

Coronavirus (COVID-19) Business Economic Relief

With the extended closures being experienced by a significant number of our local businesses, schools and non-profit partners, the City recognizes the immense strain and challenges being faced, both emotionally and financially. While our collective priority is individual and community health and safety, a critical component in navigating this unprecedented impact on our economy is access to financial relief and support. Congress approved the CARES (Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security) act several days ago setting in motion a series of programs with targeted and dedicated funding to support businesses large and small. Understanding programs, application process and the documentation required can be a significant challenge. The City continues to partner with the Chamber of Commerce as the primary information and support resource to assist local businesses.

Programs include:

- Paycheck Protection Program Loans
- Small Business Debt Relief Program
- Economic Injury Disaster Loans & Emergency Economic Injury Grants
- Small Business Tax Provisions/Credits

To learn more about these programs, including FAQ's and eligibility information, go to www.ashlandchamber.com. Also, add your email to the daily Chamber email update list to stay current on all available resources.

Local governments across the nation are also straining to maintain the necessary essential services for their communities and Ashland is no different. Maintaining our water supply, electrical grid, ambulance, fire and police service, broadband internet and other essential community services continues to be the City's primary objective. The Mayor, City Council and staff continue to communicate with state and federal officials to request funding and regulatory assistance for both local business, government, non-profit and educational partners to address financial impacts affecting our economic and social vitality. We welcome your input and we will continue to advocate for Ashland.

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Stay Updated on Coronavirus (COVID-19)

To help ease concern over the Coronavirus (COVID-19) and spread correct information, the City has created a webpage ashland.or.us/coronavirus and will be updating a hotline (541) 552-2490 with the most up-to-date information from the Federal, State, County, and City governments.

The webpage includes information on:

Prevention and Health—links to the CDC, Oregon Health Authority, and Jackson County Health and Human Services as well as tips for staying healthy and what to do if you are sick.

City Government Updates—including current City closures and cancellation notices, how to interact with the City online or by phone, and direct support including adjustments to Utility Billing, Lodging and Food and Beverage Tax collections.

Current Restrictions—offering a timeline of the Governor's orders including mandated closures.

Local & Business Resources—where affected businesses can go for help, how to support local businesses, closures notices from OSF, Jackson County Library Services, Oregon DMV, and current operations of RVTD and Recology. This section also includes how you can help by donating items and time to organizations and by joining the adopt a neighbor program (adoptneighbor.org).

Annual Water Quality Report is Available

EPA'S notification requirements for the annual Consumer Confidence Report, better known as the Water Quality Report, allows the City of Ashland to distribute and provide access to the report via ashland.or.us/waterdept. A link will be found on the Public Works home page and the Water Department home page as well. Hard copies are available upon request and at public information racks located at; Ashland Public Library, SOU Library, Council Chambers, City Hall and the Public Works / Community Development building.



Dealing With Bears and Other Wildlife in Ashland

With spring upon us, the City of Ashland is seeing an increase in reported bear activity, especially in the areas above Siskiyou Boulevard and North Main Street. The City, and the APD would like to remind everyone to follow well-established protocols in dealing with all wildlife.

Residents should not leave food accessible to any wildlife and at no times should anyone deliberately feed wildlife. Residents who live above Siskiyou Boulevard and North Main Street are encouraged to contact Recology and get a bear-proof trash can. Allowing animals free or easy access to food encourages them to stay in town or close to town. This leads to them getting accustomed to being around people and houses, which increases the chance that they will have to be lethally removed. For more well-established protocols, go to ashland.or.us/deer&wildlife.

Residents are also encouraged to report wildlife encounters via the city's mapping tool, which can be found at ashland.or.us/wildlifemap. Residents can also use this tool to monitor where bear and cougar sightings have occurred to be better informed about taking walks or hikes in the area. Any emergency situations should still be reported directly to the police department by calling (541) 770-4784 or 911 as appropriate.

Lawn Replacement Program



If you've been considering replacing your lawn with waterwise landscaping, this may be perfect time to make that change. Lawn Replacement Rebates are still available for replacing thirsty green lawns that are currently watered using city water. There are many colorful waterwise, firewise and

pollinator plants to choose from. Add some character to your landscape this summer and save water while you're at it. For inspiration on how to create a landscape that is healthy, attractive and uses less water, visit the water wise landscaping website at www.ashlandsaveswater.org.

Most of our Lawn Replacement Program (LRP) participants do save water. In fact, we recently did a water savings analysis reviewing the last two years of LRP participants' water use. On average they are saving 20,000 gallons (approx. 2,700 cubic feet) of water per year, and many are saving even more. For more information about this rebate program please visit the City's website at www.ashland.or.us/LRP.



The City of Ashland offers several additional resources to assist you in managing your landscape and irrigation system including smart controller rebates, a watering calculator, watering guides and irrigation troubleshooting. View the Conservation Division website at www.ashland.or.us/conserv for both water and energy efficiency programs. Contact our team at 541-552-2062 or email Julie.smitherman@ashland.or.us to see how much you can save!

Wildfire Season is Still Coming

Ashland Fire & Rescue encourages proactive mitigation efforts on your property to help keep your home and the surrounding neighborhood safe from fire by meeting the June 15th deadline for Weed Abatement. Start preparing your home or business for wildfire season now, before the dry weather of summer becomes a threat and limits the ability to abate as safely as possible.

The use of gas-powered landscaping equipment like lawn mowers, weed eaters, trimmers, chain saws, etc. becomes restricted by mid-June due to increasing Fire Danger Levels. This severely limits the time available for you to meet the requirements of the City Ordinance for Weed Abatement, and in effect, delays the creation of effective defensible space against wildfire. Please, don't wait to abate.

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Cut Weeds and Grass by June 15th



Cutting grass and weeds reduces the ability for fire to start or spread as quickly, thus substantially decreasing the fire risk in our community. Fire is everyone's fight.



Visit www.ashland.or.us/weedabatement for more information and useful links

Don't Wait to Abate.

Properties

1 Acre or Smaller

Cut and maintain grass and weeds to no more than 4" in height:

- On the entire property
- On abutting park rows, alleys and other right of ways

**CUT IT SHORT!
KEEP IT SHORT!**

Call 541-552-2246

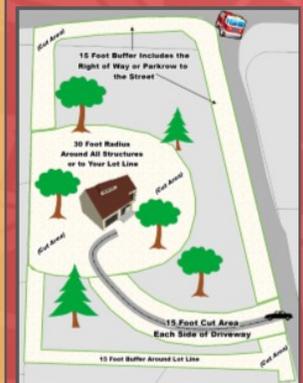
Ashland Municipal Code section 9.04 requires weed abatement to be performed on all lots within city limits. Failure to abate and maintain weeds and grass by June 15th each year can result in fines for each day the violation exists, plus any abatement and staff costs.

Properties

Greater Than 1 Acre

Cut and maintain grass and weeds to no more than 4" in height:

- On abutting park rows, alleys and other right of ways
- Within 30 feet of every structure
- In a 15 foot wide buffer strip around your property
- In a 15 foot wide buffer next to access roads and driveways through



Wildfire Season is Still Coming

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The June 15th deadline ensures that wildfire fuels, including weeds and other unmanaged combustible vegetation, have been eliminated as we move into summer wildfire season. Ashland Fire & Rescue is dedicated to protecting lives, property, and the environment, which includes dedicated efforts among the residents, businesses and institutions within our city to help keep Ashland fire safe. We appreciate every effort of our community to bring properties into compliance as soon as possible during this challenging time. Thank you for your dedication to help keep Ashland wildfire safe.

Please contact (541) 552-2246 with any questions or concerns or visit www.ashland.or.us/weedabatement for more information.

Events

Due to COVID-19 and social distancing measures in place, many of our events may need to be canceled or postponed. Please check ashland.or.us/events often as we navigate our 2020 Summer Events Schedule.

Nature Play Community Celebration

Celebrate the new, nature-inspired playground at North Mountain Park Nature Center. Lights snacks will provided with kids activities and playtime! No pets, please. Thanks to the generous donors who made the playground possible! For more information please visit ashland.or.us/natureplay.

AGES All ages welcome (children must be accompanied by parent/guardian)
DATE Wednesday, June 3
TIME 2 to 4 PM
PLACE Nature Center, 620 N. Mountain Avenue

Movies at the Lithia Park Bandshell

We are excited to host our second season of movies in the park, at the Butler Bandshell every 2nd and 4th Friday, June through August. Bring a blanket, stadium seats and enjoy an evening of movies (G, PG or PG-13) under the stars! The white roof of the Bandshell has proven an exceptional screen for our projections, and wireless "Silent Disco" headphones will be available to rent for crystal-clear audio for \$5. For complete details, please visit ashland.or.us/moviesinthepark. Animals and alcohol are not allowed in parks. In case of inclement weather, visit [facebook.com/silentmovementinternational/events](https://www.facebook.com/silentmovementinternational/events) for cancellation updates.

DAYS 2nd & 4th Fridays; June 12 & 26, July 24 (no movie July 10), August 14 & 28
TIME Headphone rentals start at 7:30pm; movies start at dark
PLACE Butler Bandshell in Lithia Park
COST \$5 for headset (A portion of the proceeds benefits Ashland Parks Foundation and Synths For Kids)

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Be Ready to Evacuate or Shelter Indoors

Most years, May is the month we urge Ashland residents to prepare their home environments to either evacuate or shelter indoors, depending on the situation if a wildfire is approaching. Of course, this year many of us are already sheltering indoors due to Coronavirus. During this time, take stock of what [recommended "shelter indoors" supplies](#) you may lack in a wildfire context by visiting ashland.or.us/wildfireprep, as wildfire presents different challenges compared to the current COVID-19 crisis.

During a wildfire event, instead of sheltering indoors, you may be informed to evacuate. To receive important emergency notifications, including possible evacuation orders, sign up for Nixle, Ashland's community alert system, online or by text by visiting ashland.or.us/nixle. Once you've signed up, prepare yourself to evacuate by visiting ashland.or.us/evacuate and create an evacuation kit following our Evacuation checklist on ashland.or.us/wildfireprep.

Keep Cool and Save Energy

Summer weather is on the way and our hot Southern Oregon temperatures will be in full swing before we know it! During these tough economic and social times there are things you can easily do to help control your energy costs. Here are some tips to help you stay cool AND help to reduce your energy costs:

- Dress for the weather. Wear lightweight, loose fitting clothing on hot days.
- Drink plenty of cold liquids to stay hydrated.
- Turn off lights and fans in unoccupied rooms.
- Turn off or unplug unnecessary electronics.
- Use your kitchen and bathroom fans after cooking and bathing to remove hot steam from the air.
- Cook more meals in your microwave or InstaPot. It's quicker, more energy efficient, and heats the food instead of your house.
- Run your dishwasher at night, choose to air dry dishes rather than the heat option.
- Dry laundry on a clothesline.
- If possible wash clothes in cold water.
- Keep windows, doors, blinds and curtains closed during the day to keep cool air in. Open them when it cools down to let cool breezes through.
- Use portable or ceiling fans instead of A/C. Just increasing air movement can make you feel up to 5 degrees cooler, while using less energy. Since the fan won't cool the room, be sure to turn it off when you leave the room.
- Install roll-up bamboo blinds outside of windows that receive the most sunlight. Blocking the sun from the *outside* is more effective than blocking it from the *inside*.
- If using A/C set your thermostat to 78 degrees or higher.
- Use natural light if possible.

If any questions or concerns, the City of Ashland Conservation department is here to help! Call (541) 488-5306.

Events (continued)

Due to COVID-19 and social distancing measures in place, many of our events may need to be canceled or postponed. Please check ashland.or.us/events often as we navigate our 2020 Summer Events Schedule.

Free Concerts with City Band

Enjoy a FREE summer concert every Thursday evening during the summer! Bring a picnic dinner (alcohol is not allowed), blanket or chair and your family and friends! Only ADA compliant service dogs are allowed in Lithia Park. A 2020 patriotic concert will be offered on the 4th of July at noon; special thanks to the Ashland Chamber of Commerce!

DATE Every Thursday evening from June 11 through August 13
TIME 7 to 8 PM (pre-concert performances at 6:15 PM)
PLACE Butler Bandshell

Rock the Knoll Concert Series

Mark your calendars, tell your friends and join us this summer for some great music. Food is available for purchase at 5 p.m. Our "Rock the Knoll" summer concert series includes the following:

The Brothers Reed: June 5, 6 to 9 PM

East Main Band: July 17, 7 to 10 PM

Danielle Kelly: Aug 28, 7 to 10 PM

Hog Wild: Sep 11, 6 to 9 PM

PLACE Oak Knoll Golf Course, 3070 Highway 66

First Friday Silent Discos in the Park!

Join Silent Movement for their 4th summer of family-friendly events. Rent a pair of headphones and wander through downtown's Art Walk or dance with hundreds of other attendees to Live DJ's playing funky beats, while the little ones can make their own music on the interactive "Wiggle Wagon".

Animals and alcohol are not allowed in parks. Please visit ashland.or.us/silentdisco for more details. A portion of the proceeds will benefit the Ashland Parks Foundation and Synths For Kids. In case of inclement weather, visit facebook.com/silentmovementinternational/events for cancellation updates.

DAYS First Fridays (June through September)
TIME 5 to 11 PM
PLACE Front of Lithia Park
COST \$5 for headset

4th Annual Bee City Self-Guided Pollinator Tour

Enjoy a self-guided tour of pollinator gardens throughout Ashland. Fee includes booklets with maps for each day to show where each garden is located. Booklet's will be available at the North Mountain Park Nature Center AFTER Monday, June 1. Register online at ashland.or.us/register or call the Nature Center at (541) 488-6606 for more information.

DATES Saturday, June 20 and Sunday, June 21
TIME 9 AM to 1 PM
COST \$10 fee; \$15 fee after June 19

Flowers in Watercolor and Ink

Open to all skill levels and for ages 50 and better. Through step-by-step instruction, students will complete a vibrant floral painting using watercolor and ink. Taught by Shea Cathey. Register at ashland.or.us/register or call the Senior Center at (541) 488-5342.

DATES June 13, 20, 27
TIME 1 to 3 PM
PLACE Ashland Senior Center, 1699 Homes Ave
COST \$80 (includes all supplies)

Check out how Ashland connects at www.ashlandfiber.net



June City Calendar

Due to COVID-19 and social distancing measures in place, many meeting might be canceled or held electronically. Please check ashland.or.us/calendar.asp for updates.

City Council

Business Meeting: June 2 & 16 | 6 p.m.

Study Sessions: June 1 & 15 | 5:30 p.m.

Airport Commission

June 2 | 9:30 a.m.

Conservation & Climate Outreach Commission

June 24 | 6 p.m.

Climate Policy Commission

June 11 | 4 p.m.

Forest Lands Commission

June 9 | 5:30 p.m.

Fire Station #2, 1860 Ashland Street

Historic Commission

June 3 | 6 p.m.

Housing and Human Services Commission

June 25 | 4 p.m.

Parks and Recreation Commission

Business Meeting: June 10 | 6:30 p.m.

Study Session: June 3 | 6:30 p.m.

Council Chambers, 1175 E. Main Street

Planning Commission

Business Meeting: June 9 | 7 p.m.

Study Session: June 23 | 7 p.m.

Public Art Commission

June 19 | 8:30 a.m.

Transportation Commission

June 18 | 6 p.m.

Tree Commission

June 4 | 6 p.m.

Wildfire Safety Commission

June 17 | 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.



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