

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

**ROUND UP YOUR CHANGE**

Many of Ashland's low-income residents have difficulty paying for their basic monthly utility services. The City of Ashland's Round Up program allows Ashland utility customers to voluntarily round up their utility bills to the nearest dollar. The additional funds accumulated will be devoted to assisting low-income Ashland residents with their monthly utility bills. Customers who qualify for low-income assistance are screened to determine eligibility using the current Federal poverty guidelines. In addition, occasionally customers who don't necessarily qualify as low-income may need some assistance due to personal difficulties. These funds can be used in an emergency to help others on a one time per year only basis.

Many public utilities around the country operate a "round up" program to provide public purpose funding to assist others. This is a voluntary program. Please join the Ashland Round Up program by completing the form below and returning it with your utility payment or by dropping it off at City Hall, 20 E. Main Street or by filling it out online at [ashland.or.us/roundup](http://ashland.or.us/roundup).

**YES, I WANT TO JOIN THE ASHLAND ROUND UP PROGRAM**

Yes, please round up my monthly utility bill to the nearest dollar. I understand the funds will assist Ashland residents in need with their utility bill.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Service Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Account Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Please complete this form and return it with your utility payment or drop it off at City Hall, 20 E. Main Street.

**NEED ASSISTANCE WITH YOUR UTILITY BILL?**

The City offers a year-round discount to very low-income customers age 65+ or qualified disabled persons age 60 or older. There are additional programs to help with winter heating and emergency assistance when bills are at risk of being disconnected. Call Ashland Senior Services Division at (541) 488-5342 to make an appointment for application assistance or go to [ashland.or.us/utilityassistance](http://ashland.or.us/utilityassistance) for more information.

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**TRAFFIC CALMING PROGRAM**



The City of Ashland's Transportation Commission in coordination with the Public Works Department and residents has developed a pilot traffic calming program.

The City of Ashland's Traffic Calming and Safety Improvement Program is part of the City's commitment to the safety and livability of our neighborhoods and shall incorporate the goals, policies and objectives of the City's comprehensive plan.

The program is designed to reduce the impacts of traffic and provide for a safe roadway network for all users.

When there is active participation by area residents; the City can identify the problem, plan the approach, implement solutions, and evaluate the effectiveness.

Traffic Calming documents are available for download here: [ashland.or.us/trafficcalming](http://ashland.or.us/trafficcalming)



**RESPONSIBLE LANDSCAPING:  
UNDERSTANDING ASHLAND'S WILDFIRE SAFETY ORDINANCE**

To prevent structure loss from wildfires in Ashland and to build a more fire resilient community, the City adopted a resolution in October 2018 that restricts new plantings of flammable plant species within 30 feet of any building. Resolution 2018-28 identifies known flammable plant species that are best planted farther away from buildings and is incorporated into Ashland's Municipal Code.

If you are thinking about re-landscaping your yard or getting started on those springtime projects to put a few new plants in the ground, then please familiarize yourself with this list. The prohibited species are listed below and a more comprehensive list can be found at [www.ashland.or.us/prohibitedplants](http://www.ashland.or.us/prohibitedplants).

Exceptions may be approved by Ashland Fire & Rescue for dwarf or prostrate varieties of these species (those with an \*) planted more than five feet away from any structure, and that follow the flammable tree and shrub spacing guidelines as defined in the General Fuel Modification Area Standards developed for the Wildfire Safety Ordinance. This regulation was put in place to reduce Ashland's wildfire risks by promoting fire resistant landscaping and creating defensible space around buildings, both during new construction and for any new plantings near existing buildings. More info at [www.ashland.or.us/wildfiresafetyordinance](http://www.ashland.or.us/wildfiresafetyordinance).

If you're unsure about what to plant or seek more information, please visit [www.ashland.or.us/prepareyourhome](http://www.ashland.or.us/prepareyourhome), call us at (541) 482-2770 or head downtown to Fire Station #1, across from the Ashland Library. Our office is open 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. Come by to check out our new Firewise Landscaping Demonstration Garden and pick up a brochure to learn more about how to protect your home and neighborhood from wildfire. Wildfire is everyone's fight and we need your help to keep Ashland fire safe.

**Prohibited Plant List**

**Prohibited Trees**

- Arborvitae/Red cedar (Thuja sp.)
- \*Cedar (Cedrus sp.)
- \*Cedar/Cypress (Chamaecyparis sp.)
- \*Cypress (Cupressus sp.)
- Douglas-fir (Pseudotsuga menziesii)
- Fir (Abies sp.)
- \*Hemlock (Tsuga sp.)
- Incense Cedar (Calocedrus decurrens or Libocedrus decurrens)
- \*Juniper (Juniperus sp.)
- \*Pine (Pinus sp.)
- Giant Sequoia (Sequoiadendron sp.)
- Coast Redwood (Sequoia sp.)
- \*Spruce (Picea sp.)
- \*Yew (Taxus sp.)

**Prohibited Shrubs**

- Bitterbrush (Purshia tridentata)
- Broom (Cytisus sp.)
- \*Ceanothus (Ceanothus sp.)
- Himalayan Blackberry (Rubus armeniacus)
- Juniper (Juniperus sp.)
- \*Lavender (Lavandula sp.)
- \*Manzanita (Arctostaphylos sp.)
- \*Oregon grape (Mahonia aquifolium)
- \*Rosemary (Rosmarinus sp.)
- Sagebrush (Artemisia tridentata or californica sp.)

**Prohibited Grasses**

- Pampas grass (Cortaderia selloana)



**Sign-Up For Alerts: Text 97520 to 888777 or visit [ashland.or.us/nixle](http://ashland.or.us/nixle).**

## Get the Most Out of Your Water This Summer Season

Spring is the perfect time to prepare your landscape for the summer watering season. By taking care of a few important maintenance items now that can aid in your landscapes ability to hold water, you'll take the first step to water efficiency. Completing tasks such as, aerating, amending soil, adding mulch and dethatching will sustain healthy soils that cycle nutrients, minimize runoff and retain water. So, when the time finally comes to start up your sprinkler system, these simple steps will help you get the most out of the water that you use.

**Aerating and amending your soil.** Soil can become compacted over time and inhibit water infiltration. Aerating your soil can increase the infiltration of water into the ground, improve water flow to the plant's root zone and reduce water runoff. Raking in a layer of compost after aerating feeds your plants and allows air and water to circulate more easily.

**Dethatching.** Thatch is a layer of organic material between the green lawn and the soil. Thatch can act as a barrier that prevents vital water, air and nutrients from reaching the roots. Spring is a good time to dethatch because conditions are optimum for rapid recovery and you are preparing the lawn for the coming growing season.

**Use mulch around shrubs and garden plants.** This will help to reduce evaporation, inhibit weed growth, moderate soil temperature, and prevent erosion. Visit the City of Ashland Fire Department's website at [www.ashland.or.us/resources](http://www.ashland.or.us/resources) for information on the appropriate types of mulches and where to use them in the landscape. You can also call (541) 552-2231 for additional guidance on Firewise landscaping practices.

### Plan ahead for a water-wise landscape.

If you're designing a new landscape or rethinking your current one, get helpful ideas on plants that are not only waterwise, but are also firewise, pollinator friendly and deer resistant. Visit the City of Ashland's Water-Wise Landscaping Website at [www.ashlandsaveswater.org](http://www.ashlandsaveswater.org) or call (541) 552-2062 for more information.

### WILDFIRE SEASON IS COMING. ARE YOU READY?

Residents are being called to prepare for the 2020 wildfire season through the 2<sup>nd</sup> annual Wildfire Preparedness Campaign. The Wildfire Preparedness Campaign has three elements:

#### April: Be Firewise!

Prepare your home and property.

#### May: Be Ready

to evacuate or shelter in place.

#### June: Be SmokeWise!

Prepare for smoke.

Start planning to Be Firewise early! Mark your calendars for Ashland's 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Green Debris Drop Off Day, on May 2. Drop off is FREE from 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Valley View Transfer Station, 3000 N. Valley View Road. Removing wildfire fuel like leaves, pine needles, and small branches from your landscaping and gutters can greatly reduce your wildfire risk. Your ID with an Ashland address will be required for free disposal and only organic green debris will be accepted. More information can be found at [ashland.or.us/cleanupday](http://ashland.or.us/cleanupday). Thank you Recology Ashland for supporting this event!

The Wildfire Preparedness Campaign is a partnership between Ashland Fire & Rescue and the Wildfire Safety Commission. For more information, visit [ashland.or.us/wildfireprep](http://ashland.or.us/wildfireprep).

### EVENTS

#### Earth Day 2020

The City of Ashland's Conservation Division will be among the many exhibitors participating in this year's festivities. Visit their booth to learn more about water and energy conservation practices and how you can use these methods to make your home more efficient.

DATE Saturday April 18

TIME 11 AM to 4 PM

PLACE Science Works Museum, 1500 E. Main Street

#### 30th Annual Rogue Valley Bike Swap

This fundraiser promotes bicycle transportation and benefits bike safety education in the Rogue Valley by providing a community venue for buying and selling working-condition bicycles and related equipment. This event is made possible by Ashland Parks and Recreation, Rogue Valley Transportation District (RVTD), Jefferson Public Radio and City of Ashland's Police Department and Public Works Department.

Sellers can drop off items at the Grove (1195 E. Main Street) Friday, April 3 from 5 to 7 p.m. or Saturday, April 4 from 8 to 10 a.m. The swap will be open to buyers on Saturday, April 4 from 12 to 2 p.m. at the Grove. Admission into the swap is \$1 per person. Want to volunteer or donate? Contact Sulaiman Shelton, Volunteer & Event Coordinator at [sulaiman.shelton@ashland.or.us](mailto:sulaiman.shelton@ashland.or.us) or (541) 552-2264. Want to sponsor? Contact Dorinda Cottle, Executive Assistant, [dorinda.cottle@ashland.or.us](mailto:dorinda.cottle@ashland.or.us) or (541) 552-2265.

#### Illusion and Reality: The Making and Meanings of Ashland's Forensic Garden

Come learn about the creation of the National Fish and Wildlife Forensics Laboratory garden. The garden is a unique scientific garden that serves as a lasting example of community collaboration, landscape symbolism and a subtle design that offers the security needed to protect the only lab in the world dedicated to crimes against wildlife. Gain insight into the professional expertise of designing community spaces and the history of this unique public garden.

AGES 15 & up

DATE Thursday, April 16

TIME 6:30 to 7:30 p.m.

PLACE Nature Center, 620 N Mountain Avenue



## EVENTS

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### Summer Youth Conservation Corps

Ashland Parks Summer Youth Conservation Corps is now accepting applications! Eighth through twelfth graders can earn 25 hours of community service in just four days working on Ashland trails and parks. There are only 14 spots per session so apply early! Visit [ashland.or.us/youthcorps](http://ashland.or.us/youthcorps) or call (541) 552-2264 for more information.

DATES June 8 through 11, June 22 through 25, or July 6 through 9

### Medicinal and Edible Plant Walk

Explore traditional ethnobotanical lore as well as current trends and research regarding edible and medicinal plants. Learn how to identify and sustainably harvest useful plants. Different plants will be discussed on each walk.

AGES 12 & up

DATE Sunday, April 26

TIME 2 to 3:30 p.m.

PLACE Nature Center, 620 N Mountain Avenue

COST \$12

### Recycle Right with Little Might

Does troubling news around the topic of recycling have you feeling discouraged or unsure about whether you're doing it correctly? Join Jamie Rosenthal with Recology Ashland for a free lecture on how recycling can be much simpler than it seems.

For more information go to

[www.ashlandfood.coop](http://www.ashlandfood.coop).

DATE April 13

TIME 6 to 8 PM

PLACE Ashland Food Co-Op Classroom, 300 N. Pioneer Street

### Author Talk: Sue DeMarinis, "The Station Master's Wife: A Scandalous Life Exposed"

Local author Sue DeMarinis will read from her second novel, *The Station Master's Wife*, share slides with vintage photos, and sign books. Based on the life of Alice, the station master's wife when the transcontinental railroad arrived in Ashland in 1887, this story is set among true historical events spanning half a century. Please register for free by calling the Senior Center at (541) 488-5342 or emailing [seniorinfo@ashland.or.us](mailto:seniorinfo@ashland.or.us).

DATE April 8

TIME 1 to 3 PM

PLACE Ashland Senior Center, 1699 Homes Avenue

### AARP Smart Driver Course

For drivers age 50-plus who want to learn proven safety strategies, current rules of the road and defensive driving techniques. The cost is \$15 for AARP members or \$20 for non-members. You may be eligible to receive an insurance discount upon completing the course; consult your insurance agent for details. Please register by calling the Senior Center at (541) 488-5342 or emailing [seniorinfo@ashland.or.us](mailto:seniorinfo@ashland.or.us).

DATE April 22 & 23

TIME 1 to 4:15 PM

PLACE Ashland Senior Center, 1699 Homes Avenue



Check out how Ashland connects at [www.ashlandfiber.net](http://www.ashlandfiber.net)



## APRIL CITY CALENDAR

### City Council

Business Meeting: April 7 & 21 | 6 p.m.

Study Sessions: April 6 & 20 | 5:30 p.m.

### Airport Commission

April 7 | 9:30 a.m.

### Conservation & Climate Outreach Commission

April 22 | 6 p.m.

### Climate Policy Commission

April 9 | 4 p.m.

### Forest Lands Commission

April 14 | 5:30 p.m.

Fire Station #2, 1860 Ashland Street

### Historic Commission

April 8 | 6 p.m.

### Housing and Human Services Commission

April 23 | 4 p.m.

### Parks and Recreation Commission

Business Meeting: April 8 | 6:30 p.m.

Study Session: April 1 | 6:30 p.m.

Council Chambers, 1175 E. Main Street

### Planning Commission

Business Meeting: April 14 | 7 p.m.

Study Session: April 28 | 7 p.m.

### Public Art Commission

April 17 | 8:30 a.m.

### Transportation Commission

April 16 | 6 p.m.

### Tree Commission

April 9 | 6 p.m.

### Wildfire Safety Commission

April 15 | 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](http://rvtv.sou.edu), select channel RVTV Prime.