

City

S O U R C E

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

Become a Master Recycler in Spring 2010

Jackson County Recycling Partnership & OSU Extension Service invite residents and business representatives to



become Master Recyclers, gaining a broad understanding of waste prevention, recycling, the local solid waste infrastructure, hazardous waste avoidance, and composting. Join a 10-week training course that offers an extensive training manual, discussion-based classes, presentations from local and regional experts and field trips to relevant sites, including the regional landfill, waste-to-energy plant, composting facility and waste water treatment plant.

(See *Become a Master Recycler*, Page 2)

Christmas Tree Recycling

The 26th annual Christmas Tree Recycle Day will be held on Saturday, January 9, 2010. Remember to place your tree by the curb on Friday, January 8 for pick up the next day. The Ashland Host Lions, Early Bird Lions and the Boy Scouts of Troup 112 will be recycling the trees to be used as mulching materials by the Ashland Parks Department on trails in the parks. ▼

Cool Weather Heating Safety

Days are shorter, evenings are cooler and Oregon households are beginning to turn up the heat. Ashland Fire & Rescue reminds Ashland residents that chimney fires and combustibles left too close to a heat source are the state's two leading fire causes in heating related fires. These types of fires are easily prevented by keeping chimneys cleaned and remembering to keep combustibles such as furniture, blankets and clothing far away from heaters, woodstoves and similar heat sources.

"Although fires during the day when no one is home are devastating, fires at night when family members are sleeping may be fatal," advise Ashland Fire & Rescue personnel. "Simple precautions prevent fires and the tragedies they bring."

To reduce fire risk, Ashland Fire & Rescue recommends:

Have chimneys and flues inspected and cleaned each year by a qualified

(See *Cool Weather Heating Safety*, Page 2)



Become a Master Recycler

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Master Recyclers are required to give 40 service hours to support and expand local waste diversion programs and projects. Weekly classes will take place on Tuesday evenings, March 2 — May 11, 5:30 — 8:30 p.m. at the OSU Extension classroom, 569 Hanley Road.

Applications are due Monday, February 1, 2010 and are available online at www.jcmasterrecyclers.org. For more information, contact OSU Extension Service at 541-776-7371. ▼

Cool Weather Winter Safety

chimney sweep. Ask them to check for creosote deposits, soot build-up or physical damage.

☐ Move combustibles including paper, trash, furniture, bedding or clothing at least three feet away from heat sources. Heat sources include candles, gas/wood/pellet stoves, portable, baseboard and wall heaters and any sources with an open flame.

☐ Be cautious with portable heaters. Make sure these heaters have a tip switch to turn them off if knocked over. Keep them away from high traffic areas and unplug when not in use and at night. ▼

Waste Prevention Ideas

Here are a few helpful waste reduction ideas from the SMART Business Program and the Jackson County Recycling Directory. Go to www.jcrecyclingdirectory.org, for more information on recycling programs throughout Jackson County.

Reduce waste and change buying habits

☐ Buy durable, quality goods that last: “Buy it right, or buy it twice.” When buying appliances, electronics, etc. choose reputable products/companies.

Ashland Rotary Centennial Ice Rink

Bundle up, it's ice rink season again! The Ashland Rotary Centennial Ice Rink in Lithia park will be operational (weather permitting) through February 28, 2010. The outdoor rink is located in downtown Ashland, around the corner from the Plaza and directly across from Lithia Park at 95 Winburn Way, corner of Nutley Street and Winburn Way. Bring the whole family; our skate rentals accommodate toddler size 9 to adult size 13. We also rent adjustable skate trainers for first time skaters or those needing a little support.

Come prepared to skate, there are no changing rooms. Hot chocolate, coffee and water are available for sale. Open to the public for recreational and hockey skating.

For more information, prices, daily schedule and extended holiday schedules

refer to the web address www.ashland.or.us/icerink.



News Notes

Reclaim the Rain

Did you know that less than 1% of treated drinking water delivered to your home is actually consumed?

The other 99% is used for landscape watering, toilet flushing, laundry, personal hygiene, and such. Climate change, demand, and water quality issues require us to use water differently. Learn about putting rainfall to beneficial use as close to possible to where it falls— your personal watershed.

We will cover a variety of passive and active techniques for collection and storage and ways to use rainwater as an alternative and supplemental water source for home and garden. This class is for ages 15 & up, on Wednesday, January 13 from 7:00 - 8:00 p.m. at North Mountain Park. Cost is \$10. Registration is required — Please register online at <http://ashlandparks.recware.com> or call NMT Park at 541-488-6606.

Seed Swap

Are you planning your garden? Before you order a long list of seeds from the catalogs, you might want to try acquiring seeds locally at North Mountain Park's seed swap. You can save money, grow plants that are adapted to our local climate, and exchange information with other gardeners. It's fun and simple—just bring seeds you have saved from your garden and some bags or envelopes

(See *News Notes*, Back Page)

Did You Know?

Your winter water use is the basis for determining annual average sewer bills for the following year.

Meter readings taken during January, February, and March are used for this determination. Depending on your location and billing cycle, your water use beginning as early as December 2009 and ending March 31, 2010 will determine your sewer bills for next year.

Water bills beginning in April 2010 will reflect that usage.

- ❑ Use a refillable water bottle or coffee mug; stop purchasing one-time-use bottles and other containers.
- ❑ Avoid to-go foods. When packing a lunch for school or work, use reusable containers.
- ❑ Avoid disposables: Don't buy products manufactured for automatic disposal such as razors, plastic plates, utensils, etc.
- ❑ Buy bulk: Bring your own containers and bags with you to the grocery store.
- ❑ Seek products that have less packaging; store brands, generic foods are often less packaged than others.
- ❑ Buy recycled: Close the loop and help build healthy recycling markets by purchasing items made with recycled content.
- ❑ Buy local: Local goods require far less resources for shipping, storage, etc.
- ❑ Buy used: Instead of buying new, seek second-hand items from Craig's List, The Nickel, thrift stores, etc.
- ❑ Don't buy: Rent or borrow items that you will use infrequently, such as trailers, camping equipment, lawn care equipment, tables and chairs, ladders, power tools and dishware.
- ❑ Reuse shopping bags. Tell the cashier you don't need a bag.
- ❑ Purchase music online using MP3 technology instead of CDs.
- ❑ Repair and mend things, don't discard them.
- ❑ When you no longer need items, share them with a neighbor or give them to charity. ▼



News Notes

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for taking seed with you. The Nature Center will also be selling low-cost seed harvested at the park by volunteers.

This free, all ages welcome exchange will take place on Wednesday, January 27, 2010 from 7:00 — 8:00 p.m. at North Mountain Park. Registration is required — Please register online at <http://ashlandparks.recware.com> or call N MT Park at 541-488-6606.

Oak Knoll Golf Course

Planning a party or a corporate gathering for the holidays? Why not have it at Oak Knoll Golf Course? Our convenient location and beautiful setting make Oak Knoll the perfect place for your next get-together. Call us at 541-482-4311, or visit us on the web at www.oakknollgolf.org. — our friendly staff is ready to help you plan the perfect event. We hope to see you soon! Oak Knoll Golf Course, Great Course— Good Times.

Winter Bird Walk

Stroll through NMT Park to view feathered fauna with birding expert Vince Zauskey. The leafless winter season offers birders a great opportunity to see the birds that winter-over near Bear Creek. Binoculars and field guides will be available for check-out. This free, all ages welcome walk will take place on Saturday, January 9, 2010 from 8:30 — 10:00 a.m. at North Mountain Park. Registration is required — Please register online at <http://ashlandparks.recware.com> or call NMT Park at 541-488-6606. ▼

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 5:30 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.
- ❑ ***Conservation Commission*** meets on the fourth Wednesday at 6:00 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 4:30 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.
- ❑ ***Transportation Commission*** meets on third Thursday at 6:00 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

