Mayor’s Corner

What do you do for Earth Day? Use less trash, electricity or water? Is it possible to make a big impact on the environment by making small changes? I think so.

Earth Day was founded in 1970 as a day of education about environmental issues. It occurs on April 22nd every year. The holiday is now a global celebration that is sometimes extended into Earth Week, a full seven days of events focused on green living.

Last year, we heard from one of our local residents, Fely Magallanes, who was sewing reusable produce bags for all families in North Plains. Many of you were the recipient of those bags, I know I was and I use them each time I go to the grocery store. Well, during the pandemic, getting together and sewing these reusable bags became harder and harder and she and her fine group of volunteers slowed down a bit. I spoke with Fely the other day and she is branching out a bit by asking others in the region to assist with cutting and sewing. So if you are still interested in helping her, please send me an email and I will connect you and Fely. My email is teri.lenahan@northplains.org.

On several social media websites and discussion threads, I have noticed many of you talk about ways to reduce, reuse and recycle. I’ve also seen you share tips and tricks for recycling clothes, glass, fencing, household items, etc. Making small changes can impact our environment in a big way.

I feel that our city is a fairly clean city. You do your part by using the many garbage cans throughout town. Thank you for doing your part. On Thursday, April 22nd, in addition to my daily walk around town, I intend to pick up trash along the way and could use some help, we could call it "Trash Talkin' with the Mayor" - watch my Facebook page for more information or drop me an email with any questions and/or comments.

Over 1 billion individuals have mobilized for action every Earth Day and over 190 countries get engaged. North Plains, what are you going to do to get engaged? Please consider joining me on April 22nd so we can prove that the small things we do each day really can have a greater impact in our environment.

-Mayor Teri

City Wide Garage Sale

The North Plains Annual Garage Sale will be held on Saturday May 1st 2021. Everyone is encouraged to participate in this free event either as a buyer, a seller, or both. A list will be put together of all the garage sales in the City and surrounding area at no cost to you, please know that it will only be your physical address that will be listed. If you would like to participate in this year’s event, please send an email with your name and address to lochlolly1@aol.com.

Join our email list to get timely news and updates delivered to your inbox.
**Library News**

**Interactive Virtual Storytime**
Join Mrs. Em on Zoom for songs, stories, wiggles, and bubbles 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.

**Cooking & Crafting Super Session**
In April, we will explore the regional flavors of Nigeria! Join us to learn, discover, and create! Tues. April 27th 3:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m. Please visit [https://wccls.bibliocommons.com/events/](https://wccls.bibliocommons.com/events/) to sign up for the Zoom link to attend.

**Kim Stafford Literary Event,**
*Engaging Conversations in Word, and Song*
Friday, April 9th at 7 pm
A North Plains’ evening of fabulous conversation with author Kim Stafford and special guest Bethany Lee. Please join us for a magical night of poetry, music, and conversations. This will be a virtual event featuring readings from Kim’s new book, *Singer Come From Afar* with musical interludes presented by Bethany Lee. Pull up a comfortable chair and tune in for an evening of wonder and connections. Register at wccls.bibliocommons.com/events.

**Earth Day Poetry Contest**
Celebrate Poetry and Earth Day with the Library this April! Submit an Earth Day themed poem with your name, age, and contact information to northplainslibrary@gmail.com or to the library book drop from April 1st – 30th. One child, one teen, and one adult will win a set of reusable produce bags. 1 entry per person. Poems may be illustrated but it is not required.

**Clean Up Day**
We are excited to announce, we are hosting Clean-Up Day in 2021! Join us Saturday, May 8th, from 8 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the St. Edwards church. All 97133 residents are eligible to attend, and will need to bring the post card each household will receive in the mail to the event. Disposal fees are still being confirmed, so check our Facebook page and website for more updates as the event gets closer! This event is hosted by the City of North Plains, North Plains Events Association, and Garbarino.

**Chief’s Corner**
Good afternoon, I’m James Haxton, the newly appointed Chief of North Plains Police Department. I wanted to take this opportunity to [introduce myself](https://www.northplains.org) as I continue to settle in as Chief. Though new to the North Plains community, I have been in law enforcement for 22 years, drawing on my experience from both the Washington County Sheriff’s Office and Army National Guard.

I am excited to be a part of North Plains and hope to bring new insight, but I am also eager to learn from you and work together to enhance this community. Connecting and establishing relationships by talking with residents and local businesses is the most effective way I can make an impact.

The North Plains Police Department and Sheriff’s Office encourage community input to provide the best service possible. Please feel free to introduce yourself, share feedback, ideas, ask questions, or provide insight. There are many ways to connect with...
us, and I am always available if you would like to reach out to me directly.

North Plains Police Department
- Chief James Haxton: 503-846-2496 or policechief@northplains.org
- North Plains City Hall: 503-647-5555
- Non-Emergency: 503-629-0111
- Mail: 31360 NW Commercial St, North Plains, OR 97133

Sheriff’s Office
- Sheriff’s Office Records: (503) 846-2700
- Non-emergency dispatch: (503) 629-0111
- Mail: 215 SW Adams Avenue MS #32, Hillsboro, OR 97123

April 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.

- 04/05 City Council 7 p.m. with 6 p.m. work session on Economic Development.
- 04/07 Economic Development Committee 6 p.m.
- 04/12 Parks and Recreation Board 6 p.m.
- 04/14 Planning Commission 7 p.m. with 6 p.m. work session.
- 04/19 City Council 7 p.m.
- 04/21 Library Board 4 p.m.
- 04/21 Budget Committee 6 p.m.
- 04/28 Budget Committee 6 p.m.

Backflow Device Testing
It’s that time of year again! Backflow device/Cross connection testing is due by June 1st. Any water customer that utilizes an irrigation system needs to have their system inspected by a licensed backflow device inspector. If you have questions, please visit https://www.northplains.org/publicworks/page/water

TVF&R
TVF&R Will Be Hiring Paramedics and Firefighters to Join its Ranks
Tualatin Valley Fire & Rescue is preparing to begin selection and hiring processes in the coming months for both entry-level paramedics and firefighters.

The fire service could be the ideal career choice for those interested in helping others, being part of a dynamic team, and serving a diverse community.

To help potential applicants, the District launched a “Steps to Prepare” page on www.tvfr.com that provides resources and information about what individuals can do to learn more, prepare, and apply. It also includes job descriptions and requirements. TVF&R is hosting a Facebook/Instagram live informational meeting on both social media platforms Thursday, April 15, at 6 p.m. that will provide insight on what it takes to become a firefighter. Those interested in exploring a career as a firefighter are encouraged to attend and follow TVF&R on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter for recruitment updates and event reminders.

A virtual paramedic informational meeting was held in March. The event was recorded, and a link is available for those unable to attend.

There’s never been a better time to consider a career in the fire service. To learn more about joining TVF&R’s team of first responders, visit www.tvfr.com/412/Steps-to-Prepare.

Bank Fraud
A reminder from Columbia State Bank
If you receive a call where you are asked to provide account, routing, or login information to your bank account, take a moment to assess the validity of the call. Legitimate businesses like Comcast and Amazon
will not call you and ask for this information over the phone. Even if the phone number is a local number, err on the side of caution and do not provide any information. You can always call the agency (using a number from their website) and ask if there is actually a problem with your account.

City Budget 101

Every city government prepares an annual budget that is a plan of expected revenues, and expenditures, as well as savings reserves for emergency and future use. The City of North Plains is moving from an annual to a biennial (two-year) budget cycle beginning on July 1, 2021 and will start the budget review and approval process for this biennial budget in mid-April.

During the budget creation process, the North Plains City Council, the City’s Budget Committee (actively seeking members), and city staff work to create a budget that aligns with the city’s goals, priorities, and strategic initiatives. The schedule includes meetings that the public may attend virtually, as well as a public hearing:

- April 15: City Manager releases proposed budget
- April 21, 28, May 19: First, second and third (if necessary) Budget Committee meetings to discuss and approve the budget
- June 7: City Council meeting to hold public hearing on the approved budget
- June 30: City Council must adopt the budget by this date

The city budget is constantly monitored and can be adjusted during the approved budget cycle by the council in case of emergencies or if significant unexpected revenues are received. The City also uses a budget forecasting tool to look further into the future and help guide decision-making processes.

North Plains operates with a budget of around $10 million annually* (or $20 million biennially*) across various fund categories including the General Fund, Enterprise Funds, and Capital Funds. *There is also about the same amount reflected in the budget that is held in reserves for emergency and contingency funds.

The General Fund:
The General Fund is the City’s largest fund and pays for most of the day-to-day services of the City including General Government, Public Safety, Library, Parks & Recreation, and Community Development.

Where does the money come from?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>General Fund Revenue by Source</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>License/Permits, Fees</td>
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<tr>
<td>Intergovernmental</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fines and Forfeitures</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grants and Donations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Revenue</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Property Taxes</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

What is the money spent on?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>General Fund Expense by Department</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Library</td>
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<tr>
<td>Parks &amp; Recreation</td>
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<td>Community Development</td>
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<tr>
<td>General Government</td>
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<tr>
<td>Public Safety</td>
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Did you know? North Plains’ local property tax rate is the second lowest among all cities in Washington County. Also, unlike most other cities, North Plains currently does not have a local option property tax levy to boost specific services.
Other funds:

**Streets & Water Enterprise Funds** - these funds are financed and function more like a private business, and account for revenues from charging fees for a service and the expenses for delivering that service. The Street Fund is primarily for maintenance and management of the City’s streets, sidewalks and other right of way assets such as street lights, and funding sources include Transportation Utility Fees and intergovernmental revenues (fuel taxes, county vehicle registration fees). The Water Fund is the water utility for residential and commercial customers inside city limits and is funded by user fees (ie, your water account).

**Capital Funds** - these funds are for dedicated revenues and expenses for maintaining and expanding City capital facilities, such as roads, paths, parks, and water infrastructure. These capital improvements are long-term investments in city facilities and infrastructure. There are seven Capital Funds as of Fiscal Year 2021 including Transportation (four funds each to account for different revenue sources), Water Utility Fund, Parks Fund, Vehicle Reserve, Transportation Development Tax Fund, and the Urban Renewal Agency that acts much like a Capital Fund.

Capital funding sources differ by fund and include system development charges (SDC) collected from developers as new development occurs, some grants, accrued interest, and various transfers from the General Fund.

We welcome and encourage public participation in the City’s budget process. For more information on the budget, you can attend the public meetings listed above, take a look at the detailed current adopted annual budget document on the city’s website, or join the Budget Committee! Call 503-647-5555 for more information.

**Boy Scouts Food Drive**

Boy Scout Troop 275 will collect donations of canned or non-perishable food on **Saturday April 17, starting at 9:00AM**. This collection will benefit the Oregon Food Bank.

For the last 8 years we’ve collected donations of canned, non-perishable food from the generous residents of North Plains. In 2021, things are looking a lot better than last year, but there is still a strong need in our community.

If you are able, please leave a donation of non-perishable food items at the end of your driveway before 9:00AM on April 17th. Boy Scouts will NOT knock on your door. Instead, we will make a contact-free pickup from your driveway so that the food is not left outside for long. Pickup time starts, April 17th, at 9:00AM.

Boy Scouts will NOT knock on your door.

**We’ll pick up your bottles & cans too!**

Recyclables with an Oregon deposit value can also be left out at the end of the driveway by 9AM. Proceeds from these donations will benefit North Plains Boy Scouts programs and activities.

Questions? Please contact Darrel Smith (Scoutmaster) at: (503) 648-1488

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**Stride for Seniors**

Meals on Wheels will be having our 4th annual Stride for Seniors walkathon on **Saturday, April 24th**. Please join the local team or create your own to support our mission! You can go to strideforseniors.org to register. This year, the North Plains, Hillsboro and Forest Grove senior centers are joining efforts to raise money for the organization. Our team is called “Westside Warriors.” The link for our team is: http://events.mowp.org/site/TR/WalkRun/General?team_id=2144&pg=team&fr_id=1080. Our goal this year is to raise $450k to help support seniors in our communities. Thank you!
City Property Purchase

City of North Plains Plans for the Future With Commercial Property Purchase

The City of North Plains Urban Renewal Agency (URA) recently purchased 5.07 acres at the intersection of Glencoe Road and Pacific Street to plan for future commercial opportunities currently lacking in North Plains, including a potential grocery store center. The URA will spend 2021 planning the site and working with the private and public sectors on development opportunities.

The URA has labeled this property the Glencoe Opportunity Area (GOA) due to its location in the center of the City’s economic corridor, and for its convenient access between Highway 26 and the community’s downtown. This area has a zoning designation of General Commercial, which allows for a wide variety of retail uses. The zone also allows for urban mixed-use opportunities, including residential.

"The City of North Plains is fully committed to bringing a much-desired quality, full-service grocery store to this community, especially after the COVID-19 economic crisis," said Mayor Teri Lenahan.

This property is part of an overall North Plains Urban Renewal Area that encompasses commercial, industrial, and residential lands along most of Glencoe Road and Commercial Street. The City’s Urban Renewal Plan (adopted in 2006) contains goals, objectives, and projects for the revitalization of the Urban Renewal Area.

For more information, please contact City Manager Andy Varner at andy.varner@northplains.org.