary. Your voice matters. For additional information, please feel comfortable contacting me at teri.lenahan@northplains.org or our Finance Director Bill Reid at bill.reid@northplains.org. See you on the 12th!

~Mayor Teri



News From Your Library

Connect with Your Library for National Library Week

Celebrate National Library Week, April 3rd-9th by visiting us and taking a silly “shelfie” with our giant library card! National Library Week is an annual celebration highlighting the valuable role libraries, librarians, and library workers play in transforming lives and strengthening our communities.

April is Poetry Month

We’re celebrating Poetry Month by creating a community poem! Write 2-4 lines of poetry based on the prompt “Wouldn’t it be great if...” The library will assemble submissions into a poem created by the community! All ages are welcome. Submit poetry to northplainslibrary@gmail.com or in the library April 1st-30th.

Teen Council Celebration

Teens, we’re having a celebration! **Join us in the library Friday, April 1st at 5:45 pm** to connect with each other, eat sweet treats and snacks and hang out! All teens are welcome to join!

Storytime & 3 Levels of Kindergarten Readiness

Mrs. Emily continues to offer an online interactive storytime each Tuesday at 10 am. The library provides three levels of adaptive, live, online classes designed to help preschoolers and kindergartners whose preschool education was disrupted by COVID-19 or desire more of a challenge. Reserve a spot at <http://wccls.bibliocommons.com/events>. In-person outdoor storytime and bookbabies sessions will start in May!

Everyone Can Cook! Beef Stew with Floral Focaccia

Do you love to cook? Bake? Roast? Preserve? Join us **Wednesday, April 27th at 5:00 pm** for important kitchen basics that all ages should learn! The entire family is welcome, and feel free to invite a friend or family member. We will make beef stew with a floral focaccia bread. It’s gonna be SUPER YUMMY AND FUN! Register at <http://wccls.bibliocommons.com/events>. You will receive an email the Friday before our session with zoom and ingredient information.

Día de los niños

Celebrate Día at the library **Saturday, April 30th** by picking up a take and make craft, book, and book bag for children, available while supplies last. El día de los niños/El día de los libros (Children’s Day/Book Day), commonly known as Día, is a celebration every day of children, families, and reading.

April City Calendar

Public meetings and events below are taking place in-person and many offer virtual options (subject to change).



Visit www.northplains.org/calendar for more events and details.

- 4/4 City Council - 7 pm (with 6 pm work session)
- 4/6 Economic Development Committee - 6 pm
- 4/11 Parks and Recreation Board - 6 pm
- 4/12 Downtown Improvement Open House - 5 pm
- 4/13 Planning Commission - 7 pm
- 4/16 Easter Egg Hunt & Safety Day - 10 am
- 4/18 City Council - 7 pm
- 4/20 Library Board - 7 pm
- 4/21 North Plains Volunteer Recognition - 6:30 pm

Backflow Test Reminder

The State of Oregon requires backflow prevention assembly testing for irrigation systems upon installation, annually, and any time they are repaired. This is to ensure they are working properly in preventing water flowing backwards into household or City water systems.

Obtaining a test is the property owners responsibility and testing must be performed by an Oregon Health Authority-certified Backflow Assembly Tester. Visit www.northplains.org/publicworks/page/water for a link to Certified Backflow Assembly Testers for Oregon. Once the test is complete, your certified tester will submit it to the City.

We recommend testing in spring when irrigation systems are re-activated for the season, so now is a great time to get it scheduled.



City 101: Solid Waste and Recycling Services



Garbage, recycling and yard waste services are important to community livability, and in North Plains they are provided by Garbarino Disposal & Recycling. How does this service work, what services are available, and where do the collected materials go? Read on to learn more.

How does this service work?

Garbarino's family business is based in and has operated in North Plains since 1975. It holds the franchise, approved by City Council on a 7-year cycle, to provide these services to our community. They currently serve about 1,200 North Plains customers, in addition to the around 6,000 they also serve in parts of Beaverton, Hillsboro, and unincorporated Washington County.

The North Plains franchise agreement includes providing a portion of their gross revenue to the City, which in turn goes to help fund a portion of City operations. Every year, Garbarino is required to submit a report to the City Council, as well as other government partners, including yearly expenses, revenues, tonnages of collection, and where the collected materials go. They also undergo a public process to set and, when necessary, increase rates. This rate is set through a process approved by the Washington County Commission.

Where does the refuse go?

Garbage collected is taken to the Waste Management Forest Grove transfer station and from there is typically taken to a large landfill near The Dalles, Oregon.

Yard debris is taken to Recology Organics in North Plains, which processes organics and turns them into retail products like compost, bark and soil blends.

Commingled recycling is taken to Far West Fibers in Hillsboro. There, it undergoes a sorting process using belts, screens, magnets and human labor to sort the material and bale it for transport to various places for recycling/reuse.

NOTE: plastic bags cannot be recycled with your commingled recycling as they get caught and cause

sorting system blockages. Visit www.how2recycle.org for local locations that accept stretchy plastics including bags, wraps, and films.

Did you know about these other special services?

Garbarino offers a variety of other services for free or a small fee, including:

- Dropboxes - 6-yard dropboxes for cleanup jobs.
- Battery collection - all types of batteries including alkaline, watch, and lithium (please tape over the ports). Put them in a quart sealable bag and place on top of your glass recycling.
- Bulky item pickup upon request - including removal of couches, water heaters, etc.
- Commercial services - including food scrap and organics from restaurants that go to the transfer station and are ground into a smoothie mixture that is used as fertilizer.

What new options are being considered?

Garbarino is working with Washington County on an expanded recycling program for an extra fee they hope will be available in summer 2022 to include plastic film, light bulbs, and other items. Watch the Washington County Solid Waste and Recycling Services website for updates.

Garbarino and the City are in discussions about creating a program for food scrap composting to be mixed in with yard debris, which is already happening in many Metro region communities.

Interesting fact: Garbarino's residential collection trucks are divided into two separate bodies - one for garbage and one for yard debris. They are emptied each day so the trucks you see parked/stored at their site are empty.

North Avenue Improvements Update

Construction is underway by the Brynhill developer's contractors on improvements to NW North Ave from 309th to Main St. Work includes widening, paving, curb and sidewalk installation on both sides of the street

and landscaping. Completion is expected in June 2022. During construction, there may be road closures and detours. The contractor will display signs on site, or visit northplains.org/projects for an estimated schedule.

Chief's Corner: De-Escalation & Crisis Intervention Training

Law enforcement frequently encounters people in crisis. Having the training to intervene appropriately can ultimately change the outcome of these situations. De-escalation is a foundational part of certified officer training and accentuated through scenario-based instruction.

All North Plains police officers receive focused crisis intervention training in addition to de-escalation instruction:

- Upon hire, all police officers undergo a 16-hour introductory class called "Crisis Intervention Skills Training."
- Annually, staff complete ongoing crisis intervention education, including:

- o Responding to mental illness
- o 4-8 hours of scenario-based training, with an emphasis on de-escalation
- o Sixteen hours of defensive tactics training with an underlying de-escalation component



Chief James Haxton

Maintaining a high level of instruction ensures the most effective approach to keeping our community safe. To find out more about our crisis-intervention training, visit bit.ly/WCSO_CIT

Healthy Choices: From Tualatin Valley Fire & Rescue

Everyday Choices Can Improve Your Odds

Tualatin Valley Fire & Rescue cares about your health. This month, we encourage you to fight stress and serious illnesses by embracing healthy habits that will improve your overall quality of life.

TVF&R offers the following tips to help you enjoy a heart-healthy lifestyle:

Enlist a partner: Talk to loved ones, neighbors, and friends and invite them to participate in physical activities, share a balanced meal, and have a fun adventure.

Fuel your body: Eating balanced meals helps your body better fight off sickness and recover more quickly when you are sick. Drink plenty of water. Enjoy fruits and vegetables throughout your day as snacks, toppings, side dishes, or main meal. A healthy diet also includes whole grains, fat-free or low-fat dairy products, lean meats, fish, beans, eggs, and nuts. Limit the saturated fats, trans fats, cholesterol, salt, and added sugars in your diet.

Get moving: As little as 30 minutes of exercise a day can help keep your body fit to fight off illness and prevent injury. Carving out time to exercise has been shown to increase your energy level, reduce health risks, lower stress, improve your mood, and boost productivity.

Get enough sleep: Physical activity can improve your quality of sleep. Try to get six to eight hours of sleep each night to re-charge your body.

Ditch bad habits: Limit your alcohol and caffeine consumption, and quit smoking for good. Set healthy goals and celebrate when you achieve them.

Team up with your doctor: Doctors can help with prevention, screening, and treatment. Don't wait until you're sick to schedule an appointment. They can help you prevent health problems or catch them early enough to help you beat them. Ask your doctor to check your blood pressure and cholesterol numbers.

ANNUAL VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION EVENT

Thursday, April 21 • 6:30 pm • Jessie Mays Community Center

This special evening is all about saying THANK YOU to all of the volunteers that make the North Plains a great place. Join us for a free spaghetti dinner, Volunteer of the Year and the Lifetime Achievement Award presentation, and a fun time with neighbors and friends. Produced by the North Plains Events Association. Questions? Contact Patti Burns at 503-319-5428 or patti.funstinks@gmail.com.



NORTH PLAINS
Easter Egg Hunt
AND SAFETY DAY



JOIN THE FUN!
Saturday, April 16
Starts promptly
at 10 a.m.
North Plains
Elementary School
32030 NW North Ave.

Event sponsored and operated by
NORTH PLAINS
EVENTS ASSOCIATION

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npparksfoundation.org

HONOR A LOVED ONE THIS MEMORIAL DAY!

Purchase a memorial brick at the North Plains Veteran's Memorial Park

On November 11, 2020, the City of North Plains dedicated the Veterans Memorial Park on Highland Ct & 313th Ave. The City has partnered with the North Plains Parks Foundation to sell memorial bricks at \$100/each that will be laid around the flagpole. Bricks are for those who have served or are serving, as a living or deceased veteran.

**ORDER BY MAY 1, 2022, FOR
INSTALL BEFORE MEMORIAL DAY!**

Go to <https://www.northplains.org/parksrec/page/veterans-memorial-park> and follow the directions to pay by cash, check, money order or credit/debit card.

