

CITY NEWS

Better Together

MAY 2024
ISSUE 14

Ashland Fire & Rescue Open House

Save the date... Friday, May 31, 2 to 6 p.m.



You are invited to visit with service members at Ashland Fire & Rescue and tour Fire Station No. 1!

- Learn how AF&R (Ashland Fire & Rescue) works in partnership with citizens for better disaster preparedness and community safety.
- Meet the AF&R administration and line staff serving the community!
- Take a tour of Fire Station No. 1 and see new equipment and apparatus.
- Sign-up for volunteer opportunities and access local resources.
- Refreshments and fun for everyone attending.



Photo Bob Palermi



Photo Bob Palermi

Fire Station No. 1 is located at 455 Siskiyou Blvd. Learn more at ashland.or.us/Fire.
We look forward to seeing you there!

What's Inside...

City Council outcomes
Mayor student contest
Utility Billing
Emergency preparedness
Can I flush this?
Water saving tips for your yard
Careers in Gear event

Community Connect
Public Meeting calendar
June events
Ashland basecamp—Travel Ashland
Curious about something? Just ask!
Vision & Values
Communications



ashland.or.us
541.488.6002



Tonya Graham
Mayor



Paula Hyatt
Councilor
Position No. 1



Dylan Bloom
Councilor
Position No. 2



Jeff Dahle
Councilor
Position No. 3



Bob Kaplan
Councilor
Position No. 4



Gina DuQuenne
Councilor
Position No. 5



Eric Hansen
Councilor
Position No. 6

COUNCIL OUTCOMES April 2024 highlights

- Unanimously approved the Housing & Human Services Advisory Committee’s recommendations to award \$350,000 in Affordable Housing Trust Funds to the following organizations:
 - The Ashland Community Land Trust for \$40,000
 - Habitat for Humanity for \$100,000
 - OHRA (Opportunities for Housing, Resources & Assistance) for \$155,000
 - Sunstone Housing Collective for \$55,000
- Unanimously approved the Housing & Human Services Advisory Committee’s recommendations to award \$134,000 in Social Services funding to the following organizations:
 - Ashland Emergency Food Bank \$4,333
 - Ashland Food Angels \$10,667
 - Community Works Inc. (Dunn House) \$8,000
 - RVCOG (Rogue Valley Council of Governments) – Food & Friends \$6,333
 - Jackson County SART \$6,667
 - La Clinica \$13,333
 - OHRA \$34,333
 - Peace House \$12,500
 - Southern Oregon Jobs with Justice \$11,667
 - Sunstone Housing Collaborative \$7,500
 - St. Vincent De Paul \$13,333
 - United Way \$5,333

For more information, including meetings, agendas, minutes and how to contact Council, visit ashland.or.us/Council.

COMMITTEE VACANCIES

Are you passionate about shaping the future of our city?



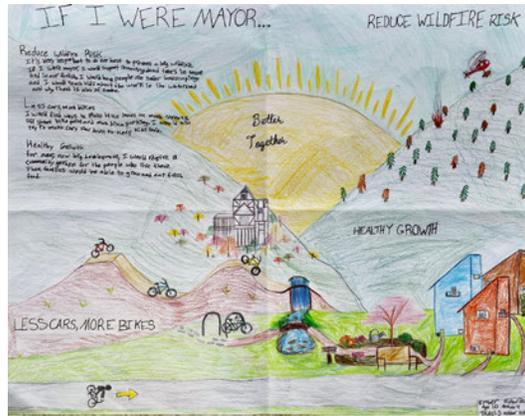
Here’s your chance to get involved! Applications are being accepted for the following volunteer committee positions:

- Historic Preservation Advisory Committee
- Housing & Human Services Advisory Committee Meeting
- Public Arts Advisory Committee (student reps)
- Social Equity & Racial Justice Advisory Committee
- Ad hoc Committee on Affordable Childcare & Early Childhood Development

More information and apply online at ashland.or.us/Vacancies. Together, we can build a stronger, more inclusive community.

“IF I WERE MAYOR...” STUDENT CONTEST WINNERS

We are thrilled to unveil the winners of the Oregon Mayors Association’s annual “If I were Mayor...” student competition.



Artwork by Ember Richards

Left to right: Councilor Paula Hyatt, Councilor Dylan Bloom, Ember Richards, Councilor Jeff Dahle, Mayor Tonya Graham, Councilor Bob Kaplan, Avalon Gerk, Councilor Gina DuQuenne, Councilor Eric Hansen.

The recipients of the 2024 awards are local students Ember Richards and Avalon Gerk. Richards is a 4th grader at TRAILS Outdoor School, and Gerk is an 8th grader at Willow Wind School. To view Richards’ and Gerk’s inspiring entries, visit ashland.or.us/OMAccontest.

A MESSAGE FROM UTILITY BILLING

Utility Billing will be initiating delinquent processing this month, starting with accounts over \$10K outstanding for over 180 days. We’ll reach out multiple times to help you bring your account up to date. Act now – Contact utilitybilling@ashland.or.us today to establish a payment plan and avoid service interruption. Don’t delay – *Let’s resolve this together!*

ARE YOU BEHIND ON UTILITY PAYMENTS?

Apply for a PAYMENT PLAN at ashland.or.us/Utilities, or at utilitybilling@ashland.or.us

Payment Plan Durations are available for past due balances, detailed below:

- \$500-\$1000 — 6 months
- \$1000-\$2000 — 12 months
- \$2000-\$4000 — 18 months
- \$4000 & up — 24 months

WAYS TO INTERACT WITH UTILITY BILLING

Need help?

Email utilitybilling@ashland.or.us

Call 541.488.6004 on Tue/Thu, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Visit us at The Grove, 1195 E Main St, Fri, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Need Disconnect or Connect Services?

Go to ashland.or.us/Utilities



ATTENTION ASHLAND! Don't wait for the next emergency – prepare now

With the threat of wildfires and natural disasters in our region, it's crucial to be ready. Here's how:

- Sign up your whole family for emergency alerts with City Alerts.
- Know your evacuation zones and understand evacuation levels.
- Pack a to-go bag with essentials.

Visit ashland.or.us/BetterPrepared to learn more. Stay safe, stay prepared!

BE READY. BE SET. GO NOW!

Know evacuation levels and follow advice of emergency officials. Make the best decision for your safety. Don't wait to evacuate if you feel unsafe!

LEVEL 1 BE READY
 PREPARE TO EVACUATE
 BE AWARE OF DANGER IN THE AREA

- ✓ Stay informed.
- ✓ Have your plan & go-kit ready.
- ✓ Act early if you or your loved ones can't move quickly.

LEVEL 2 BE SET
 BE SET TO EVACUATE
 AT A MOMENT'S NOTICE
 SIGNIFICANT DANGER IN THE AREA

- ⚠ Follow your evacuation plan & grab your go-kit.
- ⚠ Check news & radio for updates.
- ⚠ Conditions change rapidly. Leave if you feel unsafe.

LEVEL 3 GO NOW!
 LEAVE IMMEDIATELY!
 EXTREME DANGER IN THE AREA

- 🚫 Leave without delay. It is unsafe to stay.
- 🚫 Do not stop to gather belongings or protect your home.
- 🚫 Do not return until officials announce the area is safe.

CAN I FLUSH THIS? What sort of items should NOT be flushed



The following items should NOT be flushed down the toilet: cleansing wipes (even if marketed as flushable), Kleenex (facial tissues), gloves, masks, feminine products, dental floss, cat litter, paper towels, prescription drugs* and so on. These items are NOT formulated to quickly dissolve/disintegrate in water and can potentially create a temporary blockage (a “soft plug”) in the home drain line or City sewer line, which require clearing.

Home drain issues are usually addressed by the home or business owner using a drain clearing chemical and/or plumber's snake. In most cases, the City would use a very high-pressure stream of water to clear a sewer line soft plug. Sewer line plugs occur periodically and are not due to a sewer system malfunction or maintenance failure, instead, they are generally due to the flushing of inappropriate items into the sewer system. This makes removing soft plugs something every wastewater utility must be prepared to address as a normal periodic maintenance function.

Drain or sewer line problems are usually first detected when a home or business owner sees a backflow into a toilet, bathtub or sink and should be addressed immediately to avoid property damage. If someone suspects a sewer line is blocked, they should immediately report the problem to the City Wastewater Utility at 541.522.5587.

Cleaning or repairing a home or business following a backflow in a home drain line or sewer line is generally the responsibility of the home or business owner, including making related property repairs. The City may participate in these costs if the property damage is the result of a collapsed or failed sewer line.

Many homeowners' insurance policies do not cover expenses related to a sewer back-ups; however, it can be added to your policy. Contact your insurance agent to see if you can add this to your insurance coverage. To prevent an overflow onto one's property from a sanitary sewer line, a backflow preventer should be installed by a homeowner to protect their property.

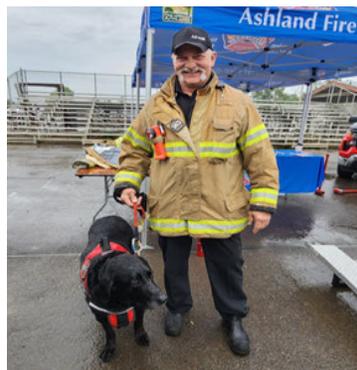


*A prescription drug receptacle is located at the Ashland Police Station at 1155 E Main St.

CAREERS IN GEAR EVENT

Several City of Ashland departments participated in this year's Careers in Gear event at the Jackson County Expo on April 25, 2024. We had representatives from the Public Works, Finance, GIS, Human Resources, Police and Fire departments.

This youth career exploration event is held annually and is attended by approximately 2,000 high school students. It was great to get out there and showcase all the City of Ashland has to offer. **We are better together!**



2024 Careers in Gear Fair at the Jackson County Expo



CREATE YOUR HOUSEHOLD LIFE SAFETY PROFILE TODAY

Building a safer community through prevention, preparedness & response.

Scan the QR code to sign up for Ashland's community connect.



Check it out!

You can now watch public meetings for City Council, Planning Commission and Parks & Recreation Commission on the new RVTV APP! Stream live from your phone or favorite device, including Android, iOS, AppleTV, Amazon Fire or Roku. Plus, access VOD (video on demand) content from various organizations, including the City of Ashland and more. It's all free and filled with valuable community information. Download "RVTV" from your app store today!

- 1 Create an Account**
Sign in for free and get started doing your part. It just takes your email phone number and address.
- 2 Enter the Info That Matters Most**
Enter valuable information that can help us assist more effectively during an emergency.
- 3 Help Your First Responders When Seconds Count**
That's it. Just keep us updated when things change over time so we can always be prepared.

communityconnect.io/info/or-ashland



CITY CALENDAR Public Meetings

CITY COUNCIL

Business Meeting: Meets 1st & 3rd Tuesday | 6 p.m.
Study Session: Meets 1st & 3rd Monday | 5:30 p.m.

ASHLAND PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION

Business Meeting: Meets 2nd Wednesday | 6 p.m.
Study Session: Meets 1st Wednesday | 6 p.m.

PLANNING COMMISSION

Meets 2nd Tuesday | 7 p.m.

CLIMATE & ENVIRONMENT POLICY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Meets 2nd Thursday | 5:30 p.m.

HISTORIC PRESERVATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Meets the Wednesday following the 1st Tue Council meeting | 4 p.m.

HOUSING & HUMAN SERVICES ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Meets 4th Thursday | 4 p.m.

SOCIAL EQUITY & RACIAL JUSTICE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Meets 1st Thursday | 5 p.m.

PUBLIC ARTS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Meets 3rd Thursday | 4 p.m.

TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Meets 3rd Thursday | 6 p.m.

See the City Meeting calendar for additional details. Information on attending or viewing meetings, and providing written or oral public testimony can be found at ashland.or.us/Council.

For questions or information on our Ad-hoc or Management Advisory Committees, not listed here, email administration@ashland.or.us or call 541.488.6002.

WHAT'S COMING UP?

June Events with Ashland Parks & Recreation

There are so many ways for all ages to have fun this summer. Through swim lessons at the Daniel Meyer Memorial Pool, birdwatching at the North Mountain Park Nature Center, line dancing at The Grove, to lunch at the Ashland Senior Center! View our current PlayGuide at ashland.or.us/Register.



Guided Walks in Lithia Park

Lithia Park Guided Walks are back for 2024! Led by passionate volunteers, these walks are free and open to all. Walks run May-September. Learn about the history, flora and fauna of Ashland's "crown jewel.". For schedule and more, visit ashland.or.us/LithiaGuidedWalks.



Photo Bob Palermmini

ALL FOR PICKLEBALL
Ashland Fundraiser-Lithia Park Courts

JUNE 15 & 16

Sponsored by: Ashland Oregon Pickleball Club (AOPC)
\$50 Donation
 supports Ashland Parks and Recreation Foundation

Register at www.ashland.or.us/register
 \$10 Registration fee required to sign up

For more info: Ashland Pickleball Club Facebook site or
 contact Cori Frank: jtf4cf@gmail.com,
 John Lane: gypsy lanes@att.net or
 Rebecca Jurta: rmjurta@gmail.com

Annual Cookout for Seniors & Families

Ashland Senior Center and the Ashland Police Department are thrilled to invite seniors and their families to join us for the annual free Cookout at Hunter Park on Saturday, June 29, from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. We'll be serving up delicious burgers, hot dogs, and sides, with a vegetarian option available too.

This event is made possible with the generous support of Village at Valley View. Registration is required, so please call 541.488.5342 to secure your spot. Details at ashland.or.us/seniorevents. **We can't wait to see you there!**

ASHLAND PARKS AND RECREATION'S PARK OUTREACH PROGRAM

All are welcome to join APRC staff and partners in the park this Summer! We will have fun activities for all ages, treats, crafts and games for kids and more. APRC staff will be on hand to answer questions, help with registrations, and provide information about our amazing parks. We look forward to Connecting with you.

June 22 | Garfield Park | 11 AM-2 PM
July 19 | Hunter Park | 11 AM-2 PM

For more info: AshlandParksandRec.org

June Events Continued...



**ASHLAND FOLK COLLECTIVE
SUMMER SOUNDS**
Free concerts in Lithia Park

Announcing the inaugural Summer Sounds concert series by the Ashland Folk Collective, Ashland Parks & Recreation and local businesses! Enjoy two free concerts in June and July at the Lithia Park Butler Memorial Bandshell, featuring family-friendly regional and national musicians. With the City's recent ordinance approval, attendees can now purchase beer/wine and food from local trucks. Proceeds support future community events. More information at ashlandfolkcollective.com.



**ASHLAND AIRPORT
DAY**



COME CELEBRATE THE WORLD OF FLIGHT!

SATURDAY, JUNE 8TH

8:00 AM to 3:00 PM

FREE ADMISSION ~ FREE PARKING

OPPORTUNITIES TO SEE PLANES, RIDE IN PLANES, FLY IN HELICOPTERS!

- | | |
|--|---|
| SKYDIVERS | HELICOPTER RESCUE DEMONSTRATIONS |
| SMOKEJUMPERS | AIRPLANES ON DISPLAY |
| ASHLAND ROBOTICS CLUB | KIDS ACTIVITIES |
| SCIENCEWORKS PRESENTATION | FLYING DRONES |
| RADIO CONTROLLED PLANE EXHIBITION | FOOD TRUCKS |
| | AND MUCH MORE! |

BASECAMP ASHLAND
Live Like a Local



Southern Oregon abounds with outdoor recreation and Ashland makes a great basecamp to do and see it all!

Little Hyatt Lake Trail —Check out this 3-mile out-and-back trail near Ashland. This is a moderately challenging hike, via the PCT (Pacific Crest Trail) that takes an average of 1 hour and 22 minutes to complete. The trail is located in the Cascade Siskiyou National Monument.

TravelAshland.com, @TravelAshlandOregon on social media and use the hashtags #Basecamp #BasecampAshland #LiveLikeaLocal.

LET CURIOSITY BE YOUR GUIDE

Are you curious about something in Ashland? Get your questions answered and see what others in the community are asking about. Questions like:

- Is it illegal to feed wildlife in Ashland?
- Where can i get a bear-proof trash can?
- What sort of items should NOT be flushed down the toilet?

All of this and more at ashland.or.us/Curiosity.



I'm curious about...

COUNCIL ADOPTED VISION & VALUE STATEMENTS FOR THE CITY

Vision

Ashland is a resilient, sustainable community that maintains the distinctive quality of place for which it is known.

We will continue to be a unique and caring city that stresses environmental conservation, fosters artistic expression and is open to new ideas and innovation.

We will plan and direct our efforts to fulfill this Vision for the long term with a constant view toward being an open, welcoming community for all with a positive economic future.

Values

Community

COMMUNITY AFFORDABILITY, including available housing and childcare

BELONGING through mutual respect and openness, inclusion and equity

QUALITY OF LIFE that underpins the City's economic vibrancy

ENVIRONMENTAL RESILIENCE, including addressing climate change and ecosystem conservation

REGIONAL COOPERATION, including in support for public safety and homelessness

Organization

RESPECT for the citizens we serve, for each other and for the work we do

EXCELLENCE in governance and City services

SUSTAINABILITY through creativity, affordability and rightsized service delivery

PUBLIC SAFETY, including emergency preparedness for climate change risk

QUALITY INFRASTRUCTURE AND FACILITIES through timely maintenance and community investment

COMMUNICATIONS

Stay informed at ashland.or.us/Communications, where you can:

- View the monthly *City News*
- View live streams
- Sign up for emergency alerts
- Ask a question

Receive daily updates by visiting and subscribing at ashland.or.us.

Follow us on social media

- Facebook [@CityofAshlandOregon](https://www.facebook.com/CityofAshlandOregon)
- Instagram [@CityofAshlandOregon](https://www.instagram.com/CityofAshlandOregon)
- X/Twitter [@CityofAshland](https://twitter.com/CityofAshland)
- YouTube [@CityofAshlandOr](https://www.youtube.com/CityofAshlandOr)
- Nextdoor

Use the hashtags #BetterTogether #CityofAshlandOregon

How to contact us:

- ashland.or.us
- administration@ashland.or.us
- 541.488.6002

