

CITY NEWS

APRIL 2025
ISSUE 25

Take Action to be Better Prepared!

Community Partners

City of Ashland
Ashland.news
Ashland Climate
Collaborative
Ashland Together

More info
@ ashlandoregon.gov/
BetterPreparedSeries

Register Here



Better Together

Better Prepared Wildfire Series

MAY 4

Ashland Wildfire Protection Plan Open House

2 to 5 p.m.
The Grove 1195 E Main
Empowering Community

Hosted by
City of Ashland

MAY 14

Protect Your Home and Yard

6 to 8 p.m. via Zoom
Now is the Time!

Hosted by
Ashland.news

JULY 16

What's Your Plan?

6 to 8 p.m. Historic Armory
*When every Second
Counts: Evacuation
Planning & Practice*

Hosted by
Ashland.news



Ashland.news
Community-supported Nonprofit News
Online at ashland.news



Ashland Together
Include, Engage, Educate, Amplify

What's Inside...

- City Council
- Coffee & Conversation
- Wildfire Programs & Events
- Staff Acknowledgments





Tonya Graham
Mayor



Dylan Bloom
Councilor



Jeff Dahle
Councilor



Gina DuQuenne
Councilor



Eric Hansen
Councilor



Bob Kaplan
Councilor



Doug Knauer
Councilor

CITY COUNCIL March 2025 outcomes/highlights

- Unanimously approved Resolution 2025-02 to rescind all former memoranda of understanding between the City and Parks & Recreation, thereby establishing Ordinance 3248 as the governing authority. Ordinance 3248 established and clarified the structure of governance of the Parks & Recreation Department.
- Unanimously adopted the City Attorney contract for Johan Pietila, who will officially begin employment with the City on April 28, 2025.

For more information on meetings, agendas, minutes and how to contact our elected officials, visit ashlandoregon.gov/PublicMeetings.

Info on the upcoming **2025-2027 Biennial Budget** at ashlandoregon.gov/BudgetProcessResources.

Council Office Hours

All City Councilors meet with their constituents from time to time. In addition to impromptu meetings, some have opted for regular meetings or **office hours in City Hall**.

- Councilor **Jeff Dahle**: 3rd Monday of each month from 2 to 3:30 p.m.
- Councilor **Bob Kaplan**: 1st Monday of each month from 1 to 2:30 p.m.
- Councilor **Gina DuQuenne**: 1st Thursday of each month from Noon to 1:30 p.m.

These office hours provide an additional opportunity for residents to voice concerns, ask questions and engage with their City Councilors on important issues. City Hall is located at 20 E Main St in Ashland. The front door to City Hall will be open during the times listed above.

Your City Manager, **Sabrina Cotta**, is also available for office hours each week on Thursday, from 8:30 to 10 a.m.

COFFEE & CONVERSATION Connect with City Elected Officials & Staff

Join us for an informal gathering with City elected officials and staff! There's no set agenda – just an opportunity to get to know each other, ask questions and enjoy a cup of coffee on us! Here's the upcoming schedule:

- May 13, 1:30 to 3 p.m., at Oak Knoll Golf Course
- July 16, 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., at Garfield Park
- Sep 10, 3:30 to 5 p.m., at Enders Shelter
- Jun 17, 1 to 2:30 p.m., at Railroad Park
- Aug 12, 5 to 6:30 p.m., at Hunter Park
- Oct 14, 1 to 2:30 p.m. at NMP Pavilion





MAY IS WILDFIRE AWARENESS MONTH

Let's Take Action Together to be Better Prepared!

It's a great time to review your emergency preparedness plan. Be sure to know your evacuation zone and levels, have a go-bag packed and sign up for emergency alerts (Jackson Alerts)! Also, register TODAY for the Better Prepared Wildfire Series, ashlandoregon.gov/BetterPreparedSeries.

Get Ready for Fire Season: Know Your Responsibilities—Help Keep Ashland Safe!

The **Weed Abatement Program** begins in May, and it's crucial to reduce fire risks in our community. Cutting grass and weeds and removing flammable plants and debris near your home can greatly improve the chances of your property surviving wildfire.

Ensure your property is safe by cutting grass and brush to a height of four (4) inches or less and removing invasive vegetation such as blackberry, thistles, broom and ivy. Timely weed abatement helps protect your home and the surrounding community.

If you see overgrown vegetation in your neighborhood, report it through SeeClickFix under "Weed Abatement Concern." (Scan the code to report!) For more details on requirements, visit ashlandoregon.gov/WeedAbatement. Take Action today—help make Ashland safer for everyone!



Sparking Action – A Community Gathering at ScienceWorks!

Celebrate Our Forests and Community Wildfire Preparedness, Mother's Day Weekend, Saturday, May 10 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Complete info at scienceworksmuseum.org/sparking-action. Community partners include: SOFRC (Southern Oregon Forest Restoration Collaborative), ScienceWorks, Ashland Fire & Rescue, Fire Adapted Ashland, Firebright, Fire Adapted Oregon, Lomakatsi Restoration Project, Rogue Valley Fire Prevention Cooperative, Bureau of Land Management Medford District, Rogue River Siskiyou National Forest, Jackson County Long-term Recovery Group, Jackson County Emergency Management, SOFEE (Southern Oregon Fire Ecology Education), Recology Ashland.

DIY Air Filter Classes offered this spring!

- ScienceWorks! clean air and disaster preparedness workshop. We will have fun activities for kids and families are encouraged to attend with their little ones as well as adults of all ages. Please Register ahead for Saturday, May 10 from 2 to 3 p.m., ashlandoregon.gov/BetterPreparedSeries.
- Ashland Senior Center cleaner air class. Please call 541.488.5382 to register. Space is limited! Monday, May 19 from 1 to 2 p.m.

Take Action, get ready and help your neighbors: Join CERT monthly trainings!

When disaster strikes, we're **Better Together!** Ashland's Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) is made up of trained volunteers who assist during emergencies—helping with evacuations, search and rescue, fire safety, damage assessments and medical aid.

Join us for mini training sessions every second Wednesday of the month, covering skills like first aid, triage, radio communications and more. These sessions are open to all residents eager to learn.

In September, CERT will offer the FEMA-certified CERT Basic Training. Monthly sessions are a great prep for this valuable course.

For details, visit ashlandcert.org or cert@ashlandoregon.gov. **Let's build a more resilient Ashland!**



13th Annual
Wildfire Preparedness
Green Debris Drop-off



First-ever Ashland
Spring Clean!



Both events are for City of Ashland residents only (IDs will be checked).
No contractors, landscape services, or 'for hire' hauling services.



Be Firewise and remove flammable green debris from around your home - then bring it to Recology for composting

Clear out clutter from around the home with this special disposal, recycling, and donation event

Sunday, May 4th • 10am-3pm
Valley View Transfer Station
(3000 N. Valley View Rd, Ashland)

Sunday, May 18th • 10am-3pm
Valley View Transfer Station
(3000 N. Valley View Rd, Ashland)

Accepted materials:

- Leaves, small branches, brush, pine needles and other compostable yard debris

Prohibited materials:

- Trash, hazardous wastes, stumps, logs, plywood, treated lumber

Accepted materials:

- Trash and bulky items, Tires, Lumber, Green debris, Scrap metal, Electronics, Motor Oil (5-gal max), Mattresses, Batteries (no EVs), Appliances, Fluorescent bulbs, Ballasts (non-PCB), Mixed recyclables, Gently-used donatable goods (Goodwill on site!)

Prohibited materials:

- Hazardous wastes (incl. paint, solvents, combustibles, pesticides, etc.), Asbestos

Note: 10 cubic yd maximum on trash



Both events are for City of Ashland residents only (IDs will be checked).
No contractors, landscape services, or 'for hire' hauling services.
Contact 541-482-1471 or customerservice103@recology.com for more information.

ASHLAND'S HISTORIC PRESERVATION WEEK

MAY 13 WALK ASHLAND RAILROAD DISTRICT TOUR
1p.m. RAILROAD PARK

MAY 14 MEET THE GHOSTS
2 - 4 p.m. ASHLAND CEMETERY

MAY 15 PHOTO CONTEST
3 - 5 p.m. ASHLAND PLAZA

MAY 17 AWARDS CEREMONY
2 - 4 p.m. LOCATION TBD

FOR MORE INFO VISIT
ASHLANDOREGON.GOV/HISTORIC

ROGUE VALLEY BIRD DAY 2025



Creating Bird-friendly Cities and Communities
A local celebration of World Migratory Bird Day

Guided Walks, All-Age Crafts
Games & Activities Bird
Calling & 'Name That Bird'
Contest

Sat | May 10
8am-noon
FREE

Scan code for more info!



North Mountain Park
620 N. Mountain Ave, Ashland OR | 541.488.6606



Household Hazardous Waste Event

Saturday, May 3, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Rogue Disposal & Recycling Transfer Station



The Summer PlayGuide is out

Visit AshlandParksandRec.org to view summer programs and register TODAY!

Staff Acknowledgments Working Better Together!



Marshall Rasor is currently serving as our Interim Fire Chief. With 26 years of experience in the fire service, the last 22 years have been with the City, where he began his career as a Firefighter/Paramedic. Over the past 3.5 years, he served as Chief of Operations, and prior to that, he was Battalion Chief of B Shift. Marshall also dedicated 10 years as the president of the union association. In 2024, Marshall achieved the NFPA (National Fire Protection Association) Fire Officer IV Certification. Additionally, he played a key role in the development and implementation of the current EMS (Emergency Medical Services) Single Role Program.

