

# CITY NEWS

*Better Together*

OCTOBER 2024  
ISSUE 19

## Parks & Rec is the recipient of two Oregon State Park Grants

On Wednesday, September 18, Ashland Parks and Recreation received exciting news of approval from the Oregon Parks & Recreation Commission of just over 1.7 million in state grant funds for two future projects.

Earlier this year, the department submitted two grant proposals for funding to the Local Government Grant program (LGGP) through the Oregon State Parks Department. The two projects:

- \$1,000,000 for Phase 1 of East Main Park, which includes a bicycle pump track and skills park and;
- \$720,000 for the resurfacing of the Hunter Park Tennis Courts.



*Proposed pump track rendering for East Main Park*

As a requirement of the grant funds, a 40% match for each project is required from Ashland Parks & Recreation. Projects that are approved by the LGGP grant committee involve land acquisitions, development and major rehabilitation projects that are consistent with outdoor recreation goals and objectives contained in the Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP).

Director Rocky Houston stated, "We are honored to be chosen by OPRD's LGGP grant program with these grants to preserve the recreational experience at Hunter Park and expand our recreational opportunities at the future East Main Park. Grants from OPRD are an essential tool to help the APRC [Ashland Parks & Recreation Commission] meet our capital project needs."

Ashland Parks and Recreation has two years to expend the grant funds for these two projects.

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

## What's Inside...

- Council Outcomes
- Serve on a Committee
- Water Treatment Plant
- If I were Mayor Contest
- Utility Billing
- Ashland Survey
- Fire Season
- Basecamp Ashland
- Emergency Preparedness
- Community Connect
- Public Meetings
- October & November Events
- Stay Connected



*Better Together*  
[ashlandoregon.gov](http://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 SEPTEMBER 2024 highlights

- Voted unanimously to change the process for appealing utility shut-offs, which is a change to the City Municipal Code. Starting this month, appeals will no longer go before the Council. Instead, they will be reviewed by a staff committee, which may include a non-voting council liaison. The final decision will be made by the Finance Director.
- Unanimously approved a \$504K contract for Pilot Rock Excavation to complete a seismic retrofit for the Bear Creek Drive Waterline, which is a section of the Talent-Ashland-Phoenix (TAP) intertie potable water pipeline within the City of Phoenix.
- Unanimously approved a framework of greater cooperation with the Parks & Recreation Commission, thus improving operations and culture.
- Voted unanimously to allow earlier start times for work such as construction or leaf blowers in the interest of worker safety during extreme heat.

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).

## 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
- 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.

*The Ashland Municipal Code stipulates that voting and alternate standing advisory committee members will be comprised of individuals who reside within the City except one (1) member from each advisory committee may be an at-large member living within the City's urban growth boundary. Unless otherwise provided, all nonvoting ex-officio members are not required to be residents within the City or the urban growth boundary. Voting and alternate members must be over eighteen (18) years of age.*

# WATER TREATMENT PLANT

Financing for the Water Treatment Plant will be on the November 2024 ballot

Measure 15-234 - Ashland Resolution 2024-05 Authority to Issue Water Revenue Bonds.

More information at [ashlandoregon.gov/Elections](https://ashlandoregon.gov/Elections).

Our water treatment plant was constructed in 1948 and is reaching the end of its useful life. It is located in a steep, narrow canyon where landslide, fire, flood and earthquake risk could compromise its ability to produce potable water for the community. The existing plant also has limited treatment capacity for changes in raw water quality, specifically for algal toxins. The plans for the replacement of the plant to a new safe location has been in development since 2012 since it was first identified in the Comprehensive Water Master Plan approved by Council at the time. Learn about the background of the plant, view FAQs and more at [ashlandoregon.gov/WaterPlant](https://ashlandoregon.gov/WaterPlant).

# OREGON MAYORS ASSOCIATION

## If I were Mayor Contest... Grades 4th–12th

Share your creative ideas about what you would do as mayor. Local winners will be entered into the State contest for a chance to win a prize worth \$500! This is a great opportunity for students to engage with civic issues and express their ideas about leadership and community.

The contest is divided into three categories:

- Elementary School (grade 4-5) - Poster Contest (Photo of poster can be PNG, JPEG, or PDF files)
- Middle School (grade 6-8) - Essay Contest (Word, PDF, PowerPoint or online essay format)
- High School (grades 9-12) - Digital Media Presentations (Videos only, MP4 or online video format)

Complete information on our website at [ashlandoregon.gov/OMAContest](https://ashlandoregon.gov/OMAContest).



2024 Poster Winner  
Ember Richards, 4th Grader

## Utility Billing Assistance

Do you need help paying your utility bill? Applications for our Utility Assistance program are now available!

We have funds available for the Ashland Low Income Energy Assistance Program or ALIEAP. This annual program assists low-income residents with electric bill costs during the winter months. Eligible Ashland residents include those whose income is at or below 65 percent of Oregon's median income. These levels are based on household income and household size.

Qualified recipients will receive a credit on their electric utility charges. Credits of up to 50 percent will be given to seniors and disabled persons for up to six (6) months and credits of up to 50 percent to other qualified residents for up to three (3) months. The maximum allowed credit is \$300 per year for either group.

Applications are available at [ashlandoregon.gov/UtilityAssistance](http://ashlandoregon.gov/UtilityAssistance). Applicants may also call 541.552.2038 to request a Low-Income Assistance application packet or visit the new Utility Billing Office in The Grove on Fridays, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. The Grove is located at 1195 E Main St. Walk-in service is also available at Ashland Senior Center on Mondays or Wednesdays from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. The Senior Center is located at 1699 Homes Ave.

If you know of someone who might qualify and needs assistance, please let them know about this program. The deadline to submit the application is January 31, 2025.

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## 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).



# ASHLAND COMMUNITY SURVEY

Hear ye, hear ye, calling all input!

The Ashland Community Survey is going live October 7 through October 28! This survey is conducted every two years and helps the City better understand how Ashland’s livability – our natural environment, community design, safety, economy, inclusivity, and more – has changed over time. This information helps us and our community partners set priorities, design policy and make improvements to programs.

Some of you may have received a postcard in September about this survey. If you did, you were one of the randomly selected households invited to take the survey early. This method helps us reduce bias and get feedback from all geographies within our community.

But **we also want to be sure to hear from each voice in the community**. So, from October 7 through October 28, we are opening the survey to everyone. Let us know what living in Ashland is like for you. Between October 7 and 28, visit [ashlandoregon.gov/Surveys](http://ashlandoregon.gov/Surveys).

## FIRE SEASON IS *Still* IN EFFECT

Be AWARE & PREPARED Year-round!

As of September 12, 2024, our **fire danger decreased to HIGH**. Restrictions are in place, [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 6.

- Know evacuation zone (see new map on page 6!)
- Know evacuation levels
- Sign up for alerts
- Pack a Go Bag
- and more!

Learn about **COMMUNITY CONNECT** on page 7. 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!

## BASECAMP ASHLAND Live Like a Local



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

**Oregon Caves National Monument** – Tours through the Oregon Caves run through the end of November. Did you know the cave temperature is a constant 41 degrees F? Tickets sell out fast, plan ahead and learn more at [nps.gov/orca](http://nps.gov/orca).

[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!

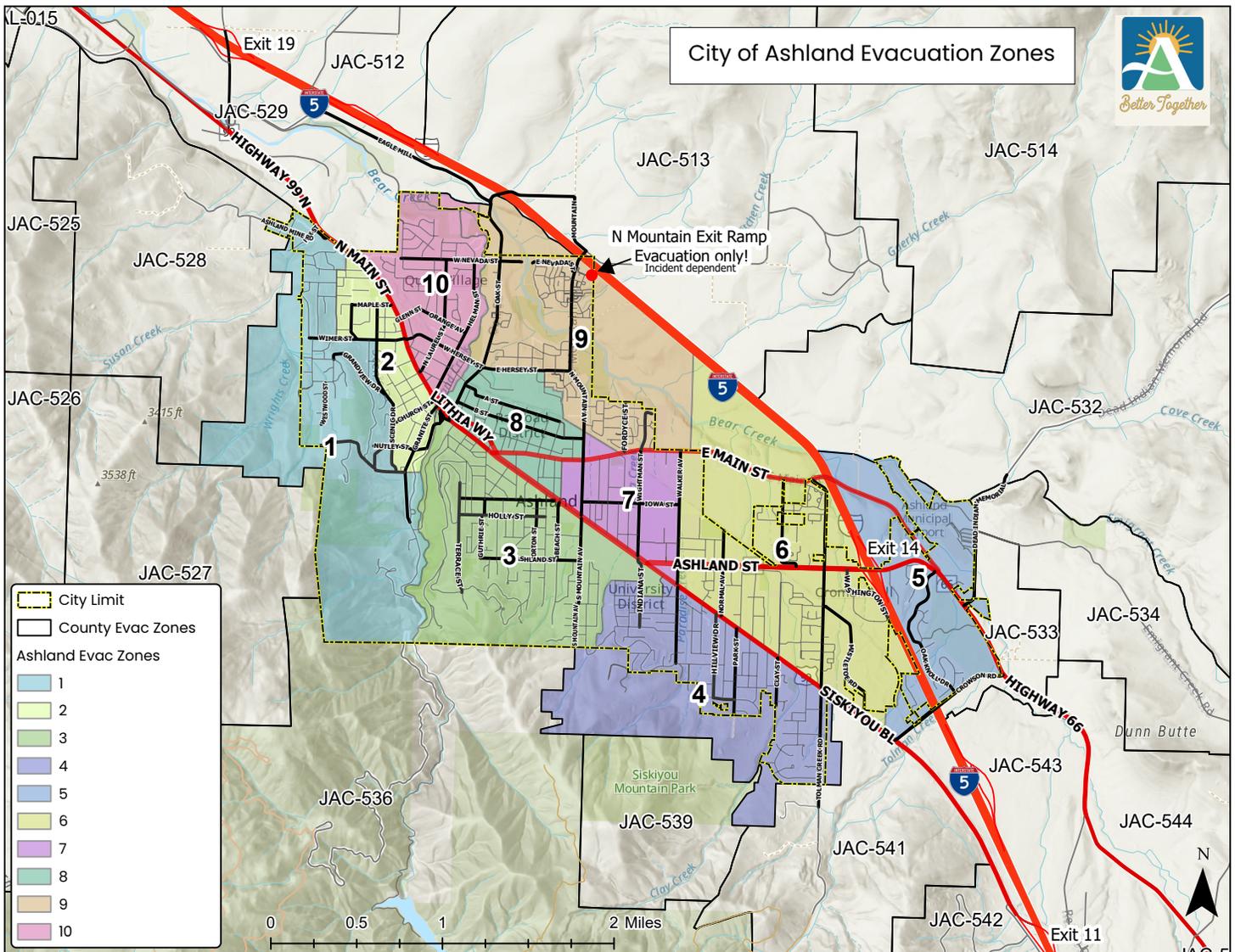
## ASHLAND EVACUATION MAP Print it, Post it, Save it!

The interactive Ashland Evacuation Map is available on the City website! You can click on a zone to zoom in on your area, view street names for better orientation, and download/print a map specific to your zone.

We recommend the following:

- **Post the map on your refrigerator** or another prominent location where you'll see it regularly.
- **Place a copy on top of your emergency go-bag.**
- **Practice evacuation drills with your loved ones.**

You can view the updated map online at [ashlandoregon.gov/KnowYourZone](http://ashlandoregon.gov/KnowYourZone). Please note that the City evacuation map was revised in September 2024, to incorporate the surrounding Jackson County zones. Last spring, the county designated its zones with labels like JAC-XXX. While the City of Ashland typically refers to its zones as 1 through 10, the County designates Ashland zones as ASH-0XX.





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 | 4 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 in October & November

## Events with Parks & Recreation

There are so many ways for all ages to have fun and stay engaged with Ashland Parks & Recreation this fall, including the opening of the outdoor, seasonal Ashland Rotary Centennial Ice Rink in Lithia Park! See below and view our PlayGuide at [AshlandParksandRec.org](http://AshlandParksandRec.org).



**LIVE MUSIC** **FAMILY FUN** **NATIVE FISH**

**SAT, OCT 12**  
**11AM-4PM**  
**FREE**




**NORTH MOUNTAIN PARK**  
**620 NORTH MOUNTAIN AVE, ASHLAND**

[BEARCREEKSALMONFESTIVAL.NET](http://BEARCREEKSALMONFESTIVAL.NET)



Photos by Bob Palermini- palermini.com

### Argentinian Tango Guitar Performance

– Oct 9, 1-2 p.m., FREE, register by calling 541.488.5342

Ashland Senior Center will present, "Lautaro Tiessera Falavero: Argentinian Tango Guitar Performance." This event is co-sponsored by the Guitar Society of Southern Oregon.

### Thanksgiving Pie for Seniors & their Families

– Nov 25, 2-3:30 p.m., FREE, register by calling 541.488.5342

This annual event is hosted by the Ashland Firefighters Union and the Senior Services Division Senior Center. Union members are donating and serving pie & seasonal beverages.

**Japanese Garden**  
**2nd Anniversary**  
**Celebration**

**Oct 19**  
**11am-2pm**



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



**ASHLAND**  
**JAPANESE**  
**GARDEN**

### Butler-Perozzi Fountain in Lithia Park

– Oct 30, 2-3:30 p.m., FREE, register by calling 541.488.5342

More than 500 years of historic photos and stories, by Peter Finkle of [walkashland.com](http://walkashland.com).

### City Hall to Open Weekly for Resident Engagement

– Thursdays at City Hall, 20 East Main St

Starting Nov 7, City Hall will launch a pilot program, opening its doors every Thursday from 8:30 to 10 a.m. (excluding holidays). This is a great opportunity for residents to stop by and have a direct conversation with the City Manager.



# Ashland Rotary Centennial Ice Rink

The Ice Rink is scheduled to open November 23, 2024!

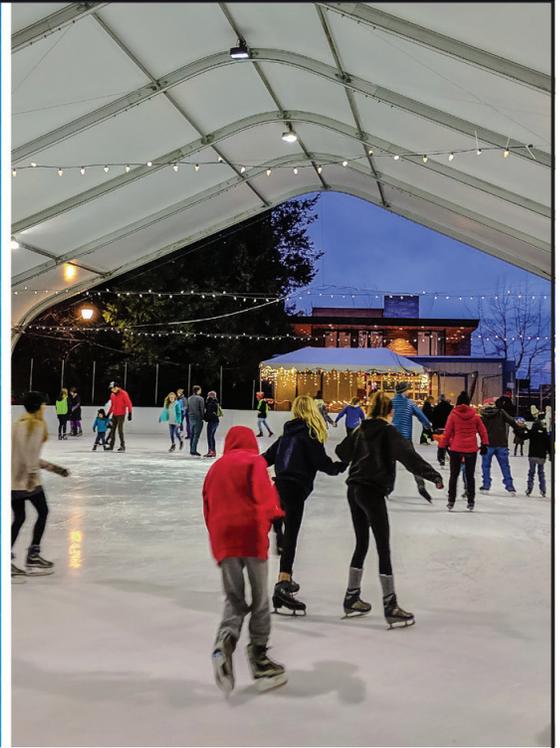
Daily program schedules, skating lessons, and school field trip information will be posted online when available. Scan code for info!



## FIRST FROST

COMMUNITY SKATE EVENT  
DEC 21, 4-9PM

Visit us online at: [ashlandoregon.gov/IceRink](http://ashlandoregon.gov/IceRink)



# APRC

ASHLAND PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION

[ASHLANDPARKSANDREC.ORG](http://ASHLANDPARKSANDREC.ORG)  
541-488-5340 | [PARKSINFO@ASHLAND.OR.US](mailto:PARKSINFO@ASHLAND.OR.US)  
f @ASHLANDPARKSANDREC



## 32nd Annual Festival of Light Celebration

Friday, November 29, the **Festival of Light Celebration**, produced by the Ashland Chamber of Commerce & Travel Ashland, kicks off with Santa's big arrival and the Grand Illumination. Join us for an evening of magic as we welcome in the holiday season to our charming town.

Santa's parade will include youth-centered, family friendly entries helping usher Santa down East Main Street from the Ashland Library at Gresham St to the Plaza. From there, he will light the town from the Brickroom balcony. The event begins at 5 p.m. and traffic will begin to reroute around 3 p.m.

***Come early and spend the day exploring our lovely Ashland businesses as you prepare for a celebratory evening!***

From November 29 through December 31, experience carolers downtown, local seasonally-inspired performing arts productions, shopping promotions, Santa's scavenger sponsored by Evergreen Federal Bank and much more! Travel Ashland promotes and invites visitors to experience the glow of the holidays, to shop and play. Visit [travelashland.com](http://travelashland.com) and [ashlandchamber.com](http://ashlandchamber.com) for more information all season long.

### Other community events this October & November...

- **Southern Oregon Pride** — Oct 5, 10 a.m. in Ashland. Complete info at [sopride.org](http://sopride.org)
- **Indigenous Peoples' Day** — Oct 14 (National holiday) and Oct 19 & 20 at [Southern Oregon University](http://Southern Oregon University)
- **Ashland Mystery Festival** — Oct 17-20. More at [ashlandmysteryfest.com](http://ashlandmysteryfest.com)
- **Ashland Monster Dash** — Oct 26... 10K, 5K and 1-mile options! More at [ashlandmonsterdash.com](http://ashlandmonsterdash.com)
- **Children's Halloween Parade** — Oct 31, 3:30 p.m. More at [ashlandchamber.com](http://ashlandchamber.com)

# 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

**City newsletter content is collaboratively developed by all City departments.**

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

