

City

SOURCE

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

Pedestrian Beacons on Siskiyou Boulevard Complete

City of Ashland Public Works and Electric Department crews have completed installation



of the pedestrian-activated beacons. Beacons are now operational at three Siskiyou Boulevard intersections: Bridge Street, Avery Street and Palm Avenue. With the installation of pedestrian-activated beacons, pedestrians can push a button to activate a flashing yellow caution light to make drivers aware that the crosswalk is in use. The beacons will flash only when activated by a pedestrian intending to cross.

(See *Pedestrian Beacons on Siskiyou Boulevard*, Back Page)

Tree of the Year 2008

And the winner is ... The Tree Commission is pleased to announce the 2008 Tree of the Year — the Spanish Fir, located at 128 Wimer Street.

The Spanish Fir is unique to Ashland as it is native to the mountains of Spain and Morocco. The tree grows well in Ashland's somewhat alkaline soils and has a high tolerance to hot dry conditions that summers here are known for. This tree has been special over the years to many as its seeds were collected and have been distributed to a (See *Tree of the Year 2008*, Page 2)

Welcome to the new Mayor and Council Members

On January 5th the newest members of our Ashland City Council will be sworn in. Please join us in welcoming them. Please keep an eye out in future newsletters as we highlight each new member. First up, in his own words, is a mini biography for our new Mayor, John Stromberg:

I worked for over 20 years as an organization and management consultant, primarily in the corporate world but also with community non-profit organizations. My major emphases were on enabling small groups to work more effectively, facilitating organizational change, and training workers to do highly complex jobs involving customer contact.

I have a PhD in Business Administration and a Masters in Statistics from UC, Berkeley, and a BS in Physics from Caltech. While writing my dissertation on the Federal Defense Budget process I was an economist for

(See *Welcome to the new Mayor and Council Members*, Page 3)



Tree of the Year 2008

Continued from Page 1

worldwide seed bank. This tree is also host to various wildlife that have called its branches home. It has definitely earned an honorary place in Ashland's urban forest.

This Fir is well-deserving of the honor to be chosen "Tree of the Year". A plaque will be dedicated at the site honoring the tree next spring during annual Arbor week events.

A comprehensive list of the previous Tree of the Year winners can be found on the City of Ashland website. The nomination form to begin the Tree of the Year contest for 2009 is also available on the City website. ▼

A Message from Alice Hardesty

The following message is from outgoing Council Member Alice Hardesty, when asked about the accomplishments she was most proud of during her time on the City Council:

Because the Council's decisions were made by the group, at least a majority of the seven (including the Mayor), it's hard for any one person to take the credit or blame. That said, there are certain actions that I've been particularly pleased about, and in some cases worked to affect their passage.

One of the most important activities and possibly one of the least appreciated by members of

the public is the training the Council received from Dr. Rick Kirschner. I suggested the need for and possibility of it to Mayor John Morrison, and then met with the other Councilors to gain their acceptance of the idea. The training itself was extremely helpful and enabled us to work more rapidly, efficiently, and harmoniously than we had before. There has, of course, been some backsliding, but the benefits are still evident. I hope the remaining Councilors will carry over the memory of this process to the new Council.

Having been a member of the Housing Commission for two years before joining the Council, I was already convinced about the necessity for affordable housing in Ashland, and the acquisition of the Clay St. property along with the Housing Authority of Jackson County gives Ashland a wonderful boost in this direction. Also during my tenure on the Council, we passed a condo conversion ordinance, along with requirements to protect tenants rights, and an annexation and zone change ordinance, all of which will further the cause of affordable housing. And we recently passed an ordinance creating a Housing Trust Fund, the first step in creating a funding stream for affordable housing.

Another milestone was the renewal of the Gun Club's lease, which was very controversial because the property has not been cleaned up or even assessed for clean-up after decades of use.

After much deliberation, the Council offered to renew the lease, but added several important provisions relating to clean-up requirements.

Other Council accomplishments which I consider important:

- ❑ Adopted a Public Arts Master Plan complete with funding streams.
- ❑ Raised the Transient Occupancy Tax to a level comparable to other Oregon communities, which will provide funding for our Economic Development and Strategic Planning goals.
- ❑ Postponed decisions on the TAP in order to look at the broader issues of water conservation and possible reuse.
- ❑ Formed a Library Committee and recommended to the voters a measure that would provide funding to supplement the County's funded hours (to which the voters gave their approval).
- ❑ Approved the Solar Pioneer II program to place 363 solar panels on the roof of a municipal building downtown.

My hopes for the next

Council include the following:

- ❑ Take further steps in affordable housing. Those that have been taken are only a start to an activity that is critical to the City's health and welfare. The City could partner with other local institutions that need affordable housing, such as the Ashland School District, SOU, and the Hospital. Make every attempt to design future affordable housing projects to be net zero energy efficient.



Sustainable Landscape Practices

Join Landscape Architect Bonnie Bayard as she explores the following topics: **Plant Design Considerations, Low Maintenance Landscape Ideas, No Lawn! Then What? and Going Beyond Xeriscape.** With over 25 years' experience, Bonnie brings to her classes a love and knowledge of how to create intimate landscapes that evoke peace and serenity. Her interest in drought-tolerant concepts, coupled with sacred space design practices, leads to landscapes that respect and work with nature. Classes will be Tuesdays, February 3, 10, 17, and 24 from 6:30 - 8:30 pm in the Otte/Peterson Room of the Grove. Ages 17 and up, please. Cost is \$48 for the series. Register on-line at <http://ashlandparks.recware.com>.



- ❑ Work on the planning and implementation of the Economic Development and Strategic Planning goals with special emphasis on activities that promote sustainability.
- ❑ Pursue water conservation and possible reuse of treated wastewater.
- ❑ Along with other municipalities in the Rogue Valley, address the problems of hunger and homelessness in the Valley.
- ❑ Work with the Mt. Ashland Association to develop a QA/QC team, not only for any proposed expansion but for the care and maintenance of the existing ski area.
- ❑ Take steps to maintain the gains made during the training with Dr. Kirschner, possibly including a refresher seminar with Dr. Kirschner or another professional in the area.
- ❑ Work with staff to market the unsold panels in Solar Pioneer II.



Welcome to the new Mayor and Council Members

Continued from Page 1

the RAND Corporation, the first “think tank”, in Santa Monica.

My wife, Jane, and I have been married for 38 years and have two adult daughters and three grandchildren. A native Californian, I have lived in Oregon for 22 years. My wife and I resided in Eugene for 14 years prior to moving to Ashland in 2000.

While there I received a Heart of the Arts award for my work in creating a public-private partnership to save the City of Eugene’s public art gallery. I was subsequently appointed to the City’s Commission on the Future of the Hult Center for the Performing Arts, which I co-chaired for a year.

I believe in community engagement. For the past four years I have been deeply involved in City government. I began as a citizen lobbying the Council to do a new plan for the Downtown and subsequently volunteered on Jack Hardesty’s successful campaign for City Council. In spring of 2005 I was appointed to the Planning Commission and am completing my second term as Chair.

My goals for the City include broadening Ashland’s appeal to visitors, to be not only a beautiful and enjoyable place to come for world class theater but also a renowned center for sustainability with its own university, and a retreat in trying times, where visitors can renew their energy and their hope for the future.

I also rate ensuring the long-term security of Ashland’s water supply, managing wild fire risks, promoting localization of agriculture, developing a land use plan built around multi-modal transportation, and controlling city spending as high priority items for City government.



Pedestrian Beacons on Siskiyou Boulevard

Continued from Page 1

Using the Beacons For Pedestrians— Be Aware, Be Safe and Be Considerate

The flashing beacons are not a traffic signal, and drivers are not required to stop if they cannot do so safely. These beacons provide you with a way to make approaching drivers aware that you are or will be using the crosswalk. After activating the beacon, you still need to use caution, check to make sure that drivers in each lane are aware of your presence and that vehicles are able to stop before you enter the lane. Please look for approaching traffic before stepping into any crosswalk.

Using the Beacons For Drivers— Be Aware, Be Safe and Be Considerate

If you see a flashing beacon, it has been activated by a pedestrian entering the crosswalk. State law requires drivers to stop if they can do so safely, and remain stopped until pedestrians have cleared the lane which the driver is traveling as well as the adjacent lane. Passing another vehicle stopped at a crosswalk to permit a pedestrian to cross is a violation of Oregon state law, and can result in serious injury or death for the pedestrian. ▼

News Notes

Simply Gourmet: Cooking with 3 to 6 Ingredients

Join us for an early evening, and learn to make some seriously tasty food. Utilizing fresh ingredients, this demonstration class will show you how to fix a meal that is both flavorful and beautiful. Each student will be provided with recipe handouts, a full plate of food and have the option to purchase wine by the glass, paired with each recipe. Sign up for a specific class or the series of all four. Classes will be held from 5:30 - 8:00 pm at Agave Restaurant, 92 N. Main St on Mondays, February 16 (Appetizers and Hors d'oeuvres), March 2 (Latin/Caribbean Fusion), March 6 (Italian/Mediterranean), and March 30 (Thai/Vietnamese/Japanese). Ages 21 and up, please. Cost is \$45/Person; \$80/couple for one lesson or \$130/person; \$220/couple for the entire series. Register online at <http://ashlandparks.recware.com>. *Registration closes 3 days before the start of each class in order to make food purchases. No late registrations accepted.* ▼

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 6:00 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 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.
- ❑ **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

