



North Plains Connected

A monthly newsletter from the City of North Plains | June 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: *Community Culture*

Coming from a small town in Ohio, I valued playing with my friends and siblings from sun-up to sun-down during the summer. We played football in the street, broke bread with each other and looked out for one another. Everywhere we went, people knew our names and God-forbid if we got in trouble, because our parents would know before we got home. Family and neighbors were important to us.



Mural at Abbey Creek Winery

I was at a meeting last month and someone commented to me that I write about our small-town charm in the newsletter a lot. If you are that someone and you are reading this, that conversation was important to me and I really appreciate you for sharing your thoughts that night. You asked me how I can believe that North Plains will maintain the small-town feel as we continue to grow as we are. To me, the answer was simple, **Culture**. If people in North Plains value the small-town charm, then they will find a way to preserve the culture. I believe we can maintain the calm and serene environment of rural and semi-urban life. Our charm is relaxed and unpretentious, as well as the fact we are cute and quirky in a way that big cities aren't. Our traditions mean a lot to us. The Ice Cream Social, the Chili Cook off, Bingo and The Jingle. The people who volunteer to put on our favorite community events do so because they believe in tradition and community.

Community gatherings formed the heart of North Plains and continue to do so today.

A few years ago, community members put a lot of time and effort into creating a Vision Statement for North Plains. Here is an excerpt: "North Plains is an independent community within Washington County that maintains a small town character while accommodating current and future residents." (You can find the full text on our website). Current residents have a lot of history to share. The North Plains Historical Society meets every month at Jessie Mays.

Continued on pg 2

News From Your Library

Summer Reading starts June 1st!

Youth ages 0-18 stop by the library to pick up a Summer Reading Log and a free book! Set your reading goal and bring your log to the library in July for the chance to win some fun prizes. We have exciting programs for all ages. Visit the city calendar to learn more! <https://www.northplains.org/calendar/month/2022-06>

Summer Reading kickoff with **the Amazing Bubble Man! Join us Saturday, June 4th** at 1 pm at Jessie Mays Community Center for Amazing Bubbles! Louis Pearl has been thrilling audiences around the world for over 30 years with the art, magic, science, and fun of bubbles. Louis explores the breath-taking dynamics of bubbles, combining comedy and artistry with audience participation and enough spellbinding bubble tricks to keep everyone mesmerized. From square bubbles, fog-filled bubbles, giant bubbles, and bubble volcanoes, the Amazing Bubble Man conjures shrieks of laughter and gasps of amazement from all ages.

Meet the Authors

Tuesday, June 7th at 6:30 pm at Jessie Mays Community Center meet the authors of Eminent Oregonians. Jane Kirkpatrick, Steve Forrester, and R. Gregory Nokes will appear in person to talk about three people who changed Oregon history. Renowned author Jane Kirkpatrick discusses the suffragist, newspaper publisher & novelist Abigail Scott Duniway. Columnist and publisher Steve Forrester talks about U.S. Senator Richard Neuberger. Acclaimed journalist R. Gregory Nokes recounts the life of the abolitionist Jesse Applegate.

Youth Outdoor Survival Camp

Eight weeks of outdoor survival camp starting Thursday, June 23rd at 10 am at Jessie Mays Community Park. Tom and Christy will teach youth camp skills, shelter building, compass use, safe water collection, hypothermia protection, and more. For our final week, we will make a survival kit for youth to keep! Recommended for youth entering 3rd-6th grade. Register online at <https://www.wcccls.org/events>.

Teen Tie Dye

Teens in 6th -12th grade welcome on Friday, June 17th at 4:00 p.m. at Jessie Mays Park to create your own tie-dyed t-shirt! Materials will be provided. Register online at <https://www.wcccls.org/events>

Mayor's Corner - continued from pg 1

Everyone is welcome to come to their meetings to learn about the rich history of our town. Our local events are another opportunity to meet your neighbors and share your stories.

Do I believe we can preserve our culture and share this unique place with others? Yes. We can connect with our neighbors to find common ground so everybody knows everybody, and we can bridge the gap between old and new. It takes effort, but if you want it, you gotta do the work.

~Mayor Teri

If you want more information on how you can volunteer in your community, please email us at volunteernow@northplainsevents.com.

Family Picnic Bingo

Wednesday, June 22nd at Sunset Ridge West Park from 5 pm - 6:30 pm. Bring a blanket and picnic and play free Bingo for prizes! All ages welcome.

Outdoor Storytimes

Outdoor Storytime Wednesdays at 11 am 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.

Bookbabies Storytime Fridays at 10 am at Jessie Mays Park. Miss Chris guides parents and caregivers through some inspirational early learning activities for outdoor. Bring a blanket or chair, and we will work together to learn stories, songs, rhymes, and early literacy strategies! Bubbles and playtime galore! Take some time to visit with other parents and caregivers while entertaining and educating your little one. Outdoor Storytimes will be held indoors at the Jessie Mays Community Center if the weather is bad. Online storytimes continue each Tuesday at 10 am.

Everyone Can Cook! Campfire Recipes that will Impress

Do you love to cook? Bake? Roast? Preserve? Join Emily for some important kitchen basics that all ages should learn! The entire family can join us. On Wednesday, June 29th at 5 pm we will make some impressive campfire recipes. You will receive an email the Friday before our session with zoom and ingredient information. Register online at <https://www.wcccls.org/events>.

City 101: Budget Perspective - Part 2

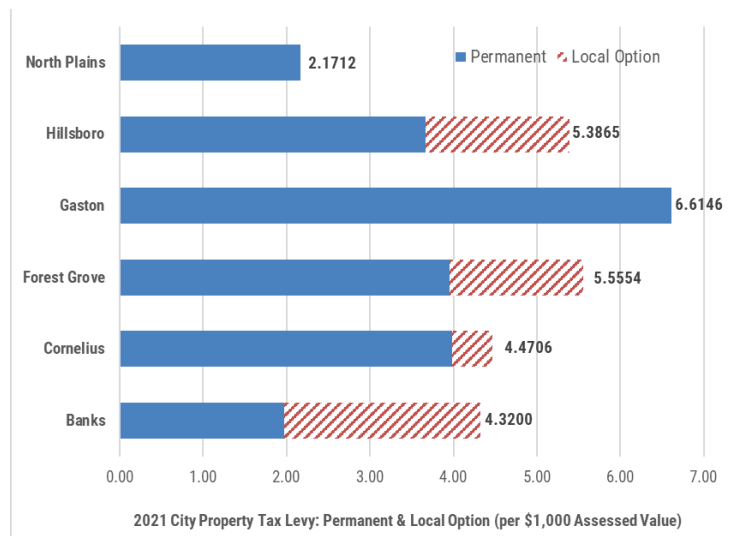
This is the second of a 3-part series on the City's budget and planning for the future. In part 1 we provided an overview of the current challenges. In this part 2 we will share more details about short and medium-term solutions, and in Part 3 coming next month we'll share longer-term vision for fiscal sustainability.

North Plains has operated on a conservative, small-city budget for many years. With service demand, expectations, and costs for city services rising with our expanding community, this has presented challenges.

Short-term, North Plains has focused on operating with as frugal a budget as possible, including continuing to operate from a city hall and library which we have outgrown and are no longer sufficient to support staff and community needs. We also incorporated an "Expenditure Control Budgeting" management approach in 2020 that breaks from traditional local government budgeting, enabling the carry-over of unspent funds by General Fund departments to improve budget management and discourage waste. In 2021, we moved from a typical annual budgeting process to a more effective and efficient biennial budget that helps with longer-term projections.

Looking forward and in order to best serve the needs of North Plains, the City needs to be on a fiscally sustainable footing. This requires looking at other sources of revenue so that we can at least be on par with the service levels of other cities in our area.

One medium-term option that many local governments have in place is a local option levy. All cities have a permanent City property tax rate that is a portion of the total tax rate that property owners pay (the solid bar in the graph). North Plains' challenge is that our City permanent rate is currently the second-lowest among all cities in Washington County, and is the only local levy charged to our taxpayers.



When service levels require more funding than possible with the fixed permanent levy alone, Cities usually elect to add a local option levy in five-year increments. As shown in the striped bars in the chart below, most nearby cities have a local option levy approved by voters to raise additional taxes that fund important services such as police, parks, and library operations. The City Council is currently working on a proposal to place a local option levy on the fall 2022 ballot for residents to vote on.

The City of North Plains continues to plan for sustainable and responsible fiscal stability in order to meet our commitment to delivering efficient and quality city services to our community. Next month, we will share longer-term solutions that are in progress in City 101: Budget Perspective, Part 3.

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Chief's Corner: Increased Police Coverage

The city of North Plains is committed to providing our community members with the highest public safety standards and customer service possible while remaining fiscally responsible. Recently, we hosted a town hall where we invited city residents to address concerns and assist us by providing feedback on executive decisions that could impact our community. The resounding feedback we received, both at the town hall and through other channels, is the community's desire for full-time police coverage.

North Plains Police, through our partnership with Washington County Sheriff's Office (WCSO), employs 2.75 full-time law enforcement positions. We understand the community's concern regarding the times we lack on-duty officers, and we are exploring budgetary options with the city to increase our coverage. In response, back in February 2022, we began allocating overtime hours to help fill the gap and cover off-hours in the interim. We hear and understand this need and plan to continue



augmenting our force with overtime until we can find a funding source to increase our assigned coverage.

Since North Plains Police partnered with WCSO back in 2019, city residents gained many additional services, including on-shift deputies available to respond to priority calls 24/7. In the hours when North Plains lacks a designated shift deputy, we have the resources for immediate response to emergencies. Our police force also benefits from WCSO's optimal deputy training and countywide resources such as the Mental Health Response and Houseless Outreach Programs and Engagement Teams.

We sincerely value your feedback; a big part of making law enforcement decisions includes hearing from our community and responding accordingly. I invite you to reach out and share your feedback and concerns by emailing me at policechief@northplains.org.



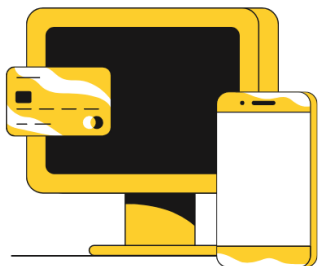
Chief James Haxton

New Online Payment

We are pleased to share that the City is launching a new and improved online payment system in July 2022. CivicPay will replace our current system and will offer a more convenient and efficient way of paying online. No longer will customers who wish to pay online have to enter their account information each time they make a payment - CivicPay allows you to register your account once and login when you need to. You can easily manage paperless billing and autopay which allow you to pay securely using a bank account or a credit/debit card.

The new web portal will feature bill and payment history, electronic statements, usage history, and the ability to submit service requests for maintenance needs and to notify billing of account changes.

Details of when the system is available and how to set up your account are coming soon!



June 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.



- 6/1 Economic Development Committee - 6 pm
- 6/1 Summer Reading Begins
- 6/2 Annual Ice Cream Social - 6 pm
- 6/4 The Amazing Bubble Man - 1 pm
- 6/6 City Council - 7 pm (6 pm work session)
- 6/8 Planning Commission - 7 pm (6 pm work session)
- 6/13 Parks and Recreation Board - 6 pm
- 6/15 Library Board - 7 pm
- 6/18 Community Strawberry Shortcake Festival - 10 am to 3 pm
- 6/20 City Council - 7 pm
- 6/22 Family Picnic Bingo - 5 pm

Prevent Wildfires: Tualatin Valley Fire & Rescue

Wildfires Can Happen Here — Take Steps Now to Reduce Risks

It's important for property owners to take steps to help protect your home and land from potential wildfires this summer.

During a wildfire, time is crucial and resources are limited. What you've done before a fire strikes may determine whether firefighters are able to save your home and other structures on your property.

Tualatin Valley Fire & Rescue has taken deliberate steps in the past 20 years to ensure a quick and effective response to wildfire, including investing in specialized wildland vehicles and equipment. Firefighters also participate in hands-on training.

This is the perfect time to create a 30-foot defensible space or safety zone around your home that may help firefighters safely protect your home from an encroaching fire. To create this space, homeowners are encouraged to take the following steps:

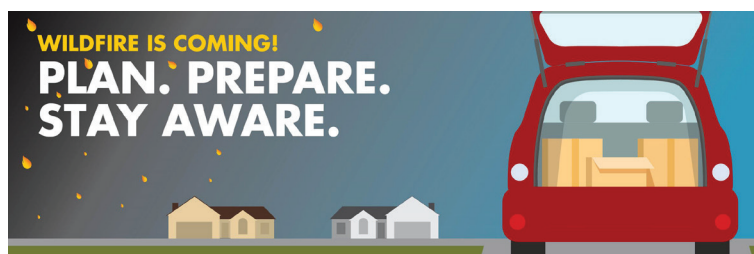
- De-limb trees at least 10 feet up from the ground and cut back tree limbs hanging over your roof.
- Trim branches that are within 10 feet of a chimney.
- Consider replacing wood shakes or shingles on the roof with non-combustible or fire-resistant materials.
- Remove leaves, brush, and other debris from your gutters, rooftop, and underneath decks and

crawlspaces.

- Regularly mow and water lawns and other green belts on your property. Keep your landscaping well pruned and watered.
- Plant low-growing, fire-resistant plants such as groundcover, perennials, and annuals near your home.
- Plant individual shrubs and hardwood trees at least 10 feet from your home and other structures.
- Store firewood and other combustibles at least 100 feet from your home.

Ensure firefighters can quickly find your home by posting your address at the beginning of a long driveway. Make

sure your street is named or numbered and a sign is posted at each street intersection of your driveway or road. If you need a rural address sign, call 503-697-9418.



Access to your property is also crucial. To ensure crews can safely respond, cut back low-hanging tree limbs and clear dense vegetation and debris from the road or driveway. Driveways should be 20 feet wide and have a minimum clearance of 15 feet overhead.

For more information about wildfire safety tips and additional preventative measures, visit www.tvfr.com/wildfire for "Ready, Set, Go!" wildfire resources.

Northplains.org: Your 24-7 Resource Center

The City's website is a 24-7 source of information! Here are just some of the resources:

Have questions about the City of North Plains services, initiatives or projects?

We have a helpful FAQ section that includes information on everything from City Council meetings to community development to finances to City 101 topics. Visit www.northplains.org/faqs.

New to town?

We have some helpful resources to help get you connected and settled in. Visit www.northplains.org/community/page/new-town.

Looking for public meeting or community event info? Visit www.northplains.org/calendar.



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North Plains Events Association

Strawberry Shortcake Feast



**Saturday, June 18th
10 am - 3 pm**

**Fresh homemade
Strawberry Shortcake!**



Arts and craft vendors

Jessie Mays Community Center, 30975 NW Hillcrest St, North Plains