

## City

## SOURCE

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

## Taxes

In addition to property tax, the City collects three other taxes: the hotel/motel tax, the food and beverage tax and the electric user tax. Food and beverage tax and electric user tax are unique in Oregon.



Ashland collects a 7% hotel/motel tax. In fiscal year 2006-2007, the hotel/motel tax will generate approximately \$1,514,100 in revenue. Of that, one third or approximately \$500,000 will be used for economic and cultural development grants and by state law for tourism. The remainder is used for the general fund and helps to offset the expenses of Police, Fire, Planning, Building, and Programs.

(See *Taxes*, Page 2)

## Compact Fluorescent Light Bulbs

Now through December 1, 2006, the City of Ashland has joined select retailers and manufacturers of Energy Star lighting to offer special lower prices on Compact Fluorescent Light bulbs (CFL's). Look for CFL's priced as low as 99 cents at the following participating retailers:

In Ashland at Ashland Hardware, Albertson's, Bi-Mart, Rite Aid, in Medford at Big Lots, Bi-Mart, Fred Meyer, Grover Electric & Plumbing Supply; Rite Aid,

(See *Compact Fluorescent Light Bulbs*, Back Page)

## AFN Cable Television Transfer

The City of Ashland is transferring AFN Cable Television management to Gary Nelson, owner and President of Ashland Home Net.

"I am very confident in Gary's expertise and ability to continue to provide AFN cable television customers with relevant, quality programming and the excellent customer service they are accustomed to," said Joe Franell, AFN Director.

The City issued a request for proposal (RFP) in late July inviting individuals or companies interested in leasing the city's Cable TV Headend and associated equipment to provide professional cable television services in Ashland. The city received two responses and the lease was awarded to Ashland Home Net. Ashland Home Net has been an AFN certified Internet service provider (ISP) since the beginning of AFN.

The transfer will likely occur in mid to late October. Both the City and Ashland Home Net are committed to making the transfer as

(See *AFN Cable Television Transfer*, Page 3)



# City SOURCE

## Taxes

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The food and beverage tax was established in 1990 and is thought to be the only voter approved sales tax in Oregon. A five percent tax is collected on all prepared food sold in Ashland. One fifth of the revenue generated is used to purchase open space for parks and the rest is used to offset the costs associated with the building of the new wastewater treatment plant. The tax expires on December 31st, 2010.

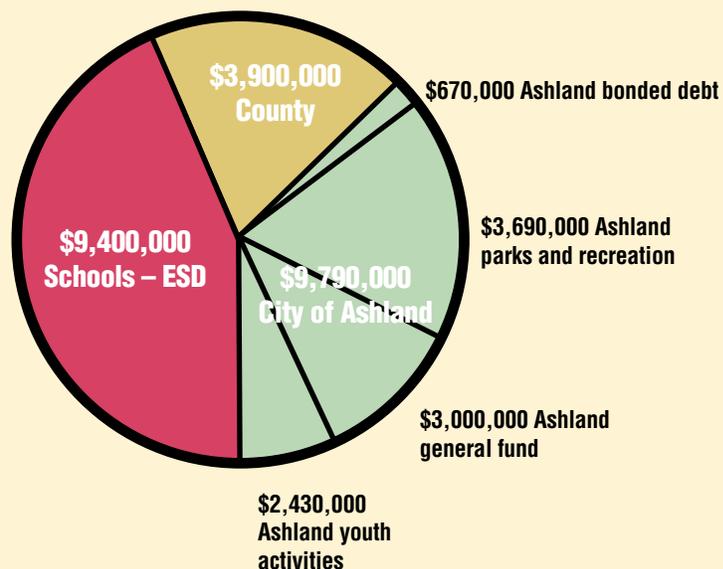
In fiscal year 2006-2007, costs associated with the wastewater system are estimated to be \$6.5 million. The food and beverage tax will generate approximately \$2 million of which \$1.6 million will be used to pay for debt service of \$1.8 million. The balance will be paid by revenue generated from sewer fees charged to all residents. Sewer rates would be 53% higher if this tax did not exist. The remaining funds are used to purchase open space.

The electric user tax is a 25% charge on monthly energy use and

is paid by most electric customers, including many organizations that are exempt from paying property tax. In fiscal year 2006-2007, the electric user tax is estimated to generate approximately \$2.6 million to the general fund. Again, this revenue helps to offset the expenses associated with Police, Fire, Planning, Building, and Programs. ▼

## What percentage of my Property Taxes goes to the City of Ashland?

Of the property taxes Ashland residents pay 43% of the total goes to the City of Ashland. Property taxes account for 10% of the total resources anticipated in the 2006-2007 budget year.





## *Budget in Brief*

Each year the city publishes a document titled *Budget in Brief*, which is mailed in September to all Ashland residents and businesses.

The twelve-page “in-brief” document provides information to the community about where the money to finance the city comes from and how it is spent.

## AFN Cable Television Transfer

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seamless as possible. AFN customers will receive information directly from Ashland Home Net in advance of the transfer and with information on services, billing and more.

“The city has had an excellent working relationship with Ashland Home Net and I am very pleased that Gary chose to assume the operations of AFN Cable Television. This ensures that Ashland citizens continue to have a choice in their cable television provider, which helps keep cable television rates competitive in our community and maintain some citizen input in programming”, said Franell.

For more information, call Ashland Home Net at 488-9207 or AFN at 552-2222. ▼

## Ride the Bus

The bus fare in Ashland is \$.50. Fares to areas outside Ashland are \$2.00. The City of Ashland is committed to providing affordable public transportation and will spend approximately \$290,000 to “buy down” the fare for Ashland riders. Ashland riders can request a transfer, good for 90 minutes. The transfer allows riders to get off the bus in Ashland and get back on the bus within 90 minutes at no charge for service within the city limits.

Bus #10 serves Ashland from

Medford via Phoenix and Talent on Highway 99. It circles through Ashland and then returns to Medford. Service is approximately every 30 minutes. The bus runs Monday through Friday from 5:30 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. There is no weekend service. The Ashland fare begins at the Jackson Well Springs on the north end of town and at the Ashland Hills Inn on the south end of town.

People wishing to ride the bus outside of Ashland may purchase tokens and passes at City Hall in Ashland.

### **Regular Full Fare outside Ashland**

- \$20.00 for ten \$2.00 tokens.
- \$70.00 for a monthly pass for unlimited rides.

### **Discounted rates (50%) outside Ashland**

- Seniors 65 and older
- Youth 10 - 17 (under 10 ride free)
- \$10.00 for ten tokens.
- \$35.00 for a monthly pass for unlimited rides. ▼

## News Notes

### **Driveway Safety**

Some of the most devastating motor vehicle accidents involving children occur in driveways. In fact, the driveway accidents are the second greatest killer of young children around the home.

Driveway safety is a very demanding responsibility for parents or guardians of small

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# Compact Fluorescent Light Bulbs

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Wal-Mart, Winco and in Talent at Wal-Mart.

CFL's provide high-quality light, smart technology, and design, requiring less energy while lasting longer than standard light bulbs. CFL's have light quality closest to daylight. There are many shapes, sizes and color temperatures available for all household applications. CFL's are ideal where lights are on for long periods of time or are difficult to reach.

NOTE: Each customer is limited to 8 bulbs. The City cannot guarantee that product will be available at any given time, and offer is valid while supplies last.

For more information on CFL's or this promotion, contact Cathy Cartmill at 552-2063. ▼

## News Notes

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children. The following steps will help to ensure that you or your children might never experience the agony of a driveway accident.

### **Safety Steps:**

- ❑ Always watch children, never leave them alone while playing in the yard — especially near parked or moving vehicles.
- ❑ If you need to move your vehicle, and no one is around to help, put the child securely in the vehicle while you move it.
- ❑ Use security doors, fencing or gates for areas that exist in your home to make access to the driveway difficult for young children.
- ❑ Walk around your vehicle before leaving an area where children have been playing.
- ❑ Backing into your driveway or garage will make leaving the property safer. Consider whether you can reverse into the garage or driveway.
- ❑ Never allow unsupervised children to use your driveway as a place to play.
- ❑ Hold children firmly by the hand whenever a vehicle is being moved.

This information is printed at the request of the Traffic Safety Commission. ▼

# CITY OF ASHLAND City Calendar

October 16	Housing Commission	6:30 p.m.
October 17	City Council Meeting	7:00 p.m.
October 19	Bike and Pedestrian Commission	5:15 p.m.
October 20	Public Arts Commission	8:15 a.m.
October 23	Parks and Recreation Commission	7:00 p.m.
October 25	Conservation Commission	7:00 p.m.
October 26	City Council Study Session	5:15 p.m.
November 1	Historic Commission	7:00 p.m.
November 7	Airport Commission	9:30 a.m.
November 7	City Council Meeting	7:00 p.m.
November 9	City Council Study Session	5:15 p.m.
November 9	Tree Commission	7:00 p.m.
November 14	Forest Lands Commission	5:30 p.m.
November 14	Planning Commission	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](http://www.ashland.or.us). ◆ TTY 1-800-735-2900

