



North Plains Connected

A monthly newsletter from the City of North Plains - June 2023

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

It Takes People to Power our Events

From City Manager Andy Varner

Community surveys and good ol' neighborly conversations reveal that one of the favorite things people value in North Plains is our community events. The North Plains Event Association (NPEA), the City's partner organization for event organizing, lists eleven events throughout the year, including the Ice Cream Social in June, the Elephant Garlic Fest in August, and the Holiday Jingle in December. The Volunteer Recognition Dinner was successfully re-branded as Noodles and Doodles in April. We had the Garage Sale Day and Clean-up Day in May, and the Chili Cook-off is always a spicy time, held each October. There are even more events: our town celebrates local veterans at the Veterans Memorial Park each Memorial and Veterans Day. We hold a National Night Out in August to highlight public safety and community policing. And there are Concerts in the Park in the summer.

Events help build the fabric of a community. The pandemic years showed that we are social creatures, and getting together with folks you recognize is what makes our small town so special. It's also a way to make new friends, and discover neighbors you didn't already know.

However, no event happens by accident. They take work and, most importantly, they take people. Events require people that have a passion for their community. And here, I am going to name some names, just like at the Oscars. Because these people deserve it.

We have Patti Burns, Cindy Smith, Teri Lenahan, Russ Sheldon, Stewart King, and Sherrie Simmons from NPEA. We have Cindy Hirst, Kim Maus, Salena Griffith, and Kathy Strom from the Chamber of Commerce. Our Public Works crew - Andrew, Javier, Cody, Isaiah, and Dustin - help with setup. There are partners, like Patti's husband Terry, always lending two hands. And then there are members of our City Council, Parks & Recreation Board, Economic Development Committee, the Knights of Pythias, local churches, and local businesses.

This list is not comprehensive, and I have undoubtedly left a few folks out. But even then, it is obvious to see that more volunteers help create better events. If you see a volunteer at these events, thank them. Or better yet, offer to pitch in. Here's to a fun summer of events!



Welcome to the Team! Introducing New City Employees

Library Assistant Sparrow Churchill Dicks joined the North Plains Library in April, 2023 and also works as a circulation assistant at the Aloha Community Library. Their love of community spaces and a life-long love of learning



puts them right at home in the Library. Hailing from Southern and Central Oregon, they are now pursuing an education at Portland Community College, with the intent to transfer to Portland State University. When not at work or studying, Ro can be found writing and recording

music, telling collaborative stories with friends, or cuddling with their cat, Pistachio.

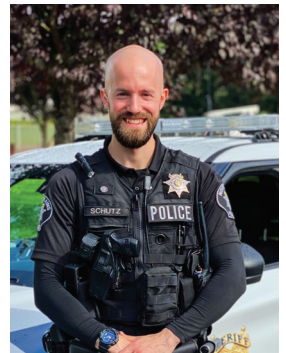
Library Assistant Jason Crane joined the library staff in April, 2023. He also works as a massage therapist for Providence Integrative Medicine and holds a number of jobs at the Aladdin Theater. When not at work (which is increasingly rare) he spends his free time reading (obviously), working out, gardening and listening to records with his wife and cats. His reading tastes lean heavily towards history and social sciences but is a sucker for a great detective story. He is also a resident of North Plains, so you might already know him.



Public Works Director Dustin Lueckenotte joined the North Plains team in late April, 2023. He brings many years of experience working with public works maintenance and infrastructure projects and most recently was the Inspections Supervisor for Clean Water Services. Prior to his career in public works, Dustin was a paratrooper, horizontal construction engineer, and supervisor in the US Army Corps of Engineers for ten years. Dustin also served as an elementary school teacher and has a passion for education and training. He hopes to use his combined skills and experience to help equip and maintain an effective public works operations team, and is looking forward to supporting the City in providing high quality drinking water, streets and infrastructure, stormwater, and park services to the community.



Deputy Steven Schutz originally started with the North Plains Police Department in 2017. After a brief hiatus working in the private sector and then as a Washington County Sheriff's Deputy, he re-joined North Plains in March, 2023. He has enjoyed working with the North Plains community on and off over the years and is happy to be back.



Public Safety Levy Next Steps

While the Measure 34-322 City of North Plains 5-Year Public Safety Local Option Levy outcome isn't official until Washington County Elections certifies results on June 12, 2023, preliminary results indicate that it won't pass. The City, in partnership with the Washington County Sheriff's Office, remains dedicated to serving our community as effectively as possible with the available resources.

The City Council supported this levy in response to community feedback and because they believe it is necessary to fund critical local police support. The City is committed to understanding community expectations around public safety services and how to fund them and will be engaging with the City Council on next steps.

Urban Growth Boundary FAQ

The City of North Plains has been working on an Urban Growth Boundary (UGB) Expansion since fall 2020. This expansion is required by Oregon law. City Council will consider adoption of a recommended expansion scenario and full UGB Expansion Report on June 5, 2023.

We are committed to thoughtful planning to maintain the character and livability of North Plains, and we know our community has questions and concerns.

Visit www.northplains.org/UGB for answers to frequently asked questions about the UGB and North Plains' process.

News From Your Library

****Unless otherwise noted, programs are drop-in, no registration required.***

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

Storytime at the Library - Wednesdays at 11 am

Time for stories, bubbles and songs!

Following storytime Mrs. Emily will teach children to identify and sound out letters of the alphabet and counting basics. Parents and caregivers learn meaningful techniques that will help expand learning experiences at home with your child.



Bookbabies - Fridays at 10 am

Miss Chris guides parents and caregivers through some inspirational early development activities for babies and toddlers. Adults learn techniques that help expand learning experiences at home with your child. Bonus: Visit with other parents and care givers while entertaining and educating your little one.

Teen Council - Friday, June 9th at 4:30 pm

Do you want to connect with other teens? Are you a teen that wants to make a difference in our community? Do you have some ideas on how the North Plains Public Library could better serve teens? We want YOU to join.

Letters from Home Wednesday, June 14th at 7 pm

in the Library. Join us for our first Letters From Home Series. Local resident Yulia Brockdorf will share her recent travels to her homeland Ukraine and offer insight into the country's rich history and culture. Through Yulia's firsthand account, gain a deeper understanding of the impact of war on the Ukrainian people and the assistance that Yulia is organizing to support them. This in-person event promises to be enlightening and eye-opening.



Summer Reading starts June 1st!

Everyone can sign up anytime this summer at the library; children pick up a reading log and choose a brand new, free book to keep! Make a summer reading goal that works for you! Track your reading all summer long. **July 24th-29th** is Spin and Win Week! Bring

in your reading log with some reading completed, spin the wheel and have the chance to win prizes!

When you finish your goal, return your log to the library for a 2nd brand new, free book to keep for you ages 0-18. View our summer reading events at wccls.org/events. **Summer reading is for adults, too!** Pick up a summer reading challenge with the chance to win prizes.

Summer Reading Kick-off with Jessa Campbell & the Saplings, June 10th at 1 pm.

With her captivating voice and catchy tunes, Jessa will sing about the wonders of nature from her happy home in the drippy Pacific Northwest! From the salmon's journey towards the ocean to the vast expanse of the forest, your children will be delighted by the colorful and educational songs that celebrate the beauty of nature! Come learn about the migration of the Monarch, how rainbows are formed and more!

Creature Teachers Wednesday, June 21st at 1 pm at

Jessie Mays Community Center. Creature Teachers aims to foster an appreciation for all wildlife, including the under-loved and misunderstood creatures. Come and meet our scaly, feathery and furry friends! Creature Teachers will talk about their creatures and then you'll have a chance to meet them and ask questions!



Super Smash Brothers Tournament Friday June 23rd at

Jessie Mays Community Center. Join us for a back to back Super Smash Tournament! **Kids join us at 2 pm, Teens at 4 pm.** The first 32 people to sign up are guaranteed a spot to play, so arrive early! Watching and cheering people on is also encouraged! There will be a \$20 GameStop gift card for first place and a \$10 gift care for second place for each tournament. No registration required.



Summer Reading Art Lab Monday, June 26th at 1 pm at

Jessie Mays Community Center. In June, we will explore Optical Illusions with Line Art! Participants will leave with two works of art. All materials provided. ART LAB is free to all participants. This program is best suited for elementary-aged kids and their adults if they are under 10. Registration required, wccls.org/events. No library card needed to register.

Library Awarded Grant for Accessible Services

\$20,000 grant will help the library provide more accessible services to community members with disabilities

The North Plains Public Library has been selected as one of 240 libraries to participate in Libraries Transforming Communities: Accessible Small and Rural Communities, an American Library Association (ALA) initiative that provides community engagement and accessibility resources to small and rural libraries to help them better serve people with disabilities.

The \$20,000 competitive award will help the library provide a public computer station equipped for community members with disabilities, additional adaptive equipment for check-out with a library card to use at home, and sensory-friendly storytime supplies.

"We are proud to be one of four Oregon libraries chosen for this grant award and we look forward to getting to know our patrons with disabilities better so we can improve our services and ensure this population feels welcome and comfortable in our space," said Library Director Robin Doughty. "Our use of this grant can be adapted based on community conversations, so before we move forward we will seek feedback from community members with disabilities to learn their thoughts and priorities. We believe in the disability empowerment slogan, 'Nothing About Us, Without Us.'"

Library staff will host a conversation with residents about adaptive technologies most desired in North Plains and use the grant funds to purchase computer station furniture, hardware, software, and peripherals for community use. Some of the equipment will be available for check out with a library card.

Library staff will hold an additional group play/conversation with children and parents to determine the best sensory-friendly supplies to include in library storytimes and in kits to check out.

Invitations to join these conversations will be shared through the City's and Library's various public communications channels in the coming months.

If you have questions or would like to provide feedback on the grant services, please contact Library Director Robin Doughty at rdoughty@wccls.org 503-647-5555 x108.

June City Calendar

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



- 6/1 North Plains 60th Anniversary Celebration & Ice Cream Social - 6 pm
- 6/5 City Council (w/6 pm Work Session) - 7 pm
- 6/7 Economic Development Committee - 6 pm
- 6/10 Jessie Mays Park Ribbon Cutting - 11 am
- 6/12 Parks & Recreation Board - 6 pm
- 6/14 Planning Commission - 7 pm
- 6/17 Strawberry Shortcake Feast - 10 am
- 6/19 Juneteenth Holiday - City Hall & Library Closed
- 6/20 City Council - 7 pm
- 6/21 Library Board - 7 pm



Strawberry Shortcake Feast!

June 17, 2023

(Always the Saturday of Father's Day Weekend)

10 am - 3 pm

North Plains Senior Center

Thank you to the North Plains Events Association for producing this annual event!

Chief's Corner: Water Safety



Chief James Haxton

With higher temperatures in the summer season, what are some ways to stay safe when swimming in open water?

Warmer weather can create many new and fun experiences during the summer, whether taking

a dip in a pool or being around an open body of water. Consider the following to keep yourself and loved ones safe while trying to stay cool.

- Wear a life jacket. Everybody should wear a life jacket when in, on, or around water.
- Never swim alone. Go with someone who is looking out for you and who you are looking out for in turn
- When in doubt, get out. Whether the current is getting rough, or your body isn't responding like you would like it to due to fatigue or muscle cramps.
- Swim in designated swimming areas. Most state parks, beaches, and lakefronts have places or designated times when swimming is allowed and use flags to indicate borders. This helps protect swimmers from boats or other hazards.
- Don't use alcohol or drugs. This affects your perception, making you more likely to take unnecessary risks. It also impairs balance and coordination, which are essential to swimming.
- Learn CPR. Knowing this lifesaving skill could help you respond to assist others when an emergency occurs.
- Swimming in natural water is different than swimming in a pool. Cold water, drop-offs, entrapment, other swimmers, boats, and fishing lines can be hazardous. The existing environment can also change daily, and "familiar" swim areas can have new hazards that were not there before.



Make water safety a priority to ensure that you make positive summer memories. Learn more about water safety: <https://rdcrss.org/3HTK8e5>

Jessie Mays Community Park Grand Re-Opening Celebration!

Saturday, June 10, 2023 | 11 am
Jessie Mays Community Park Playground

Prevent Window Falls



In the U.S. 3,300 children under the age of 6 fall from windows every year. Around 8 children die each year. 70% of falls are from second or third story windows. As a partner in the Stop at 4 Inches Campaign

to Prevent Window Falls, TVF&R urges parents and families to continue to commit to window safety.

In Oregon, a majority of falls occur between May and September, but can happen anytime windows are open. TVF&R crews want to prevent devastating window falls from occurring. There are simple steps to help prevent this kind of tragedy in your home.

- Window screens are not strong enough to keep a child from falling out of a window. They are designed to keep bugs out, not kids in.
- Keep windows closed and locked when not in use.
- Keep furniture and anything a child can climb on away from windows.
- Do not open windows more than 4 inches, and install window stops to prevent windows from opening wide enough to allow a child to tumble out.
- Make sure the window stops can be easily removed by an adult in the event of a fire or other emergency.
- For a double-hung window, open the top portion near the ceiling for ventilation while keeping the bottom portion closed.
- Actively watch children near windows – no device can replace adult supervision. Encourage children to keep a safe distance away from windows. Ask about window safety when your child visits other homes.



For more about window safety, appropriate safety devices for your style of windows, and places to purchase window stops and guards, visit www.StopAt4.com.



North Plains 4th of July Celebration!

Parade (begins at 11:00 am)

Live music from the Masey Gard Band at Jessie Mays Community Park (noon-2 pm)

Check <https://northplainsevents.com/> or www.northplains.org/calendar for more details and info on how to sign up to be in the parade.

This community event produced by the North Plains Events Association

2023 Youth Summer Sports Day Camps

in North Plains

The YMCA, in partnership with the City of North Plains, is offering three weeks of sports day camps in North Plains this summer!

- June 26-30 | Soccer Camp
Atfalati Ridge Elementary
- July 10-14 | Flag Football Camp
Atfalati Ridge Elementary
- August 21-25 | Sport Sampling Camp
Jessie Mays Community Park

All camps are Monday-Friday from 9 am to 3 pm.



**Get details
& register
here! ---->**



Questions?

Contact Travis Shelton
tshelton@ymcacw.org
503.608.3123

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