April 2012

Community News

City of North Plains, 31360 NW Commercial Street, North Plains, OR 97133 www.northplains.org

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Volunteer Recognition Night April 12th

Eleventh Annual North Plains Volunteer Recognition Night and Spaghetti Feed is scheduled for Thursday, April 12, 2012, 6:30 p.m. at Jessie Mays Community Hall 30975 NW Hillcrest Street.

Everyone is encouraged to attend this annual event honoring the town's many dedicated volunteers with a free spaghetti dinner. This dinner is cooked by the North Plains Senior Center and served by the Knights of Pythias.

Among the nominees for the volunteer of the year and lifetime achievement awards are Elaine Achtel, Jessie Baker, Randy Burns, Patti Burns, David Hatcher, Christine Lantz, Carolyn Levitt, Nikki Robinson, Dody Stanton, Vanessa VanDomelen, Mike VanDomelen, Diane VanGrunsven, and Mitch Ward.

Draft 2012-2013 Budget Published

It is budget time again for the City, which operates on a July 1 – June 30 fiscal year.

On March 21 the City published the first draft of the new budget and posted it on the website www.northplains.org.

This year's budget includes broad narratives explaining the condition of the various City funds and providing goals for programs.

Like many other cities North Plains is addressing the structural issues that have caused costs to escalate in recent years.

Overall, the proposed budget reflects General Fund expenses lower than in any of the three previous fiscal years. In total the City will have 9.5 full-time employees after July 1. The City is reevaluating its costs for everything from postage meters and finance software, to employee benefits and building maintenance costs. Every effort is being made to reduce costs without affecting the services used by residents. The proposed budget actually increases funding for reserve officers to add patrols within the community, seeks to expand library hours to meet state standards, restore City mowing of ditches in the summer time, and implement additional community programs including more community events.

North Plains Public Library News

Hearing Voices Storytelling Festival.

The 8th annual Festival will take place from April 7 – 14 and features four professional storytellers: Tim Tingle from Texas, Kirk Waller from California, Habiba Addo from Oregon and Ghana, West Africa, and Leslie Slape from Oregon. On the evening of Saturday, April 14, the North Plains Public Library will host the final storytelling concert at the Pumpkin Ridge Golf Club featuring free performances by all four storytellers for the enjoyment of adults and children ages 6 and up. A reception for the Storytellers at 6:00 will precede the program from 6:30-8:00 p.m.

First Friday Flick. Free family movie nights occur on the first Friday of each month beginning at 6 p.m. at the Library. The PG-rated movie to be shown on Friday, April 6 is a Disney-released musical comedy in which friends reunite to save a theater from being destroyed by a greedy oil tycoon. This film won an Academy Award for Best Original Song. Seating is limited. Refreshments will be served.

Storytime. Children ages 0-6 are invited to join us for Storytime with Jackie every Wednesday at 11:30 a.m. in the children's section of the Library. On April 4, guest story reader Miss Marion will feature Tricky Tales in honor of April Fools' Day. On Wednesday, April 18, meet special guest Farmer Jeff and his new baby goat and listen to stories about life on a farm.

Friends of the Library Meeting. The Friends will meet on Monday, April 9 at 7 p.m. at the Library. New members are welcome to attend.

Super Saturday – Aerospace Book Club (ABC). Come at 1 p.m. on Saturday, April 14 to the Jessie Mays Community Hall for a free program presented by the Evergreen Aviation Museum. The ABC program is designed to inspire a passion for reading and science through engaging, aviation-themed books. The presentation, suitable for elementary school children, will also feature a science craft project. Refreshments will be served.

Library Book Club. On Wednesday, April 25 at 7 p.m. at the Library, Book Club participants will discuss State of Wonder by Ann Patchett. A researcher at a pharmaceutical company travels into the Amazon River delta to determine the fate of a team of researchers that has not been heard from in two years. New members are welcome. Refreshments will be served.

Craft Night. Bring your handicraft projects to the Library on Thursday, April 26 from 5:30-8 p.m. Meet new friends, learn new skills, and enjoy the camaraderie. Craft items are sold at community events throughout the year in order to raise funds for Library materials and programs.

Washington County Heritage Online. This collaborative project of local museums, libraries, and cultural organizations allows you to explore a repository of digitized photographs chronicling the county's rich history. Spend some time exploring the history of Washington County in pictures at: http://washingtoncountyheritage.org/cdm/.

Library Information. The library is located at 31334 NW Commercial Street. Open hours are Monday-Wednesday, 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. and Thursday-Saturday, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Call 503-647-5051 or visit our website at www.nplibrary.org. You can also find us on Facebook.

Garlic Festival Update

Planning for the 2012 Elephant Garlic Festival has already begun.

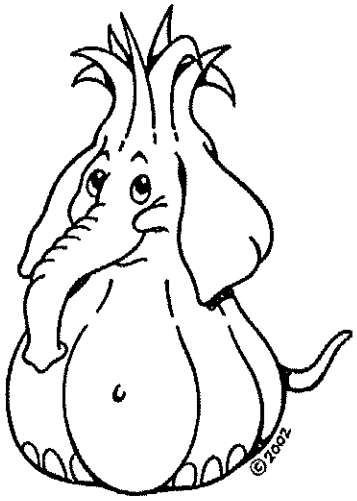
This year's event should be as fun as always, featuring music, kids activities and, of course, garlic beer and ice cream. The size of the event will be roughly the same, and more than 15,000 visitors will come to our City.

The event is scheduled for August 10, 11 and 12th at Jessie Mays Park.

This year the Chamber of Commerce is turning over the reigns of the festival to the City. The Chamber plans to continue to support the festival as a sponsor.

Fortunately the same long-time volunteers who have organized the festival in recent years are participating in the transition that is likely to result in the formation of a non-profit organization to operate the annual event. (Similar organizations exist for events like Mt. Angel Oktoberfest and Sisters Rodeo.) The goal of the organization would be raise funds for the North Plains community and scholarships.

This change will allow the Chamber of Commerce to proceed with its plans to encourage more business development in North Plains, and start new community traditions with alternative fund raising-events.



Look for 2012 Elephant Garlic Festival updates at www.funstinks.org

North Plains Farmers' Market Second Season Starts June 19

The North Plains Farmers' Market will be open again this year every Saturday from June 16th through September 29th.

Operating hours are from 9:00 a.m.-1:00, and the location will continue to be at NW 314th Street between Commercial and Kaybern streets.

This year the North Plains Farmers' Market is proud to accept the following types of payments:

SNAP
Oregon Trail Cards
WIC and
Senior Vouchers.

Thanks to a generous donation from New Seasons Market, funds are available to match Oregon Trail card purchases, up to $5.00 per week per card until the funds run out.

The Farmers' Market continues to seek board members, volunteers and vendors for the market.

For more information go to our website: *www.northplainsfarmersmarket.com*

Farmers' market needs volunteers. Just a few hours each month.

New Seasons Market is providing matching funds for Oregon Trail cards up to $5.00 per week

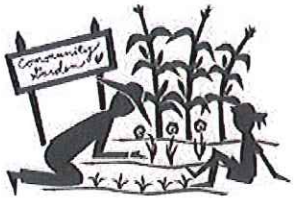
Community Garden Opening

You can still reserve your space at the North Plains Community Garden, 31383 Commercial Street next to Robinson's Floral Ltd.

The North Plains Community Garden will be opened on April 28th.

Many gardeners have reserved spaces at the garden which range in cost from $10-$20/year. Guidelines regarding the garden can be found at northplains.org.

The garden will feature several large growing beds as well as dozen raised beds. There will be space for cleaning



vegetables and a small picnic area in which gardeners can rest.

Residents are encouraged to have children participate in the garden planting. The North Plains Farmers' Market is planning to hold a young Sprouts event this spring to encourage children to plant and nurture seedlings.

City Wide Garage Sale May 5

Are you ready to do some spring cleaning?

The North Plains annual Garage Sale will be held on May 5 this year. Everyone is encouraged to participate in this free event either as a buyer, a seller or both.

There is no cost to you to participate as a seller and free garage sale signs are provided to participants.

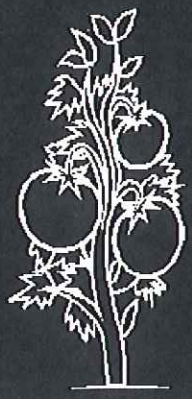
If you would like to participate in this years' event please call City Hall at 503-647-5555 or send an email to info@northplains.org.

Plant Sale May 5!

North Plains Garden Club will hold its annual plant sale at Jessie Mays

on May 5 in the morning

There will be lots of vegetables and flowers at low prices. Proceeds help fund the flower pots that decorate Commercial and Main Streets.



Clean Up Day on May 12

"Shred your confidential documents at this year's clean up event."

Please join us for the annual Clean Up Day on May 12 at Jessie Mays from 8 a.m. until 11:30 a.m.

You can dispose of unwanted items in dumpsters.—Or maybe you could recycle some of your old treasures. The City is working to have charitable organizations available to accept donations of clothes, shoes, toys and household goods as well.

This year the City will also hire a shredding truck to help residents destroy confidential documents such as old checkbooks, bills etc...The service will ensure your privacy while allowing you to dispose that old information taking up space in your desk.

More information will be in next month's newsletter.

Knights of Pythias

Glencoe Lodge #22, 31520 NW Commercial Street

Support Our Troops Care Package Project April 21, 2012 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Support Our Troops Care Packages is a Knights of Pythias' community project. On April 21st donated items and funds will be collected to fill boxes and ship packages to our troops deployed throughout the world.

Please donate:

- **Baby Wipes/Hoo Ahhs Field Towels** - packets are better than tubs.
- Snacks that won't melt
  - **Beef Jerky/Slim Jims**
  - **Energy Bars** (Power Bar, HOOAH brand energy bars formulated for soldiers, etc…)
  - **Dried Fruit**
  - **Sunflower seeds**
  - **Peanuts**
  - **Hard Candy** (Atomic Fireballs / Jolly Ranchers
  - **Chewing Gum**
  - **Doritos**
- **Hot Sauce** (Tabasco, Red Devil, etc)
- **Seasoning Salt** (Lawry's, Cajun, etc.)
- **Travel size board games**
- **Playing cards**
- **Crossword puzzles, soduko books**
- **Smarties or SweetTart candies** (for local children who prefer sour style candy to build relationships with community)
- **Powdered Energy/Electrolyte Replacement Drink Mix** (Gatorade, etc.)
- **Avon Skin So Soft** - great for removing face paint
- **AA-cell Alkaline Batteries**
- **Personal Hygiene Gear:**
  - Disposable Razors
  - Toothbrush and Tooth Paste
  - Foot powder
  - Qtips
- **Eye Wash / Drops** (Visine, etc.) for flushing dust and sand out of the eyes
- **Zip-Lock style Plastic Storage Bags** - assorted sizes, heavier freezer style are better
- **Pre-paid Phone Card**

The Pythians would like to know of any family members serving in the military from our community, if you know of any or would like to volunteer to help please contact Kevin Hardwick mkhardwick@msn.com

City of North Plains

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We're on the Web!
See us at:
www.northplains.org

We have an App for that!
If you have an android phone you can download the North Plains app for one touch access to our website. Follow this QR code.

Council Agenda

In April the City council will consider the following items on its agendas:

- Use of State Revenue Sharing funds

- Water rates for Washington County Fire District # 2

- Purchase of 2.88 acres at Highland Court and 313th Avenue where Vern Galaway Memorial Park is located

- PGE franchise agreement renewal

- Employee compensation and benefits

- Summer events schedule

4th of July Celebration

The City is coordinating an old-fashioned 4th of July celebration.

A committee of volunteers is being assembled to help organize the activities which would include music, games for kids, and other activities like a parade.

Commercial Street between 314th and Main streets will be temporarily closed for the one-day event.

We hope if you are in town you will plan to participate.

New Master Fee Schedule

City Council adopted a new Master Fee Schedule on March 19. This schedule updates most of the City's fees to reflect the actual cost of services. While some were increased, in many cases fees were also decreased particularly in the area of building and pl
anning.

The City created the new schedule to make our processes as easy to understand as practical. This year we will also focus on making our forms and handouts more simple and easy to use.

Dates to Remember:

City Council - 7 p.m. on April 2 and 19. at Jessie Mays

Budget Committee meeting including a public hearing 7 p.m. on April 9 at Jessie Mays

Chamber of Commerce – Noon, April 10th at Washington County Fire Station #2

North Plains Garden Club - 9 a.m. April 11 at Jessie Mays

Planning Commission 7 p.m. on April 11 at Jessie Mays

Library Board - 7 p.m. on April 18 at Library

Parks Advisory Committee 7 p.m. April 25 at Jessie Mays