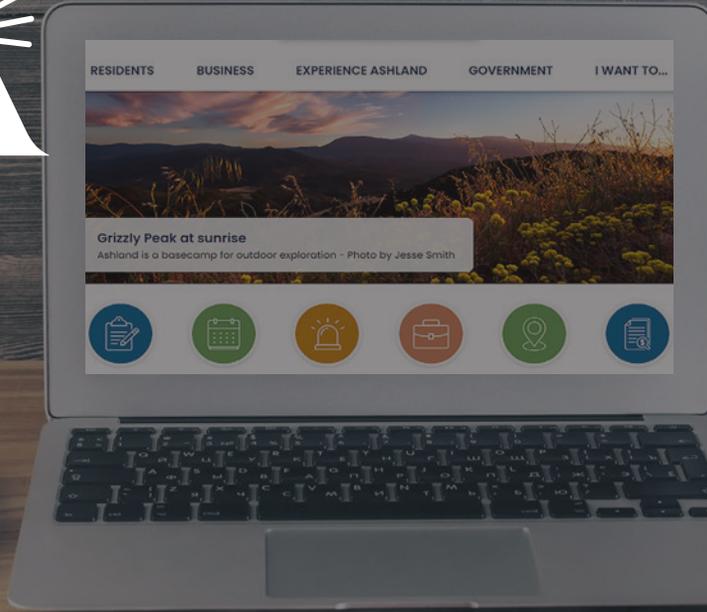


# CITY NEWS

*Better Together*

JUNE 2024  
ISSUE 15



## SAY HELLO!

— TO INNOVATIVE EXPLORATION! —

## STAY CONNECTED THE NEW ASHLANDOREGON.GOV

We've revolutionized our website to make it easier for you to stay connected & informed.

***"We are Better Together!"***

**Check out the new [ashlandoregon.gov](https://ashlandoregon.gov)**

### What's Inside...

- Council outcomes
- Serve on a Committee
- Coffee & Conversation
- New City Website
- Utility Billing
- Water conservation
- Fire Season
- Evacuations
- Community Connect
- Public Meetings Calendar
- July Events
- Basecamp Ashland
- Curious? Ask us!
- Vision & Values
- Stay Connected



*Better Together*

[ashlandoregon.gov](https://ashlandoregon.gov)

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 May 2024 highlights

- Unanimously approved the appointment of 12 individuals to an ad hoc committee to decide the future of the 2200 Ashland St property.
- Unanimously reestablished the Municipal Audit Committee.
- Unanimously approved a public arts project called the, "Playwright Walk Initiative."
- Unanimously approval for City staff to draft a natural gas ordinance and climate policy language for Council review in June 2024.

For more information, including meetings, agendas, minutes and how to contact Council, visit [ashlandoregon.gov/Council](http://ashlandoregon.gov/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
- Municipal Audit Committee
- 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 [ashlandoregon.gov/CouncilCommissionsCommittees](http://ashlandoregon.gov/CouncilCommissionsCommittees). Together, we can build a stronger, more inclusive community.

## COFFEE & CONVERSATION WITH CITY COUNCIL & STAFF



Join us for Coffee & Conversation with the City Council and Staff! This spring through early fall, we'll be hosting informal gatherings for a chance to get acquainted, chat and enjoy a cup of coffee together. Mark your calendars for the following dates and locations:

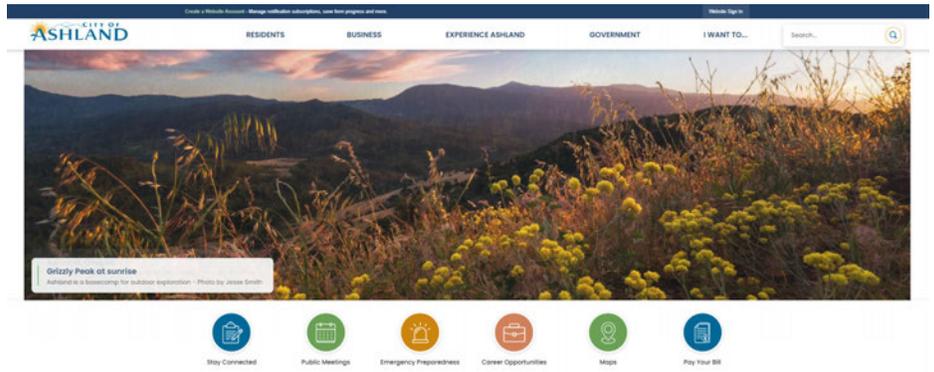
- **Friday, July 12, 10 to 11:30 a.m.**  
Enders Shelter in Lithia Park, Winburn Way near the Butler Memorial Bandshell
- **Wednesday, September 25, 3 to 4:30 p.m.**  
Railroad Park on "A" Street between 6th and 8th Streets

These gatherings will be casual with no agenda. We look forward to connecting with you because in Ashland, **"We are better together!"**

## NEW CITY WEBSITE ashlandoregon.gov

### Revolutionize Your Connection:

Say farewell to outdated web experiences! Ashland’s cutting-edge website is here to transform how you engage with your community, offering a sleek interface designed for intuitive exploration that is responsive on any device.



**Explore Ashland’s Hidden Treasures:** Dive into a world of discovery with our Mapping Hub. Whether you’re a local or a visitor, uncover the city’s secrets, navigate its streets, and unearth its gems with ease.

**Your Personalized Digital Oasis:** Tailor your online experience with a personalized dashboard. Bookmark your favorites, save progress on forms effortlessly, and receive notifications tailored to your interests, ensuring you never miss a beat in Ashland’s vibrant community life!

## A MESSAGE FROM UTILITY BILLING

Utility Billing will be initiating delinquent processing this month. We’ll reach out multiple times to help you bring your account up to date. Act now – Contact [utilitybilling@ashlandoregon.gov](mailto:utilitybilling@ashlandoregon.gov) 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 [ashlandoregon.gov/Utilities](http://ashlandoregon.gov/Utilities), or at [utilitybilling@ashlandoregon.gov](mailto:utilitybilling@ashlandoregon.gov).

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

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

### WAYS TO INTERACT WITH UTILITY BILLING

Need help?

- Email [utilitybilling@ashlandoregon.gov](mailto:utilitybilling@ashlandoregon.gov)
- Call 541.488.6004, Mon through Fri, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.
- In person at The Grove, 1195 E Main St, Fri, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.
- In person at Ashland Senior Center, 1699 Homes Ave, Mon or Wed, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., by appointment only at the Senior Center

Need Disconnect or Connect Services? Go to [ashlandoregon.gov/Utilities](http://ashlandoregon.gov/Utilities)



## SPRUCE UP YOUR SPRINKLERS

Take action now!

Did you know you can save water and money with a little sprinkler spruce-up this season? If you have an irrigation system, chances are it has been dormant for the past several months. Take a few minutes to check your system for common problems, such as leaks or malfunctioning sprinkler heads.



**Inspect** – Check your system for clogged, broken or missing sprinkler heads. If you're not the do-it-yourself type, go with a pro—look for an irrigation professional certified through the Oregon Landscape Contractors Board to help you maintain your system.

**Connect** – Examine points where the sprinkler heads connect to pipes or hoses. If water pools in your landscape or you have large wet areas, you could have a leak in your system. A leak about as small as the tip of a ballpoint pen can waste as much as 6,300 gallons (840 cubic feet) of water per month!

**Direct** – Are you watering the driveway, house or sidewalk instead of your yard? Redirect sprinklers to apply water only to the landscape.

**Select** – An improperly scheduled irrigation controller can waste a lot of water and money. Update your system's schedule every two weeks throughout the summer and turn the system off if rain is in the forecast. Call 541.552.2057 during the watering season for updated weather and controller scheduling information.

We offer many great resources to assist you in managing your landscape. Check out the Water-Wise Landscaping Website at [AshlandSavesWater.org](http://AshlandSavesWater.org) or call 541.774.2436 for more information.

## Utility Billing Assistance

Two City Departments are collaborating to offer support for your utility billing needs. Let's work together!



Our Finance Department and Parks & Recreation Senior Services Division have joined together to assist our residents with their online Utility Accounts and Utility Discount Applications at the Ashland Senior Center, 1699 Homes Ave. Appointments by the half-hour are available on Mondays and Wednesdays from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. and may be scheduled by calling Utility Billing at 541.488.6004, or schedule via email, at, [utilitybilling@ashlandoregon.gov](mailto:utilitybilling@ashlandoregon.gov).

Utility Billing phone lines are open Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., and in-person service is available at The Grove on Fridays at 1195 E Main Street from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Ashland Senior Services provides a variety of free or low-cost recreation, fitness, social and education opportunities as well as social events and other resources for older adults. For more information, visit us at [ashland seniorservices.org](http://ashland seniorservices.org), call 541.488.5342 or email.

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## FIRE SEASON IS UNDERWAY

Time to GET READY!

Saturday, June 1, marked the beginning of the 2024 summer fire season as declared by the Oregon Department of Forestry's Southwest Oregon District (SWO) and the City of Ashland. Now is the time to prepare your home and get ready for evacuations.

Open burning is now prohibited inside and surrounding Ashland until fall, so if you see smoke, please call 911 to report it immediately! No controlled burns on City or federal lands are planned until fall season 2024.

Fire season restrictions on gas-powered machinery and spark emitting activities are phased in over the summer as fire danger increases. Please check [ashlandoregon.gov/fire](http://ashlandoregon.gov/fire) for updates or visit [swofire.com](http://swofire.com).



**Learn more about emergency preparedness on page 6.**

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

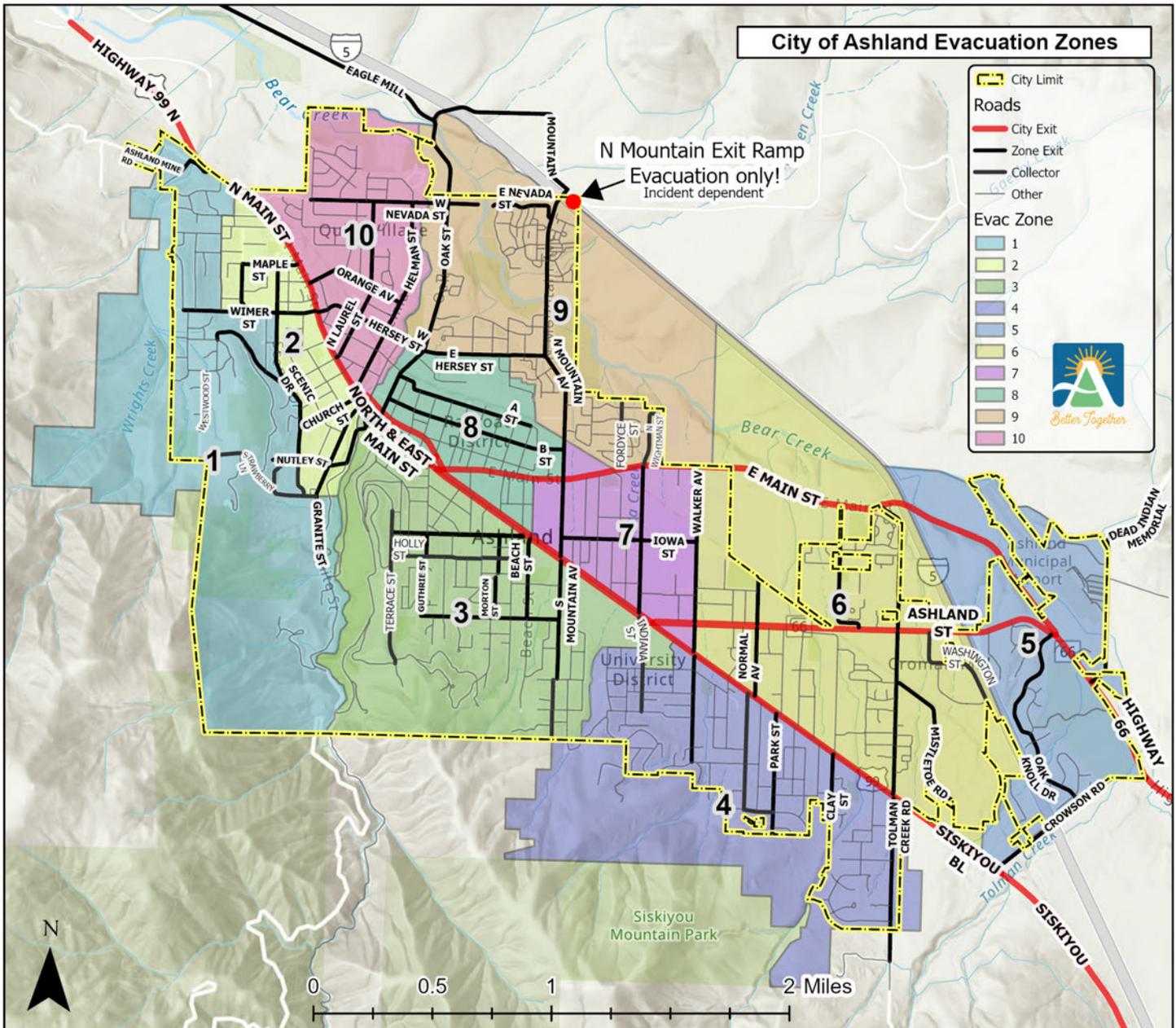
With the threat of wildfires and natural disasters in our region, it's crucial to be ready. Here's how:

- Sign up your whole family for emergency alerts with Everbridge Citizen Alert.
- Know your evacuation zones and understand evacuation levels.
- Pack a "GO!" bag with essentials.

Visit [ashlandoregon.gov/BetterPrepared](http://ashlandoregon.gov/BetterPrepared) to learn more. Stay safe, stay prepared!

## Ashland Evacuation Map—Print it, Post it, Save it!

This map is on the City website and it is interactive! Click on a zone to zoom in on your area, view street names to orient yourself and download/print YOUR zone map! We recommend putting the map on your refrigerator (for example) and on the top of your to-go bag. View map directly online at [ashlandoregon.gov/KnowYourZone](http://ashlandoregon.gov/KnowYourZone).





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.



- 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](http://communityconnect.io/info/or-ashland)



**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!

## 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 & 4th 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 [ashlandoregon.gov/Council](http://ashlandoregon.gov/Council).

For questions or information on our Ad-hoc or Management Advisory Committees, not listed, email [administration@ashlandoregon.gov](mailto:administration@ashlandoregon.gov) or call 541.488.6002.

## WHAT'S COMING UP?

### July Events with 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 North Mountain Park, line dancing at The Grove, to lunch at the Ashland Senior Center! View our current PlayGuide at [AshlandParksandRec.org](http://AshlandParksandRec.org).



### Daniel Meyer Memorial Pool—Open for the Season!

Dive into fun at your local outdoor pool! This season, we offer a variety of activities for all ages and fitness levels:

- **Recreation Swimming:** Perfect for families and friends. Be sure to check the online schedule before you visit.
- **Lap and Senior Swimming:** Dedicated times for focused swimming and senior-friendly sessions.
- **Water Aerobics:** A great way to stay fit and have fun in the water.
- **Water Polo:** Join a team or watch the action.

For more information and the latest schedule, visit us at [ashlandoregon.gov/Swim](http://ashlandoregon.gov/Swim).

*Come and make a splash at the Daniel Meyer Memorial Pool!*

### Fourth of July Fun in Ashland!

Mark your calendar for the annual Fourth of July Festivities in Ashland! The annual 4th of July festivities is organized by the Ashland Chamber of Commerce. Here is a run down of what to expect:



- 7:45 a.m. - The Parks & Recreation sponsored 4th of July Runs, a 2-mile fun run and a 10K.
- 10 a.m. - 4th of July Parade! The route begins at Triangle Park and ends on Water St. on the Plaza.
- 10 a.m. (approximately) Jet Flyover!

Complete details at [ashlandchamber.com](http://ashlandchamber.com).



Photo Bob Palermi

July Events Continued...



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 [AshlandParksandRec.org](http://AshlandParksandRec.org).



Photo Bob Palermi

Big Al’s Tennis Tournament

The 49th Annual Tennis Tournament in Hunter Park is set for July 11–14. For more informations, visit [AshlandParksandRec.org](http://AshlandParksandRec.org). This event is hosted by Ashland Tennis & Fitness Club.



Get ready for an unforgettable musical experience with the “Summer Sounds” concert series! Presented by the Ashland Folk

Collective in collaboration with Epic Ashland and Ashland Parks & Recreation, enjoy a free, family-friendly concert at the Lithia Park Bandshell, featuring **Blitzen Trapper** on Mon, Jul 29, 6 to 9 p.m. With food trucks, a shaved ice cart and a beer garden, the series aims to unite the community and enhance Ashland’s cultural scene. Attendees are encouraged to bring blankets and lawn chairs for a relaxed evening of fantastic music. More details at [ashlandfolkcollective.com](http://ashlandfolkcollective.com).

BASECAMP ASHLAND  
Live Like a Local



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

**Looking for a family hike this summer? Check out the Tomahawk Trail in the Klamath Basin**— The whole family will enjoy this fun half-day hike. The 2.8-mile easy hike is located West of Klamath Falls off Hwy 140. With little elevation gain, the trail offers majestic views of Mt. McLaughlin.

[TravelAshland.com](http://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:

- How can I pay my utility bill?
- What time does the annual 4th of July Parade start?
- Does the City offer trash and recycling services?

All of this and more at [ashlandoregon.gov/curious](http://ashlandoregon.gov/curious).



## COUNCIL ADOPTED VISION & VALUES 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

## STAY CONNECTED

Stay informed at [ashlandoregon.gov/StayConnected](http://ashlandoregon.gov/StayConnected), 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 [ashlandoregon.gov](http://ashlandoregon.gov).

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:**

- [ashlandoregon.gov](http://ashlandoregon.gov)
- [administration@ashlandoregon.gov](mailto:administration@ashlandoregon.gov)
- 541.488.6002

