



North Plains Connected

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

City of North Plains

31360 NW Commercial St.
North Plains, OR 97133

City Hall is open
8:00 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

Rickey Smith

Trista Papen

Mayor's Corner: *If I Were Mayor Contest*



I wanted to take this month and spotlight a young man who has some great ideas if he were mayor. This contest is a way to encourage students to think about and get involved in Civics and think about what a mayor and a city does for its residents.

A HUGE congratulations to J.R. Castillo for winning the "If I Were Mayor" contest. J.R. is a 5th grade student at North Plains Elementary. Students from grades 4th-5th could submit a poster, grades 6th-8th an essay and 9th-12th a digital piece. Students had the opportunity to win a \$50 gift card from the City of North Plains and an automatic entry to the Oregon Mayors Association state contest.

If J.R. were Mayor, he would make sure all phone and electrical lines were underground, he would strengthen support for Fire and Police Safety and he would build a bike/skateboard facility for our youth. The skateboard park is not a new idea and I think your idea warrants another look for our community.

J.R., I appreciate you taking the time and effort to consider ways to make our community a better place. Your ideas are GREAT and I hope you stay connected to your community and become a future leader for North Plains. Your family should be proud.

Congratulations, J.R., for winning First Place!
#thisisnorthplains

~Mayor Teri



News From Your Library

The library is excited to once again be offering in-person programs! We are also continuing to provide virtual programming.

Outdoor Storytimes

Join Mrs. Emily for **Outdoor Storytime Wednesdays at 11:00 am starting May 4th** at Jessie Mays Park. Bring a blanket or chair, and listen to stories and songs with Mrs. Emily. Talking, singing, and reading with young children are the best things you can do to prepare them to be readers.

Join Miss Chris as she guides parents and caregivers through some inspirational early learning activities for **outdoor Bookbabies Storytime Fridays at 10:00 am starting May 6th** at Jessie Mays Park. Bring a blanket or chair, and we will work together to learn stories, songs, rhymes, and early literacy strategies. Bubbles and play time galore! Take some time to visit with other parents and caregivers while entertaining and educating your little one.

If the weather is bad, storytimes will be held indoors at the Jessie Mays Community Center.

Teen Board Game Night

Join us at the library for Teen Board Game Night Friday, May 6th from 5:30-7:00 pm. Bring a favorite game or play one of the library's board games! Snacks will be provided.



Craft Guild

Wednesday, May 4th at 5:30 pm in the library. Join our informal group of knitters and quilters from 5:30 pm until 7:00 pm on the first Wednesday evening of each month. Anyone interested in camaraderie as you work on your individual projects is welcome to do so at the library. This is intended to be an informal get-together of crafters, with no formal instruction.

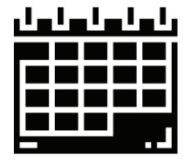
Henna Workshop

All ages are welcome to join us Wednesday, May 25th at 6:30 pm at Jessie Mays Community Center for a presentation on the history and cultural significance of henna. Attendees will receive a henna cone and basic designs to practice. Bakul will be offering small henna

May 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.



- 5/2 City Council - 7 pm (with 6 pm work session)
- 5/4 UGB Expansion Project Advisory Committee (in lieu of Economic Development Committee) - 6 pm
- 5/7 North Plains Community Garage Sale - all day
- 5/9 Parks and Recreation Board - 6 pm
- 5/11 Planning Commission - 7 pm
- 5/14 North Plains Clean Up Day - 8 am to 12:30 pm
- 5/16 City Council - 7 pm
- 5/18 Library Board - 7 pm
- 5/30 Memorial Day Celebration - 11 am

designs for interested attendees on a first-come-first-served basis. Space is limited. [Register online.](#)

Storytime & 3 Levels of Kindergarten Readiness

Mrs. Emily continues to offer an online interactive storytime Tuesdays at 10:00 am. The library provides three levels of Kindergarten Readiness classes for preschoolers and kindergarteners. These adaptive, live, online classes are designed to help preschoolers and kindergarteners whose preschool education was disrupted by COVID-19 or desire more of a challenge. Reserve a spot at <http://wccls.bibliocommons.com/events>



We're planning in-person outdoor storytime and bookbabies sessions starting in May!

Everyone Can Cook! Chicken Pot Pie and a Side

Do you love to cook? Bake? Roast? Preserve? Come join us for some important kitchen basics that all ages should learn! The entire family can join in. On Wednesday, May 25th at 5 pm we will make chicken pot pie and a side. It's going to be SUPER FUN and SUPER YUMMY! You will receive an email the Friday before our session with zoom and ingredient information. [Register online.](#)

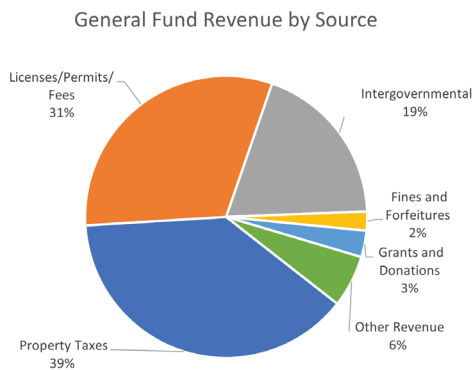
City 101: Budget Perspective - Part 1

Welcome to part 1 of a 3-part series on the City's budget and planning for the future. In this edition, we'll provide an overview of the current challenges, and in part 2 and 3 we will share more details about medium and longer-term solutions for fiscal sustainability.

As a small City, North Plains has operated on a conservative budget for many years. Due to our current and projected population growth, the increasing cost of doing business, and investments needed in maintenance and upkeep, we are facing service level challenges. North Plains' rapid growth as a bedroom community to serve employers outside of North Plains has also resulted in an imbalance in the tax base, with our city having a heavy reliance on residential taxes and very little on business taxes like other Washington County cities.

The fact is that without additional funding our city will not be able to meet the expanding needs and expectations for services. A recently-adopted goal of the North Plains City Council is to shore up fiscal sustainability, safety, and service levels that provide a comparable quality of life to other Western Washington County residents. We are working to plan the right balance of resources to help us achieve that.

You can see from this chart that City revenues currently come from a variety of sources including property taxes, service fees, business licenses, construction and development permits and charges, fines for violations, allocations from federal and county government partners, and grants.



We sometimes hear people ask, “As more people move to North Plains and pay property taxes, why does this not cover the cost of city services?”

This is not as simple as it sounds. First, it is important to understand that property taxes currently account for just under 40% of the City's yearly general fund revenues. Also, as mentioned above, North Plains has a heavy reliance on residential property tax revenue compared to other Washington County cities, which have more businesses and industry contributing to the tax base.

Second, the City has state and voter-imposed restrictions on the ability to increase property taxes to keep up with rising costs. Taxable assessed values within the City have continued to grow since 2008; however, yearly increases in property taxes paid by property owners are limited to 3% annually under Oregon's Measure 50. Inflation in a normal year outpaces that 3% revenue growth, which contributes to an imbalance for service delivery.

What are the options to fund the increasing demand for City services?

We are looking at both medium and long-term options. Longer-term, we are working on ways to increase available land and step up our economic development efforts in order to attract more businesses for more employment right here in North Plains. This will take time, but would also create a better balance between residential and non-residential tax revenues to pay for services.

Watch for part 2 of the 3-part series in June and July for a deeper look into options the City is pursuing for more sustainable City services for our expanding community.

Rebates Now Available For High Efficiency Toilets

Did you know that toilets account for nearly 30 percent of an average home's indoor water use and are by far the main source of water use in the home?

You can save water and money by installing a water-efficient toilet, and the City of North Plains now offers rebates for qualifying new residential WaterSense labeled high-efficiency toilets (HET). Find out more on our website under the Public Works/Water section.



Honoring Retiring Public Works Director Blake Boyles

Blake Boyles has been instrumental in helping to improve and expand the City's services for the community during his 21 years of service here. He is now taking his well-earned retirement effective May 20, 2022.

Blake grew up just a few miles from town, and after a career including a local water service district, the City of Tualatin, construction work and the water works industry, he began working for the City of North Plains in June 2001. At that time the population was just 1605 people and 594 homes. It has grown to over 3,600 people and 1,375 homes now.

"It's been a fun ride watching this town grow and I have definitely enjoyed the people and the friendships I've made," said Blake, "And of everything I have worked on, the Veterans Memorial Park and the turtle pond are the nearest and dearest to my heart."

Mayor Teri Lenahan says she appreciates Blake's leadership. "He has seen the City through some difficult moments as we have navigated the growth of our small town. Much happiness to you Blake and cheers to you on your well deserved retirement," the Mayor said.

His accomplishments are wide-ranging with positive and long-lasting effects on our growing community. Here are just a few:

Water: In 2001, Blake discovered the city's well had potential for contamination and worked to secure a safer and more sustainable water source. By 2004, purchasing water from the Joint Water Commission was arranged

and a new water line from Hillsboro was built turned on in 2005. He also managed the construction of the new water reservoir on West Union Road.

Parks/Trails: Blake (aka "the turtle whisper") is largely responsible for identifying endangered Western Pond Turtles 15 years ago in the pond off of NW 307th. He then worked to improve the habitat and increase the turtle population there and spearheaded the completion of the Ghost Creek Trail and Turtle Pond observation structure in 2020. He was also responsible for other park and trail construction including Louie Wentz, Frank Wing, and Veterans Memorial Parks, and the West Union Trail.



Blake in a North Plains 4th of July Parade

Road/sidewalk/overpass improvements: Of significant note are Main Street, Glencoe Road, and Glencoe interchange/overpass improvements.

Other accomplishments include obtaining \$2 million in grants from Community Development Block Grants (CDBG) and Small Cities Allotment Grants that helped with various community projects, leading the Downtown mural project in 2015 which resulted in the beautiful, artistic paintings depicting North Plains on various downtown buildings, and serving as City Manager from 2015-2017.

This summer, Blake will be moving south to the sunny Tucson, AZ area with his wife and four dogs. We wish you all the best in retirement, Blake, and thank you for all you have done for North Plains!

North Plains Annual Garage Sale is Saturday, May 7!

GARAGE SALE

Everyone is encouraged to participate in this free event as a buyer, seller or both. A list of garage sale addresses will be available on the

North Plains Events Association's Facebook and the Community page on Thursday, May 5. To get your garage sale address listed email Patti at lochlolly1@aol.com.



Big Spring Clean

**City of North Plains
Annual Clean-up Day**
Saturday, May 14, 2022

St. Edwards Church
10990 NW 313th Ave
8 am to 12:30 pm

Limited to residents that live within the 97133 zip code who bring the post card delivered to their mailbox good for a one trip admittance.



Chief's Corner: Houselessness

While houselessness does not always escalate to law enforcement action, the North Plains Police Department appropriately dedicates time and resources to this population to ensure safety for all our community members. We work directly with community partners while on patrol to connect the unhoused with available resources, conduct risk assessments, and engage with all community members to improve community livability.

During the pandemic, we have followed guidance from the CDC, the Oregon Health Authority, and Washington County Public Health officials to allow people camping outdoors to remain where they are when safe to do so. The Supreme Court case *Martin v. Boise* also impacts

local governments by prohibiting enforcement action against people sleeping outside due to a lack of available shelter space in the community.

Our goal is always to promote public safety and to support all community members. We ask anyone with information on suspicious or criminal activity to call non-emergency dispatch at 503-629-0111.

Learn more about the Washington County Sheriff's Office houseless resources, visit bit.ly/WCSO_HOPE.



Chief James Haxton

Fire Camp For Young Women: Tualatin Valley Fire & Rescue

Young Women Can Explore a Career as a Firefighter

Applications are being accepted for Portland Metro Fire Camp for young women ages 16 to 22. This camp is an all-encompassing introduction to a rewarding profession and is designed to instill confidence while building leadership and team skills.

Participants will learn what it takes to be a firefighter while completing hands-on training in hose and ladder skills, vehicle extrication, search and rescue, ropes and knots, live-fire operations, aerial ladder climbs, emergency medical skills, and other firefighting tasks.

They will receive instruction from professional female firefighters from multiple agencies on how to prepare for interviews and

what it's like to have a career in the fire service as well as the importance of good nutrition and physical fitness.

This free fire camp will be offered twice this summer on two weekends:

- **July 8, 9, and 10** at the Portland Fire & Rescue Training Center, 4800 NE 122nd Ave., in Portland.
- **July 15, 16, and 17** at Tualatin Valley Fire & Rescue's Training Center, 12400 SW Tonquin Road, in Sherwood.

The deadline to apply is May 30. Space is limited. Those selected to participate will be notified the week of June 1.

Applications and more information are available online at [www.](http://www.portlandmetrofirecamp.com)

[portlandmetrofirecamp.com](http://www.portlandmetrofirecamp.com).



Public Hearings on Economic Opportunity Analysis

The City is in the process of adopting a new Economic Opportunities Analysis (EOA), which is critical to planning for land supply for economic development and employment growth in the community over the next 20 years. Once approved, the EOA will be part of the City's Comprehensive Plan. The community has the opportunity to review the draft EOA (<https://www.northplains.org/citymanager/page/plans-reports>) and comment in-person or via Zoom at two upcoming public hearings:

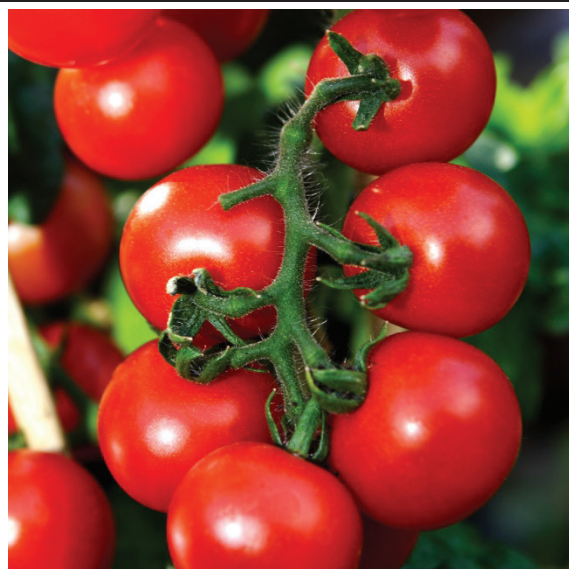
Planning Commission meeting on Wednesday, May 11, 2022, at 7pm at the Jessie Mays Community Center (30975 NW Hillcrest). A Zoom link is here: <https://www.northplains.org/bc-pc/page/planning-commission-meeting-17>

City Council meeting on Monday, May 16, 2022, at 7 pm at the Jessie Mays Community Center. A Zoom link is here: <https://www.northplains.org/citycouncil/page/city-council-meeting-63>

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Expires 12/31/2022.



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 6, 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.

