Happy New Year North Plains. Being in a pandemic brought out the good, the bad, and the ugly, but what it didn’t do was break our spirit of community.

When the City Council declared a State of Emergency on March 20, 2020, we had no idea that we would have to learn new ways to cope with work, school, and life. As the months progressed and we had to make sense of what we were experiencing, you got creative. You showed your true grit and your determination to preserve your sense of community. What was even more evident was that you stepped up to help strangers, friends, family, neighbors and local businesses deal with the fluidity of the situation.

My sincere and heartfelt thanks goes out to all of you.

We are exhausted by this pandemic. We have lost jobs. We have lost opportunities. We have lost loved ones. We have missed family gatherings and time spent with friends. We are working from home while teaching our children. We are caring for those affected by COVID while caring for our own families. Life is not easy right now. Our healthcare workers and teachers are especially exhausted and many of us keep asking what more we can do to help. We need to keep asking how we can help.

I am very proud to be a part of this compassionate and giving community. We need to keep helping where we can; but first, I want to acknowledge some of the incredible things that the North Plains community did to help others this past year.

You sewed and donated masks.
You collected food & supplies for the senior & families in need.
You collected household items for families who lost everything in devastating wildfires.
You mowed lawns, ran errands & baked bread for your neighbors.
You celebrated birthdays by having pop-up birthday parades.
You provided scavenger hunts for family entertainment.
You answered that text message from your neighbor for a stick of butter, a sprig of rosemary, a roll of toilet paper or a bottle of beer.
When you thought you didn’t have enough energy to get through one-more-Zoom-call with children photo-bombing you in the background, you mustered up a smile and responded, “We’re in the midst of pandemic, what do you expect?”

You did all of these things and more while wearing a mask and socially distancing. But you did it. We did it. We’re doing it because, we are all in this together.

What makes our community stronger is the response we give when we are asked to step up to the plate. Don’t stop giving in 2021. We need each other more now than ever.

Together we are stronger.

Mayor Teri
### Brick Dedication

**Veterans Memorial Park**

Dedication bricks are available for purchase if you’d like to eternally honor a veteran in your life. Visit [www.northplains.org/veterans](http://www.northplains.org/veterans) to fill out a request form and for more information. There are also a few remaining sponsorship opportunities for businesses and families that would like to contribute to the park’s creation.

### Library News

**New Bookdrop**

Open 24/7, our new, blue bookdrop is installed (same location). Thank you Public Works department!

**Holds Pick-up Inside or Outside:**

Holds pick-up of library materials continues inside the library entryway/vestibule, but if you prefer, we will place them on the bench outside the back door. Holds pick-up is 6 days per week, Mon-Fri 10 a.m. – 6 p.m. and Sat 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.

**New STEM Kits Now Available!**

Thanks to the fundraising efforts of Peak Chiropractic and cooperating sponsors, hits the Spot, North Plains Veterinary Clinic, USPS, Teninty’s Pizza & Subs, Columbia Bank, Robinson’s LTD, The Pie Guy, and Pumpkin Ridge Golf Club, the library received $1,129.00 in donations to start this collection! The first batch of new STEM & Literacy Kits are now available for check-out. You prioritized this educational enrichment collection for North Plain’s youth in our community survey, and we are delighted to deliver! See a list of initial items on our library website and in the online catalog.

**Interactive Virtual Storytime**

Resuming on Jan. 5th, Mrs. Em brings community children storytime from her home. Enjoy songs, stories, wiggles, and bubbles! Join Preschool Storytime on Zoom – every Tuesday at 11 a.m. Please visit [https://wccls.bibliocommons.com/events/](https://wccls.bibliocommons.com/events/) to sign up for the Zoom link to attend.

**New Teen Subscription Boxes!**

Is your teen interested in a monthly custom subscription box? Are you interested in paying $0 for a monthly subscription box for your teen? Our teen library expert, Brianna, will create a personalized box for them once a month. The box will contain 2 hand-selected library books plus snacks, crafts, and more! The first subscription period is Jan-Mar and is limited to 15 teens. A valid library card is required to check out the box. Contact Brianna at briannas@wccls.org to sign up. The next Teen Council meeting is Friday, January 8th at 4:30 p.m. to play Among Us! All teens are welcome! Register at [https://wccls.bibliocommons.com/events/](https://wccls.bibliocommons.com/events/)

**Houseplant Appreciation 101**

Join North Plains Library staff in partnership with Starkey’s Corner Farm & Garden to bring a presentation to celebrate National Houseplant Appreciation Day! Saturday, January 9th at 10 AM Michaela Trevithick, plant specialist from Starkey’s will share TLC tips for houseplants and the benefits of brightening your home with lovely plants all year long! This is a one hour virtual event that includes a presentation for plant care and time at the end for a Q&A. Register at [https://wccls.bibliocommons.com/events/](https://wccls.bibliocommons.com/events/)

**Friends of the North Plains Library**

Please consider joining the Friends in 2021. They raise money through memberships and book sales to enhance the library collection, summer reading program, and more. It is a wonderful way to invest in your community! [https://nplibrary.org/friends/](https://nplibrary.org/friends/)

**Library Board**

The library board meets on the third Wednesday of each month to discuss the library, its goals, and objectives. No meeting in December. The next meeting will be on Jan. 20 at 4 p.m. via Zoom.
Chief’s Corner

As the weather grows colder, the chance of snow or ice increases. It’s only a matter of time before our area sees snow on the roads this winter. Please remember to monitor the weather forecast, check road conditions and pack an emergency supply kit before hitting the road when a snow storm hits. Additionally, three areas in Washington County have been designated as "snow zones" - areas where motorists are required by law to have tire chains or traction tires on or in vehicles when traveling on the designated portions of roads during periods of severe winter weather. For more about road conditions in your area, please visit https://www.tripcheck.com/.

Something to keep in mind when getting ready to head out the door on a chilly day is to never leave your vehicle unattended and running while it warms up. No one wants to sit inside their cold vehicle on a chilly day, but leaving your vehicle on while unwatched gives car thieves the opportunity to break in or drive off with your vehicle and sometimes even returning later to burglarize your home. Remember, never leave your car unattended and running, even for a few seconds, because that is all it takes for someone to drive away with it.

January Calendar

City meetings are now a mix of in-person and virtual. Please visit www.northplains.org/calendar for information on how to join in.

- 01/04 City Council 7 p.m. with 6 p.m. work session
- 01/06 Economic Development Committee 6 p.m.
- 01/11 Parks and Recreation Board 6 p.m.
- 01/13 Planning Commission 7 p.m.
- 01/18 MLK Day City Offices Closed
- 01/19 City Council 7 p.m.
- 01/20 Library Board 4 p.m.

MyNorthPlains app now available!

Stay informed on the latest City of North Plains news and resources with the new MyNorthPlains app.

Access current North Plains news and events, pay your water bill, receive important emergency and community notifications*, discover local businesses, view park information, get community resources, contact us, and more - all right at your fingertips.

*Make sure to enable push notifications to get important and timely notifications as they happen.

Download today in the app store for IOS and Android
Saving Mother Earth

It is not all bad and sad 2020! Mother Earth smiles and gets a little lift from a hundred families in North Plains using washable and reusable produce bags when grocery shopping to replace single-use plastic bags. Thanks to Saving Mother Earth donors and volunteers, 500 mesh produce bags were sewn and 100 families got a free set of five bags each.

Re-elected Mayor Teri Lenahan supported this Saving Mother Earth project in January 2020. She and North Plains Elementary School Principal Rebecca Rios distributed the free produce sets of bags to residents and students on Earth Day’s 50th anniversary on April 22, 2020.

The following donors and volunteers that include re-elected State Representative Janeen Sollman and two anonymous donors made this project possible:


Saving Mother Earth still needs volunteers to sew available materials good for another 200 families for Earth Day 2021. Please contact Teri Lenahan at teri.lenahan@northplains.org or call 503-310-7512. No longer accepting donations.

TVF&R

Tips to Carry You Safely into 2021

With the New Year and resolutions on everyone’s mind, now is the time to think about some personal and home safety steps that can help carry you and your family safely into and through 2021, as well as save you time and money by avoiding winter-related damage to your home or business.

Tualatin Valley Fire & Rescue firefighters always see an increase in outdoor-related injuries around the first of the year. Keep these things in mind to minimize your risk of personal injury:

- Increased slip and fall injuries are of particular concern.
- Be extra careful on icy surfaces around your home – use kitty litter or sand to increase traction.
- Make sure to dress appropriately for outdoor activity; dress in layers with hats, gloves, and waterproof boots.
- Be aware of the wind chill factor, which can often lower the temperature by several degrees.
- Avoid traveling when the weather service issues storm advisories.
- If you must travel, make sure someone knows where you are going, what time you expect to arrive, and the route you plan to take.
- Pack extra water, food, blankets, and clothing in case of an unexpected emergency or delay.

There are also steps you can take to improve the safety of your home this winter.

- Have your home heating system serviced professionally to make sure it is clean, working properly, and ventilated to the outside.
- If you are heating with wood, inspect and clean fireplaces and chimneys.
- **Always** discard ashes in a metal container away from combustible materials.
- Check your smoke alarms to ensure they are working properly.
• Prevent carbon monoxide (CO) emergencies by installing a CO alarm in your home.

In addition to fires, TVF&R firefighters respond to other types of emergencies that can cause severe damage to homes and businesses. We recommend you take a few moments to familiarize yourself with the water shut off for your home/business if you haven’t done so already.

For the past several winters, TVF&R firefighters responded to hundreds of calls for frozen water pipes that burst and began flowing water. Businesses and homeowners suffered thousands of dollars in damage because they didn’t know how to stop the water from flowing.

During region-wide weather events, first responders must prioritize their response to life-safety incidents.

Knowing how to shut off your water and calling a professional can prevent significant damage to your home. Also, insulate exposed water pipes in the garage and cover outdoor water spigots.

Visit www.tvfr.com for more winter safety tips.
Know a senior in need of home repairs?

Winters are hard, especially in the Covid pandemic, many senior citizens are isolated and do not have access to home repairs that will help them survive the winter.

West Tuality Habitat for Humanity has resources available to help **low-income, elderly, disabled, or veteran homeowners** in Forest Grove, Cornelius Banks, Gaston, North Plains, Buxton, Gales Creek, Manning and Timber for repair projects including but not limited to:

- Fixing Leaking Toilets and Sinks
- Wheelchair Accessible Ramps
- Grab Bars
- Sagging Gutters
- Light Electrical or Plumbing Work

Access our repair application at: westtualityhabitat.org/repair-program

We need your help reaching these homeowners in need. Please pass this information along to anyone who may need it.

You can reach us at our offices at (503) 359-8459 or stop in at the Forest Grove ReStore to learn more! 3731 Pacific Ave, Forest Grove

Together we build homes, communities, and hope.