

City

S O U R C E

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

RVTD

The Rogue Valley Transit District (RVTD) faces a

\$1.2 million shortfall for the upcoming fiscal year beginning July 1. RVTD needs to cut services and to raise fares in order to balance their budget. RVTD intends to cut Route 4 in Medford and to raise the fare throughout the system to \$2.00 and Valley Lift service to \$4.00.

ADA law requires transit companies to provide paratransit service to qualified persons within 3/4 mile of the fixed bus route and to charge no more than twice the bus fare for the service.

RVTD notified the city that it is no longer able to provide enhanced services in Ashland, Route 5 and (See *RVTD*, Page 2)



Public Works Director

Public Works Director Paula Brown returned to work for the City on June 9 after being gone for 16 months serving the US Navy as the Seabee's Regimental Commander in the Pacific and Iraq. While in Iraq for 7 months, the Seabees focused on building camps for Iraqi Security Forces and improvements to infrastructure throughout Al Anbar province. "These past sixteen months have been extremely challenging and rewarding," said Brown "but I am certainly glad to be home (See Public Works Director, Page 3)

City Seeks Variance

The city operates two vacuum street cleaners Monday through Thursday between the hours of 4:00 a.m. and 7:00 a.m. in commercial zones and major streets with high traffic volumes. The machines exceed the allowable noise levels during that time, and the Public Works department is requesting a variance. Because vacuum-style street cleaners pick up the dirt, rather than sweep the dirt, they are environmentally preferred over the older broom-style machines however they are somewhat louder than the older version.

The city street sweepers are in operation four days a week throughout the entire year. In general the citizens of Ashland have high expectations regarding the cleanliness of streets.

The street sweeping schedule has remained unchanged for at least 20 years but a recent citizen complaint has prompted the city to evaluate its operations which has led to the variance request. Street sweeping in the downtown area and other

(See *City Seeks Variance*, Page 2)



City SOURCE

RVTD

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and free fare, for \$290,000 per year and will terminate their contract with the City of Ashland on June 30, 2006. The contract allows for early termination by either party at any time.

The City of Ashland underwrites enhanced transit services for \$290,000 each year. The enhanced services included Route 5, an Ashland-only loop and free fare in Ashland on Route 5, free fare on Route 10 (within Ashland) and Valley Lift (paratransit service). These enhanced services are paid through the Street Improvement Fund.

RVTD will continue to provide

Valley Lift service within 3/4 of a mile of RVTD fixed routes, but will no longer provide Valley Lift service beyond that distance.

The Ashland City Council is committed to keeping the fare for bus and Valley Lift service as low as possible. The council is exploring different options and will make a final decision at a special meeting on June 28. This newsletter must be printed in advance of that date in order to be mailed within the utility bills. An update will be included in the August issue. ▼

City Seeks Variance

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commercial areas must occur in the early morning hours prior to

the arrival of delivery and service trucks and vehicle parking. Sweeping in the residential areas occurs after 7:00 a.m. when there are fewer vehicles parked on the street.

The council may grant a variance to the noise standards (AMC 9.08) when it finds that strict compliance with the ordinance would cause an unusual and unreasonable hardship. The council will hold a public hearing on the variance prior to making any decisions on the request.

This item will be on the agenda for the August 1 city council meeting. The public is invited to attend and comment during the public hearing. Council meetings begin at 7:00 p.m. in Council Chambers at 1175 East Main Street. ▼

Life Support Equipment

In order for the City of Ashland to be aware of the life support medical equipment in residential use, please fill out the following form and return it with your utility payment

Name of person using life support equipment _____

Type of life support equipment being used _____

Emergency electricity needed for Emergency equipment Heating

Emergency water needed for Sanitation Cooking

Name on utility account _____

Utility account number _____ Address _____

Phone (home) _____ Phone (work) _____ Phone (cell) _____

Name of emergency contact _____

Please keep our after hours phone number handy for emergencies: 482-5211 POLICE

Bear and Garbage

Cougar and Bear Sense

There have been recent reports of bear sightings in the neighborhood hills of Ashland. Please notify your neighbors if you see or suspect either cougar or bear in the area. The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife offer the following suggestions:

Backyard Tips

- Don't feed any wildlife including birds and deer.
- Keep pets on a leash; at night keep them in a kennel with a secure top.
- Don't feed pets outside.

Precautions

- Do not hike alone
- Do not approach a mountain lion, give them room to escape.
- Do not run from a mountain lion. Stand and face the animal, make eye contact. Do all you can to appear larger, open your jacket, throw stones, raise your arms slowly.
- Do not run from a bear. Do not make eye contact. Back away slowly and speak softly to let the bear discover your presence.

More tips and information at www.dfw.state.or.us. Please notify ODFW if you see a deer or bear at 826-8778 ext. 227. ▼

Public Works Director

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and back with my family. I'm now ready to get back to work and serve the community of Ashland. I sincerely appreciate the hard work that Dawn, Mike, Jim and Pieter, and the entire PW Department, did in my absence. They make it all worth while coming back." ▼

News Notes

Is Your Home Ready for Fire Season?

The forests and homes in Ashland's wildfire zone are at high risk during each and every summer fire season, no matter how wet the spring has been. If you are uncertain if you live in the wildfire zone, or wildland urban interface (WUI), you can go to www.ashland.or.us/wui to locate your home in relation to the wildfire hazard area. Ashland Fire and Rescue recommends that all residents in the WUI have a wildfire safety inspection on their home and property. To schedule an inspection, call Chris Chambers at 552-2066. Now is the time to be taking fire season precautions!

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Compost Classes

Free Compost classes at the Ashland Recycling Center on Water Street at 10 a.m. on Saturday, August 5. Attendees will receive a free compost bin for attending.

Classes include various systems of backyard composting. Learn how compost can benefit your plants and your soil. Attendants receive a free compost bin per family. If you have any questions, please call Claudia Law, at 488-4129; e-mail: wediggitt@mind.net.



News Notes

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No Dogs in North Mountain Park

In accordance with the no dog rule in all city parks and to protect the wildlife in the park's Natural Area, dogs are not allowed at North Mountain Park with one exception (Parks Commission Policy): In order to accommodate local dog walkers, a route has been established to allow access to the neighborhood on the upper (south) end of the park. Leashed dogs may be taken across the bridge at the south end of the park on Mountain Avenue (located at the top of the hill) and walked a short distance past the playground to Village Square Drive. This route is clearly marked with red dog paws. Dogs are not allowed in any other portion of North Mountain Park, including the park's bike path, which is located alongside the Nature Center and the ball fields. ▼

Historic Preservation Awards

Every year, as part of its annual celebration of National Historic Preservation Week, the Ashland Historic Commission honors citizens who have made a significant contribution to the historic character of Ashland. The "Distinguished Architectural Preservation" Awards are presented in several categories — Residential, Multi-Family, Commercial, Civic, Individual(s) and Historically Compatible new Construction.

At the Award Ceremony held on May 25, 2006 at Pioneer Hall, the following citizens received an award: Kirt Meyer; Vadim Agakhanov; Tom Giordano; Michael Ryan; Carlos Delgado; Jason & Anne Robison; Eric Laursen; Wesley & Karen Chapman; Matt Small; Raymond Kistler; The Downey Company; Michael McKee; Beth Goldstein; Mark Greenberg; Marilyn Schreiber; Pat Elston; Carmon Auble; Keith Swink & Jana Carole; Adam Fox; Southern Oregon Historic Society.

The Historic Commission congratulates each of the winners and the efforts they made through renovation or rehabilitation of historic structures and sites, historically compatible new construction or through their on-going efforts on behalf of historic preservation in Ashland.

A descriptive narrative of each of the selected

properties including pictures provided by Historic Commissioner Terry Skibby can be viewed on the City's website at <http://www.ashland.or.us/PreservationAwards> under the Historic Commission's Historic Preservation site. ▼



CITY OF ASHLAND City Calendar

July 17	Housing Commission	6:30 p.m.
July 18	City Council Meeting	7:00 p.m.
July 20	Bicycle and Pedestrian Commission	5:15 p.m.
July 21	Public Arts Commission	8:15 a.m.
July 24	Parks and Recreation Commission	7:00 p.m.
July 26	Conservation Commission	7:00 p.m.
July 27	AFN Programming Committee	5:30 p.m.
July 27	Traffic Safety Commission	7:00 p.m.
August 1	Airport Commission	9:30 a.m.
August 1	City Council Meeting	7:00 p.m.
August 2	Historic Commission	7:00 p.m.
August 3	Tree Commission	7:00 p.m.
August 7	City Council Study Session	5:15 p.m.
August 8	Forest Lands Commission	5:30 p.m.
August 8	Planning Commission	7:00 p.m.
August 10	City Council Study Session	5:15 p.m.
August 15	City Council Meeting	7:00 p.m.

◆ 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

