

# City

**S O U R C E**

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

## Christmas Tree Recycling

*The 27th annual Christmas Tree Recycle Day will be held on Saturday, January 8, 2011. Remember to place your tree by the curb on Friday, January 7 for pick up the next day. The Ashland Host Lions, Early Bird Lions and the Boy Scouts of Troop 112 will be recycling the trees to be used as mulching materials by the Ashland Parks Department on the trails in the parks. ▼*

## National Citizen Survey

The City of Ashland is conducting a citizen survey, using the National Citizen



Survey, to identify community and service strengths and weaknesses and to provide useful information for planning, resource allocation, performance measurements and program and policy evaluation.

1,200 Ashland households were randomly selected to receive the survey. Those households will receive a postcard the week of January 7 letting them know they have been selected. The following week they will receive the survey and a letter with instructions on how to complete and return the  
(See *National Citizen Survey*, Page 2)

## Help Us Help You

### ***Pull to the Right***

The Oregon vehicle code requires motorists to yield to emergency vehicles (811.145). This applies to those approaching from behind and those coming toward you. Ashland Fire and Rescue responds to an average of 10 emergencies per day.

A problem often faced by firefighters, paramedics and police are drivers who do not become aware of the approaching emergency vehicles until the last moment, then abruptly stop wherever they happen to be. The introduction of improved automobile sound systems and vehicle soundproofing has increased this problem.

Emergency personnel understand the sudden surprise motorists normally experience at the sound and sight of a fire truck, ambulance or police car rapidly approaching with siren and flashing lights. But it's important to think ahead. Train yourself to instinctively pull to the right at the sound/sight of emergency vehicles.

(See *Help Us Help You*, Page 2)



## National Citizen Survey

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survey. Households can either complete the survey by hand or on-line.

Households that were not selected to receive the survey can still participate. In mid February the survey will be available for the general public on the City's website at [www.ashland.or.us](http://www.ashland.or.us).

The survey questions center on eight focus areas which are consistent with Council Values and City Department Performance Measures. The survey results will serve as benchmarks for future comparisons and enable staff to track department performance measures consistent with Council Values, identify opportunities to increase civic involvement, track and evaluate performance measures, monitor trends in resident opinion and more.

The National Citizen Survey was developed by the National Research Center, Inc. and ICMA

(International City Managers Association) to provide a statistically valid survey of resident opinions about their community and the services provided by local government.

With a sample size of 1,200 residents, typically 400 surveys are returned which translates to a margin of error of 5%. Results are compared to the NCS database of more than 500 jurisdictions and compared to a subset of similar jurisdictions within a region or population category.

Results of the survey will be available later this spring and will be presented to the City Council and posted on the City's website. ▼

## Help Us Help You

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### *DO'S*

- Remain Calm!
- Pull to the right and come to a stop
- When on a high-speed road or

when there is no room to stop, slow down as much as possible.

- When in the left lane, pull over into the right lane as traffic in the lane to your right moves over.
- If you cannot move to the right because of an obstacle such as a car to your right, simply stop.
- When an emergency vehicle approaches you from behind while you are stationary at an intersection stop sign or red light, DO NOT move unless you can pull to the right.
- On a 4-lane highway or street without barriers, both sides of traffic should pull to the right. (The emergency vehicle may have to turn in front of oncoming traffic.)

### *DON'TS*

- Don't stop in the middle lane when there is room to pull to the right.
- Don't pull to the left in the center lane or left turn lane.
- Don't drive through a red light or stop sign when an emergency vehicle approaches from behind.

## Low Income Assistance

The Ashland Low Income Energy Assistance Program (ALIEAP) which assists low-income residents with electric bill costs during the cold winter months is now accepting applications. Eligible Ashland residents include those whose income is at or below 60 percent of Oregon's median income. These levels are based on household income and household size. The last day to apply for ALIEAP is January 31, 2011.

**If you or someone you know might qualify for assistance,  
please call the request line at 541-552-2038 to request an application packet.**

- ❑ Don't turn quickly to the left into a driveway or street.
- ❑ Don't race ahead to get through a green light or turn before the emergency vehicle gets there.
- ❑ Don't disregard the presence of the emergency vehicle by continuing to drive. ▼

## Open City Hall Forum

The City of Ashland is testing a new citizen engagement tool called Open City Hall in conjunction with the Community Development Department's project, Pedestrian Places.

Open City Hall is an on-line forum inviting citizens to comment on a specific topic. Many people do not attend public meetings, open houses, workshops etc. for a variety of reasons. This tool will give those citizens an opportunity to comment on a topic or issue they may be interested in but cannot or choose not to attend the related public presentation or meeting.

Please visit [www.ashland.or.us/opencityhall](http://www.ashland.or.us/opencityhall) to learn about the Pedestrian Places project and to leave a comment. Users must register in order to leave a comment and may only "speak" on the issue once. Thoughtful, substantive comments will be read and considered with the same respect and consideration afforded comments provided orally in a public presentation or meeting.

Open City Hall is run by Peak Democracy, a non-partisan company whose mission is to broaden civic engagement and build public

trust in government. They will keep your information confidential per their strict privacy agreement. To learn more please visit [www.peakdemocracy.com](http://www.peakdemocracy.com).

The first Pedestrian Places public workshops were held on October 27 and December 8. A follow-up meeting to review the refined draft concept plans will be held at the Planning Commission on February 2, 2011. For information about future meeting dates, time and location see [www.ashland.or.us/pedplaces](http://www.ashland.or.us/pedplaces). ▼

## Parks Volunteers

Come invest your time and talents with Ashland Parks & Recreation. We have a variety of ways you can take an active role in the care of our beautiful parks, gardens, open spaces, and community buildings.

We need help caring for flowers, plants and beds. Or if painting or carpentry is your forte, we have park structures just waiting for a little TLC. Prior experience is not needed and we will train you to succeed!

Whether you volunteer for just a couple of hours or Adopt-a-Park as your own personal project, Ashland Parks & Recreation will work with you to make this a fun and rewarding experience.

Contact Lori Ainsworth, Volunteer Coordinator for Ashland Parks & Recreation, 541-552-2264 or email [ainsworthl@ashland.or.us](mailto:ainsworthl@ashland.or.us) for more information! ▼

## Open House

How will Ashland's future drinking water needs be met? The Mayor's ad hoc Water Advisory Committee will hold an open house at the Ashland Middle School Commons on January 19, 2011 to seek public input regarding a number of different options proposed to meet the City's future drinking water needs. More details will be available soon on the City's web page at <http://www.ashland.or.us/CCBIndex.asp?CCBID=231> or call the Public Works department at 541-488-5587.



## News Notes

### ***Project FeederWatch***

Help count birds that visit the feeders at North Mountain Park while learning to identify species with expert guidance. This is a great opportunity for all-level birders to get acquainted with local birds and mingle with other birders. The program will take place 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. on alternate Saturdays, through March, 2011 (except Sunday, December 26). The information collected will be submitted to Cornell University's FeederWatch project, a nationwide bird monitoring effort. Pre-registration is not required for this free program. Ages 10 and up. North Mountain Park is located at 620 N Mountain Avenue in Ashland.

### ***Smoke & the Water: Restoration in Ashland's Forested Watershed***

Ashland's forested watershed is the primary supply of drinking water for our town. Within this context the class will explore the interaction of wildfires, forest health, wildlife, and erosion that create a complex challenge to protect our vital water resource. Members of the Ashland Forest Resiliency Stewardship group will explain the current management approach being implemented in the hills above town. All ages welcome for this class, held on Wednesday, January 19 from 7:00 — 8:30 pm, at North Mountain Park. The class is free but registration is required. Please register online at [www.ashland.or.us/register](http://www.ashland.or.us/register) or call 541-488-6606.

### ***Ashland Rotary Centennial Ice Rink***

Bundle up; the Ashland Parks & Recreation ice rink season is upon us again! The Ashland Rotary Centennial Ice Rink will be operational (weather permitting) through February 2011.

Bring the whole family; our skate rentals accommodate toddler size 9 to adult 13. We also rent adjustable skate trainers for first time skaters or those needing a little support.

Come prepared to skate as 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 visit [www.ashland.or.us/icerink](http://www.ashland.or.us/icerink), call the ice rink directly at 541-488-9189, or call the Ashland Parks & Recreation Department at 541-488-5340. ▼

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# 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 Wednesday 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](http://www.ashland.or.us). ◆ TTY 1-800-735-2900

