Mayor's Corner

Celebrate the most important people in your life.

There are many reasons to celebrate the month of May. From National Truffle Day to Cinco de Mayo to National Limerick Day and even International Hamburger Day. May can be full of surprises just waiting to happen. However, my favorite is Mother's Day. You see, my mother, Donna, passed away 26 years ago from cancer. There isn't a day that goes by that I don't think about her. While the sadness has waned, my love for her remains full and present.

A little about Donna. Her gentle spirit and kind heart was infectious and people flocked to her like crazy. She was a peacekeeper. She was a working mother, a ferocious reader, had a photographic memory, loved to square dance, sew, sing (not all at the same time) and loved to cook for her family. As I began my motherhood journey, she became a beacon of strength for me and I tried to emulate her wisdom as best as I could.

Why am I sharing this with you? I recognize that the annual Mother's Day holiday can prove challenging for some of us. I wanted to share my story to celebrate her and the other women who helped 'mother me' after she passed. While some mothers can never be replaced, I believe paying it forward to find meaningful ways to honor the women in our lives can be a gesture of love in her memory and perhaps make her proud of the child she raised.

Happy Mother's Day to all the women out there. May is your month!

-Mayor Teri

Library News

Get ready for Summer Reading! Starting June 1st, “Reading Colors Your World” with the North Plains Public Library including book giveaways for all community youth, outdoor events, a new Storybook walk, Win-A-Book-Wednesday for adults, and monthly take & make crafts for all ages!

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/ to sign up for the Zoom link.

Cooking & Crafting Super Session
In May, we will explore the regional flavors of Mexico! Join us to learn, discover, and create on Wed. May 26th from 3:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m. Please visit https://wccls.bibliocommons.com/events/ to sign up for the Zoom link.
Teen Game Night: 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, May 7th at 4:30.
https://wccls.bibliocommons.com/events/

Prelude to Mothers’ Day
By popular demand, Bethany Lee returns with a virtual musical presentation on May 7th at 7 p.m. Bethany captured our 70 attendees with her harp accompaniment at our Poetry Month celebration with Kim Stafford in April. She will perform restorative harp music and give us a sneak peek into her new poetry book: Etude for Belonging: Poems for Practicing Courage and Hope. Please visit https://wccls.bibliocommons.com/events/ to sign up for the Zoom link.

Thank you for your support and cooperation as we resumed browsing and computer use in March and April! We will continue to admit one person or household at a time while in the High and Moderate county risk levels for COVID-19. We encourage contact-free holds pick up in the vestibule of the library if that meets your needs at this time.

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 postcard each household will receive in the mail to the event as the ticket for entry. 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, Washington County, and Garbarino.

Chief’s Corner
Prevent Child Window Falls
During beautiful weather, it’s enjoyable to open windows and let in the fresh air, but if there are young children in the house, remember the importance of practicing window safety. Nationwide, approximately 3,000 children under the age of 6 fall from windows every year, and unfortunately, North Plains officers have already responded to calls this Spring. Window falls can happen quickly and unexpectedly; here are some tips to prevent these awful tragedies:

- Leave windows open no more than four inches and install window stops.
- Move furniture or anything a child can climb on away from windows.
- Teach children to stay at least two steps away from windows (and enforce the rule).
- Install window guards for windows open more than four inches.

For more information, visit www.stopat4.com/information-for-families

May 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.

- 05/01 City Wide Garage Sale
- 05/03 City Council 7 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
Young Women Have Chance to Explore a Career as a Firefighter
Applications are being accepted for Portland Metro Fire Camp for those who identify as female ages 16 to 20. This camp is an all-encompassing introduction to a rewarding profession. The camp is designed to instill confidence while building leadership and team skills.

Participants will learn what it takes to be a firefighter while completing hands-on training in hose and ladder skills, vehicle extrication, search and rescue, ropes and knots, live-fire operations, aerial ladder climbs, forcible entry, emergency medical skills, and other firefighting tasks.

They will also receive instruction from professional female firefighters from multiple agencies on how to

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prepare for interviews and gain insight on what it is like to have a career in the fire service as well as the importance of good nutrition and physical fitness. This free fire camp will be offered twice this summer on two weekends.

The first camp will be held July 30, July 31, and August 1 at TVF&R’s Training Center, 12400 SW Tonquin Road, in Sherwood. Applications will be accepted for this camp through June 30.

The second camp will take place August 28 and 29 at the Portland Fire & Rescue Training Center, 4800 NE 122nd Ave., in Portland. The deadline to apply for this camp is July 30.

Applications and more information are available online at portlandmetrofirecamp.com.

**Property Taxes**

**North Plains Property Taxes Explained**

If you are a property owner, you’re likely familiar with property taxes. For those who aren’t, property tax is paid annually by property owners, including individuals and legal entities such as businesses, and is an important source of revenue for more than 1,200 local taxing districts in Oregon.

Property taxes rely on county assessment and taxation offices - in our case Washington County - to value the property, calculate and collect the tax, and distribute the money to the appropriate cities and special districts. Property subject to taxation in Oregon includes all privately-owned real property (e.g., land, buildings, and fixed machinery and equipment), manufactured homes, and personal property used in a business valued over $15,500.

Property owners in North Plains currently pay a total combined property tax rate of 15.4832 per $1,000 of taxable assessed value. Other agencies, including Washington County and local public schools, also have their own tax rates that are included in the full property tax assessment that is reflected in annual property tax statements provided by Washington County Assessment and Taxation each November. Of this total combined property tax, North Plains property owners pay $2.17 per $1,000 toward the permanent City (local) levy.

North Plains’ local permanent property tax rate is the second lowest among all cities in Washington County. Unlike most cities, North Plains currently does not have a local option property tax levy to boost specific services, such as police or parks. All other peer cities but Banks have higher permanent City levies. Five other cities also have a local option levy approved by voters in those cities to temporarily raise additional taxes to fund operational needs.

For the City of North Plains, property taxes accounted for 39% of the General Fund for Fiscal Year 2020-21 (ending June 30, 2021). Taxable assessed values within the City have continued to grow since 2008 due to both new construction as well as assessed value growth, which is limited to 3% annually under Oregon’s Measure 50.
North Plains UGB Expansion Project

Public Meeting

Join us! Join us for a public meeting to discuss the North Plains UGB Expansion Project and UGB expansion study areas.

Monday, May 17th from 6:00 - 7:00 PM
Jesse Mays Community Center

Join virtually! A Zoom meeting link will be posted to the City calendar.

What is the UGB Expansion Project?

North Plains is growing! The City is expected to add more than 2,500 people by 2037. Recent annexations of the City’s Urban Growth Boundary (UGB) North and East expansion areas have provided hundreds of houses and a new school. North Plains will need to expand the UGB by about 400 acres to accommodate new homes and jobs needed to accommodate growth over the next 16 years.

In the fall of 2020, North Plains initiated the multi-year North Plains UGB Expansion Project. In Phase 1, the City is establishing a study area of approximately 1,700 acres to consider for UGB expansion. The preliminary UGB expansion study area is shown in green on the map provided. In 2021, the City will begin phase 2 to assess the ability of each subarea to meet the City's needs and eventually determine which 400 acres will be added to the UGB.

North Plains: 2037

estimated population of 6,091 people

North Plains expands by 400 acres for homes and jobs

Project Advisory Committee
The PAC met in November 2020 and February 2021. PAC Meeting #3 will be held virtually on Thursday, May 6th. The PAC will continue as the advisory body throughout Phase 2. For more information, visit the project website.

Questions or comments?
Contact Andy Varner, City Manager
andy.varner@northplains.org or 503.647.5555
With Mother’s Day coming up, please consider shopping locally with us for all your floral needs:
Gifts for a Loved One, Everyday Arrangements, Weddings, & Funerals.
We would love your support!

WHAT’S NEW IN THE MURAL BUILDINGS ON COMMERCIAL STREET?

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