

# CITY NEWS

*Better Together*

AUGUST 2024  
ISSUE 17

## Exciting News for Ashland's Community Center & Pioneer Hall!

We are thrilled to announce that we have taken a significant step towards revitalizing our beloved Community Center and Pioneer Hall. At the June 4, 2024, Business Meeting, City Council awarded a construction contract to Outlier Construction for the comprehensive rehabilitation of these historic landmarks.



*In 1908, the Community Center (right) served as the clubhouse for the Women's Civic Improvement Club. Pioneer Hall was a gift to the City of Ashland from prominent Ashland businessman Gwin Butler, who was the son of pioneer parents. Learn more via our interactive Story Map, Historic Lithia Park Tour, [gis.ashland.or.us/LithiaHistoric](https://gis.ashland.or.us/LithiaHistoric).*

*Story Maps explore captivating narratives and visualize spatial data, combining maps, images, videos and text to convey compelling geographic stories and insights. (Photo courtesy Terry Skibby Collection.)*

The project aims to address critical structural upgrades to meet current building codes, ensuring these facilities are safe and accessible for public use. This includes modifications to roofs, floors and enhanced ADA accessibility throughout both buildings. Construction is underway, with completion anticipated by March 2025.

During this period, pedestrian access along the sidewalk in front of the buildings will be temporarily closed for safety reasons. Rest assured, appropriate detours are clearly marked to minimize inconvenience.

This initiative underscores our commitment to maintaining quality infrastructure and investing in our community's future. The rehabilitation project, budgeted in the 2023-2025 biennium, reflects our dedication to preserving our cultural heritage while enhancing public spaces for everyone to enjoy.

We will keep you updated on the City website, [ashlandoregon.gov](https://ashlandoregon.gov), ensuring transparency throughout the construction process. Your patience and cooperation during this exciting time are greatly appreciated as we work together to bring these enhancements to fruition.

Thank you for being a part of our vibrant community. We look forward to unveiling the renovated Community Center and Pioneer Hall for generations to come.

## What's Inside...

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[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 JULY 2024 highlights

- Unanimously approved the Buildable Lands Inventory as presented by the Community Development Department. The plan reviews population growth projections and the City’s developable land inside and outside our existing urban growth boundary. Ashland is expected to need 848 new dwelling units in the next 20 years.
- Unanimously voted to accept the recommendation of the Social Equity & Racial Justice Advisory Committee to hire to **discuss at budget time to hire\*** a professional to conduct a comprehensive review of Ashland’s historical impacts on traditionally marginalized groups, with the goal of acknowledging these issues and taking meaningful steps to address them.

For more information, including meetings, agendas, minutes and how to contact Council, visit [ashlandoregon.gov/Council](http://ashlandoregon.gov/Council). Our public meetings calendar for **all** City meetings can be found at [ashlandoregon.gov/MeetingSchedules](http://ashlandoregon.gov/MeetingSchedules).

\* correction on August 6, 2024

## 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:

- Citizens’ Budget Committee
- Climate and Environment Policy Advisory Committee
- Historic Preservation Advisory Committee
- Municipal Audit Committee
- Public Arts Advisory Committee
- 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.

## IS IT OKAY TO FEED WILDLIFE?



Are you wondering if it is okay to feed wildlife in Ashland? The answer is no, it is not okay to feed deer, raccoon, wild turkeys, bear or cougars.

Please do not scatter food or garbage or any other attractant that might lure a wild animal. For more information visit our website at [ashlandoregon.gov/LivingWithWildlife](http://ashlandoregon.gov/LivingWithWildlife), or reach out to **Lisa Evans**, Code Compliance Specialist, [codecompliance@ashlandoregon.gov](mailto:codecompliance@ashlandoregon.gov), 541.552.2424.

## NEAR MISS REPORT [Transportation Advisory Committee \(TAC\)](#)

The City's Transportation Advisory Committee is collecting data to understand and improve the transportation network for all modes of transportation in Ashland. A Near Miss is an incident in which no property was damaged and no personal injury was sustained, but where, given a slight shift in time or position, damage or injury easily could have occurred. Scan the code to report.



You may also visit [ashlandoregon.gov/TAC](http://ashlandoregon.gov/TAC) for Near Miss Reporting and for information on the Transportation Advisory Committee.

## A MESSAGE FROM UTILITY BILLING

Utility Billing continues delinquent processing. 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, 8 a.m. to 4:30 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.

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



## Maximize your Water use and Minimize Waste!

During these hot summer days, it is a good idea to think about your water usage. Running an irrigation system all seasons can wear down your system, so being proactive in checking for leaks can help reduce water waste. Also, as the weather changes, adjusting your control accordingly will greatly reduce overwatering and can save money on your monthly bill. Below are some helpful tips for minimizing water and reducing leaks in your system.



**Periodic irrigation checks** — Inspect your irrigation system at least twice a month. Check for leaks, broken or clogged sprinkler heads and adjust. Be sure you're watering plants and not sidewalks, buildings or fences.

**Sprinkler System Evaluations** — Call to schedule a sprinkler system evaluation for **FREE!** This program is offered during the summer months and consists of a comprehensive assessment of the design, operation and management of your sprinkler system. Call **541.774.2436** to schedule one today!

Using a **Water Sense labeled smart controller** can reduce the amount of water needed for keeping a beautiful and healthy landscape. Take advantage of our smart controller rebate and earn up to **\$200** back on your controller; **\$250** back for HOAs and commercial facilities. Rebate forms are available at [ashlandoregon.gov/ClimateEnergyConservation](http://ashlandoregon.gov/ClimateEnergyConservation).

**Lawn Replacement Rebate** — Apply for a **rebate** for the removal of live, maintained and irrigated lawn that is replaced with climate-appropriate, low-water-use landscape and efficient irrigation systems. **Rebates up to \$1.75 per square foot of lawn removed.** Rebate forms are available on our website.

**High-Efficiency Toilet Rebate** — Apply for a rebate when you replace your old inefficient toilet(s) with a **WaterSense labeled 1.28 gallon per flush** high efficiency toilet(s). **Rebate up to \$75 for replacing an old toilet.** Rebate forms are available on our website.

**Washing Machine Rebate** — Apply for a rebate when you purchase and install a new **Energy Star** qualified washing machine. **Rebates up to \$80.** Rebate forms are available on our website.

**Check your meter** — Reading your meter is a great tool for you to use anytime. Read your water meter before and after a two-hour period when no water is being used. If the meter does not read the same, there is a leak.

**Adjust your watering schedule regularly** — Adapt for the weather and the season. Consider visiting [ashland saveswater.org](http://ashland saveswater.org) for an example watering guide or call **541.552.2062** to know the exact amount of water your landscape needs weekly.

To reduce the amount of water running off onto your sidewalks and hardscapes, **consider using the cycle and soak method on your landscape.** Watering multiple times a day while using shorter run times will help the water seep into our clay soils easier.

**FREE** showerheads, bathroom aerators, kitchen aerators, and soil moisture meters, are available for pick-up from the Community Development building at 51 Winburn.



For more tips, visit the WaterSense website at [epa.gov/watersense/outdoor](http://epa.gov/watersense/outdoor).

**“We are better together!”**

## 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, on Mondays and Wednesdays from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Utility Billing phone lines are open Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 4:30 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 [ashlandseniorservices.org](http://ashlandseniorservices.org), call 541.488.5342 or [seniorinfo@ashlandoregon.gov](mailto:seniorinfo@ashlandoregon.gov).

## FIRE SEASON IS UNDERWAY

Be AWARE & PREPARED!

As of July 9, 2024, our **fire danger increased to Extreme**. Restrictions are in place. To stay abreast visit [ashlandoregon.gov/FireSeasonInfo](http://ashlandoregon.gov/FireSeasonInfo).

For information about air quality in our region, please visit [ashlandoregon.gov/SmokewiseAshland](http://ashlandoregon.gov/SmokewiseAshland). **SMOKEWISE ASHLAND** is a local collaborative working group in Southwest Oregon dedicated to protecting public health and creating community resiliency in the face of increasing summer wildfire smoke and the overwhelming need to reduce community wildfire risk through proactive, safely conducted controlled burning.



**SMOKEWISE  
ASHLAND**

Learn more about **EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS** at [ashlandoregon.gov/BetterPrepared](http://ashlandoregon.gov/BetterPrepared) and on page 7.

- Know evacuation zone
- Know evacuation levels
- Sign up for alerts
- Pack a Go Bag
- and more!

Learn about **COMMUNITY CONNECT** on page 8. Community Connect is a free, secure, and easy to use platform that allows you to share critical information about your household that will aid first responders and emergency response personnel when responding to your residence!

# NEW INTERSECTION DESIGN ON ASHLAND ST

## Bike Boxes & Bike Lanes

Residents of Ashland should take note of the new paint markings at the Ashland St and Walker Ave intersection. Green "bike boxes" have been installed to enhance safety for bicyclists.

A bike box is a designated area at the front of a traffic lane at signalized intersections. It allows bicyclists to wait in a safe and visible position ahead of vehicles during red lights.

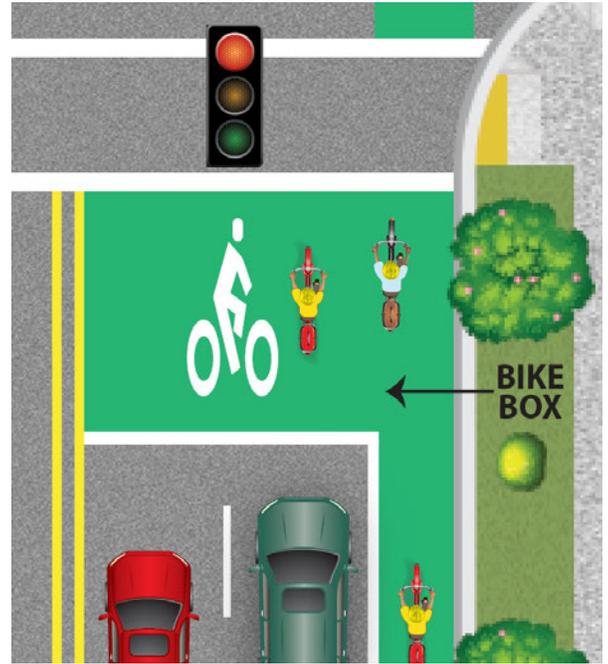
**For Drivers:** If you reach a red light, please stop and wait behind the bike box. Remember, right turns on red are not allowed. When the light turns green, allow bicyclists using the bike box to proceed through the intersection before you continue.

**For Bicyclists:** If you're in the bike lane and the light is red, enter the bike box behind the crosswalk. If you're going straight, position yourself in the center of the right-hand travel lane. You may turn right on red after stopping. When the light turns green, move through the intersection and merge back into the bike lane in your direction of travel.

**For Everyone:** Both motorists and bicyclists must yield to pedestrians crossing the street.

A short video on how to use bike boxes is on the Transportation Advisory Committee page at [ashlandoregon.gov/TAC](http://ashlandoregon.gov/TAC).

The Transportation Advisory Committee advises the City Council on transportation related issues specifically as they relate to safety, planning, funding and advocacy for bicycles, transit, parking, pedestrian and all other modes of transportation.



Pictured above is the new bike box at the intersection of Ashland St and Walker Ave. Drivers are not permitted to make a right turn at a red light where bike boxes are present.

## BASECAMP ASHLAND Live Like a Local



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

**Grouse Gap Loop** — Check out this 5.4-mile trail loop that starts and ends at the Mt Ashland parking lot. Part of the loop is on the Pacific Crest Trail! More at [ashlandtrails.org/grouse-gap-loop](http://ashlandtrails.org/grouse-gap-loop).

[TravelAshland.com](http://TravelAshland.com), @TravelAshlandOregon on social media and use the hashtags #Basecamp #BasecampAshland #LiveLikeaLocal.

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

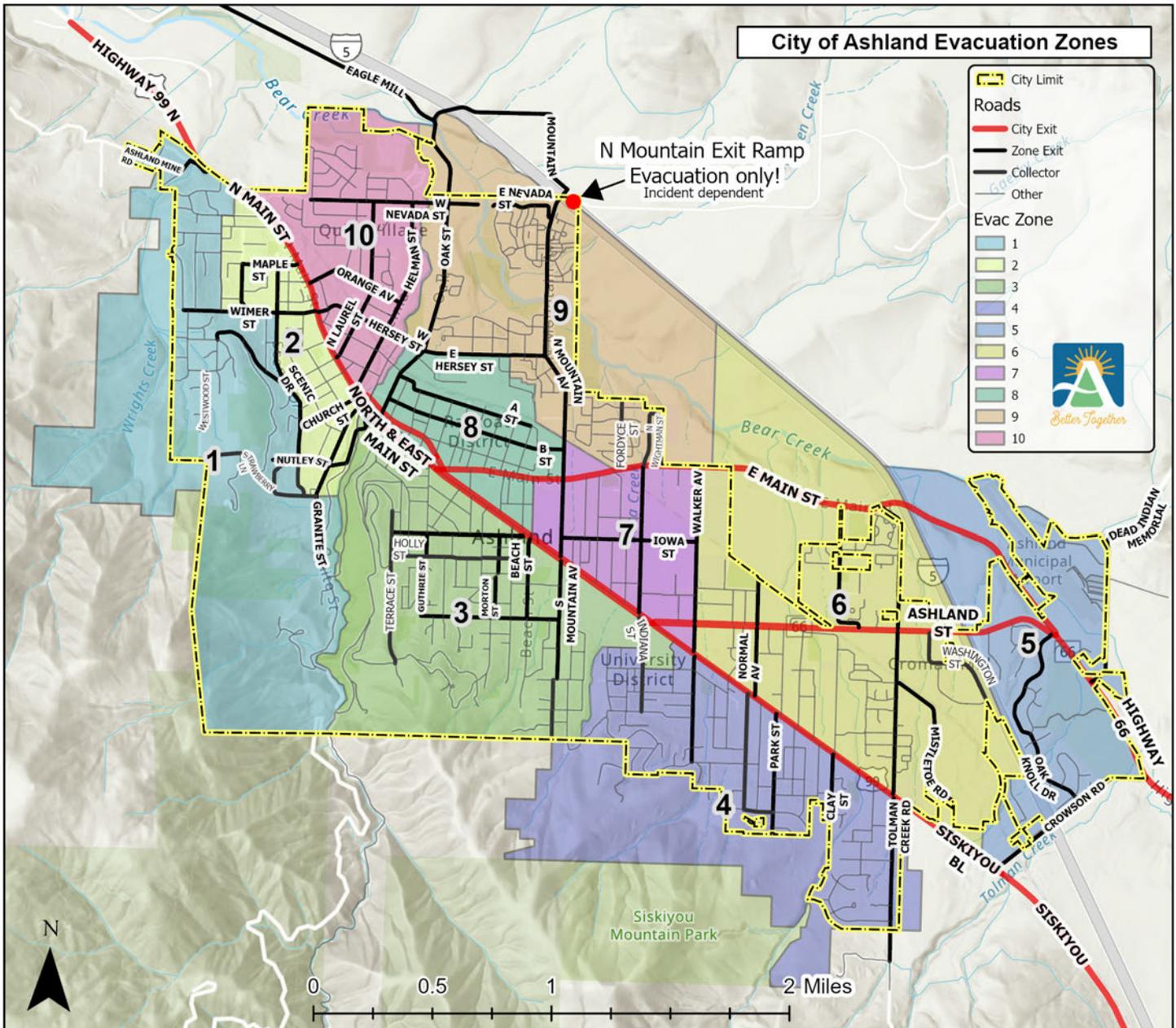
With the threat of wildfires and natural disasters in our region, it's crucial to be ready. Here's how:

- 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). Note: The evacuation map was expanded in May 2024.





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 | 4:30 p.m.

### PUBLIC ARTS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Meets 3rd Thursday | 4 p.m.

### TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Meets 3rd Thursday | 6 p.m.

Information on our Finance / Budget and Ad Hoc Committees can be found at [ashlandoregon.gov/Committees](http://ashlandoregon.gov/Committees).

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/PublicMeetings](http://ashlandoregon.gov/PublicMeetings).

Questions can be directed to our City Manager's Office, [citymanageroffice@ashlandoregon.gov](mailto:citymanageroffice@ashlandoregon.gov) or call 541.488.6002.

# WHAT'S COMING UP?

## September Events with Parks & Recreation

There are so many ways for all ages to have fun this summer and fall. See below and view our PlayGuide at [AshlandParksandRec.org](http://AshlandParksandRec.org).



**Otsukimi – Moon Gazing Festival**

**Sep 15**  
**7-8:30pm**

For a list of upcoming events please visit, [AshlandJapaneseGarden.org](http://AshlandJapaneseGarden.org)



**ASHLAND  
JAPANESE  
GARDEN**

**Technology Basics** – Sep 18, 2-3:30 p.m., FREE, register by calling 541.488.5342

Ashland Senior Center is hosting the Jackson County Library Services (JCLS) Tech Basics class on Windows Basics for PC Computers on Wednesday, September 18, 2-3:30pm. Registration required. JCLS Tech Basics classes are held every 3rd Wednesday of the month at Ashland Senior Center.

**Morning Bird Walk** – Sep 21, 8-9\* a.m., FREE, register [online](#)

See and hear a variety of birds that spend the summer in the Rogue Valley, on this easy walk through North Mountain Park. Binoculars and field guides will be available for check-out.

*\*Note the new meeting time.*

## 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

Enjoy a self-guided tour with our Story Map at [gis.ashland.or.us/ParksGuide](http://gis.ashland.or.us/ParksGuide).



It's a Weekend thing... September 6 - 8

The Ashland Chamber of Commerce and the Rediscover Downtown Taskforce have transformed the biannual Sidewalk Sales into exciting weekend celebrations each May and September! [Learn more](#)

COFFEE & CONVERSATION WITH CITY COUNCIL & STAFF



Join us for Coffee & Conversation with the City Council and Staff! Mark your calendar for our next Coffee & Conversation:

- **Wednesday, September 25, 3 to 4:30 p.m.**  
Railroad Park on "A" Street between 6th and 8th Streets

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

## 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?
- Does Ashland have a sister city?
- 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
- Instagram @CityofAshlandOregon
- X/Twitter @CityofAshland
- YouTube @CityofAshlandOr
- Nextdoor

Use the hashtags #BetterTogether #CityofAshlandOregon

**How to contact us:**

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

