

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

Sustainable Shopping Initiative Goes Into Affect January 1

House Bill (HB) 2509, which was passed by the Oregon Legislature in 2019, now prohibits **retail stores and restaurants** from providing single-use checkout bags to customers and requires a fee charged for offering certain types of reusable or recycled bags statewide. Ashland has had a ban on single-use plastic carryout bags for retailers and requires retailers to charge ten cents for any recyclable paper bags offered, per AMC 9.21. While the ten cent fee still applies with the new State rule, **restaurants will now be required to comply with the bag ban.**

What types of bags require fees?

	✓ No fee required	\$ Fee required	⊘ Prohibited
 Retail stores	Reusable fabric bags, if offered as a promotion (no more than 12 days per year)	Recycled paper bags* Reusable plastic bags* Reusable fabric bags	Single-use bags
 Restaurants	Recycled paper bags	Reusable plastic bags*	Single-use bags

*Exceptions include:

- Bags designed to hold bulk items, such as small hardware or for sanitary or privacy purposes;
- Certain specialty bags, such as garment bags; and
- Bags sold in a package for uses, such as food storage, garbage, or pet waste.

What does this mean for you?

If you forget to bring your reusable bag, a fee (ten cents for Ashland and at least five cents for other communities) will be charged per bag at the register. The fee is kept by businesses to help them purchase more sustainable bags. Retailers and restaurants may provide the bags for free for WIC and EB card holders.

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ASHLAND LOW INCOME ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

There is still time to apply for the City of Ashland's Low Income Energy Assistance Program (ALIEAP), which assists low income residents with electric bill costs during the winter months.

Eligible Ashland residents include those whose income is at or below 65 percent of Oregon's median income based on household income and size. Qualified recipients receive a credit on their electric utility charges. Credits of up to 50 percent are given to seniors and disabled persons for up to six months and credits of 50 percent to other qualified residents for up to three months. The maximum allowed credit for either group is \$300. Applications are available at the Utility Billing Counter at City Hall or by calling (541) 552-2038. The deadline to submit the application is January 31, 2020.

The Ashland Parks and Recreation Department Senior Services Division can assist seniors with this process. For senior assistance, call (541) 488-5342.



Sign-up for alerts:
Text 97520 to 888777
or visit ashland.or.us/nixle



Winter Water News

It's exciting to watch the snow accumulate and not just because we like to ski and snowboard!

Our municipal drinking water comes from rain and snow that falls in the Ashland Creek Watershed and on Mount Ashland. So, the more snow we get the more water we have available for the summer months, especially if colder temperatures can stick around. It's fun to imagine that the snow falling today could be used in and around our homes this upcoming summer (after it's been treated, of course.)

Throughout the winter months, water professionals monitor the snowpack and "snow water equivalent" (SWE) in our watershed to help assess what the water supply might look like for the upcoming year. This is typically done by collecting data from manual and automatic "SNOTEL" (Snow Telemetry) sites in or around our watershed. One SNOTEL site we consult is called Big Red Mountain. This site is designed to measure snow depth, snow water equivalent, temperature, wind, solar radiation and a number of other climate related factors. Situated at 6,050 feet near Mt. Ashland, Big Red gives us a pretty good idea of what the snowpack and SWE is in our watershed.

So what exactly is "Snow Water Equivalent"? Well, imagine if you were able to melt all the snow for an entire area instantaneously and then measure the volume of water that resulted...that is the snow water equivalent. Interestingly, it is not as easy as just measuring snow depth. You also need to know the density of the snow, and snow density is dependent on many factors including elevation, the temperature outside when the snow fell, how long it's been on the ground, wind, melting, and recrystallization. To view the interactive snow survey map, follow this link <https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detailfull/or/snow/?cid=stelprdb1266968>

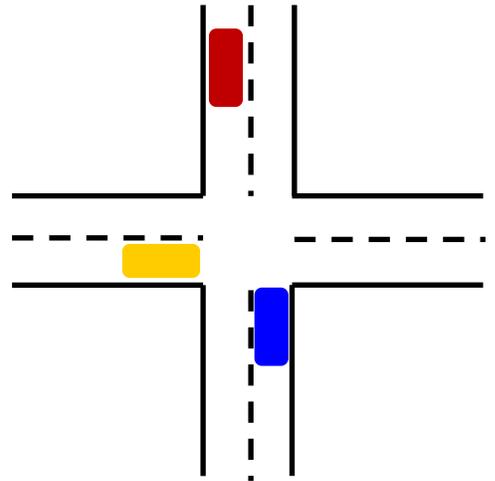


TRAFFIC SAFETY CORNER: Rules of the Road for an Uncontrolled Intersection

When there are no traffic signals or road signs to help you determine the right-of-way, exercise caution and use the following simple rules to determine who has the right-of-way.

- The vehicle that arrived to the intersection first has the right-of-way.
- If two vehicles arrive at the intersection at roughly the same time, the driver of the vehicle on the left must give way to the driver of the vehicle on the right.

When making a left turn, yield to all oncoming traffic EVEN if you were the first one to enter the intersection.



Make Your New Year Bright with Rebates and Freebies!

The winter months are a great time to plan for how to best use water throughout the year. Consider scheduling an Indoor Water Use Evaluation or taking advantage of our water and energy efficient appliance rebates.

In addition, as an Ashland resident, you are eligible for free low flow showerheads and faucet aerators. Just stop by the Community Development building at 51 Winburn Way to pick them up. Remember, even small hardware changes can make a big difference in how much water we use. So, why not take advantage of this opportunity and take that little step to save water today!

For more information, please visit www.ashland saves water.org or call (541) 552-2062.

EVENTS

Seed Swap

Are you planning your garden? Before you order a long list of seeds from catalogs, you might want to try acquiring seeds locally at North Mountain Park Nature Center'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 for taking seeds with you. The Nature Center also will be selling low-cost seed, harvested at the park by volunteers.

DATE Thursday, February 6
TIME 6 to 7 PM
PLACE Nature Center, 620 North Mountain Avenue

Balkanic Explosion

Balkanic Explosion is a folkloric repertoire, taking you on a cultural journey through Southern Slavic dances. Please wear comfortable clothing and gym/dance shoes. Instruction will be in circular dances from Macedonia, Serbia, Bulgaria, and Greece. In addition to steps, students learn musicality and historical significance of steps and music. *This class is part of our Ashland World Music Festival Education Series which is a fun way for people to experience cultural traditions from around the world! The Music Festival will be held Memorial Day weekend in Lithia Park, details at rogueworldmusic.org/awmf.*

AGES 18 & up
DAY Monday
DATE Session 2: February 3 through 24; Session 3: March 2 through 30; Session 4: April 6 through 27
TIME 7:15 to 8:15 PM
PLACE The Grove Gym, 1195 E. Main Street
COST \$40 for Session 1, 2 & 4 (4 classes); \$50 for Session 3 (5 classes)

Project FeederWatch

Help count birds that visit the feeders at the North Mountain Park Nature Center while learning to identify species with expert birders. This is a great opportunity for all-levels of birders to get acquainted with local species and mingle with other birders under the covered pavilion. The information collected will be submitted to Cornell University's FeederWatch project, a nationwide citizen-science bird monitoring effort. Bird watching takes place alternate Saturdays, November through March.

AGES 9 & up
DATES Alternate Saturdays: February 1, 15 & 29, March 14
TIME 9 to 10 AM
PLACE Nature Center, 620 N. Mountain Avenue

You CAN Create: Engaging with the Natural World

In this class, we use the natural world and natural materials to fuel our artistic/creative voice using many different techniques. You will learn how to use the materials of the natural world along with some EASY art materials to create tangible beauty that expresses some aspect of your life or your relationship with the natural world.

AGES 18 & up
DATE Saturday, February 22
TIME 11 AM to 1 PM
PLACE Nature Center, 620 North Mountain Ave.
COST \$8

Continued on page 4...

Lend Your Voice to City Government

Volunteers for boards and commissions are essential for the workings of City government. The City has 17 permanent boards and commissions in addition to other ad hoc committees and subcommittees. With a wide range of topics including public art, historic preservation, wildfire mitigation, trees, transportation, housing, and conservation there is an opportunity for everyone.

If you are interested in serving on one of our boards or commissions go to ashland.or.us/vacancies for a current list of vacancies and the application process. Applications can be sent to the City Recorder by either emailing to melissa.huhtala@ashland.or.us or by dropping off the application at City Hall, 20 E. Main Street c/o City Recorder.

City offices will be closed on
Monday, February 17
in observance of President's Day.

Check out how Ashland
connects at
www.ashlandfiber.net



FEBRUARY CITY CALENDAR

- City Council
Business Meeting: Feb. 4 & 18 | 6 p.m.
Study Sessions: Feb. 3 | 5:30 p.m.
- Airport Commission
February 4 | 9:30 a.m.
- Conservation & Climate Outreach Commission
February 26 | 6 p.m.
- Climate Policy Commission
February 13 | 4 p.m.
- Forest Lands Commission
February 11 | 5:30 p.m.
Fire Station #2, 1860 Ashland Street
- Historic Commission
February 5 | 6 p.m.
- Housing and Human Services Commission
February 27 | 4 p.m.
- Parks and Recreation Commission
Business Meeting: February 24 | 7 p.m.
Council Chambers, 1175 E. Main Street
Study Session: February 10 | 5:30 p.m.
The Grove, 1195 E. Main Street
- Planning Commission
Business Meeting: February 11 | 7 p.m.
Study Session: February 25 | 7 p.m.
- Public Art Commission
February 21 | 8:30 a.m.
- Transportation Commission
February 20 | 6 p.m.
- Tree Commission
February 6 | 6 p.m.
- Wildfire Safety Commission
February 19 | 11 a.m.
Fire Station #1, 455 Siskiyou Boulevard
- ▲ TTY 1-800-735-2900 ▲ Meetings are held in the Council Chambers (1175 E Main Street) or the Siskiyou Room (51 Winburn Way) unless otherwise noted. ▲ 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, select channel RVTV Prime.

Events (continued from page 3)

Rogue Valley Connector Workshop

The Rogue Valley Connector is a convenient, affordable new ride service that started in Ashland in December. Come learn from RVTD staff about this “on demand” van service that can pick you up at home within the city limits and drop you off at the Senior Center and other key Ashland destinations. Please register for the free workshop by calling the Senior Center at (541) 488-5342 or emailing seniorinfo@ashland.or.us.

DATE February 5
TIME 1 to 3 PM
PLACE Ashland Senior Center, 1699 Homes Avenue

Life History Story Time

Bill Warner of KnectToday will present on the value of recording your family’s life histories, and offer an opportunity for participants to experience the fun of sharing their stories. Please register for free by calling the Senior Center at (541) 488-5342 or emailing seniorinfo@ashland.or.us.

DATE February 26
TIME 1 to 2:30 PM
PLACE Ashland Senior Center, 1699 Homes Avenue

Powerful Tools for Caregivers

Learn the skills to take better care of yourself while caring for someone else. By taking care of your own health and well-being, you become a better caregiver. Six two and half hours class sessions are held once a week by a certified instructor. Class size is limited and registration is required; call the Aging & Disability Resource Connection at (541) 618-7572 to register. If you need help finding someone to watch the friend or relative you are caring for in order to attend the class, please ask for respite resources when registering.

DATE March 16, 23, 30 & April 6, 13, 20
TIME 3:30 to 5 PM
PLACE Ashland Senior Center, 1699 Homes Avenue
COST \$30 donation for class manual
No one is turned away for inability to pay



20 East Main St., Ashland, OR 97520 | www.ashland.or.us

