Jan 21 Crab Feed Benefits Senior Center

The North Plains Senior Center will hold its 4th annual Crab feed on Saturday, January 21, 2012, at the Jessie Mays Community Center, 30975 NW Hillcrest Street.

Proceeds will benefit the North Plains Loaves and Fishes Center and help feed home bound seniors.

First seating begins at 3:00 p.m., second seating at 4:30 p.m. and third seating at 6:00 p.m.

Advanced ticket prices are $25 for Crab or Steak and $35 for Surf and turf. Ticket prices will be higher at the door on the day of the event. For information and tickets please call Patti (503) 647-2619 or Margaret (503) 647-6666.

Council Considers Supplemental Budget Jan 23

City Council will consider the 2011/12 Supplemental Budget at a special meeting held on January 23rd at 7:00 p.m. at Jessie Mays Community Hall.

Like most communities the City is closely evaluating its budget to determine where savings can be found and plan for the future.

As proposed, the Supplemental Budget will reduce proposed expense from $5,472,115 to $3,481,920. Expenses are represented in more accurate manner that is more consistent with actual expenses incurred in past years.

Highlights include:

1. Elimination of two vacant full-time positions. The Finance Director and Municipal Court Clerk position reductions will leave 10.5 allocated positions on staff. Some portions of the work will contracted out to third parties.

2. Elimination of the Municipal Court. The Police Department is writing fewer speed enforcement tickets than in past years, because officer time has been reallocated to patrolling North Plains streets and engaging in more community policing activities. As a consequence, it is not cost effective for the City to operate a Municipal Court. Citations for violations of the Municipal Code and speeding tickets will be heard at Washington County Justice Court, which will share revenues on an even basis with the City. The City will not have fixed operating costs for court after January.

3. Revision capital improvement project priorities. A change in budgeting practice will show funding only for projects that are expected to completed within this fiscal year. Approximately half of the expense reductions are related to capital projects in all funds.

Reductions in operating expenses. City staff has proposed reductions to the adopted budget to reflect current conditions.

A copy of the proposed budget is at www.northplains.org.
Biggest ENERGY Loser!

Do you want to save money, save energy and get recognized in your community as a business that cares about its impact on the environment?

If your answer is Yes. Join the Biggest ENERGY Loser team for North Plains.

The City of North Plains and the City of Banks are ready to go on a diet... an energy diet that is!

With the help of Portland General Electric (PGE), Energy Trust of Oregon, Partners for a Sustainable Washington County Community and Adapt Engineering, North Plains and Banks are going to see what it will take to lose some of the kWh and therm carbon "pounds".

The contest is set to begin in Spring 2012, with each city identifying 5 to 10 businesses that want assistance shedding that unwanted energy.

Adapt Engineering, PGE and Energy Trust will provide free energy consultations to participants, showing how their buildings currently operate and what steps each can take to reduce energy use by tuning up their buildings or making capital improvements. The consultations will also identify incentives and or rebates available to help offset the cost of any recommended upgrades.

When the process is complete, everyone will 'weigh in' and the town with the biggest loss/energy savings will be crowned the winner of our Biggest ENERGY Loser contest.

Zoning and Development Standards Jan 17

City Council will consider a major revision to the zoning and development standards at its regular meeting on January 17, 2012.

A public hearing will be held to gather community comments on the proposed changes.

Revisions proposed include simplification of many planning processes, allowing administrative review for the most simple projects.

A use table will present permitted uses in an easy to understand format.

This project has taken almost a year to complete, and the Planning Commission and City Council has discussed the revisions at more than a dozen public meetings.

If adopted the new code will become effective in March.

Jingle fun

More than 100 people participated in the North Plains Chamber of Commerce’s Jingle event on December 8, 2011.

More than 25 decorated golf carts and other vehicles participated in the event that toured the community to see Christmas lights on residential homes.

Awards were given to J & S Golf Cart for Best Parade Entry, Andrea Johnson #2 Team for Best Holiday Spirit and Tom and Sue Hauth on Lenox Street for Best Lighted House.

After the tour many people joined the Jingle at Jessie Mays Community Hall to enjoy hot chocolate, cider and cookies donated by Loch Lolly Christmas Forest.

Santa visited with children while a traveling musician played the guitar and sang carols with other merrymakers.

Library News

New Year's Day Holiday. The Library will be closed on Monday, January 2.

Storytime. Children ages 0-6 are invited to join us for Storytime every Wednesday at 11:30 a.m. in the children's section of the Library. On January 4, special Storytime guest Miss Marion will present Everything New – Puppies, Kittens, Babies and More.

Friends of the Library Meeting. Friends members will meet on Monday, January 9 at 11:30 a.m. at Krisy’s Koffee in North Plains. New members are welcome to attend.

First Friday Flick. Free family movie nights occur on the first Friday of each month beginning at 6 p.m. at the Library. The PG-rated movie to be shown on Friday, January 6 is a DreamWorks production in which the hero joins forces with other kung-fu masters to confront an old enemy. Seating is limited. Refreshments will be served.

Library Information

The library is located at 31334 NW Commercial Street.

Open hours are Monday-Wednesday 11 a.m. to 7 p.m., 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.

Catch “The Wave”

Tillamook County Transportation District “The Wave” transit bus will provide free route service between the cities of Banks and Portland. For more information about the twice daily trip service and locations please visit the City’s website at www.northplains.org.