



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

Facebook and Twitter

“Like” us on Facebook or “follow” us on Twitter! The City of Ashland has been working for the last couple of months to make its Facebook and Twitter pages more active and up-to-date, and to respond promptly to comments and inquiries posted. While the City web site is still the #1 way to get accurate, up-to-the-moment information about what’s going on in City government, there’s now lots of information being pushed through to Facebook and Twitter. Check us out and “like” or “follow” us.

And while you’re at it, “like” the Ashland Parks and Recreation or the Ashland Police Department Facebook pages. The Parks and Rec Facebook page is a great way to stay abreast of events and activities in the community offered by our incredible Parks & Recreation Department. You’ll also find wonderful photos and some very, very cool videos.

The Police Department, meanwhile, showed just how useful Facebook can be. In December, APD posted a picture of a theft suspect in hopes of getting public tips that would identify him. Within a day he was positively identified and the investigation is continuing. In another case, APD used Facebook to help identify a man suspected of fraud and breaking into a City utility payment drop box.

If searching for our page through Facebook, be sure to specify that you’re looking for Ashland, OREGON. (There are 20 other Ashlands in the U.S.) Or, you can find us by clicking on the Facebook icon on the City web site.

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Fix a Leak Week

March 14-20, 2016

Here are some simple steps to big savings. The average American household wastes more than 10,000 cubic feet (74,800 gallons) each year from easy-to-fix water leaks. Across the country, these household leaks can add up to more than one trillion gallons of water lost every year. Start saving today with three simple steps: check, twist, replace.

1. Check. First, *check* your home for leaks. An easy way to start is to examine your winter water use. Walk around your home with eyes and ears open to find leaks, and don’t forget to check pipes and outdoor spigots. You can check your toilet for leaks by putting a dye tab in your toilet’s tank. Wait ten minutes and if any color appears in the bowl during that time, your toilet has a leak.

2. Twist. Apply pipe tape to be sure plumbing fixture connections are sealed tight and give leaking faucets and showerheads a firm *twist* with a wrench. If you can’t stop those drops yourself, contact your favorite plumbing professional.

3. Replace. If you can’t nip that drip, it may be time to replace the fixture.

(See, *Fix a Leak*, Page 2)



Future Council Topics

A couple of big issues – street maintenance funding and wildfire protection – will be coming to the City Council soon.

On February 29th, the Council study session will feature a discussion of street maintenance funding; a problem not just for Ashland but for almost every city in Oregon. Cities rely on shared revenue from state gas tax as the main source of funding for street maintenance. But as cars have become more fuel efficient and people are driving less, the gas tax has become a less reliable source of funding. In addition, since the gas tax is not indexed to inflation, the purchasing power of gas tax dollars has not kept pace with the need. Like many cities, Ashland charges its utility customers a “street utility fee,” but it too has not kept pace with the need.

A citizen task force in 2007 estimated that Ashland needed another \$2 million annually to maintain all of its streets at an adequate pavement condition. And the need only gets larger if we fail to do adequate maintenance. It costs \$285,000 per mile to do an overlay (maintenance) but \$1.4 million per mile to reconstruct a street. (Ashland already has about three miles of streets that require complete reconstruction.) The Council meeting on maintenance funding is for discussion only. Any decision would come back to the Council at a future meeting.

On March 1st, the Council business meeting will include first reading of an ordinance to expand Ashland’s Wildfire Hazards Zone. That zone currently encom-
(See, *Council Topics*, Back Page)

Ashland Community Bike Swap

Saturday, April 16, 2016, 12:00 to 2:00 p.m.

The 26th Annual Bike Swap promotes bicycle transportation and recreation, and benefits bike safety education by providing a community venue for buying and selling working-condition bicycles and related equipment. This event is made possible by Ashland Parks & Recreation Commission (APRC), Rogue Valley Transportation District (RVTD), and the City of Ashland Fire Department and Transportation Commission.

If you have items for sale, they can be dropped off at the Grove, 1195 East Main Street on Friday, April 15, from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. and again on Saturday, April 16, from 8:00 to 10:00 a.m.

If you are interested in buying a bicycle, the swap will be open to the public on Saturday, April 16, from noon to 2:00 p.m. at the Grove, 1195 East Main Street. Admission into the swap is \$1 per person. Babies are free!

After March 3, 2016, call the APRC office at 541-488-5340 for more information or visit RVTD.org/bikeswap. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Lori Ainsworth, lori.ainsworth@ashland.or.us or 541-552-2264.

Looking for a back issue?

Past issues of the City Source are archived on the City website. Scroll down to the bottom of the City’s home page at www.ashland.or.us and look for the link to “document center.” At the document center, you’ll find a link to “City Source Newsletter.”

4th of July Run Logo Contest



The Ashland Parks and Recreation Commission is looking for an artist to design the logo for the 40th Annual 4th of July Run! If your artwork is selected you will win \$150, free T-shirts featuring your design, and the pride of seeing your work in multiple media such as the event brochure, the APRC Summer Recreation Guide, City of Ashland website, and print ads!

Submissions are due no later than Tuesday, March 1, 2016. The winner will be notified by Monday, March 7, 2016. Check out all of the details and submit your winning design at ashland.or.us/JulyRun or call Ashland Parks at 541-488-5340.

40th Annual Event

ARE YOU AN ARTIST?



Year in Review

from Police Chief Tighe O'Meara

2015 was a very exciting year for your Police Department. We saw Chief Terry Holderness retire and one of our command officers, Corey Falls, leave to assume his role as your Sheriff. This gave us the opportunity to welcome me into the role of Police Chief, and to also bring on board three great new officers, all of them native to the Rogue Valley.

The Police Department continues to build on relationships nurtured throughout the years. We all know that only through community engagement can we continue to build the trust in law enforcement that we have seen in the last year.

Crime stats can be tricky, and can be subject to interpretation, but we do know that complaints in the downtown area are up, and we are continuing to look at creative ways to address those concerns while respecting everyone's rights. Our clearance rates remain high, much better than the national averages. Our bait bike program continues to be a success and has assisted us in bringing the bike theft rate down to the lowest number in years.

All of us are looking forward to a good year and invite all members of the community to do what they can to create a safe and enjoyable place for everyone.

AFN: Better Than Ever!

“New and Improved!” Okay, most people are pretty jaded when it comes to believing a claim that a product or service is new and improved, but that really, truly is the case with the Ashland Fiber Network, thanks to a major upgrade to the system that was recently completed by the City of Ashland. We now have what is nothing less than a state-of-the-art fiber network capable of offering download speeds of up to 120 MB per second at prices that won't destroy your budget. And of course, when you purchase your broadband through AFN or one of our partner Internet service providers (such as Ashland Home Net), your money stays right here in Ashland supporting the local economy rather than going to some large faceless corporation.

For more information, visit the city website, www.ashland.or.us, scroll to the bottom of the page and click on “Connect to AFN.”

Fix a Leak

Continued from Page 1

Look for WaterSense labeled models, which use at least 20 percent less water. The City of Ashland is giving out low flow aerators and showerheads to all Ashland residents. A family of four could reduce its indoor water use by up to 60% when replacing old toilets, showerheads, bathroom aerators and washing machines.

Want to do more? Join thousands of your neighbors by supporting the *We're for Water* campaign organized by WaterSense. To learn about current rebate programs, giveaways and more, visit www.ashland.or.us/consERVE or call 541-552-2421.

Basic Life support for Healthcare Providers

This course is intended for healthcare providers and other students seeking training and certification in CPR and teaches critical concepts of high quality CPR, use of automated external defibrillators, and relief from choking for victims of all ages.

The cost for this course is \$55, which includes a student study book and American Heart Association card upon course completion. Registration is first-come, first-served according to when class fees are paid. Classes are typically limited to eight people. Participants may register by mailing a check or by paying in person 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m., Monday - Friday at Fire Station 1, 455 Siskiyou Blvd., Ashland, OR 97520. Make checks payable to City of Ashland. We now accept credit cards.

For information or to register contact the CERT Program Coordinator at 541-552-2226, cpr@ashland.or.us, or www.ashland.or.us/cpr.

DATE: March 12, 2016

TIME: 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

PLACE: Ashland Fire Station 2, 1860 Ashland Street

Calendar Notes

Spring Garden Work Party

Celebrate the arrival of spring while volunteering as a gardener at North Mountain Park on **Wednesday, March 23, from 10:00 a.m. to noon.** North Mountain Park staff and volunteers will provide an orientation to the demonstration gardens, greenhouse and composting facility to kick off the season. Tools and snacks provided. For more information call the North Mountain Park Nature Center at 541-488-6606. **Pre-registration is not required.**

Medicinal & Edible Plant Walks

Stroll through North Mountain Park to learn more about the abundance of edible and medicinal plants found in the gardens and on the ethnobotanical trail. Explore traditional ethnobotanical lore, as well as current trends and research regarding both native and cultivated plants found at North Mountain Park. Learn how to properly identify and sustainably harvest useful plants. Pre-register online at ashland.or.us/register or call the Nature Center at 541-488-6606.

AGES 12 - Adult
DAYS Sunday
DATES March 6 | April 3 | May 1
TIME 3:00 - 4:00 p.m.
PLACE North Mountain Park
COST \$8/walk
INSTRUCTORS Erin Krenzer and Lauren Kemple are environmental educators who teach herbal, gardening and environmental classes.

Council Topics

Continued from Page 2

passes the areas of Ashland that interface with the forest lands that ring the City. This ordinance would expand the zone to include the entire City. Ashland Fire & Rescue has been promoting this expansion as a basic fire protection measure. As we saw with the Oak Knoll fire in 2011, even if a neighborhood doesn't butt up against the forest, it's at risk for wildfire.

Properties in the zone must, among many other things, maintain fuel breaks, not plant certain types of fire-prone vegetation and keep tree limbs trimmed back from structures. The existing

wildfire hazard standards are in Chapter 18.3.10.100 of the Municipal Code, which you can find on the City website.

Remember, Council agendas are subject to change on short notice, so please check the City website at www.ashland.or.us to be sure the items in which you're interested are still scheduled for Council discussion or action.

City Calendar

City Council

Business Meetings: Mar 1 & 15 | 7:00 p.m.
Study Sessions: Feb 29 & Mar 14 | 5:30 p.m.

Planning Commission

Business Meeting: Mar 8 | 7:00 p.m.
Study Session: Mar 22 | 7:00 p.m.

Airport Commission

Mar 1 | 9:30 a.m.

Conservation Commission

Mar 23 | 6:00 p.m.

Forest Lands Commission

Mar 8 | 5:30 p.m.

Historic Commission

Mar 2 | 6:00 p.m.

Housing and Human Services Commission

Mar 24 | 4:30 p.m.

Parks and Recreation Commission

Business Meeting: Mar 28 | 7:00 p.m.
Study Session: Mar 21 | 7:00 p.m.

Public Art Commission

Mar 18 | 8:30 a.m.

Transportation Commission

Mar 24 | 6:00 p.m.

Tree Commission

Mar 3 | 6:00 p.m.

Wildfire Mitigation Commission

Mar 16 | 11:00 a.m.

▲ Meetings are held at Council Chambers, 1175 East Main or at 51 Winburn Way and are open to the public.
▲ TTY 1-800-735-2900. ▲ City Council and many other city meetings are broadcast live on channel 9. Charter Communications customers will find city meetings on channels 180 and 181. Meetings also stream live on the internet at rvtv.sou.edu.