One thing we can all agree on is, 2020 is so far from normal! In fact, it has forced us to redefine a new normal for our family’s lives. Whether you have school aged children or college bound kids, we are all doing the best we can during COVID.

September is a time for new shoes, clothes and backpacks. Children look forward to seeing friends and teachers. However, this year is very different. Planning for our kids to return to school this year is, well, very different and frankly, very fluid. The one-size-fits-all approach doesn't seem to work and we are left with the uncomfortable reality of uncertainty.

But here is what I believe you do know:
1. Stay grounded. Your family is safe and your values are strong.
2. Trust your instincts. You know your strengths and weaknesses. You know what has worked and what hasn't regarding home-learning. Expound on your successes.
3. Find trusted resources that can help you sift through information. Phone a friend. Stay connected with family, friends and neighbors. Many others are willing to share their successes, just ask.
4. We are all in this together. This is a new page in history for many of us. It's going to be frustrating and confusing. But please be kind to yourself and know we are here for you. You should not have to navigate this alone.

Keep with the routine if you can. Go buy the new shoes, pencils and crayons and maybe that latte. Kids need consistency and frankly, so do you. You've got this. We've got this. Take a deep breath. Let’s do the best we can, TOGETHER!

I am thinking of you and sending all the positive vibes for a successful back to school month.

-Mayor Teri

**Buy Local Club**

**Buying Local Supports the Whole Community**

When the COVID-19 pandemic forced many local businesses to close or significantly curtail their operations due to mandatory guidance, the City created the ‘Buy Local Club’ (BLC) to help incentivize more local spending. The program made positive impacts in bringing some new and repeat customers to local businesses and water bill credits to residents between March and July 2020. Now that businesses have been allowed to open their doors in some fashion, we decided that July was the final month of the program in its current form.

As you’ll recall, those residents who participated in the BLC were eligible to earn 20% back or more as a credit on their water bill based on how much they spent.
monthly at eight North Plains businesses participating in the program. A few highlights to note over those four months of the program:

- **BLC helped steer $65,539 in sales** to businesses heavily impacted by COVID-19 closures.
- North Plains households benefited from **$12,490 in City water bill credits/discounts** through the program as a result of their spending at local businesses. Many households earned water bill credits every month, reducing their monthly expenses during the economic crisis.
- **218 North Plains households participated** in the program (20% of all City households).
- All businesses that participated remained open through the COVID-19 closure and have continued operating as the economy has slowly reopened.

While the BLC was a success for the community in many respects, we still recognize there is much to do to create lasting local spending habits. The City plans to work with the North Plains Chamber of Commerce and other community partners in the future on more programs to build awareness and support for our local businesses. In addition, we will make a more concerted effort to focus on economic and business development in North Plains in 2020-21, especially in the downtown corridor.

Lastly, thanks to everyone that participated in the Buy Local Club program, and let’s keep supporting what we have in North Plains!

### Vote on Fuel Tax

At the August 3, 2020, City Council meeting, the North Plains City Council referred to voters a proposed measure for a proposed $0.03 per gallon gas tax to be voted on by residents on the November 2020 ballot. The proposed measure, if passed, would provide fuel tax revenues for construction, reconstruction, repair, upkeep, maintenance, operation, and use of public highways, roads, and streets in the City. If the measure does not pass, the projects would not be completed, and the gas tax rate would not change.

According to ODOT, there were approximately 5 million gallons of fuel sold in North Plains in 2019. The proposed $0.03 per gallon gas tax would yield about $150,000 in revenue based on that volume.

This summer, City staff and engineers will create a proposed surface transportation program with projects that the proposed fuel tax, if the measure passes, would help fund either directly or through contributing to a larger bond package.

For more information, contact City Manager Andy Varner at andy.varner@northplains.org, or contact City Council by visiting its webpage. The City will continue to provide more detailed information on the proposed fuel tax throughout the summer.

### Library News

**Miss Browsing? Try Book Bundles!**

Call or email us with a topic or genre and we will curate books for you to pick up during curbside service. We are happy to choose books for all ages. Examples are “5 board books”, “5 new kids’ books”, “2 cookbooks”, etc.

**Need Something Printed?**

You may send their print job as an attachment to wccls-nppl-bw@printspots.com (black & white) or wccls-nppl-color@printspots.com (color). Call the library at 503.647.5051 and staff will place your print job in a labeled folder on the table behind the library at a designated time during curbside pickup hours. Up to 12 gray scale pages or 3 color pages at no charge.

**Super Sessions for Elementary Kids, Fall Edition**

Mrs. Em hosts a monthly online get-together exploring the month’s themes with educational videos, articles, and activities! LIVE ON ZOOM Tuesday Sept. 29th at 3:30 p.m.
Preschool Storytime Resumes September 8th
Mrs. Em brings children engaging storytimes from her home. Enjoy songs, stories, wiggles, and bubbles! Join Preschool Storytime on Zoom – every Tuesday at 11 a.m.

Kindergarten Readiness in 2 Levels!
**Learning Letters, Sounds, and Math Through Music and Games**
**Level 2 each Thursday at 11:00 a.m. Sept. 10 – Dec. 10:** Continue to empower your child with more lifelong learning skills! In reading, we will explore long vowel sounds, digraphs, multi syllabic words, and reading comprehension! In math, we will explore problem-solving skills using sequencing, measuring, organizing, and computing.

**Level 1 each Thursday at 1:00 p.m. Sept. 10 – Dec. 10:** Our level one course encourages children to learn to read and understand basic math concepts through music, hands-on activities, and games. Children will learn to identify and sound out all letters of the alphabet and establish a love of reading and mathematics.

Homework Help
We are launching a weekly online homework help program with a volunteer facilitator and teen mentors to help kids with homework and learning. Our desired launch date is Thursday, Sept. 24th in the afternoon. Please check our website at northplains.org/library for more details coming soon! Register online for youth classes and events at https://wccls.bibliocommons.com/events/.

Teen Council
The Teen Council meets once per month on Zoom. Next meeting is **Friday, September 4th at 4:30 p.m.** All teens are welcome! Email Brianna at briannas@wccls.org for the Zoom link and more details!

Community Connections – Monthly Topics
**September Theme - Remote Learning and Homeschooling Support**
View an online presentation or article at your convenience and join others for a facilitated recap and community Q&A over Zoom. Wednesday evenings 6:30-7:15 p.m. beginning Sept. 9th – Dec. 16th. A link to the presentations and/or articles will be posted the week before.

Mind Your Yoga continues Sept. 1
Meena leads yoga sessions on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 5-6 p.m. via Zoom. Please email Carol at carola@wccls.org to receive a link for the classes.

County Holds Delivery Up and Running!
Since June 1, WCCLS has ramped up courier service to fill your hold requests from other libraries. All libraries are now filling holds, which you can once again place online. You will receive an automated notice when your items are here. Please do call the library for a pickup time so we can safely distance. You may once again place Interlibrary loan (ILL) requests as well.

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**New Veterans Park**

**Opening November 2020**
Mark your calendar! The dedication of the North Plains Veterans Park off of 313th Avenue and Highland Court is scheduled for November 11th, 2020. This park will feature a 100-foot flagpole as the centerpiece, commemorative plaques honoring our Veterans and POW’s for their service and sacrifice, benches, EV charging stations, an American Legion flag disposal box, and more. We will soon have bricks for sale to honor the Veterans in our lives. We are excited for our community to have a place to celebrate our nations heroes, as well as relax and enjoy our lovely town. We hope to see you at the new Veteran’s Park on November 11th!
September Calendar

All items on this calendar are taking place virtually. Please visit [www.northplains.org/calendar](http://www.northplains.org/calendar) for information on how to join in.

- **09/02** Economic Development Committee 6 p.m.
- **09/07** City Offices closed for Labor Day
- **09/08** City Council 7 p.m. with work session at 6 p.m.
- **09/09** Planning Commission 7 p.m.
- **09/14** Parks and Recreation Board 6 p.m.
- **09/21** City Council 7 p.m.

Police Department

Community Support Helps Solve Case

Social media, community and the power of teamwork helped solve a recent case of a stolen bicycle. Deputy Conway took a report of a bicycle that had been stolen from a residence near NW Claxtar and NW Pacific in early July. The suspect’s photo was captured by security cameras near the scene. The photos and details were shared on social media with our community, asking anyone who had information on the individual’s identification to please contact non-emergency dispatch. Almost immediately community members began to help identify the suspect. Thanks to the community’s help identifying the suspect, Deputy Conway was able to recover the stolen bicycle and return it back to the owner. Don’t you just love a happy ending?

Ghost Creek Walking Trail

North Plains Ghost Creek Pedestrian Path Now Open

The newly completed Ghost Creek Pedestrian Path offers multi-use access to nature and recreation.

The Ghost Creek Pedestrian Path is now open for walking, biking, rolling, and nature viewing. The hard surface, accessible path runs approximately one mile from the future North Plains Veteran’s Park (under construction, opens November 2020) at 313th Avenue to the east along Highland Court, south through a pedestrian crossing under the Glencoe Road overpass, back up to Highland Court and along 307th Avenue to a new observation platform overlooking the “Turtle Pond.”

In addition to the opportunity to see once-endangered Western Pond Turtles, a variety of wildlife may be spotted at the pond and along the pedestrian path including birds, waterfowl, beaver, frogs, and Great Blue Herons.

Other features of the path include green turtles stenciled on the paved walkway, done by the North Plains Public Works Department. Path users can follow the stencils from west of the overpass all the way to the turtle observation structure, where interpretive signs about the turtles will be installed in the coming months. The new pedestrian crossing under the Highway 26/Glencoe Road overpass also provides a safe
east/west option for people to cross Glencoe Road and should be a nice amenity for nearby businesses.

A majority of the funding for this project came from ODOT as part of the redesign of the Glencoe Road overpass over Highway 26.

“This Pedestrian Path is part of the City’s overall commitment to providing more outdoor walking and recreation spaces, as well as connectivity for the community,” said Public Works Director Blake Boyles, a long-time advocate of the pathway.

After community input over the past decade, the North Plains 2018 Parks Master Plan and 2017 Community Pedestrian Paths Master Plan both highlight the City’s long-term goal of creating a comprehensive North Plains Pedestrian Path system that could follow McKay Creek and its tributaries and integrate into the city’s active transportation system to provide access throughout the community, to include a walking/biking pathway along West Union Road.