



North Plains Connected

A monthly newsletter from the City of North Plains - December 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

Rickey Smith

Trista Papen

Mayor's Corner: Gratitude



As I look back upon the past year, I want to take a moment to express my gratitude.

I am grateful for the committed City Hall, Public Works and Library staff for achieving yet another year of building up the North Plains community. They make my job easier, they keep the City Council and other committees focused on our jobs, they keep the water running and we will never be without a good book to read. I am extremely proud of our North Plains staff. Thank you for all you do.

I want to express my sincere gratitude for the people who surround me every day; this includes my family, friends, community and clients. I care deeply for you and you are the reason I do this work. You have encouraged, inspired, challenged and supported me throughout this year. I am so blessed. Thank you.

Please remember those in our community who are alone and struggling to provide for their families. By sharing a gesture of kindness such as sharing a meal or consider an impromptu visit will easily turn a frown upside down.

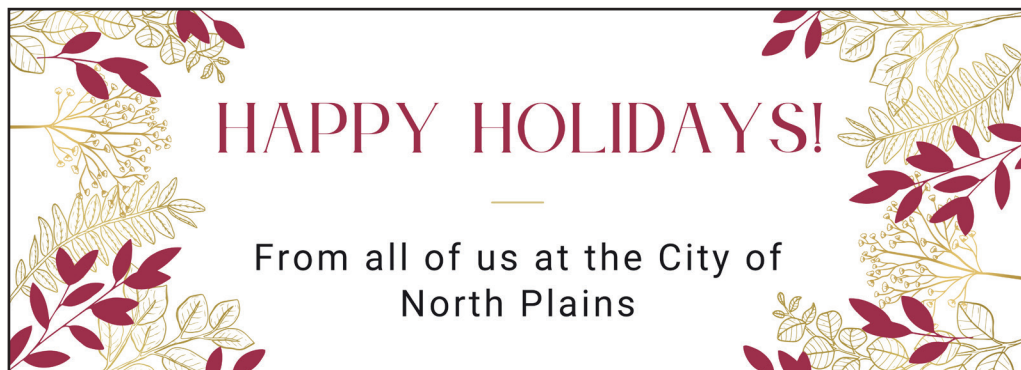
And finally, say a prayer for all of our first responders, and those in uniform for their safekeeping. They need to know that they are not forgotten.

May your holiday celebrations bring you warmth, happiness and an abundance of love.

"Let us be grateful to people who make us happy, they are the charming gardeners who make our souls blossom." -Marcel Proust

~Mayor Teri

teri.lenahan@northplains.org



News From Your Library



Holiday Craft Faire

December 1st-24th during library hours. Purchase handicraft items created and donated by local community members. All proceeds go to support the library!

Storytime at the Library!

Wednesdays *through December 14th* at 11 am in the children's area.

Bookbabies Fridays through December 16th at 10 am in the children's area.

Our storytimes and early literacy programs will take a break for the last 2 weeks of December.

Virtual Storytime

Tuesdays *through December 13th* at 11 am Mrs. Emily continues to offer Storytime LIVE on Zoom! To join her for live weekly interactive storytime sessions register online at <https://www.wccls.org/events>. No library card required to register.

Bilingual Hindi Storytime

Thursdays at 10 am *through December 15th*. Join Bakul for an interactive storytime on Zoom where kids will learn new Hindi words, and enjoy rhymes and stories. Stories will be told in both Hindi and English. Register online at <https://www.wccls.org/events>. No library card required to register.

Kindergarten Readiness Classes on Zoom

North Plains Public Library is offering three levels of FREE academic enrichment classes! Get your child ready for success in Kindergarten and inspire a love of lifelong learning with Mrs. Emily & Miss Chris! Register online at <https://www.wccls.org/events>, no library card required.

- Level 1 - Thursdays *through Dec. 15th* at 1 pm
- Level 2 - Wednesdays *through Dec. 14th* at 1:30 pm
- Kindergarten Continuation - Wednesdays *through Dec. 14th* at 4 pm

Teen Council

Friday, December 16th at 4:30 pm. Are you a teen who wants to make a difference in our community and connect with other teens? Do you have ideas on how the Library could better serve teens? We want YOU to join us every 3rd Friday of the month! Drop in, no registration required.

OBO Book Club for 6th-8th graders

Friday, December 8th at 4:30 pm at the library. The Oregon Battle of the Books (OBOB) is a statewide voluntary reading motivation and comprehension program. Join the North Plains OBOB Book Club! Create art, discuss the book, AND THEN BATTLE! Drop-in, no registration required. If accommodations would help you attend, please ask. We'll be discussing *Girl in the Blue Coat* by Monica Hesse.

Book Club

Wednesday, December 28th at 7 pm at the library. New patrons are welcome to join. Book Club will be reading *Why We Sleep: Unlocking the Power of Sleep and Dreams* by Matthew Walker. This will be a hybrid in-person and online event. Please email Carolyn at carolyn@markleavitt.com to receive a link and passcode. No library card required to register.

Tai Chi & Qigong Class at the Senior Center

Tai Chi & Qigong Class Fridays at 8 am in the Senior Center basement through December 9th. Learn and practice Tai Chi and Qigong exercises to increase energetic vitality, rejuvenate the mind body, & soul, and improve agility and flexibility with Christina. Drop in, no registration required.

Note the Library holiday closures below.

December City Calendar

Public meetings and events below are taking place in-person and many offer virtual options. Visit www.northplains.org/calendar for more events and details.



- 12/1 Jingle Thru North Plains - 6:30 pm
- 12/5 City Council (w/ 6 pm Work Session) - 7 pm
- 12/7 Economic Development Committee - 6 pm
- 12/12 Parks & Recreation Board - 6 pm
- 12/14 Planning Commission (w/ 6:30 pm Work Session) - 7 pm
- 12/19 City Council - 7 pm
- 12/24 Library closes at 2 pm
- 12/25 Library closed (Christmas Day)
- 12/26 City offices closed (Christmas observed)
- 12/31 Library closes at 5 pm (New Year's eve)
- 1/1 Library closed (New Year's Day)

City 101: Land Use and Development

As North Plains evolves, there are residential and business developments taking place and there will be more proposed in our future. ***So, how does private property develop?***

The City's land use and development is guided by state law, the City Council, Planning Commission, and the community's goals for a thriving North Plains. In a nutshell, private landowners come to the City with development plans and go through a process to ensure the plans meet land use code. Public involvement is required in all phases of the land use process as outlined in Goal 1 of Oregon's statewide land use system. The public must be provided opportunities through notifications, public meetings, and public hearings to learn about proposed development and provide input. This can result in modifications to the proposal before the Planning Commission and ultimately City Council considers a final decision on a development proposal.

More about Oregon's land use program:

In Oregon, land use planning refers to the intentional and regulated set of statewide laws, policies, and procedures that govern the management and development of non-federal and non-tribal lands. Counties, regions, and cities may (and usually do) have additional local land use planning systems including a Comprehensive Plan and Land Use and Development Codes that must align with the statewide system. The Department of Land Conservation and Development (DLCD) is the agency within the State of Oregon which administers the Oregon land use planning program.

With the passage of SB 100 in 1973, Oregon became the first state in the nation to implement such an extensive and unique system designed to improve coordination on critical State-wide issues including farmland reservation, transportation, and urbanization.

What is a Comprehensive Plan?

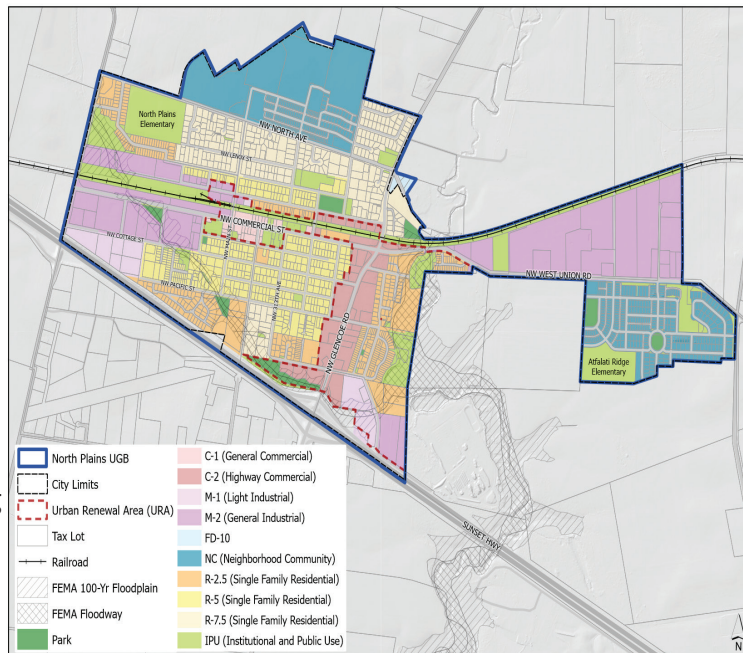
Every Oregon city is required to have a comprehensive plan, which can be seen as the "land use constitution." These plans are created and updated through a public involvement process in accordance with the 19 statewide land use planning goals and approved by the state. Comprehensive plans set standards on how certain types of land are planned and zoned and they determine development patterns for decades at a time. The City of North Plains Comprehensive Plan was amended and updated in April 2022 and is available on the City's website.

What is the City's Land Use and Development Code?

If the Comprehensive Plan is the "land use constitution," then the Land Use Code contains the "laws" governing land use and development on a daily basis. It contains numerous sections related to a variety of projects and uses allowed in particular zones, setbacks and height restrictions, parking and landscaping requirements, and similar development regulations. The City's land use code is amended on a regular basis to be both proactive with development patterns and community concerns,

as well as reactive to new State and regional laws. It is available on the City's website within the Municipal Code at <https://www.northplains.org/cityhall/page/municipal-code-charter>.

As North Plains continues to focus on thoughtful planning to ensure our community has a high quality of life and the services it needs, public input is needed and encouraged. No one knows North Plains better than our residents, and we encourage you to get involved by learning more about land use and development, attending public meetings and hearings, or applying to join a City board, commission, or committee.



Chief's Corner: Stay safe during shorter and darker days



Chief James Haxton

From darker days to heavy rain and foggy mornings, this time of year we find ourselves driving in poor visibility.

Take these extra precautions to keep

more visible to others on the road.

- **Use your low beams.** High beams will disperse in thick fog or snow, making visibility worse for you and other drivers.
- **Minimize distractions.** Whatever draws your attention from the road (talking with passengers, eating, listening to the radio, etc.) should be minimized while driving in poor conditions. Never use cell phones or handheld devices while driving.
- **Ensure your vehicle is weather-ready.** Clean your windshield and check your wiper blades, ensure tires have adequate tread and are rated for the weather, have your vehicle serviced, and keep a cold weather survival kit stored in your vehicle.
- **Eliminate drowsy driving.** Driving while tired puts

yourself and others safe on the roads:

- **Reduce speed.** Drivers' vision can be compromised, creating less reaction time, especially when driving at higher speeds.
- **Increase following distance** to ensure there is enough time to stop safely if needed.
- **Use the right edge of the road as a guide.** White fog lines or roadside reflectors can serve as helpful guides in poor visibility situations.
- **Turn your lights on.** When visibility is limited, lights are not only to help you see but also to make your vehicle



everyone at risk. According to the National Highway Safety Administration, drivers are three times more likely to be in a car crash if they are fatigued. Get plenty of rest, pull over if you're drowsy, and travel during times you're normally awake.

Stay safe out there, everyone!

Budget Committee Opening - We Need You!

Are you interested in getting involved in your community?

Do you want to be involved in the decision-making about City fiscal responsibility?

The Budget Committee has an opening!

Committee members serve 4-year terms and the Committee usually meets 1-2 times per year in the spring for biennial budget consideration, or for getting progress reports, hearing about budget adjustments and future budget planning before the second year of the biennial budget.

Learn more about the Budget Committee and find an application online at www.northplains.org/bc-budget/page/budget-committee or email lori.lesmeister@northplains.org.



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It's The Holidays: Safety Tips from TVF&R

It's the holiday season and traditions abound. One tradition many have is bringing a cut tree into their home and decorating it with twinkling lights and ornaments.

Each year, these trees account for hundreds of fires across the nation. But keeping your tree healthy and green will help keep your holiday safe!

Tualatin Valley Fire & Rescue encourages choosing a healthy, recently cut tree or to cut one down yourself.

Below are some tips to keep your tree merry:

- Right before placing the tree in its stand, cut about 2 inches from the base of the trunk. This helps the tree draw up water.
- Once the tree is in its stand, add water daily or as needed.
- Place the tree at least 3 feet from any heat source such as space heaters, fireplaces, heat vents, etc. Trees placed in a room where fireplaces and woodstoves are used will dry out much quicker and should be placed as far as possible from them. Make sure it doesn't block an exit.
- Use only decorative lights that have a label of a recognized testing laboratory and make sure bulbs, strings, and connections are not damaged or broken.
- Never use lit candles to decorate a tree.
- Check for dryness by running your hand down a branch; if the needles fall off, the tree is too dry and should be taken down and disposed of properly.
- Never burn a tree in your fireplace. The combination



of dry branches, pitch, and tree oils can ignite within seconds, sending sparks and flames into the room.

- If you choose an artificial tree, look for the label "Fire Resistant." This does not guarantee it won't catch fire, but it indicates it will resist burning and should extinguish quickly.

When it comes to brightening your home with twinkling lights, TVF&R offers the following tips:

- Only use UL-approved, low-heat lights and always use outdoor lights outside and indoor lights inside.
- Never use light sets with broken sockets, frayed and/or cracked wires, or missing sockets. Any one of these problems may cause an electrical shock or a fire.
- Prior to using a light set, place it on a non-flammable surface and plug it in for 10 to 15 minutes to check for smoking or melting.
- Lights should only be used on fresh or fire-resistant plastic trees. Never use electric lights on a metal tree as it can become charged with electricity from faulty lights and a person touching it could be electrocuted.
- Fasten outdoor lights securely to exterior walls, trees, or other firm supports to protect them from wind damage. Do not use nails or tacks to hold light strings in place. Instead, use plastic light string holders or run your light strings through hooks.
- Only use outdoor-rated extension cords with outside lighting displays.
- Turn off all lights when you go to bed or leave the house. Lights can short out and start a fire.

For more fire and life safety tips, visit www.tvfr.com.

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WWW.TenintysPizzaAndSubs.COM Online ordering available

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Jingle Thru North Plains

Thursday, December 1

Parade through town - 6:30 pm

Tree lighting ceremony, carolers &
refreshments on Commercial Street in front
of the Senior Center - 7-8 pm

More details:

www.northplains.org/calendar

HOLIDAY CRAFT

Faire

North Plains Public Library

December 1 - 24

Drop in during regular library hours to
purchase handcrafted items created and
donated by local community members. All
proceeds go to support the library.