

City

SOURCE

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

Wildfire: Are You Prepared?

Protecting your home from wildfire is an ongoing job.

The hottest and most dangerous part of fire season is upon us. If you live within the Wildland-Urban Interface Zone now is the time to take preventative measures. To find out if your home is at risk visit the City's website: www.ashland.or.us/wuimaps

Preparing your home and property must be done before a fire starts and is the responsibility of each homeowner. Firefighters cannot protect your home if you haven't taken basic wildfire safety measures before the fire.

(See *Wildfire: Are You Prepared?*, Page 2)



Bear-Proof Trash Cans

Ashland Sanitary Service is now able to service bear proof trash cans and has two models on display at their offices on Oak Street: a 35-gallon bear proof can for \$85 and a 65-gallon bear proof cart for \$250. Ashland Sanitary will refer customers to the manufacturer for direct purchase of bear proof cans. For more information contact Ashland Sanitary at 482-1471. ▼

New Solar Energy Program

Ashland's commitment to renewable energy has brought national recognition to our community. To encourage continued growth and leadership in local solar energy production—and to serve our customers with the lowest renewable energy rates possible—the City of Ashland is exploring a new 90 kW solar photovoltaic system for our sun-rich city facilities at 90 N Mountain Ave.

The proposed system would be funded by a combination of Clean Renewable Energy Bonds (CREB) and a State of Oregon Business Energy Tax Credit pass-through. The proposed program will enable citizens and businesses to voluntarily purchase solar electricity from this system.

Energy shares of the solar output could be paid upfront for \$1,000 or financed over a 10 year period as a voluntary charge on your electric bill—as low as \$8 to \$10 per share

(See *New Solar Energy Program*, Page 2)



City **S O U R C E**

Wildfire: Are You Prepared?

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Take a few minutes to check these important spots around your home:

1. Clear flammable leaves and branches from gutters and roof-tops.
2. Create a five foot fuel free space around your home. This means raking needles, leaves, and twigs around the house and moving any combustible material out from under decks and near structures. Clean and well watered plants are OK, as long as they aren't junipers or other highly combustible species.
3. Thin and prune vegetation within 100 feet of any structure and remove all dead plant material. This includes pruning land-

scaping plants as well! Keep all vegetation away from siding and windows.

Ashland Fire and Rescue has a grant program to help landowners remove flammable vegetation. For more information and a free inspection, contact program coordinator, Chris Chambers, at 552-2066. ▼

New Solar Energy Program

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per month. Each share holder will receive an annual credit based on the solar energy production of \$24 to \$50 on their electric bill for at least 20 years. Citizen support for solar energy will determine if the City pursues this installation

program, and your input is very important. Tell the City you're interested in buying Ashland-generated solar energy by calling the Electric Department at 488-5357 and getting your name placed on the list of interested participants. ▼

Electric Meter Changes

The City of Ashland Electric Department is changing all residential meters from Electro Mechanical Meters to Digital Radio Read Meters. Currently, the Electric Department has installed approximately 2,600 meters to date.

- Changing to the new system will:
- Reduce time reading meters.
 - Enable the meter reader to take

How Fast is Ashland Growing?

Growth in Ashland has been expressed as one of the biggest challenges facing the community. The population in 2002 was 20,130 and as of July of 2006 it was 21,430 — a 6.4% increase or 1,300 more people in five years. The City's Comprehensive Plan projects that an average of 87 single-family homes and 71 apartment units will be constructed each year. These figures serve as benchmarks for planning purposes. The following chart gives a picture of growth in Ashland between 2002 - 2006.

	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Population	20,130	20,430	20,590	20,880	21,430
Single-family permits	119	125	119	130	47
Multi-family permits	32	16 (52 units)	23 (34 units)	20 (38 units)	20 (53 units)
Commercial Permits/Valuation*	61/\$12,773,057	154/\$35,817,729	36/\$7,871,530	42/\$19,719,200	31/\$9,351,909

*Based on cost per construction foot. Commercial permits include those issued for new construction as well as new square footage to existing properties.

Morning Bird Walks

On Saturday, August 11 at 8:00 a.m. join birding experts from the Rogue Valley Audubon Society and Klamath Bird Observatory at North Mountain Park to observe the variety of birds that spend their summers in the Rogue Valley. Binoculars and field guides will be available free. For more information call 488-6606.

readings from the street rather than going onto the property.

❑ Reduce the need for additional employees.

❑ Reduce the use of vehicles and fuel. (Readings will take approximately one week rather than a month)

❑ Provide more accurate readings and fewer errors due to digital system.

In order to complete the change, the power will need to be turned off momentarily at the property, usually for less than one minute, while City employees change out the meter. When residents are not home, a notification is left at the home indicating that the meter has been changed. The Electric Department will be continuing changing meters over the next few years. For more information, call the Electric Department at 488-5357.

Tips and Facts: Compact Fluorescent Light (CFL) Bulbs

❑ When purchasing CFLs, always look for the ENERGY STAR label on the package; this is your assurance of high quality bulbs that have been rigorously tested for superior performance.

❑ One CFL uses up to 75% less energy than an ordinary light bulb and lasts between 7-10 times longer.

❑ You can save up to \$30 over the life of each bulb and an average of \$60 annually on your electric bill

by replacing most incandescent bulbs with CFLs.

❑ The CFL package will show what wattage standard bulb the CFL should replace to get comparable light output. For example, a 15-Watt CFL will give off about the same amount of light as a 60-Watt standard incandescent bulb, and a 25-W CFL will give off about the same light output as a 100-W standard bulb.

❑ Most ENERGY STAR CFLs now offer the familiar warm color of light that our eyes are accustomed to seeing with standard incandescent bulbs (which is a color temperature of around 2700 K). If you need a whiter light for more contrast when reading, you can select CFLs that have a higher color temperature (3500 K, for example), however, the light will appear different than the other 2700 K bulbs used in the same area.

❑ If you have a dimmable switch, only use a CFL that specifically says it is for use in this type of application. (Using a CFL that is not rated for use with a dimmer switch may create a fire hazard).

❑ CFL bulbs are not good choices for motion sensors, since frequent on and off switching may cause CFLs to burn out early.

❑ 3-way CFL bulbs are now available in most home improvement stores.

❑ In outside fixtures, make sure the CFL bulbs are protected from direct exposure to rain and snow.

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Tips and Facts: CFL Bulbs

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- ❑ CFLs should not be installed in totally enclosed fixtures that don't have air circulation around them unless the CFL is rated for such an application.
- ❑ When replacing incandescent bulbs in recessed can fixtures, be sure to use only CFL products that say they can be used in high temperature applications.
- ❑ CFLs contain a very small amount of mercury, so please do not put burned out bulbs in the trash. Instead, take them to Ashland Recycling Center on Water Street and hand them to an attendant. The CFLs will be picked up on a regular basis to be taken to a designated recycling center.

Compact Fluorescent Light Bulb Cleanup

If a fluorescent bulb breaks, the DEQ and EPA recommend the following clean-up and disposal guidelines:

1. Wearing plastic gloves, use stiff paper or cardboard to scoop up the glass and all other pieces of the broken light bulb.
2. Remove all materials you can without using a vacuum cleaner. Wipe the area clean with a damp paper towel or disposable wet wipe.
3. Place all cleanup materials in a rigid container such as an old paint can. Seal the container with a lid and remove it from your living area.
4. Air out the room where bulb was broken for 12-24 hours.
5. DO NOT PUT THE SEALED CONTAINER IN THE TRASH! Save the container to take to the annual hazardous waste collection day (usually held beginning of May). For more information on exact date and location of this event, call Ashland Sanitary at 482-1471.

For more information on CFLs visit the city's website www.ashland.or.us/cfl ▼

News Notes

Weed Abatement in Ashland

We are now in full swing of another growing season. Like last year, this season will probably require property owners to mow twice or more to keep hazard and nuisance weeds in check.

Please remember that Ashland's Municipal Code requires property owners to be responsible for mowing weeds to keep them from becoming a fire hazard, and, to prevent the spread of weeds to other properties.

As fire danger increases mowing restrictions will be implemented. Check www.ashland.or.us or call the Ashland Fire and Rescue for more information.

Please contact Dean Walker 552-2424, walkerd@ashland.or.us for any information you might need, including a partial list of mowing contractors.

Volunteers Needed

Volunteers are needed for the Senior Volunteer Police Program. Members provide service to the entire City and meet many areas of need. The trained volunteers are involved in downtown foot patrol, conduct vacation house checks, provide security for special events, serve as couriers to the District Attorney and Sheriff's Departments, oversee the reader board (digital radar readout) in traffic areas, patrol satellite city parks, provide wildland/urban interface patrols during severe fire seasons, serve as bailiffs for Ashland Municipal Court and, are generally additional eyes and ears for the police department.

For more information or to volunteer for this position, please call 488-2211. ▼

CITY OF ASHLAND		
City Calendar		
July 17	City Council Meeting	7:00 p.m.
July 19	Bicycle and Pedestrian Commission	5:15 p.m.
July 20	Public Arts Commission	8:15 a.m.
July 23	Parks and Recreation Commission	7:00 p.m.
July 24	Planning Commission	
	Study Session	7:00 p.m.
July 25	Conservation Commission	6:00 p.m.
July 26	Traffic Safety Commission	7:00 p.m.
August 1	Historic Commission	7:00 p.m.
August 6	City Council Study Session	5:15 p.m.
August 7	Airport commission	9:30 a.m.
August 7	City Council Meeting	7:00 p.m.
August 9	Tree Commission	7:00 p.m.
August 14	Forest Lands Commission	5:30 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

