

City

SOURCE

THE CITIZEN'S SOURCE OF INFORMATION ABOUT THE CITY OF ASHLAND

Utility Rate Increase

Utility rates will increase beginning August 1, 2008: Sewer and Transportation 3%, Storm Drain 10%, and Water 4% – 5% depending on water use. The average increase is 5.7% with a \$3.62 impact per month per residence. For more information, call utility billing at 488-5304. ▼

Affordable Housing Update

Housing advocates, housing providers, and City officials have done considerable work



in recent years to help shape public policy and, equally important, actually build affordable housing units.

The City of Ashland has a number of programs, incentives, and regulations in place to promote the development of affordable housing. The main tools that the City utilizes to promote the development of affordable housing are a combination of federal funds, regulations, and incentives to either include affordable units in market rate developments or deed restrict units for affordability through:

(See *Affordable Housing Update*, Page 2)

Driving Tip

Roughly one out of every four vehicle incidents involves backing. Considering the average driver operates in reverse less than a mile every year, this statistic is even more alarming. The following tips will help you avoid collisions while backing:

- Avoid backing whenever possible. Drivers should plan ahead to reduce backing operations in the first place.
- Try to position the vehicle to avoid backing.
- If backing cannot be avoided, it is better to back in upon arrival than to back out later while departing.
- Conduct a visual walk-around of the vehicle to identify potential hazards.
- Whenever available, use a passenger to guide you during backing operations.
- Always back slowly while continuously looking and listening for signs of trouble.

(See *Driving Tip*, Page 3)



Affordable Housing Update

Continued from Page 1

- Density Bonuses
- Waiving fees for affordable development (fee deferral program)
- Annexation and Zone change regulations that pertain to land use, developments, and Condo Conversions
- Direct Subsidy (through the Community Development Block Grant Program)

Similarly, the City of Ashland has partnered with area non-profits including Access, Inc., Ashland Community Land Trust, Habitat for Humanity, the Housing Authority of Jackson County, and Rogue Valley Community Development

Corporation (RVDC) to develop new homeownership and rental units. These units are available only to those families who are income qualified at or below 80% of Area Median Income. Median Income for the Medford-Ashland MSA is \$52,900 for a family of four.

Since 2004, the City of Ashland has leveraged its allotment of Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) entitlement funds with federal, state, and private funding sources, and has offered innovative programs and incentives to non-profits and private developers to insure that a percentage of new single family and multi-family housing developments be affordable to families with low and moderate incomes. These programs have resulted in

the addition of 70 new deed restricted affordable workforce housing units added to the City's inventory of below market units. An additional 51 units have been proposed or are in various stages of construction.

The City of Ashland continues to promote existing programs while actively pursuing new and innovative ways to encourage the development of affordable housing. Through fostering relationships with area non-profits, affordable housing developers, and private developers the City works to accommodate their needs while fulfilling its own affordable housing goals.

The City endeavors to meet the challenges of providing affordable housing in the face of a changing market through the reduction of regulatory barriers to affordable

Tree of the Year Nominations Accepted until Monday, October 6, 2008

Trees nominated should be visible from the street and not on City of Ashland Park property. A ballot with the five finalists and an informative description about each tree will be posted in the Daily Tidings and on the City of Ashland website. The final day to place ballots will be by 4 p.m. November 6, 2008. The winner of the 2008 Tree of the Year will be announced at the second November City Council meeting.

I nominate _____

Located at _____ Property owner (if known) _____

Why is this tree special? (Use a separate sheet of paper if needed) _____

My name, address and phone number _____

Please send with utility payment, or send to Community Development, Attn: Amy Anderson at 20 East Main St. Ashland, OR 97520.



Ambulance Service Membership

Residents are invited to enroll in the City of Ashland Ambulance FireMed Membership program. The City of Ashland provides ambulance services to Ashland residents. Members in the program pay an annual fee of \$52 per household, which covers the balance of emergency ambulance transport costs not covered by individual insurance. Non-members are billed for the cost of transport and are responsible for the portion of the bill not covered by their insurance company. For more information call Ashland Fire and Rescue at 482-2770.

housing, as well as by enacting regulations that reward the development or inclusion of affordable units in new developments, and by working to create sustainable funding mechanisms to aid in the development and preservation of affordable units for the future. More information on this and other housing programs can be found at: <http://www.ashland.or.us/housing>.



Driving Tip

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Continuously check all mirrors while backing.

All backing accidents are preventable. The key is to plan ahead to avoid backing in the first place. Only back up as your last resort. Accidents hurt— safety doesn't. ▼

Bear Creek Neighborhood Watch

Help protect Bear Creek Watershed:

If you see someone dumping pollutants (oil, chemicals, soaps, sediment, etc.) into public waters please contact the Oregon Department of Environmental quality (DEQ) at 541-776-6010 x0.

If you see a significant spill (over 40 gallons) of oil or chemicals, call DEQ at 541-776-6010 or after business hours call the Oregon

Emergency Response System (OERS) at 800-452-0311.

If you see an agricultural operation polluting the creek, contact the Oregon Department of Agriculture at 503-986-4635.

If a gravel pit or other aggregate removal operation is causing pollution, call the Oregon Department of Geology and Mineral industries (DOGAMI) at 541-476-2496.

If you see wetlands, riparian vegetation, stream banks or stream channels being disturbed call the Oregon State Police, Fish and wildlife Division at 541-776-6236 x 234.

If you are uncertain who to contact, call the Rogue Valley Council of Governments (RVCOG) Natural Resources Division at 541-664-6674.

Please be as specific as possible when reporting pollutants: Indicate where and when you saw the occurrence. For additional information see the full length Bear Creek Watershed Report Card online at www.NCCSP.org ▼

News Notes

Solar Pioneer II

The City's Solar Pioneer II project is underway and more than 70 panels have been sold. Residents interested in purchasing solar panels should call the electric department at 488-5357.

(See News Notes, Back Page)



News Notes

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Garage and Yard Sales

Residents are reminded not to place garage and yard sale signs in the public right of way including the park row (area between the curb and the sidewalk) utility poles and boxes, street lights, etc.

Autumn Delight Tree Walk

Saturday, September 20

2:00-4:00 pm

The Ashland Tree Commission is sponsoring a 2-hour tree walk through Lithia Park led by commissioners Anne Rich, Kelly Cruser and John Rinaldi. Enjoy some early fall color and learn about some of Lithia Parks featured trees. Meet at the front of Lithia Park (south end of the plaza). The recommended Street Tree Guide is available to participants at a special discounted price of \$5 at the Nature Center or at the tree walk. All ages welcome. Registration costs \$3. Register on-line at www.AshlandParksandRec.org or call 488-6606.

Volunteer Police Service

The Volunteers in Police Service (VIPS) is still accepting applications. Many different volunteer opportunities are available including the Downtown Patrol. For more information, call 488-2211.



CITY OF
ASHLAND

City Calendar

- ❑ **City Council** meets on the first and third Tuesdays at 7:00 p.m. Study sessions occur on the day before at 5:15 p.m.
- ❑ **Planning Commission** meets on the second Tuesday 7:00 p.m. Study sessions occur on the fourth Tuesday at 7:00 p.m.
- ❑ **Airport Commission** meets on the first Tuesday at 9:30 a.m.
- ❑ **Bicycle and Pedestrian Commission** meets on the third Thursday at 5:15 p.m.
- ❑ **Conservation Commission** meets on the fourth Wednesday at 7:00 p.m.
- ❑ **Forest Lands Commission** meets on the second Tuesday at 5:30 p.m.
- ❑ **Historic Commission** meets on the first Wednesday at 7:00 p.m. (the Wednesday prior to the Tuesday Planning Commission)
- ❑ **Housing Commission** meets on the fourth Thursday at 5:30 p.m.
- ❑ **Parks and Recreation Commission** meets on the fourth Monday at 7:00 p.m. Study session occurs on the third Monday.
- ❑ **Public Art Commission** meets on the third Friday at 8:15 a.m.
- ❑ **Traffic Safety Commission** meets on fourth Thursday at 7:00 p.m.
- ❑ **Tree Commission** meets on the Thursday before the Tuesday Planning Commission Meeting

◆ Many of the above meetings are cablecast live on channel 9 and replayed on channel 30. ◆ Meetings are held at Council Chambers, 1175 East Main or at 51 Winburn Way. ◆ For information about all City meetings please call City Administration at 488-6002. ◆ Back issues of the City Source are posted under "Documents" on the City's Website, www.ashland.or.us. ◆ TTY 1-800-735-2900

