



# North Plains Connected

A monthly newsletter from the City of North Plains - March 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](http://www.NorthPlains.org)



## Contact Your Council:

Mayor Teri Lenahan

Robert Kindel

Russ Sheldon

Cameron Martinez

James Fage

Rickey Smith

Trista Papen

## Mayor's Corner: 2023 State of the City

Dear Residents of North Plains,

I want to personally invite you to the 2023 State of the City Address on March 23 at 6 pm! This year in review is my opportunity to reflect on the City Council's goals and to identify our accomplishments, assess our learning curves and set goals for our future. Over the last several months, I have had the opportunity to connect with some of you face-to-face. I appreciate these conversations and I am grateful to meet you where you are.

2023 is an important year for the City. Sixty years ago on June 25, 1963, North Plains formally became an incorporated city and I want to celebrate that with you. Generational families such as the Meeks and Van Domelens have been instrumental in paving the way of progress for our bedroom community. I can only imagine how our founding leaders and residents must have felt when the bustling train line came through North Plains. I'm sure we share the same feelings of angst about the growth in our community, but please know, the community leaders have been working together to build upon the vision of the founding leaders to create a vibrant and sustainable city we love calling home.

I look forward to seeing all of you on the 23rd.

In friendship,

~Mayor Teri

## State of the City 2023

*60 Years of North Plains by Design*

Thursday, March 23 | 6 pm  
Jessie Mays Community Center  
and TVCTV Live Broadcast

*Hear from Mayor Lenahan about highlights  
of 2022 and what's coming for 2023!*



Many thanks to our sponsor: The North Plains Chamber of Commerce

More details and to RSVP to  
attend in person:  
[www.northplains.org/SOTC](http://www.northplains.org/SOTC)



NORTH PLAINS  
OREGON  
*City to the Sunset*

# 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!*



## **Craft Guild - Tuesday, March 7th**

Join our informal group of knitters and quilters from 5:30 to 7 pm on the first Wednesday of each month. Anyone interested in gathering for camaraderie as you work on your individual projects is welcome. It is intended to be an informal get-together.

## **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 caregivers while entertaining and educating your little one.



## **Kindergarten Continuation Class Wednesdays at 4 pm**

**on Zoom.** FREE academic enrichment class for kindergartners. Whether your child needs a learning boost or seeks more of a challenge, this class is a great way to supplement your child's education. Get them ready for success and inspire a love of lifelong learning with Mrs. Emily! Register online at [wccls.org/events](http://wccls.org/events). No library card required to register.

## **OBOB Book Club for 6th-8th graders**

### **Thursday, March 9th at 4:30 pm in the library**

The Oregon Battle of the Books (OBOB) is a statewide voluntary reading motivation and comprehension program. Join us to create art, discuss the book, **AND THEN BATTLE!** We'll be discussing *Blended* by Shanon M. Draper.



## **Teen Council - March 17th 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? Please join us at the library every 3rd Friday of the month!

## **Book Club - Wednesday, March 29th at 7 pm**

New patrons are welcome to join the North Plains Library Book Club. The group meets at the library or if you choose, on Zoom. Join us for a discussion of *Tell the Wolves I'm Home* by Carol Rifka Brunt. Please email [carolyn@markleavitt.com](mailto:carolyn@markleavitt.com) for a link and passcode.

## **Origami Toys with Yuki - Wednesday, March 29th at 1 pm at Jessie Mays**

Why buy a toy when you can just make one, even out of paper that you already have around your house? Let's fold origami models that are fun to fold and to play with! All materials provided, no folding experience necessary. Space is limited, [register to sign up](#). No library card required.



## **Wise on the Web: Using Critical Thinking to Evaluate Information for Teens & Adults - Wednesday March 22nd at 6:00pm at Jessie Mays & on Zoom.**

The internet is a fountain of information and misinformation; fact and fiction; truth and falsehood. Sometimes it can be tough to tell one from the other. Larry Gonzales will teach us how to search for and evaluate sources of information, distinguishing the reliable ones from the not-so-reliable. This program is recommended for ages 12 to adult. To attend in person no registration is required. If you plan on attending on Zoom [please register for an invitation](#).

## March City Calendar

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



- 3/6 City Council (w/ 6 pm Work Session) - 7 pm
- 3/8 Planning Commission - 7 pm
- 3/13 Parks & Recreation Board - 6 pm
- 3/15 Library Board - 7 pm
- 3/20 City Council - 7 pm
- 3/23 State of the City - 6 pm
- 3/29 Public Safety Town Hall - 6 pm

# City Begins Process to Set 2023-25 Biennial Budget

City staff are working on a suggested budget, and in April we will officially kick off the budget review and approval process for the next biennial (2-year) budget which begins on July 1, 2023.

During this process, the North Plains City Council, the City's Budget Committee, and city staff work to create a budget that aligns with the City's goals, priorities, and strategic initiatives. The 2023-25 budget process will be slightly different this year because of the Public Safety Local Option Levy referred to North Plains voters by City Council on the upcoming May 16, 2023, general election. The Budget Committee will consider two different biennial budgets, with and without the local option levy, and then make a final recommendation to City Council at a May 24, 2023 meeting dependent on the May 16 election results.



The 2023 schedule includes:

- **March 6:** City Council work session with the Budget Committee to preview themes and issues affecting the 2023-25 budgeting process
- **April 13:** City Manager releases a proposed 2023-25 biennial budget
- **April 19 & May 3 (if necessary):** Budget Committee meetings to discuss proposed budget
- **May 24:** Budget Committee reconvenes and votes to recommend a biennial budget to City Council that reflects the results of the Police Services Local Option Levy from the May 16 general election
- **June 5:** City Council budget public hearing and consideration of approval to adopt the budget

We welcome and encourage public participation in the budget process. For more information you can attend the public meetings listed above and look at the detailed current 2021-2023 adopted budget document on the city's website. Call 503-647-5555 for more information.

## Budget Background & Challenges

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 City of North Plains is committed to financial sustainability and is working on important short, medium, and long-term strategies to ensure the city will be able to meet the expanding needs and expectations for services so our community has the services it needs and the best quality of life possible. A North Plains City Council goal is to shore up fiscal sustainability, safety, and service levels that provide a comparable quality of life to other Western Washington County communities.

Read more about these strategies in the full article on our website: <https://www.northplains.org/bc-budget/page/city-begins-process-set-2023-25-biennial-budget>.

## Northwest Native Plant & Tree Sale

**Saturday, March 11, 2023**  
**9am-3pm**

Convenient Location off highway 26  
30780 NW Highland Court  
North Plains, Oregon 97133

All profits fund natural resource educational programs



Website: <https://wscswa.com>

Email: [NativePlantswscswa@gmail.com](mailto:NativePlantswscswa@gmail.com)



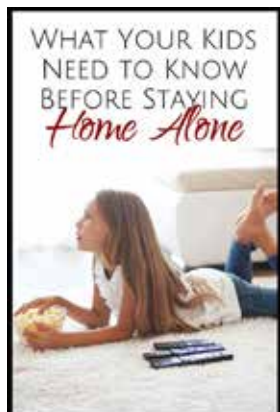
## Chief's Corner: Should you leave your child home alone?

### How do I know if it's safe to leave my child home alone?

With spring break on the horizon for many students this time of year, many parents wonder, "Is my child old enough to stay home alone?"

This question is challenging because it really depends on the maturity of the child. Ask yourself these questions to help inform your decision:

- Does my child know how to get help in case of an emergency, like calling 9-1-1 or going to a neighbor's house.
- Does my child have access to a phone and a list of important numbers to call in case of an emergency?



- Have rules been established? Some rules might include not having friends over, not answering the phone, not opening the door to visitors and keeping all doors locked, no cooking (or establishing what appliances can be used) and checking in with a parent or caretaker at pre-determined times.



Chief James Haxton

Remember: Not all children mature at the same rate. As your child grows older and stays home alone, you must ensure they follow established rules and possess the life skills to do so.

## Downtown Improvement Planning Progressing

Have you wondered what a stronger and enhanced downtown in North Plains might look like?

Since 2021, we've been seeking community input and working on creating a North Plains Downtown Improvement Plan to do just that.

At its meeting #3 on January 31, 2023, the Downtown Plan project advisory committee (PAC) considered and discussed the plan recommendations for business, infrastructure, and code improvements. The next steps will include a project team work session with the Planning Commission in March, immediately followed by a work session with the City Council.

The goal is to have the plan ready for City Council final adoption in April. Once adopted, we will begin planning a timeline for implementation.

Read more about this project and see the latest plan draft on our website at [www.northplains.org/downtown](http://www.northplains.org/downtown).



## City Planning 5-year Public Safety Local Option Levy



At the February 6, 2023, City Council meeting, the North Plains City Council unanimously approved a resolution to submit a measure to provide overnight police patrol and related services to North Plains voters on the May 16, 2023, general election ballot.

**See a recent news release about this on the City's website.**

**Informational materials on the measure will be available in the coming weeks.**

# Young Women Can Explore a Career as a Firefighter



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, forcible entry, emergency medical skills, and other firefighting tasks.

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

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. The camp is designed to instill

insight on 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. The first camp will be held July 14, 15, and 16 at the Portland Fire & Rescue Training Center, 4800 NE 122nd Ave., in Portland.

The second camp will take place July 21, 22, and 23 at Tualatin Valley Fire & Rescue’s Training Center, 12400 SW Tonquin Road, in Sherwood.

The deadline to apply for both camps is May 1 at midnight. Space is limited.

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



## TENINTY'S PIZZA & SUBS

**10395 NW Glencoe Rd #600 North Plains, OR 97133 503-647-5761**  
**[WWW.TenintysPizzaAndSubs.COM](http://WWW.TenintysPizzaAndSubs.COM)** Online ordering available



**Our premium mozzarella cheese is 100% California made for premium performance. Our cheese is an authentic, natural mozzarella with a milky-buttery tantalizing taste.**

**\$4 off ANY  
X-LARGE PIZZA  
\$3 off ANY LARGE PIZZA**

Cannot be combined with any other offers

Expires 12/31/2023.



**\$15.00  
LARGE  
PEPPERONI PIZZA**

Cannot be combined with any other offers

Expires 12/31/2023.







## North Plains Community Garden

Help cultivate a happier and healthier  
North Plains

**Garden plots are currently  
available!**



Water will be available for garden use beginning May 1st but gardeners can begin preparing their plots right away.

Picnic/BBQ space is available in the community garden to use your harvest and get to know your neighbors.

**To register for a plot, application forms are  
available at City Hall or online at:**

northplains.org/parksrec/page/community-garden  
or call 503-647-5555

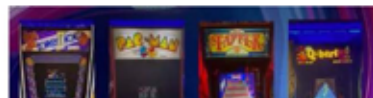


## **You're Invited to the Troop 275 11th Anniversary Pizza Party!**

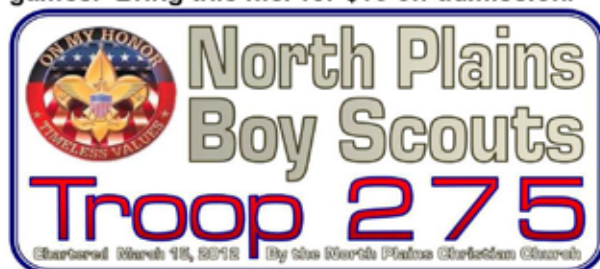
**Saturday March 18<sup>th</sup>, 2023**

**4:00PM - 7:00PM**

**Next Level Pinball Museum  
1458 NE 25<sup>th</sup> Ave, Hillsboro, OR**



Troop 275 is looking for new Scouts to share in our amazing, character-building adventures. If you are 11-17 years old, join us at Next Level Pinball on March 18th for information about Scouts BSA, some free pizza, and lots of fun games. Bring this flier for \$10 off admission.



Questions? Contact Darrel Smith: (503) 648-1488

## ***Purchase a memorial brick at the North Plains Veterans Memorial Park***

On November 11, 2020, the City of North Plains dedicated The Veterans Memorial Park on Highland Court & 313th Ave. The City partners 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 1, 2023, 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.



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

