Mayor’s Corner

The month of February is marked with candy hearts, flowers, valentines and celebrations of love. As we continue to navigate the pandemic, let’s not forget the many good things we love about our community and why we reach out to each other as we do. We are all in this together.

The first quarter of the new year is a time for Council to reflect on our City Goals. A few years ago, the City Council created a set of goals and we have been making steady progress toward those goals. In March, I will be presenting the State of the City address, virtually, and I hope to address our accomplishments and provide some insight for the path forward. More details will follow.

North Plains is known for its community events. This past year, many of you stepped up to provide small little community events. Thank you! However, during a pandemic, safety is our top priority. The City and the North Plains Events Association will be working together to find ways to continue our annual traditions, while keeping you safe. I am open to your feedback, so please feel comfortable reaching out to me with your ideas, teri.lenahan@northplains.org.

Happy Valentine’s Day to all of you – I hope you cherish the love of your life and that you continue to have faith in each other and in your community. Stay involved with your community by volunteering, helping your neighbors or pay it forward with a small random act of kindness. It can make a difference in someone’s life and in North Plains.

May the year ahead be kinder and gentler for all of us.

-Mayor Teri

North Plains 2020 Year in Review

From City Manager Andy Varner
Looking back on 2020, despite the COVID-19 pandemic and social unrest that dominated attention, the City of North Plains and our community remained connected and resilient. Although the way we did things looked a little different, the City continued to make progress on our goals and continued to deliver quality services for the community.

One of the things I am most proud of is the adaptability of our workforce, City Council, and boards and committees. People took the shutdowns in stride and adapted quickly to remote work and making the necessary changes in the office that enabled us to continue to safely serve our residents and businesses. From our library to public works, and from police to our front desk administrators - I owe them all a debt of gratitude for showing up every day and taking responsibility for keeping things moving in North Plains. I am also thankful that our community rallied together during a difficult year and understood some of the difficult decisions we had to make on behalf of public health concerns.

Below is an overview of key 2020 City accomplishments on behalf of the community by department:
City Manager’s Office and Community Development:

- Started work on developing a 5-year capital improvement plan to meet the growing infrastructure needs of the community. Completion is expected in spring 2021.
- Community Development and the Urban Renewal Agency coordinated on several economic development and urban renewal district projects to enhance the local economy, both through planning and physical projects. This included pursuit of strategic properties to purchase in the city for economic development purposes, and being awarded a grant for downtown corridor improvement planning.
- Completed a strategic communications plan and engaged a communications professional to help implement various initiatives to improve communications and community engagement including launching an improved city website, higher-quality print and digital newsletters, and the MyNorthPlains city app.
- Hired a new Finance Director and City Engineer.
- Assisted with engineering and plan reviews for multiple developments in town.
- Passed a voter-approved gas tax that will provide additional funding for larger transportation projects in the community, including street resurfacing and overlays, sidewalks, new crosswalks, intersection projects with ADA ramp access, and a multi-use pathway.

Finance Department:

- The North Plains finance team spent 2020 helping the City and the North Plains community better weather the COVID-19 crisis, including:
  - Managed the Buy Local Club Program, which offered water bill credits to residents as they made purchases at local businesses restricted by stay-at-home orders.
  - Worked with Washington County partners to award $137,960 in small business grants to North Plains small businesses.
  - Managed the construction and opening of the North Plains Veterans Memorial Park.
  - Completed the one-mile multi-use Ghost Creek Trail and turtle pond overlook.
  - Managed the NW Commercial Street improvement paving/striping project.
  - Managed the initial construction of the 2 million gallon above ground water storage tank reservoir on NW West Union Road (to be completed in June 2021).
  - Installed the NW Glencoe and Pacific crosswalk signal for safer pedestrian crossing.
  - Conducted a water leak detection program on the entire distribution system (consisting of 20+ miles) that detected and repaired 6 leaks that prevented a loss of approx. 40,000 gallons per day.
  - Installed a new play structure at Lamordden Park on NW Curtis Street.
  - Painted fire hydrant curbs and installed blue reflective buttons on streets so fire responders can more easily locate hydrants at night.

Library:

The Library was innovative in adapting to the COVID-19 restrictions, and was the first library in the state to shift to online storytimes and was among the first to shift to
contact-free holds pickup processes. Other accomplishments:

- Served over 4,000 attendees in storytimes and early literacy classes in 2020, and checked out 43% more downloadable items in 2020 than in 2019. Overall checkouts for 2020 came in only 39% under 2019 despite a closure followed by pandemic service restrictions.
- Was the first library in WCCLS to address indoor air quality through HVAC improvements, which were reimbursed by CARES funds.
- Continued to work with library volunteers remotely who helped assemble summer reading giveaways and helped with outreach distribution.
- Conducted an outstanding summer reading program with contact-free distribution of over 600 books and art supplies to community youth ages 0-18 years.
- Expanded outreach to include book and other giveaways to local migrant farmworkers and Meals on Wheels participants.
- Partnered with Peak Chiropractic and other local businesses that collected over $1100 to kickstart a youth STEM Kit collection for check-out.

Library News

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.

Winter Reading for All Ages
Children may complete a BINGO and be entered to win a $10 gift card to Powell’s Books. Take a photo or a screenshot of your completed bingo and email it to Mrs. Emily at emilyw@wccls.org by the end of February 2021. BINGO Card . For more fun, color in a book, snowflake or light bulb each time you read a book on this children’s Reading Log .

Teens may complete a BINGO and be entered to win a $10 gift card to Powell’s Books. Take a photo or a screenshot of your completed bingo and email it to Brianna at briannas@wccls.org by the end of February 2021. Teen BINGO Card

We invite adults to join a Winter Warmer Reading Club. Read or listen to a book then submit a brief review to enter a weekly prize drawing for a hot beverage from an area business. A grand prize will be awarded at the end of February. We will accept entries via our online or paper form January 4th through the end of February. Book Review Form

Shelf Shopper
5 more to enjoy! Our librarians provide personalized reading, viewing, listening recommendations, and more. Fill out the request form and receive a list of 5 recommendations with easy links to the library catalog or online location.

Interactive Virtual Storytime
Join Mrs. Em on Zoom for songs, stories, wiggles, and bubbles every Tuesday at 11 a.m.

Public Safety Department:
North Plains Deputies continued to patrol and protect North Plains in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic, which changed many policing procedures due to new safety protocols. In total North Plains Deputies conducted 2,267 police actions for 2020. Additional details include:

- Responded to 833 calls for service from North Plains residents (calls into dispatch).
- Took 263 police reports - reports ranged from minor investigations to major complex investigations involving detectives.
- Conducted 600 traffic stops.
- Self-initiated 1,434 calls including North Plains Deputies flagged down by a citizen or observed a crime in progress.

- Started work on updating the City’s Emergency Operations Plan (EOP), with completion slated for the first half of 2021.
- North Plains also assisted with evacuations and incident command during the fires in south Washington County.
Please visit https://wccls.bibliocommons.com/events/ to sign up for the Zoom link to attend.

**Kindergarten Readiness Classes**

**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.

Register online for youth classes at https://wccls.bibliocommons.com/events/

**Teen Council Plays Broken Picturephone**

Join to play this live game where you and your friends create books of drawings and phrases, one page at a time, only being able to see one previous page. Then, everyone experiences each full book together! **Friday, February 5th at 4:30.**

https://wccls.bibliocommons.com/events/

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**Chief’s Corner**

**Safety Spotlight – Road Safety in Heavy Rains**
The rainy season is upon us, and the North Plains Police Department encourages everyone to drive with caution. Heavy rains can cause serious safety risks on the road such as hydroplaning, when water covers the road’s surface, causing tires to lose traction.

The American Safety Council provides tips to avoid hydroplaning:
- Keep tires properly inflated
- Rotate and replace tires when necessary
- Slow down when the roads are wet: the faster you drive, the harder it is for your tires to scatter the water
- Stay away from puddles and standing water *(Turn Around, Don't Drown)*

- Avoid driving in outer lanes where water tends to accumulate
- Turn off cruise control
- Avoid hard braking

Washington County Land Use and Transportation (LUT) uses flood gates and barricades on flooded roads for traveler safety. Moving or driving around barricades is not only dangerous but against the law, with a potential fine of $260. A mere 6 inches of fast-moving water can knock over an adult, and 12 inches can carry away most cars. It is never safe to drive into flooded waters.

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**Planning Commission Vacancy**

**Planning Commission Vacancy: Why Should You Apply?**
Are you interested in having a voice in local decision making and serving your community? Do you want to get involved and learn more about your community? Maybe you have relevant expertise to share (not required)? Serving on a City of North Plains commission or board offers residents an important opportunity to do all of this and to make a difference.

**Consider applying for a current opening on the North Plains Planning Commission!**

Established in 1972, this seven-member commission is a volunteer citizen advisory group that makes land use development decisions. They also make recommendations to the North Plains City Council on land use issues and code changes, including the City’s Comprehensive Plan, individual district plans, and zoning and development regulations.

“Shortly after I moved to North Plains to raise my family, I decided that I wanted to give something back to the community we love. I joined the Planning Commission to assist in shaping its future for my children and generations to come. I have enjoyed my years of service and encourage others to join and help make North Plains the best little city in Oregon.”

- Current Planning Commission Chair Stewart King

Commissioners serve 4-year terms, and the Planning Commission meets the second Wednesday of each month at 7 pm. Materials for each meeting are provided electronically one week in advance so that Commissioners can prepare for the meetings in a way
that works for their individual schedule. Currently, meetings are being held virtually via Zoom.

Eligibility requirements include that members must reside in or own property or a business within the City limits, no more than two members shall be engaged in the buying, selling, or developing of property for profit as individuals or as employees of any corporation as such, and no more than two members shall be engaged in the same occupation, business, trade, or profession.

To learn more and apply, visit NorthPlains.org or call 503-647-5555.

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**February Calendar**

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

- 02/01 City Council 7 p.m.
- 02/03 Economic Development Committee 6 p.m.
- 02/08 Parks and Recreation Board 6 p.m.
- 02/10 Planning Commission 7 p.m.
- 02/15 President’s Day City Offices Closed
- 02/16 City Council 7 p.m.
- 02/17 Library Board 4 p.m.

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**TVF&R**

**TVF&R Begins COVID-19 Vaccinations of First Responders**

Tualatin Valley Fire & Rescue has completed COVID-19 vaccinations of 410 of its frontline personnel and 496 law enforcement officers and fire partners as of January 14. Vaccinations will continue through the coming weeks and months.

“This is a long time coming,” said TVF&R Fire Chief Deric Weiss, on the first day of vaccinations. “For me to see the first few people go through, it’s a culmination of all the hard work by the men and women across the organization. They’re excited and they’re encouraged about the future now. There’s a lot of work ahead, but today’s a good day.”

TVF&R started vaccinating firefighters and paramedics on January 3 at its South Operating Center.

In partnership with county health partners, TVF&R moved on to vaccinate police and fire partners, including personnel from Forest Grove Fire & Rescue, Tualatin Police Department, Tigard Police Department, West Linn Police Department, Sherwood Police Department, Beaverton Police Department, Forest Grove Police Department, Gaston Fire Department, Cornelius Fire Department, Banks Fire Department, and Newberg Police Department.

Washington County Sheriff’s Office and jail personnel began receiving vaccinations on January 15. More agencies and city and county partners are in the process of scheduling vaccination events with the district in the weeks ahead.

Paramedic Megan Rye was TVF&R’s first vaccine recipient. She’s been a paramedic since 2007 and joined TVF&R in 2017. “I feel great,” she said. “I’m excited for the opportunity to get it and excited to start protecting our residents. It just provides everyone a little bit of hope in a time that’s not the greatest. I think it will give me a little more confidence when treating patients.”

Paramedic Jesse Gonzalez also feels relieved to be vaccinated, but he’s not letting his guard down. “Having some assurance that we’re protected is a huge deal for us and the community, but we’re still wearing masks inside the stations,” Gonzalez said. “We keep six feet of distance and are taking every precaution as if we didn’t have the vaccine.”

The fire district received an initial round of 1,000 Moderna COVID-19 vaccine doses from the Oregon Health Authority on December 30, 2020. In preparation for the vaccine’s arrival, TVF&R’s vaccine branch of its COVID-19 task force worked with public health partners over the previous month to create scalable distribution plans for more than 550 employees, as well as city and county partners to support the vaccination of first responders in the Group 1a category established by the state of Oregon.

Those receiving the COVID-19 vaccine will return for a second dose about a month from their first vaccination.

These vaccinations are a first step toward blunting the impact of COVID-19 and protecting the communities we serve. As more vaccine doses become available in 2021, TVF&R wants to remind people to remain vigilant by wearing a mask, washing hands, and maintaining physical distancing.
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Cannot be combined with any other offers

Buy any XL or Large Pizza and receive a free Cinnamon streusel
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Cannot be combined with any other offers
Our Free Public Services are expanding!

Starting February 8th, 2021

The following services are expanding in Washington County

**westLink** A free weekday shuttle open to all members of the public that connects the four communities of Forest Grove, Banks, North Plains, and Hillsboro. Ride Connection is adding two midday round trips to our schedule.

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**GroveLink** A free weekday shuttle in Forest Grove expanding into Cornelius on Saturday. Including stops at Fred Meyer and Walmart! All our vehicles follow CDC protocols for COVID safe practices.

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**Door to Door** Ride Connection’s free transportation service, available to all members of the public in rural Wa. Co. Mon-Sat. We are expanding its travel radius to include new urban and rural connections for individuals looking for flexible and socially distanced travel options.

*All our vehicles follow CDC protocols for COVID safe practices.*

For maps and schedules visit rideconnection.org/washcoexpansion

Or to learn more about our services call 503.226.0700 (TTY: 711)