

*The citizen's source of information about the City of Ashland*

## BE READY IN CASE OF AN EVACUATION

As a continued reminder to be ready to evacuate at any time during wildfire season, here are some helpful tips and reminders on how to be prepared:

**Know Your Zone** - Ashland has been divided into TEN evacuation zones. Visit [ashland.or.us/evacuate](http://ashland.or.us/evacuate) and click *Know Your Zone* to view what zone you are in and plan multiple routes out of your neighborhood. You can also download a detailed map of your zone for your evacuation kit.

**Know Your Alerts** - If you have not already, you need to sign up for Nixle, Ashland's community alert system, to be advised on which zones need to evacuate in an emergency. To sign up for Nixle, go to [ashland.or.us/nixle](http://ashland.or.us/nixle) or text 97520 to 888777 on your cell phone.

**Get Ready** – Make personal evacuation kits for each family member, stored in your vehicle, and small enough to carry on foot if necessary. Visit [ashland.or.us/evacuate](http://ashland.or.us/evacuate) and click *Get Ready* to find a checklist of items to include in an evacuation kit.

**Stay Together** – It's vital to only take one vehicle in an evacuation to minimize evacuation gridlock. Keep the gas tank of this vehicle full.

**Know Your Evacuation Levels** – You will receive evacuation orders in levels listed below. It is vital you understand and prepare for Ashland's three levels of evacuation.

## COVID-19 PANDEMIC

With State restrictions lifting and City offices opening this month, visit [ashland.or.us/coronavirus](http://ashland.or.us/coronavirus) to stay up-to-date on the current restrictions for Jackson County and Oregon.

Staff are still available to provide assistance over the phone and email. Go to the City Directory at [www.ashland.or.us/contactus.asp](http://www.ashland.or.us/contactus.asp) to find contact information for each Department.

<b>Level 1</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Watch for Nixle alerts for your zone and be prepared to monitor 1700 AM if cell service is interrupted.</li> <li>• Prepare your "go kits" and have a plan for pets and family members with special needs.</li> <li>• Keep your evacuation vehicle gas tank full or fully charged if electric.</li> </ul>	<b>Be Ready</b>
<b>Level 2</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Be prepared to evacuate at a moment's notice with "go kits" in your vehicle.</li> <li>• Consider evacuating during Level 2 if your family needs extra time, or if conditions feel unsafe to you.</li> <li>• This may be the only evacuation notice you receive if conditions worsen rapidly.</li> </ul>	<b>Be Set</b>
<b>Level 3</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Leave immediately. Do not spend further time collecting additional belongings.</li> <li>• You will not be able to return until conditions are safe.</li> <li>• Evacuation routing can change. Be sure to continue monitoring Nixle and/or 1700 AM radio.</li> </ul>	<b>Go!</b>

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## UTILITY RATE INCREASE

The City Council has approved rate increases for Electric, Stormwater, and Transportation (Street User fee) effective July 1, 2021, based upon:

- Cost of service studies and corresponding rate recommendations
- City of Ashland master plan recommendations
- Adjustments for necessary infrastructure improvements to comply with state and federal regulations

Rate increases are based upon general consumer indices with the intent to set rates at a level which accurately reflects the costs of providing utility service to each unique rate class. All other utilities are being held without any rate increase.

### EXAMPLE:

The impact of the proposed increase on a residential utility account using 750 kWh per month would be:

	FY 2020-21	FY 2021-22	Difference
Electric Residential	\$ 73.70	\$ 76.88	\$ 3.18
Stormwater Residential	4.99	5.43	0.44
Street User Residential	9.37	9.56	0.19
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 88.06</b>	<b>\$ 91.87</b>	<b>\$ 3.81</b>

The City of Ashland has a variety of efficiency programs that may help customers lower their monthly consumption and their costs. For a list of energy efficiency incentives, as well as water and energy saving tips, visit [www.ashland.or.us/consERVE](http://www.ashland.or.us/consERVE), or contact the Conservation Division staff at (541) 488-5306 or by email at [consERVE@ashland.or.us](mailto:consERVE@ashland.or.us).

The City also offers several programs to assist customers who are having difficulty paying their utility bills. Please contact the Customer Service Division at (541) 488-6004 or by email [utilitybilling@ashland.or.us](mailto:utilitybilling@ashland.or.us) for more information about these programs.

### YES, I WANT TO JOIN THE ASHLAND ROUND UP PROGRAM

Yes, please round up my monthly utility bill to the nearest dollar. I understand the funds will assist Ashland residents in need with their utility bill.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Service Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Account Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

### ROUND UP YOUR CHANGE FOR CHANGE

We understand the utility increases are hard on everyone, but there is still an option to help low-income residents by participating in the Round Up Your Change program. The City of Ashland's Round Up program allows Ashland utility customers to voluntarily round up their utility bill to the nearest dollar to assist low-income Ashland residents through the Ashland Low Income Energy Assistance Program. You can join the Ashland Round Up program by going to [ashland.or.us/roundup](http://ashland.or.us/roundup) or complete the coupon and return it with your utility payment or by dropping it off at City Hall, 20 E. Main Street. You can also make a one-time donation by sending in a check indicating it is a donation to help with the utility bills of those in need.

## JOIN THE AIRPORT AND OTHER CITY COMMISSIONS

The Airport Commission is looking for someone to join their Commission. The Airport Commission meets the first Tuesday of every month at 9:30 until 11:30 a.m. Those with a background in aviation or engineering or who would like to participate on one of the City's Commissions should apply.

If you are interested in applying for the Airport Commission or any other advisory body, go to [ashland.or.us/vacancies](http://ashland.or.us/vacancies) for a current list of vacancies and the application process. Applications can be sent to the City Recorder by either emailing [melissa.huhtala@ashland.or.us](mailto:melissa.huhtala@ashland.or.us) or by dropping off the application at City Hall, 20 E. Main Street.

## "WHEN IN DOUBT, FIND OUT"

### RECYCLING TIPS AND TRICKS

As the world wakes up to the reality of recycling struggling, it's never been more important to reexamine our habits. Interested in knowing the **Top Ten Ways to Feel Good About Your Recycling Impact?** Keep reading.

**Always check the list** of what is permissible in your recycle cart, regardless of what was allowed in other places you've lived. What can go into carts often varies by region, and even city, depending on the technology available at the sorting facility where your mixed recycling ends up. Make sure you are following your local list. Don't guess. Know.

**Never try to recycle papers made for cleaning.** Items like paper towels, napkins, and tissues should be composted at home, or thrown away. These products have very short fibers and have reached their end of life.

**Shredded paper is not permissible in recycle carts.** Not even bagged shred. Shred takes flight easily, creates excessive particulates in the air, and has a hard time making it through the sorting process at facilities.

**Items should be empty, clean, dry, and free of food residue.** Bottles and cans should be lightly rinsed. Paper should be dry.

**Contrary to popular belief, egg cartons don't belong in recycle carts.** Just like paper towels, the fibers are short and have reached their end of life.


**No plastic bags, or soft plastic of any kind should go into your cart.** These materials clog the gears of the sorting machinery and wreak havoc at facilities. Recycle your soft plastic for free at the Ashland Recycle Center on Water Street instead.

**No lids of any kind.** Lids can be easily trapped between pieces of cardboard, contaminating that material at sorting facilities. You can recycle your metal lids in a separate area at the Recycle Center on Water Street. Please see an attendant for assistance.

**No Cartons (think milk, soy, soup).** These containers are aseptic, designed to resist moisture, and are often composed of three *different* materials - paper, metal, and plastic - which makes them a big offender at our sorting facility.




**No to-go containers (also called "clam shells").** Clam shells, which often contain foods like lettuce and pastries, flatten easily and then get trapped between pieces of cardboard and paper, just like lids do.

**No mixed materials.** For instance, a "can" a Planter's peanuts may look like a can, but it has a plastic lid, a metal bottom and a foil-lined cardboard tube. Sorting facilities have no ability to separate the materials from one another, making them nearly impossible to recycle.



### WHAT GOES IN A RECYCLE CART?

If it's not on this list, it's contamination.

 <p><b>Mixed Paper &amp; Cardboard</b></p>	 <p><b>Metal Aluminum &amp; Tin</b></p>	 <p><b>Plastic Bottles, Jugs &amp; Tubs #1, #2, #5</b></p>
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GLASS COLLECTED SEPARATELY IN SMALL OPEN BIN

All in all, if you live in Ashland or Talent and are paying close attention to the list of materials that can go into your cart, you are doing great work! For more information, or go to [Recology.com/Recology-Ashland](http://Recology.com/Recology-Ashland).

## EVENTS

### *Gentle Yoga for Adults 50 & Better | Outdoor class*

This one-hour hatha yoga class focuses on increasing strength, flexibility, and balance while alleviating stress and fatigue. Participants must be aware of their own capabilities to participate safely. Each class will conclude with deep relaxation. Class will meet outdoors with Zoom as a back-up for weather or smoke. Please bring your own yoga mat. Register at [ashland.or.us/register](http://ashland.or.us/register) or (541) 488-5342 Online registration closes at noon on August 3.

**DATES** Session 7: Wednesdays, Aug 4, 11, 18, 25  
**TIME** 9 to 10 AM  
**PLACE** Hunter Park by the Ashland Senior Center, 1699 Homes Avenue  
**COST** \$20 (4 classes)

### *Dementia Conversations: Driving, Doctor Visits, Legal & Financial Planning | Online presentation*

When someone is showing signs of dementia, it's time to talk. Often, conversations with family about changing behaviors can be challenging and uncomfortable. This program provides tips for breaking the ice with your family so you can address some of the most common issues that are difficult to discuss: going to the doctor for a diagnosis or medical treatment, deciding when to stop driving, and making legal and financial plans for future care. Presented by the Alzheimer's Association. Register at [ashland.or.us/register](http://ashland.or.us/register) or (541) 488-5342. Online registration closes at noon on August 24.

**DATE** Wednesday, August 25  
**TIME** 1 to 3 PM  
**PLACE** Online (Zoom)

## VOLUNTEER with Ashland Senior Phone Buddy

A simple phone call from you can change a life!  
Regular social calls have been shown to improve health and well-being for socially isolated older adults. Training provided.  
Apply today at [ashland.or.us/volunteer](http://ashland.or.us/volunteer).



 **Ashland Senior Services Division**  
541-488-5342  
[seniorinfo@ashland.or.us](mailto:seniorinfo@ashland.or.us)

Check out how Ashland connects at [www.ashlandfiber.net](http://www.ashlandfiber.net).



## AUGUST CITY CALENDAR

City Council  
Business Meeting: Aug 3 & 17 | 6 p.m.  
Study Session: Aug 2 & 16 | 5:30 p.m.  
Airport Commission  
August 3 | 9:30 a.m.  
Conservation & Climate Outreach Commission  
August 25 | 3 p.m.  
Climate Policy Commission  
August 12 | 4 p.m.  
Forest Lands Commission  
August 10 | 5:30 p.m.  
Historic Commission  
August 4 | 6 p.m.  
Housing and Human Services Commission  
August 26 | 4 p.m.  
Parks and Recreation Commission  
Business Meeting: August 11 | 6 p.m.  
Study Session: August 4 | 6 p.m.  
Planning Commission  
Business Meeting: August 10 | 7 p.m.  
Study Session: August 24 | 7 p.m.  
Public Art Commission  
August 20 | 8:30 a.m.  
Social Equity and Racial Justice Commission  
TBD  
Transportation Commission  
August 19 | 6 p.m.  
Tree Commission  
August 5 | 6 p.m.  
Wildfire Safety Commission  
August 18 | 11 a.m.  
▲ TTY 1-800-735-2900 ▲ Please check [ashland.or.us/calendar.asp](http://ashland.or.us/calendar.asp) for information on how to view the meetings live or watch a recorded version. ▲ City Council, Parks, and Planning meetings are broadcast live on Ashland Home Net channel 9, Charter Spectrum channel 180, and [rvtv.sou.edu](http://rvtv.sou.edu) by clicking the RVTV Prime button. Meetings are replayed on Ashland Home Net Channel 9, Charter Spectrum RVTV 180 and 181. Replay schedules are available at [rvtv.sou.edu](http://rvtv.sou.edu).

