



CITY MANAGER'S OFFICE:

- The deadline to nominate someone for **the Ragland Volunteer Spirit Award is November 21 at 5 p.m.** – This award recognizes the contribution of public sectors volunteers. Nominate today at ashlandoregon.gov/AnnualAwards.
- **City Hall is now open to the public one day per week** – On November 7, City Hall launched 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.
- The **"BETTER TOGETHER: Work of the City"** OLLI presentations have wrapped up. The presentations were well received and dubbed by participants as, "Civics 101!" Presentations can be viewed at ashlandoregon.gov/OLLI.
- Results from the **November 5 Election** are as follows:
 - Welcome **new City Councilor Douglas Knauer**, and **new Parks Commissioners Mike Gardiner and Daniel Weiner**.
 - Measure 15-232 – **Open Seat Election** --- Passed with 81.12% of the vote
 - Measure 15-233 – **Municipal Judge as an Appointed Position** --- Did not pass with 65.88% of Ashland voting to keep the Judge position an elected one.
 - Measure 15-234 – **Ashland Resolution 2024-05 Authority to Issue Water Revenue Bonds** --- Passed with 73.18% of the vote.

More information at ashlandoregon.gov/Elections.

- **The pilot program for portable business signs launched on November 15!** The City has heard positive feedback from the business community, with 11 businesses providing feedback on sign design and placement. This program will allow businesses to place a sandwich board, banner or similar portable sign in front of their business during business hours. Participation will require sign-up with the City -- keep an eye on our website to sign up online.
- Staff is working to streamline the **Public Records Request process with new software** that will better track records requests and ensure compliance with state law and records policy.
- The **November 2024 City Newsletter** is available at ashlandoregon.gov/CityNewsletters.
- **Ryan Mulkins** has been appointed Municipal Judge.
- Mark your calendar for the annual **Town Hall gathering on January 22** at the Rogue River Room in the Stevenson Union at Southern Oregon University.
- Staff from **Emergency Management, Planning, and Police** attended a training session for local **drone pilots to build capacity for using drones in emergency response efforts, particularly for fire and police operations. The training also covered mitigation strategies for land and building development and emphasized the importance of interagency coordination.**

CITY MANAGER'S OFFICE:

- On November 5, our Emergency Management Coordinator, **Kelly Burns**, offered a **tabletop exercise for the Ashland YMCA staff to test their new Evacuation Plan**. This is the first plan developed locally.



YMCA tabletop exercise for their new Evacuation Plan

- Kelly** also coordinated with Jackson County Elections Officers and County Emergency Managers to **prepare for and monitor for possible elections related incidents**. No local incidents occurred.

FINANCE:

- Finance is working toward **moving all Finance Divisions into one single location at 2245 YMCA Way**.
- Applications for our Utility Assistance program are now available**. More information at ashlandoregon.gov/UtilityAssistance.
- Bond Counsel is preparing the documentation to finalize the RESP (Rural Energy Savings Program) Loan Agreements** with the USDA.
- The **Annual Audit is underway**.
- Applications are being accepted **to serve on the Citizens' Budget Committee**.
- Finance and Public Works will **proceed with the EPA financing of the Water Treatment Plan** after the passage of Measure 15-234.



City Manager's Report

FIRE:

- **The Fire Season has officially ended.** Open burning is allowed ONLY with a burn permit from Ashland Fire & Rescue. Information at ashlandoregon.gov/FireSeasonInfo.

HUMAN RESOURCES:

- **Recruitment for the City Attorney** is moving forward and will go live soon!

INNOVATION & TECHNOLOGY:

- Water Distribution (Public Works), in collaboration with GIS, submitted our completed lead service line inventory to OHA-Drinking Water Services on October 10, 2024. The Lead and Copper Rule Revisions, adopted by the EPA (Environmental Protection Agency) in 2021, require all public water systems to inventory and submit the service line material type for both the public and private sides of the meter by October 16, 2024. This project took over two years and involved 17 staff members to complete. Service material type was determined at 9,525 locations, and no lead service lines were detected.
- AFN (Ashland Fiber Network) is exploring options for updating their billing method/software.

PARKS & RECREATION:

- **Ashland Senior Center was honored with a Certificate of Appreciation from the AARP Driver Safety Program.** The Center hosts the AARP Driver Safety class once a quarter, and recently became the first and (so far) only host site in Oregon to start using the SDCOR (Smart Driver Classroom Online Registration) program that facilitates the online registration and payment for class participants, management of the class roster and providing notifications to participants.
- **New Public Bathroom schedule** – Restrooms will be opened at 8 a.m. and closed at 5 p.m. until the return of daylight-saving time. This is due to staffing limitations, safety and asset preservation. We will review this in the spring to determine effectiveness and peak season capacity.
- Eight staff from the Parks and Recreation Department attended the 2024 Oregon Recreation and Parks Association (ORPA) Conference in Sunriver. At the conference, the ORPA DEI Committee received the President's Award. Recreation Manager **Lonny Flora** and Senior Services Superintendent **Natalie Mettler** are members of the ORPA DEI Committee.

POLICE:

- The Police Department welcomed new officer, **Ryan Kloeck**, November 19!

PUBLIC WORKS:

- Information about the **Management Advisory Committee for the Community Center, including a virtual tour of the Center** is now available at ashlandoregon.gov/CommunityCenter.

WHAT'S COMING UP?

- **The Ashland Rotary Centennial Ice Rink** will open for the season on **November 23**. Watch for the Gala Community event, **FIRST FROST, on December 21**. Information and schedule at ashlandoregon.gov/IceRink.
- **Got Leaves?** Ashland Recology is offering a FREE leaf composting event on **November 24 and/or December 8**. Information at recology.com/recology-ashland.
- **Thanksgiving Pie for Seniors and their Families** at Ashland Senior Center on **November 25**. Information at AshlandSeniorServices.org.
- The **Festival of Light** will kick off on **November 29** with the holiday parade at 5 p.m. More at ashlandchamber.com.
- **Holiday Party for Seniors and their Families** at Ashland Senior Center on **December 20** – Information at AshlandSeniorServices.org.

We hope everyone had a spooktacular Halloween! To keep the festive spirit going, we wanted to share some fun photos of our staff who got into the Halloween spirit with their costumes!



Kara King, Meter Reader



City Manager's Report



Jamie Blankenship; GIS Technician - Robert Halbritter; Facilities, Cemetery and Custodial Supervisor



Cathy Crocker, Office Assistant 2 for Public Works