Town Hall Meeting Feb 16

North Plains
City Council will host a
Town Hall meeting
on February 16, 2012 at
7:00 p.m
at Jessie Mays
Community Hall, 30975
NW Hillcrest Street.

This meeting is an
opportunity for residents to
ask questions about City
operations, community
projects and goals, and
share your comments
about what the future of
North Plains should be.
Mayor David Hatcher will
make a brief presentation
and facilitate the meeting.
In addition to members of
Council, members of the
City staff including the City
Manager, Police Chief,
Public Works Director and
Library Director will be
available to respond to
questions and take notes.
Coffee and cookies will
be served.
We hope you can join
your neighbors in this
event.

Odors in North Plains

When you drive down
Highway 26, you probably
smell a whiff of a sweet
tobacco-like smell.
Occasionally you may
have smelled the same
odor at your home. In
early December, during an
air inversion, most North
Plains residents could
smell the odor strongly for
about a week solid, and
residents as much as 5
miles away from Highway
26 reported the unusually
strong smell.

The odor was caused by
composting materials at
Nature’s Needs, which is
operated by Recology, a
private company.
Since November,
Recology has been
processing organic
materials collected in the
City of Portland. Six days
a week, trucks deliver yard
trimmings and food waste
(together called organics)
to Nature’s Needs, and the
volume has increased
since Portland started
weekly organics collection.

In December, Recology
was completing a
construction project and
had limited space in which
to work. As a result, the
material was moving
through the compost
process in about 14 days,
which is very rapid
compared to its normal
operations which requires
about 24 days to
complete.

Recology held a
community meeting in mid-
December to discuss the
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One Book, One Community Month
A Celebration at North Plains Public Library

Cutting for Stone
by Abraham Verghese is the featured selection for the 5th annual community book read sponsored by the Friends of the North Plains Public Library.

Eleven free activities will be held during the month of February in support of this community program, and refreshments will be served at the events. The Friends are proud to have won a grant from the Cultural Coalition of Washington County to help with funding.

Kickoff Party. The initial event will be held Saturday evening, February 4 beginning at 6:30 p.m. at the Library and will feature the music of Derrell Sekou Soumah Walker, a taste of Ethiopian cuisine, and the distribution of 100 copies of Verghese’s book.

Culture and Economics of Ethiopia. On Wednesday, February 8, beginning at 7 p.m. at the Library, guest speakers Steve Kountz and Bob Alexander, who have been going to Ethiopia regularly for four years for an economic development project, will discuss culture and economics in Ethiopia today.

Biographical Movie. On Friday, February 10 beginning at 7 p.m. at the Library, an R-rated film will be shown about Dr. Abraham Verghese’s personal story of working with AIDS patients in a small Tennessee mountain town. The movie stars Marisa Tomei, Naveen Andrews, Glenne Headly and Hal Holbrook.

Family Program of Stories, Games, and the Culture of Coffee. On Saturday, February 11 beginning at 1 p.m. at the Jessie Mays Community Hall in North Plains, a children's program for K-6th graders will feature African stories and the Ethiopian game of Mancala, and simultaneously, an Ethiopian coffee ceremony will be offered by Sonya Damtew for adults.

Art in Ethiopia. On Monday, February 13 beginning at 7 p.m. at the Library, guest speaker Daniel Amini will present a program about Ethiopian art.

Addiction in Africa. On Thursday, February 16 beginning at 7 p.m. at St. Edward Church in North Plains, the Rev. Steve Newton will speak about addiction in Africa. As president of the Institute for Central and East African Rehabilitation, Rev. Newton spent many years working in East Africa and helped develop programs for addiction in Kenya, Uganda, and Zambia.

Women’s Health in Ethiopia. On Saturday, February 18 beginning at 7 p.m. at the Library, Dr. Kaitlin Masarie will present a lecture on current medical conditions in Ethiopia.

Travel in Africa. On Wednesday, February 22 beginning at 7 p.m. at the Library, Teresa Sullivan of Mango Safari Travel will speak about travel adventures in Africa.

African Dance and Percussion. On Saturday, February 25 beginning at 7 p.m. at the Jessie Mays Community Hall in North Plains, the African dance and percussion group, Sébé Kan (“Serious Sound”), featuring Derrell Sekou Soumah Walker, will perform.

Book Discussion Groups. There will be two opportunities for participation in book discussions. On Wednesday, February 29 beginning at 10 a.m. at the Library, Mike Spooner will lead a discussion, and that evening, beginning at 7 p.m. at the Library, Mark Leavitt will be the discussion leader.
Introduction of more technology and physical improvements to manage the composting process. During the initial 12-month pilot period for food waste acceptance, the County received fewer complaints than in the year prior when only yard trimmings were accepted. That all changed in December when dozens of complaints were logged.

Moving forward, the City is working with residents, Washington County, the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) and Recology to ensure the odors are managed more effectively. Residents are encouraged to express their concerns about odor by sending an email to odor@northplains.org which will forward an email to representatives at the City, DEQ, Washington County and Recology’s compliance and operations staff. If you do not have email, please contact the City at (503) 647-5555, and staff will be pleased to forward an email on your behalf.

It is important to report odors when they happen. Each complaint is investigated by the County, Recology and DEQ. The more timely and accurate the complaint is, the clearer the documentation will be when changes in the franchise are considered by the Washington County Board of Commissioners and DEQ in the future.

How To Complain About Odor:
Please contact the City, County and DEQ when you believe the odor is unacceptable by sending an email to: odor@northplains.org
City to Accept Credit Card Payments

Have you ever wanted to pay your water bill online by credit card? Very soon you can do that. City Council approved a proposal by Point and Pay to allow the payment of utility bills, deposits, court tickets, building permits, and other services by credit card. The new service will be funded through convenience fees paid by people who use the service (About $3 fee/$100 paid). No new equipment was needed to implement the service, and a small surcharge by the City will recover software costs. This change was proposed to make payments more convenient for residents.

Claxter Street Water Project Begins Soon

Residents will see a water system improvement project beginning on Claxter Street shortly. This will consist of the installation of a new water main, service lines, fire hydrants and a fresh lift of asphalt. Construction is expected to start by the end of April 2012 and take a couple of months to complete. Funding for this project is being provided through a Washington County Community Development Block Grant. The staff contact for this project is Public Works Director Blake Boyles blake@northplains.org or 503-647-5555.

Local Business Incentives

The City of North Plains is encouraging the retention and establishment of businesses locally.

Business license set up and first year fees have been waived through 2013.

Design review fees, building permit fees and other City services have been discounted for existing businesses wishing to expand and for new businesses.

North Plains is an e-commerce city. This means that businesses that rely on internet channels to sell and market their products can receive substantial tax benefits from the State of Oregon and Washington County.

If you need information about how to set up a business in North Plains, please visit the City website at www.northplains.org and look for the “Business” tab at the top of the page. It provides links to information about small business loans, State of Oregon incentives, and Washington County services.

As always, please call City Hall with any questions you may have at 503-647-5555.
New Water Bill

This month, the City outsourced utility bill printing, stuffing and mailing to save money. A large mailing house enjoys many economies of scale when purchasing envelopes and paper and when printing and mailing. The City cannot achieve these economies on its own. We are now able to enlarge the size of the newsletter and use a new bill format at a cost lower than when the work was performed in-house and with the assistance of a dedicated group of volunteers. The new bill features detailed information about your account, including water usage for past billing periods, a breakdown of fees and charges, and the option to donate funds to the Library or Parks when you pay your bill. A return envelope is included with your bill as well.

The City of North Plains will also be able to publish a newsletter up to 3 pages in size without additional expense. We hope to use this space to provide more timely information to residents every month.

If you have a community event you want to publicize in our newsletter please contact Pam Smith at pam@northplains.org before the 10th of the month.

MORE LIBRARY EVENTS, FEBRUARY 2012

2011 Tax Forms. For anyone wanting to get a head start on his or her 2011 Federal Taxes, the IRS forms have arrived and are available at the Library.

Storytime. Children ages 0-6 are invited to join us for Storytime with Miss Jackie every Wednesday at 11:30 a.m. in the children’s section of the Library. On February 1, guest story reader Miss Marion will feature a Snowy Day theme. On Wednesday, February 15, hear dog stories with guest reader Miss Sheila and watch the antics of wonder dog, Fletcher.

Craft Night. Bring your handicraft projects to the Library on Thursday, February 23 from 5:30-8 p.m. Meet new friends, learn new skills, and enjoy the camaraderie. Craft items are sold at community events throughout the year in order to raise funds for Library materials and programs.

Teen Summer Reading Artwork Contest. The 2012 Washington County Cooperative Library Services (WCCLS) Teen Summer Reading Artwork Contest will consider art which is submitted before Wednesday, February 29, 2012. The winning design will be used for all countywide 2012 WCCLS Teen Summer Reading program materials, such as posters, bookmarks, forms, flyers, etc. The winner also receives a $150 gift certificate from Powell’s Books. For all the contest details and an application form, go to: http://www.wccls.org/teens.

Library Information. The library is located at 31334 NW Commercial Street. Open hours are Monday-Wednesday, 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. and Thursday-Saturday, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Call 503-647-5051 or visit our website at www.nplibrary.org. You can also find us on Facebook.

New North Plains Boy Scout Troop Forming

Attend an informational meeting at 3 pm on February 26 at Hillsboro Airport 2995 NW Cornell Road. Meet other potential members and enjoy a potluck bbq. Contact darrel.e.smith@intel.com for more information.
Council Agenda

Issues that will be coming before City Council in February include:

- Swearing in of 4 reserve police officers
- Appointment of Planning Commission members - Doug Nunnenkamp and Doug Black applicants
- Appointment of Budget Committee member - Cindy Hirst applicant
- Discussion of Master Fee Schedule and proposed changes to fees in 2012/13, including code enforcement, water, and planning fees
- Presentation by Washington County Cooperative Library Services Manager Eva Calzagno
- Portland General Electric franchise renewal
- Adoption of new zoning and development code
- Acceptance of 2011/12 financial audit
- Discussion of community garden on Commercial Street

City Council has regular meetings scheduled at 7:00 p.m. on the first and third Monday of each month. A special meeting will be held on February 27. All meetings are open to the public. Agendas are published on the City’s website the week before the meeting.

Dates to Remember

**Town Hall Meeting** – 7 p.m. February 16, Jesse Mays Community Hall

**City Council** - 7 p.m. on February 6, 21, 27. at Jesse Mays Community Hall

**Chamber of Commerce** – Noon, February 1st at the Fire District 2 Station on Commercial Street

**North Plains Garden Club** - 9 a.m. February 8 at Jesse Mays Community Hall

**Planning Commission** - 7 p.m. on Feb 8 at Jessie Mays Community Hall

**Library Board** - 7 p.m. on Feb 15 at the Library

Downtown Walking Trail Loop

Have you noticed the City has a Downtown Walking Trail and we are beginning to put down icons around town?
This is the first of several Walking Trails in the works. Since we are in the early stages of this project, we would appreciate community feedback.
Please email pam@northplains.org with your comments.

Shoe Donations Welcome

**One Book One Community Month**

During the entire month of February, clean and gently used shoes will be collected at the North Plains Public Library to be donated to the Ethiopian Shoe Project