



North Plains Connected

A monthly newsletter from the City of North Plains - August 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

A Farewell to our RARE Volunteer Doug Kean

From Andy Varner, North Plains City Manager

I started my professional career way back when as an AmeriCorps volunteer, working in a small town city hall in Alaska. Since then, I've worked with countless volunteers, and witnessed the energy and enthusiasm they display in helping their communities. This month - his final month - I want to recognize and interview Doug Kean, our AmeriCorps RARE Volunteer that we have had with us in North Plains for almost a year.

- **What made you interested in serving as an AmeriCorps volunteer?**

I had a desire to put what I learned in college into practice. Part of that was figuring out what I realistically could put into practice, as what you learn in college may not always line up with the real world. I wanted this experience to help me determine my true path and direction in life. I would say that it has brought me closer towards that sense of clarity.

- **What does RARE stand for? What does that mean for you as a lifelong urbanist Oregonian?**

RARE stands for Resource Assistance for Rural Environments. It can be a mouthful, but it is an accurate description of what we do. We provide the much needed resource of extra capacity to smaller cities and towns. Fulfilling this role, I was able to take on projects that city staff would typically be short on time to accomplish. I got to understand how North Plains operates; when something didn't make sense, I got to ask why it had to be done that way.

As an urbanist, RARE has helped me figure out what questions to ask. It has helped me figure out where I can work to help put those ideals into practice. As someone who believes that streets are social spaces where people deserve to feel safe and welcomed, I owe it to myself and my community to pursue actions with the highest level of utility towards serving that goal.

- **What projects or programs have you worked on, and what lasting impact do you think they'll have for the community?**

I have helped with larger and smaller scale projects, all them being important nonetheless. This included trying a new seating layout for public meetings,

Continued on pg 2...



Farewell to Doug...continued

creating more accessible forms for our land use application process, and helping create materials for our new food service grant assistance program. This goes all the way to larger tangible improvements to our transit stops, creating a new vision for Downtown North Plains.

What will stick with me the most is putting together our 60th anniversary event, where residents from all backgrounds came together to see a different kind of Commercial Street. A street functioning as a social space instead of a noisy, high-speed transportation artery. Though the downtown plan I worked on calls for that vision, the event put that vision on display for everyone in town to see.

• What have you liked about being in North Plains?

I really have enjoyed how approachable everyone has been here. I have been able to accomplish beyond what I expected to due to the accessibility and willingness to engage among both decision makers and ordinary residents. In a smaller town, things feel more do-able.

• What is something you appreciate about North Plains?

People care a lot. You don't get that everywhere. They don't shy away from asking more of their government and elected officials. Without that level of care, North Plains would not have the quality of life that it retains. You see that level of care from both the lifelong residents and newcomers manifesting itself in different forms. Whichever way this town may change, never stop caring. Never stop working towards something better.

• What do you think people in North Plains should be proud of, but maybe don't often think about?

Originality. Before spending time out here, I made some assumptions about what my experience might entail. I can tell you that every single one was proven wrong. There is not one stereotype you can create about someone from North Plains. It is an anomaly of a community and will never stop surprising you in new ways. For such a small, tight-knit community, you really get every type of person. You cannot fit this town into any box, category, or label. The people of North Plains should take pride in that.

Doug has been an exuberant and willing volunteer, always pitching in with new ideas, new energy, and a passion for community-building. We'll miss you, Doug. Thanks for your service. I hope it inspires others to serve their communities, as well.

Meetings & Events

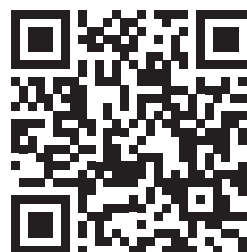
Public meetings and events take place in person and many offer virtual options. Visit www.north-plains.org/calendar for more details on these events and more.

- 8/2 Economic Development Committee - 6 pm
- 8/3 North Plains National Night Out - 6-8 pm
- 8/7 City Council (w/6pm work session) - 7 pm
- 8/9 Planning Commission - 7 pm
- 8/11-13 Elephant Garlic Festival & Book Sale
- 8/14 Parks & Recreation Board - 6 pm
- 8/16 Library Board - 7 pm
- 8/21 City Council - 7 pm
- 9/4 City Hall & Library closed for Labor Day holiday
- 9/9 Concert in the Park @ Sunset Ridge - 4-6 pm



Love North Plains?

Take our quick 3-minute survey and tell us why and what makes this place special!



<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/V2M3BDJ>

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 - August 2nd, 9th & 16th 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 - August 4th, 11th & 18th 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. Bookbabies will take a planning break in late August through early September and will resume September 15th.

Craft Guild - Tuesday August 1st 5:30 pm

-7 pm at the Library. Join our informal group of knitters and quilters. Enjoy camaraderie as you work on your individual projects with other crafters. Drop in, no registration required.



Art Lab. Monday, August 21st at 1 pm at Jessie Mays

Community Center. We will explore geodes and how they are created. Come create your very own felt geode and learn to paint a geode with water colors. Participants will leave with two works of art! All materials are provided and Art Lab is FREE to all participants. The program is best suited for kids that are elementary age and their adults. Registration required, no library card needed to register.



Teen Council - Friday, August 11th 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.

Summer Reading! Youth can return their completed reading log to the library by August 31st and pick out a 2nd brand new free book to keep! Adults- return your complete Bee-Line to the Books Summer Reading challenge to the library by August 31st for the chance to win prizes including a variety of gift cards or a Lego Flower Bouquet Set!



Wallace the Book Bug

Letters from Home - Wednesday, August 23rd at 7 pm at the library.

Join us for the third and final chapter in our "Letters from Home" program series. Bakul Godbole moved from India to the US almost 19 years ago, requiring adjustment to a new life and culture vastly different from the small town she grew up in. She will share the history, vibrant culture, and broad diversity of languages, attires, cuisines and festivals from her rapidly developing homeland, the world's most populous nation and largest democracy.

Book Club - Wednesday, August 30th at 7 pm. Join us at the library or via Zoom for a discussion of *The Boys of Biloxi* by John Grisham. New patrons are welcome to join the club. To receive a link and a psscode please email Carolyn at carolyn@markleavitt.com.

2023 Youth Summer Sports Day Camps in North Plains

The YMCA, in partnership with the City of North Plains, is offering sports day camps for ages 5-12 in North Plains this summer! Still available and at a ***reduced price***:

August 21-25, 9am-3pm
Sport Sampling Camp
Jessie Mays Community Park



Get details at
www.northplains.org/2023summercamps

Chief's Corner: Boat Safety



Chief James Haxton

If your plans to beat the heat this summer include boating activities, we encourage everyone to strengthen their boating safety skills before heading out to the water. Here are some risk-reducing tips:

- Take a boating safety course
- ALWAYS wear a properly fitted life jacket
- Never operate a boat impaired
- Check equipment on the vessel
- Know the nautical "rules of the road"
- Keep a "weather eye open" and check the forecast before departing
- Have a safety kit on board at all times
- Watch out for others in the water



If boating in Washington County, you may see the Washington County Sheriff's Office Marine Patrol Team patrolling areas such as Hagg Lake or the Tualatin River. Marine Patrol's priority is to keep all county waters safe and enjoyable for the community through education, environmental stewardship, and proactive enforcement. The team provides the best service possible for those utilizing the excellent water resources in the county.

The Oregon State Marine Board is also a great resource for safety education while visiting our waterways. For more information, visit <https://www.oregon.gov/osmb/Pages/index.aspx>.



Keep it fun for everyone and boat safely!

Parks & Recreation Board Vacancy - We Need You!

Parks & Recreation Board Vacancy

Be a part of overseeing park development and maintenance, and making recommendations regarding park projects and fees in your community. The City of North Plains is seeking applicants (must live inside the North Plains city limits) to fill this vacancy for a term that runs through June 30, 2024.

Learn more: www.northplains.org/bc-parks



Meet Our Employees

Our City employees enjoy working for the North Plains community. In this series, we are introducing one of our employees each month so you can get to know us including what we do and why we serve this community.

With nine featured so far from the city recorder to the police chief to a librarian, there are more to come!

See them all here: www.northplains.org/citymanager/page/employee-connection-meet-our-staff

The screenshot shows the North Plains Oregon website. The top navigation bar includes 'GOVERNMENT', 'OUR COMMUNITY', and 'BUSINESS'. The 'City Manager' page is highlighted, showing a list of links: Municipal Code & Charter, Planning, Land Use, and Building, Plans & Reports, Permits, Odor Complaints, Employment Application, Human Resources, Employee Connection: Meet Our Staff, and North Plains City 101 Topics. The 'Employee Connection' section is also visible, featuring a photo of Jen Cooper and a bio: 'Employee Connection: Meet Senior Accountant Jen Cooper. Jen joined the City in 2021 and manages payroll and employee accounts payable, and the day-to-day accounting for the City. She oversees the utility billing program and provides administrative support to all our departments.'

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Explore a Career in Fire Service



TVF&R is offering a unique Career Day on October 14 tailored with activities to give people an inside look at what it's like to be a firefighter.

Career Day offers an opportunity for adults interested in a career in the fire service to learn more about job requirements and TVF&R. It includes hands-on experiences in primary firefighter responsibilities as well as presentations about station life, career and volunteer opportunities, the hiring process, emergency medical services, fire prevention, public safety education, & more.

Between 8 am and 5:30 pm, participants will rotate through activity stations at the Training Center in Sherwood and have a chance to talk with education partners from several colleges/universities about their emergency medical services and fire science programs.

"One of the things I'm passionate about is creating a fire department that is welcoming to everyone," said TVF&R Fire Chief Deric Weiss. "I want young people to understand how the fire service works, how they can help create safer communities, and how they can be a part of our organization. Our ranks should better reflect the community we serve. Career Day is a great opportunity to learn about firefighting, emergency medical care, fire safety, and stewardship."

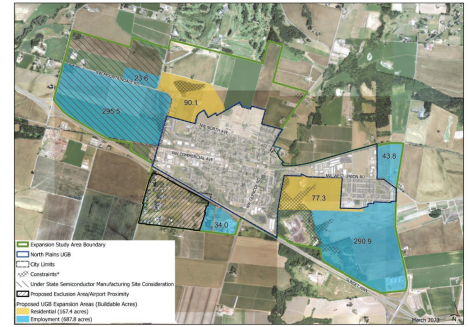
The application period for Career Day opens August 1, and TVF&R will select as many as 35 participants. The deadline to apply is September 1 but may close prior to that date if enough applications for consideration are received.

Candidates interested in applying for TVF&R's Career Day must be 18 or older and can apply online at www.tvfr.com/careers under "Outreach."



Urban Growth Boundary News

After many years of research, planning, and public discussions, in June 2023 the North Plains City Council approved an Urban Growth Boundary (UGB) expansion scenario and a full UGB Expansion Report recommended by both the North Plains UGB Advisory Committee and the City Planning Commission. North Plains has reached its limit for buildable land supply within City limits and Oregon law requires that we plan for and accommodate a 20-year supply of land for predicted population growth.



Read more background and an FAQ at www.northplains.org/UGB.

Latest news/next steps:

- **UGB amendment** - The North Plains Planning Commission and City Council will hold public hearings in August and September to add supplementary findings that provide additional context to the already adopted UGB Expansion report. This will not change the approved UGB area and will add descriptions of the suitable and best-use findings to each study area, correcting a previous omission.
- **Washington County and State UGB Approvals** - The UGB Expansion will go to the Washington County Planning Commission and then the Washington County Board of Commissioners for approval over the next few months. It will also go to the State of Oregon Land Conservation and Development Commission (LCDC) with the Department of Land Conservation and Development (DLCD) for review.
- **UGB area concept planning** - Expected to begin in fall 2023, this planning process will ensure that we have a good balance of housing and economic development, proper zoning, road and street connections, water delivery, parks, and trails consistent with the land needs identified in the UGB expansion process. We are committed to thoughtful planning to maintain the character and livability of North Plains and public engagement will be a focal part of this effort.

Visit www.northplains.org/UGB anytime for more info.


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CONCERT IN THE PARK

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 9



4 - 6 pm
Sunset Ridge Park
10315 NW 293rd Avenue

Bring your chairs or a blanket and a picnic
dinner, and enjoy live music from
Bootleg Ridge, Portland's premier provider of
Outlaw Country music for all audiences. Hear
high energy hits from Dwight Yoakam to Wild
Cherry and more!

Presented
by:



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PARKS & RECREATION



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