



CITY MANAGER'S OFFICE:

- **The Jackson County NHMP (Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan) is pending adoption by local councils and Jackson County Commissioners.** Ashland has their own annex, which assesses the City's highest risks associated with natural hazards, and wildfire is number one. The Plan was updated and revised summer 2023 by local stakeholders, including **Kelly Burns**, and with assistance by a team at OSU. The Plan is scheduled to be presented to Ashland City Council on February 20, 2024.
- **New school safety protocols adopted.** The Standard Response Protocol (from the "iloveguys" foundation) was approved by the Ashland School District (ASD). **Kelly Burns** worked with ASD administration to bring this program to the district. More at iloveguys.org/The-Standard-Response-Protocol.html.
- **The City launched a Communication Survey in late January.** The survey will be available through March 1, 2024. The goal of the survey is to determine how the citizens of Ashland want to be communicated with. The survey is available at ashland.or.us/CommSurvey, and takes minutes to complete!
- **Staff met with representatives from, "The Ashland Welcoming Voices Project."** This project is an effort to expand opportunities to establish supportive business and community relationships for citizens and visitors of Ashland and will include members from marginalized groups (BIPOC/LGBTQ+). More to come in late spring/early summer.
- **Behind the scenes work on the new CivicPlus website for the City continues.** In late January, all City departments met with a representative from CivicPlus to discuss content that will be migrated to the new site. Target launch date is mid to late May 2024.
- **February News:** The February 2024 City Newsletter is available online at ashland.or.us/Communications, and will be mailed out in City Utility Bills during the month of February. The newsletter contains March happenings.
- **Mayor Tonya Graham's State of the City Address is on the City home page, in the news feed, for those who missed the Town Hall speech on January 24, 2024.** The presentation highlights City accomplishments for 2023 and goals for 2024.
- **Dot voting results from Town Hall are in, and here are the top favorites for Ashland:**
 - City sponsored Public Art Installation – Velocity (the aluminum and light structure on the OSF stairway, aka Bouncing Ball)
 - City sponsored Event – The annual Children's Halloween Parade
 - Park or Open Space – The BMX Park, aka Ashland Dirt Jumps, tied with Lithia Park
 - Trail – The Central Bike & Walking Path
 - See all of the results at ashland.or.us/coaTownhall.



City Manager's Report

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT:

- The City of Ashland has proudly received its 37th consecutive Tree City USA designation, a testament to our commitment to urban forestry and environmental stewardship. This prestigious award, administered by the Arbor Day Foundation, recognizes the city's dedication to protecting, planting, and maintaining trees, which significantly enhances the quality of life for our residents by improving air quality, providing shade, and beautifying the community.

FINANCE:

- Accounting filed W2s and in the process of filing 1099s.
- Submitted first reading revisions to Ashland Municipal Code Procurement Chapter.
- Finance has begun workflow automation for Procurement in conjunction with Code amendments.
- Wrapping up 2nd quarter financials to present to Council in March.
- Finance monthly training starts in February, which will cover such topics as business ethics, technical and soft skills.
- Reminder that Utility Billing is open at The Grove on Fridays from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. for in-person service.
- Information on Citizen Self Service can be found at selfservice.ashland.or.us/css.

PARKS & RECREATION:

- The WinterSpring 2024 Recreation Season is now open. Rec and Senior Services Staff have launched the new Smart Rec software to process program registrations and facility reservations. Customers can now browse and sign up for Parks and Rec programs directly at ashland.or.us/register.

WHAT'S COMING UP? Free classes in February through Ashland Parks and Recreation

- **Project FeederWatch** at North Mountain on alternate Saturdays at 8 a.m. beginning February 17 through March 16
- **Seed Swap** at the North Mountain Park Nature Center on February 16, 2 to 4 p.m.
- **Healthy Brain & Aging** will be presented at Ashland Senior Center on February 14 & 28, and March 13 & 27, 12:30 to 2 p.m.