The COVID-19 pandemic has many of us questioning so many things. The City of North Plains has taken essential steps to help prevent the spread of COVID-19 in accordance with the direction from Governor Brown, the CDC and the Oregon Health Authority. As you may have seen, the City Council declared a State of Emergency on March 20th to more effectively deal with the COVID-19 response of the City and its partner agencies. To be clear, the emergency declaration does NOT signal an emergency in North Plains, nor should it create panic in our community. Rather, it enables the City to take more appropriate and necessary measures to counteract the virus. This may involve purchasing necessary equipment and materials, making specific personnel maneuvers, and closing City facilities to combat COVID-19. Additionally, by declaring an emergency the City may qualify for State and Federal aid reimbursements due to the coronavirus.

As a result of the declaration, all non-essential City events and public meetings are cancelled through the end of April as we continue to monitor the situation. City facilities are also unavailable to the public, including the City Library and Jessie Mays Community Center. City Hall will remain open during business hours, although closed to the public unless an appointment is made. We encourage the public to utilize other methods of contact, including phone or email. Bills may be paid online at www.northplains.org (with no convenience fee) or at the outside dropbox at the front of City Hall. While this is not something we want to do, it is something we must do in order to help prevent the spread of COVID-19.

Members of the community have reached out via Facebook on the North Plains Community page. There you can find willing community members who will help with childcare, shopping and daily chores. See more information later in this newsletter on how you can assist. It's also important to note that local businesses are still open for business and they encourage you to call ahead for 'Take-out'. They are more than willing to accommodate your request. The City is working on programs and ideas to help our small businesses most affected by the financial impacts of the coronavirus.

During this difficult period, what makes our community stronger is the response we give to each other during these unprecedented times of need. May I suggest you create phone trees in your neighborhoods, know your aged neighbors and don't be shy about saying 'Hello' to your neighbors? In time of need, they might be the only folks close enough to lend a helping hand.
I am in the same boat as you are regarding this pandemic. I am washing my hands like crazy, adhering to social distancing measures and limiting my social interactions. It is important to be mindful of our personal contacts during these times. However, life must go on and I hope and pray things will work out as they should. Also, rest assured that we are staying in contact with local and state officials on weekly conference calls.

Please stay calm, listen to professional and scientific guidance about the pandemic and trust that we will get through this together. Please feel comfortable reaching out to me anytime at teri.lenahan@northplains.org.

-Mayor Teri

**Shop Local**

North Plains enjoys a higher-than-average number of local, family-owned businesses. But with unprecedented closures ordered by the State of Oregon to prevent the spread of COVID-19, those same local businesses are vulnerable to layoffs, losses and even permanent closure. It is now critical that the North Plains community pulls together and begins to shop and spend locally as much as possible.

Business owners are frequently our neighbors and shopping locally at family-owned businesses tends to keep those dollars circulating at more local businesses for longer. In fact, every dollar spent at a locally-owned business can be expected to circulate between two and four more times at other local businesses according to different studies. So over the next several weeks, as able, do the neighborly thing and patronize a locally-owned small business to keep those dollars supporting local jobs in the community.

**Glencoe Crosswalk**

The City recently completed a signalized crosswalk at the intersection of Pacific Street and Glencoe Road. When we surveyed residents about increasing walkability in North Plains, this was found to be one of the priorities. Next time you’re on a walk, check it out and let us know what you think!

**Water Tank Project**

Construction crews broke ground on the City’s new 2 million gallon water reservoir in January. The project is located on West Union Road and the site is being transformed each day. The 100 ft tall drill rig bores down 80+ feet several times a day to create holes filled with concrete, used to stiffen the soils underneath the tank, pump station, and piping system to ensure seismic stability in case of a major seismic event. That process will continue into late April, as each bore takes one hour to complete, and more than 300 holes are needed to fill out the stability grid. The project is currently on schedule with an expected completion date of June 2021. This project is funded in part by the City and a construction loan from Business Oregon.
COVID-19
CALLING ALL
NORTH PLAINS RESIDENTS

Every healthy North Plains Area resident can safely help their community during these difficult times. Here are some ways you can make a difference:

Deliver Meals or Shop for the Homebound
Vulnerable seniors are at greatest risk amid COVID-19. Let’s help keep them safe and care for them. Contact the local Meals on Wheels program at 503-647-5666. If your local program is not taking volunteers at this time, consider donating non-perishable items or money.

If you are healthy and will shop or do errands for homebound North Plains Area residents, call 503-647-2207 or email covid-19volunteer@northplainschamberofcommerce.org for more information.

Donate to the North Plains Pantry
During this time organizations are running low on food and household items. Help them stay well stocked for those in need. Donations can be dropped off at the North Plains Senior Center at 31450 NW Commercial Street, North Plains, 9:00 am to 1:00 pm, Monday through Friday.

Volunteer at a food bank
Food banks are in great need of volunteers to help pack and sort food. They are taking precautions to prioritize volunteer safety. Visit Oregon Food Bank at www.oregonfoodbank.org.

Support Nonprofits
Nonprofit organizations serving vulnerable communities – like seniors and low-income families – need your help. Donate cash or checks at the North Plains Senior Center, 31450 NW Commercial Street, North Plains, 9:00 am to 1:00 pm Monday through Friday. You can also donate to North Plains Christian Church, 503-647-2208 or St. Edwards Catholic Church 503-647-2131. All funds will be used to support residents in the North Plains community.

Wellness Checks
Check on older neighbors with a Call, Text or Talk through the door. You can also contact the North Plains Senior Center Meals on Wheels program to help with Wellness Checks in the Metro area. Call 503-647-5666.

Prepare Hygiene Kits or Donate Products
Create hygiene kits for our vulnerable seniors and homeless. Package in individual plastic or paper bags and drop off at the North Plains Senior Center, 31450 NW Commercial Street, North Plains. Include hand sanitizer, antibacterial soap, lotion, disposable gloves, tissue, toilet paper and reusable masks. Or donate these items so that kits can be assembled.

Donate Blood
Donated blood has decreased dramatically. Healthy, eligible donors are urged to come out and give to ensure there’s lifesaving blood on the shelves for those who need it most. Visit the American Red Cross: www.redcrossblood.org/local/oregon.

Prepared by the City of North Plains and the North Plains Chamber of Commerce
Library News

Director’s Pick April is National Poetry Month

Maybe poetry isn’t your jam. Maybe you’ve tried to read poetry in the past that seemed abstract, old fashioned, or pointless. Give it another chance this month! Contemporary poetry can be down to earth, accessible, and enjoyable. **Dog Songs by Mary Oliver** begins with a short, joyful poem about a new puppy. Her poems are beautiful little stories about the dogs she’s loved told through everyday moments. These poems capture the essence of how it feels to love a pet. Other poets to explore or revisit: Billy Collins, Shel Silverstein, Anis Mojhani, Sarah Kay, Jacqueline Woodson, and Atticus.

Haiku Contest

The library will hold a virtual Haiku Poetry Contest during the month of April. The theme is “Nature” and there are three age categories - Adults, Teens, and Children. Winners will receive free admission to the Portland Japanese Garden, a beautiful destination all year round. Please submit poems to info@nplibrary.org.

Stuck at Home?

Remember you have access to over 125,000 downloadable library items using the Libby app and the Kanopy video streaming service. WCCLS is busy increasing the digital collection during this time. Access to the digital library is free with your Washington County library card. [https://www.wccls.org/e-books](https://www.wccls.org/e-books). For your convenience, you can get an e-access card on our website at [https://www.wccls.org/online-card](https://www.wccls.org/online-card). Follow North Plains Public Library on Facebook for some fun ways to stay connected to the community.

Earth Day Collages

Build collages with recycled materials to celebrate Earth Day on April 22nd! Send us a photo of your creation to info@nplibrary.org and we will feature everyone’s photos on our website. Staff judges will choose one creation for an earth-friendly prize.

Storytimes

We miss your wonderful children so much! North Plains storytimes are continuing through videos and links to materials. Please visit our [YouTube Channel](https://www.youtube.com) to see Mrs. Em presenting modified storytimes for your children. We are working on a way for you to share short videos of your children singing storytime songs or reading a book if you wish to do so!

Updates on Libraries’ Response to COVID-19

You can find the latest information on Washington County Libraries at this link: [https://www.wccls.org/covid-19](https://www.wccls.org/covid-19). We are working hard on ways to keep you connected with each other and your library during this time.

The Friends of the North Plains Library

Are you Spring Cleaning? Donate Your Used Books to the Friends. Do you have leftover gently used books, DVDs, audio books and music CDs from your North Plains Garage Sale Weekend? The Friends are always looking for these items to raise money for the library. Donate your used books, movies, audio and music CDs during North Plains Clean Up Day.

31311 NW Commercial St. Across the street from the library. Proceeds from used book sales benefit your local library in North Plains. Questions? Contact the Friends at friendsnppl@gmail.com to arrange for large donations. [https://nplibrary.org/friends](https://nplibrary.org/friends)

April Calendar

All non-essential City Meetings are cancelled thru April 30th, 2020 unless otherwise noted. Please check the calendar at [www.northplains.org/calendar](http://www.northplains.org/calendar) for updates during the closure.
CALLING FOR CONWAY’S CANINES
Have you checked out Conway’s Canines on Facebook? Each #fidofriday Deputy Conway shares a meeting with a new four-legged community member. Deputy Conway loves getting out into the community and meeting dogs (and their owners). Do you have a canine you would like featured? Contact info@northplains.org to set up an appointment.

PUBLIC SAFETY LEVY
Washington County voters will be asked to consider two, five-year local option levies on the ballot this May: a renewal of the Library Levy and a replacement of the Public Safety Levy. Measure 34-296 would replace the five-year Public Safety Levy that is expiring in June 2021.

Washington County provides public safety services to all city and urban unincorporated neighborhoods and rural communities in Washington County, including prosecution, jail and other incarceration services, probation and parol supervision, juvenile crime prevention, special law enforcement teams and other law enforcement services, such as forensics and investigations.

The expiring levy has funded 16% of the public safety services just named.

If passed, the proposed levy would run from July 2021 to June 2026. The proposed levy would provide funding under two categories:

- Funding to continue the current level of services based on population growth (projected to be 1.75% over the five years of the proposed levy), inflation, equipment costs and other expenses associated with forecasted growth within the Washington County community. This category of the proposed levy would provide $187.7 million to fund 168.5 Washington County positions and nonprofit emergency shelter providers over five years.

- Funding to address increases in caseloads beyond population growth projections (1.75% anticipated over the five years of the proposed levy), specially domestic violence, child abuse and emergency shelter caseloads. This category of the proposed levy would provide $9.8 million in funds, and would add 11 more positions and other services over five years.

Taking these two funding categories together, the levy would, if passed, provide a total of $197.5 million and fund 177.5 County positions over five years. If passed, the proposed levy would fund 16% of the County’s public safety services, the same percentage as funded under the expiring levy.

More information on the proposed Public Safety Replacement Levy and the countwide Library Renewal Levy, is available on the County’s website: www.co.washington.or.us/levies
NORTH PLAINS AREA

Coronavirus Assistance Information

211Info
Call, text, email or use their 211Info app to speak to a community information specialist and get answers to general questions about symptoms, prevention and tips for staying healthy. The line is currently (as of 3/11/2020) being answered every day from 8 am-11 pm.
- Call 211 or 1-866-698-6155
- Text your zip code to 898211 (TXT211)
- Email: help@211info.org

Washington County Department of Health and Human Services
Washington County HHS has the latest local information and recent news.
https://www.co.washington.or.us/HHS/

Oregon Health Authority (OHA)
The Oregon Health Authority has the latest information about the COVID-19 in Oregon. Find the latest number of cases, fact sheets in multiple languages and answers to many frequently asked questions. https://www.oregon.gov/oha

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)
The CDC has a vast library of resources and information for prevention, FAQs and resources. You can also sign up for email and social media updates from their website.

Utility Companies
The following local utility companies have reported the suspension of disconnection for non-payment. Contact your utility company for details of when suspension ends or any additional requirements/details.
- City of North Plains - Water - 503-647-5555 - Monday through Friday, 8 am to 5 pm.
- Clean Water Services - Sewer - 503.681.4400 - Monday through Friday, 8 am to 5 pm.
- Portland General Electric - 503-228-6322 or 800-542-8818 Monday thru Friday, 7 am to 7 pm.
- Northwest Natural Gas - 800-422-4012, Monday through Friday, 7:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

North Plains Senior Center & Meals on Wheels Program & Food Pantry 503-647-5666.

North Plains Elementary School 503-844-1630.

North Plains Christian Church 503-647-2208.

St. Edward Catholic Church 503-647-2131.

TAKE CARE OF YOUR MENTAL HEALTH
We know that the uncertainty around COVID-19 has caused a lot of stress and anxiety for Oregonians. That stress is very real. If you're struggling, here are some things you can do to take care of your mental health. And if you or someone you know is experiencing a mental health crisis, please know that help is available. For a list of local and national mental health resources, go to OHA's website. You can also call the Washington County Crisis Line 24/7 at 503-291-9111. You are not alone!
**Saving Mother Earth**

Thank you to all who have been working so hard to cut and sew the mesh produce bags. Fely and our volunteers continue to cut and sew to meet their deadline of April 22nd, Earth Day. This year is the 50th anniversary of Earth Day and although we may not reach our desired goal for each household, we will (if possible) find a way to distribute the produce bags that have been sewn. The coronavirus may have dampen our ability to sew together but it hasn’t dampen our spirits. Many of us continue to sew and chat via phone or social media. If you are looking for a project to help with, please email me at teri.lenahan@northplains.org and I will get you in touch with Fely directly. We are going to continue this project to the best of our ability. We can always use financial donations and donations of material and/or thread. The power of COMMUNITY will help us obtain our goal and TOGETHER WE WILL GET THROUGH THESE CHALLENGING TIMES.

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**Volunteer Opportunity**

Volunteers Advocate for Adults Living in Long Term Care

Long Term Care Ombudsmen are free, confidential advocates who help with any large or small problem bothering someone living in a nursing home, assisted living, residential care or adult foster care home (for example, poor care, disrespectful treatment, cold coffee, medication errors, threatened eviction, financial exploitation, etc.). Screened, trained, and backed by state staff, the volunteers visit licensed homes and/or respond to calls from residents or anyone concerned about a resident and, with the resident’s OK, go to work to solve the problem. It is important and rewarding work with flexible hours, but there aren’t nearly as many volunteers as needed in western portions of Washington County. To report a concern or learn more about volunteering, call 1-800-522-2602 or visit www.oregon.gov/ltco.
NOTICE OF APRIL PUBLIC HEARING

Monday, April 20, 2020 – 7:00 PM
City File Number 19-127B

The City Council will conduct a public hearing to review and make a decision on a proposed update the Zoning Code. The proposed update would allow the construction of model homes on sites with approved subdivisions prior to recording a final subdivision plat.

The proposed update includes criteria that must be met before building permits for model homes will be approved, including completion of usable streets, sidewalks and parking to serve the model homes.

The proposal affects Chapter 16.210 (Temporary Uses) of the City’s Zoning and Development Code.

Questions and/or comments regarding the applications can be directed to City Manager Andy Varner andy.varner@northplains.org (503) 647-5555 or City Hall, 31360 NW Commercial Street, North Plains, OR 97133.

The public hearing will be conducted according to the process identified in Development Code Section 16.170. Public oral and/or written testimony is welcome at the hearing or in writing in advance of the hearing. The application and all evidence relied upon by the City to make this decision is in the public record and is available for inspection at North Plains City Hall during regular business hours for no cost. Copies can be provided at a reasonable cost. The City’s staff report will be available for review at no cost one week prior to each hearing.

Failure to raise an issue in sufficient detail during the comment period or at the public hearing may preclude an appeal to the Land Use Board of Appeals or Appeals/Circuit Court on said issue.

Notice to mortgagee, lien holder, vendor or seller: If you receive this notice it shall be promptly forwarded to the purchaser.