



# North Plains Connected

A monthly newsletter from the City of North Plains - April 2024

## 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](http://www.NorthPlains.org)



## Contact Your Council:

Mayor Teri Lenahan

Robert Kindel

Russ Sheldon

Cameron Martinez

James Fage

Rickey Smith

Trista Papen

## City Manager's Message: Land Use 101

*From City Manager Andy Varner*

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. 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 often required in all phases of the land use process as outlined in Goal 1 of Oregon's statewide land use system. Depending on application type, the public could 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 sometimes 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 preservation, 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," consisting of community visions and development goals. 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.

*Continued on pg 2*

# State of the City 2024

Thank you to all who attended the packed-house 2024 State of the City on Monday, March 18!

If you missed it, see what grew well in 2023 and what's sprouting for 2024 in this video of the Mayor's presentation here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EF7vZnC-A-EE>



## City Manager Message - continued from pg 1

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 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.

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.



# March City Calendar

Public meetings and events below take place in-person and many offer virtual options. Visit [www.northplains.org/calendar](http://www.northplains.org/calendar) for more events and details.

- 4/3 Economic Development Commission - 6 pm
- 4/8 Parks & Recreation Board - 6 pm
- 4/10 Planning Commission - 6 pm (new time)
- 4/11 Volunteer Appreciation Dinner - 6 pm
- 4/15 City Council Meeting - 7 pm
- 4/17 Library Board Meeting - 7 pm
- 5/1 Economic Development Commission - 6 pm
- 5/4 Citywide Garage Sale - 8 am to 5 pm
- 5/6 City Council Meeting - 7 pm (w 6 pm work session)



**JOIN US FOR OUR ANNUAL**

## Noodles and Doodles Spaghetti Dinner

**A FREE COMMUNITY DINNER**



Classic or Vegetarian

**Thursday, April 11 • 6 - 7:30 pm**

**JESSIE MAYS COMMUNITY CENTER**

**30975 NW Hillcrest St, North Plains**

Meet your community and neighbors

**Doodle on the tables, doodle on the walls...**

**It'll be oodles of FUN**

# February Library Programs & Events

## Featured Programs

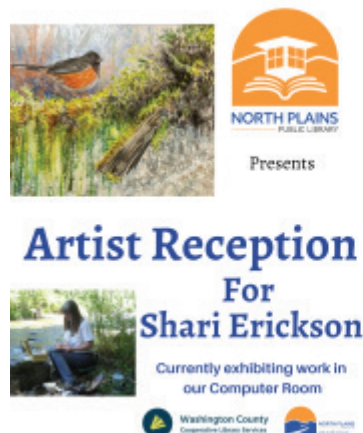
**A Long Road to Home: Immigrant Stories, Thursday, April 18th at 6:30 pm** April is Genocide Awareness Month, and we're kicking off a series of programs presenting heartening stories of immigrant



Oregonians and their journeys to find a new home. Join us April 18th as we hear from two extraordinary Oregonians, Saron Khut from Cambodia and Emmanuel Turaturanye from Rowanda. Their stories of survival and refuge from

genocide will be shared along with author Elizabeth Mehren, whose newly published book *I Lived to Tell the World* captures their inspiring journeys. In partnership with The Immigrant Story, this event will shed light on the atrocities of war and also celebrate the strength and determination of individuals who have rebuilt their lives in Oregon after enduring unimaginable hardship. Don't miss this uplifting event filled with personal narratives, music, refreshments, and a book giveaway -- as we come together to reflect, learn, and celebrate the resilience of the human spirit. *Funding for this program is provided by the National Endowment for the Humanities, Oregon Cultural Trust, Susan Hammer Fund for the Oregon Community Foundation, and Oregon Humanities corporate supporters.*

**Artist Reception with Shari Erickson Saturday, April 27th from 2 -4 pm in the library.** Local artist Shari Erickson, currently showing her work in the Programming Room, will be at the library to connect with community members and speak about her work. No registration required, drop in. Light refreshments will be provided.



**Sat. April 27th | 2-4 pm**  
At the Library  
31334 NW Commercial St.  
North Plains



**National Library Worker's Day Staff In-Service - Tuesday, April 9th. The Library will be opening at 12:00 pm due to a staff in-service.**



## \*4-H Explorstation Workshop:

**Wednesday, March 6th at 3 pm in the library.** Join Alice Phillips, 4-H Youth Development from the Oregon State Extension Service, Washington County, and Mrs Emily, our Early Literary Specialist, for an hour of STEAM (science, technology, engineering, arts, math). Register online at [wccls.org/events](http://wccls.org/events).

## Library Meetings

- 4/8 Friends of the Library Public Quarterly Meeting - 7 pm @ the Library
- 4/17 Library Board Meeting - 7 pm @ the Library

## Recurring Library Programs/Events

Homework Help - Mondays, 5:30 & 6 pm

Storytime - Wednesdays, 11 am

Bookbabies - Fridays, 10 am

Craft Guild - 1st Tuesday of each month, 5:30 pm

Teen Council - 2nd Friday of each month, 4:30 pm

Tech Help - 2nd Thursday of each month 1-3 pm

**Visit [www.northplains.org/calendar](http://www.northplains.org/calendar) for more events and details.**

**If accommodations would help you to attend any library programs - please contact us.**

**Our Library events are always free!**

**The North Plains Public Library is a member of:**



**Washington County  
Cooperative Library Services**



## Library Receives \$20,000 Accessibility Grant

The North Plains Public Library has been awarded a \$20,000 grant as part of Libraries Transforming Communities: Accessible Small and Rural Communities, an initiative by the American Library Association (ALA) aimed at improving accessibility and services for individuals with disabilities.

As one of 310 libraries chosen to participate in this second round of these awards, this grant will enable the Library to implement several initiatives to enhance accessibility for residents with disabilities.

The primary focus of the project is to improve wayfinding and accessibility inside and around the library. Currently, individuals with disabilities face challenges navigating the library independently, particularly those with vision impairments.

The grant will support the implementation of inclusive wayfinding features such as high-contrast tactile signage, auditory beacons, and braille maps.

In addition to wayfinding improvements, the grant will fund the hiring of a program manager consultant with lived experience as a disabled individual. This consultant will work closely with library staff to identify and address shortcomings in wayfinding and ensure that individuals of any ability can navigate the library space with ease.

"We are proud to be chosen again for this amazing opportunity which will allow us to further our commitment to inclusivity and accessibility in our community," said Library Director Robin Doughty, "Improving accessibility within our library is essential to ensuring that all members of our community feel

welcome and have equal access to resources and services."

Residents with disabilities will have the opportunity to provide input and feedback on the project through community conversations hosted by the library. These conversations will help shape implementation of accessibility features to best meet the community's needs.

If you are interested in participating in the community conversations or would

like more information, please email [robin.doughty@northplains.org](mailto:robin.doughty@northplains.org) or visit the Library's website.

In the first round of the ALA Libraries Transforming Communities grants in 2023, North Plains received \$20,000 which transformed the public computer stations into adaptive stations equipped for users of all abilities, additional adaptive equipment for check-out with a library card, and sensory-friendly storytime supplies and kits.



### City of North Plains Annual Clean-up Day Saturday, May 11, 2024

St. Edwards Church  
10990 NW 313th Ave  
8 am to 11 am

*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.*

Sponsored by



For more details on this event, including a list of acceptable waste and recycling items and disposal fees visit: [www.northplains.org/calendar](http://www.northplains.org/calendar).

Garbarino Disposal is providing dumpsters for junk materials and recyclables.

Recology will accept yard debris from residents, free of charge on May 11, 2024, at their facility (9570 NW 307th Ave).

# Chief's Corner



## Window Fall Safety

Window falls happen quickly and unexpectedly, and as our weather warms up, we want to remind everyone about the hidden danger windows pose in our homes.

During this time of year, we often begin to receive calls related to window

falls. There are many steps you can take to help prevent window falls, while keeping in mind that windows still need to be accessible as an alternate exit point in case of emergency.

Red flags to watch out for:

- Keep windows closed and locked when not in use or when young children are present. If needed for ventilation, try to open a window that is out of reach of a child.
- Install window stops or guards— screens are meant to keep bugs out, not children in. Make sure the window stops at a maximum of 4 inches when opened, even with screens installed. Request for payment via gift card.
- Avoid placing furniture or anything children can climb on near a window. This reduces the risk of children being tempted to explore and potentially fall.
- Teach children to stay at least 2 feet away from windows and enforce the rule.

Let the sunshine and nice weather in, but always prioritize safety. Let's work together to prevent window falls.



Get facts about the  
North Plains Urban  
Growth Boundary and  
Measure 34-327:  
[northplains.org/34327](http://northplains.org/34327)

## Right-of-Way Reminders

### Keep our Community Safe and Looking it's Best

As in many communities, landowners in North Plains are responsible for keeping existing sidewalks and street trees in the public right-of-way (ROW) abutting their property in good repair and safe condition. It's also important to make sure your lawns and the right-of-way areas are mowed and free from weeds or other noxious vegetation in compliance with the City Municipal Code.

Here are some important things to know, as some preventative maintenance can protect you from liability if someone gets injured due to unsafe conditions that you are responsible for:

- Sidewalk responsibility includes repairing cracking or uneven sidewalks and removing overgrown vegetation, snow, wet leaves, or other obstructions on the sidewalk that affect pedestrian movement. Most uneven sidewalks are caused by the roots of street trees.
- Street trees are also required to be limbed up at least 8 feet above the sidewalk.
- Owners or persons in charge of property to cut down or to destroy grass and other vegetation to prevent them from becoming unsightly, from becoming a fire hazard, or, in the case of weeds or other noxious vegetation, from going to seed.

More details on all of this can be found in the [North Plains Municipal Code](#) (sections 92 and 152).

If you experience or see issues related to these ROW requirements, please call the Public Works Department at 503-647-5555. We're happy to come take a look and help determine the best course of action.

## Purchase a Memorial Brick at North Plains Veterans Memorial Park

**ORDER BY MAY 1, 2024 FOR INSTALLATION BY MEMORIAL DAY!**

The City of North Plains dedicated The Veterans Memorial Park on Highland Court & 313th Ave in 2020. Memorial Bricks are part of the park design and are for sale through the North Plains Parks Foundation to honor Veterans who are serving or have served and are living or deceased.

**Order online here:**

[www.northplains.org/memorialbricks](http://www.northplains.org/memorialbricks)



[npparksfoundation.org](http://npparksfoundation.org)



## TVF&R Local Option Levy on May Ballot



Voters will see Measure 34-332 on the May 21, 2024, ballot

Voters will decide whether to support Tualatin Valley Fire & Rescue's local option levy to

maintain fire and emergency medical response services and personnel hired since 2000.

Measure 34-332 proposes a replacement five-year operating levy with a rate of 69 cents per \$1,000 of assessed valuation. For a property assessed at \$305,000, about the average in TVF&R's service area, the cost of the local option levy would be about \$210 per year or \$17.54 a month.

TVF&R's existing levy, which was approved in 2019, will not sustain current or future fire and emergency medical service operations and is set to expire in June 2025.

Under Oregon law, levies expire in five years or less and require voter approval.

Over the past five years, there has been a 23 percent increase in the frequency of emergency incidents in TVF&R's service area. The District's growing community and rising demands require more firefighters and paramedics to maintain reliable emergency response.

If the replacement levy does not pass, funding that pays for at least 92 of 450 TVF&R firefighters and paramedics would be lost and staffing reductions would be required,

which may impact response times and reliability.

If the replacement levy passes, levy funds will retain existing first responders and add 36 more. Additional responders at existing stations will ensure prompt response times and reliability when multiple incidents happen at the same time.

Levy funding will also be used to purchase specialized equipment used for medical emergencies such as cardiac monitors and defibrillators as well as critical firefighting tools, including thermal imagers that aid in search and rescue efforts and self-contained breathing apparatus worn by firefighters in burning buildings.

With increased wildfire risk and a strained emergency medical system, levy proceeds will also purchase smaller vehicles used to fight wildfire, shuttle water, and transport patients.

Levy funds will allow the District to add personnel who train and equip first responders.

If approved, the replacement levy would appear on the November 2025 property tax statement. This measure may cause property taxes to increase by more than 3 percent. TVF&R intends to maintain the same levy rate for 10 years, which will help long-term planning, ensure service stability, and provide predictability to taxpayers

For more info or to schedule a presentation, call Public Affairs Manager Stefan Myers at 503-649-8577.