

**STAY UPDATED ON
CORONAVIRUS
(COVID-19)**

To help ease concern over the COVID-19 pandemic and spread correct information, the City has created a webpage ashland.or.us/coronavirus 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.

City Government Updates—including current City closures and how to attend virtual meetings and events.

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

Local & Business Resources—where affected businesses and locals can go for help and information on how to support local businesses and organizations.

HELPING OUR NEIGHBORS RECOVER: ASHLAND'S ROLE

The wildfire devastation experienced by our friends, family, and extended community last month is almost impossible to comprehend. Our hearts are broken and given Ashland's character; we want to help. And we have provided help over the coming days and will for years of recovery as we navigate this complex situation. It's important to realize the emotional impact and physical recovery is just beginning. People are displaced and are still in need of aid right now. Knowing our City government's role in the immediate and longer-term response to this fire is sometimes conflicting and often difficult to understand, but we will find the best ways to provide help to our neighboring governments of Phoenix and Talent. We are feeling the effects as City employees who live in Talent and Phoenix have been displaced by evacuations or loss of their homes.

"Our hearts are broken over the losses experienced as a result of this fire, and we're just at the beginning of a long and difficult journey together," said John Stromberg, Mayor of Ashland.

Ashland residents wishing to donate items, money, or time have many options. In partnership with the Ashland Parks & Recreation Commission we are hosting the website ashland.or.us/ashlandresponse to direct people on how to help. There are many options with mobilized and established organizations operating aid centers in the county area. They do get overwhelmed with volunteers so please make contact before showing up or delivering goods to make sure it's needed. Often, a gift card or other financial donation are the most effective show of support.

The impact to Ashland has been relatively slight in comparison to Talent and Phoenix and therefore our City government response may seem inadequate to some. Our Ashland firefighters worked to exhaustion over the last few days, as have various departments in support of street closures, law enforcement investigations, and fielding calls for information. We will continue offering our help to Talent and Phoenix as we have capacity and the need arises.

Fire risk is not over, and we must stay vigilant and prepared. See www.fireadaptedashland.org for fire safety information and sign up for emergency alerts at www.ashland.or.us/nixle for future evacuation notifications. Find trusted fire and smoke information [at these sources](#) and an archive of updates from the City at ashland.or.us/almedafire.

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HOW TO PREPARE CLEAN AIR SPACES DURING DENSE SMOKE

As smoke is a reoccurring event in our valley, here are some tips to help protect yourself and prepare for next year:

- Keeps windows and doors closed. Minimize opening doors to the outside and avoid using doors into your main living space.
- Use a HEPA-grade air purifier if you have one. If you have central air conditioning or home fan systems, use a high-grade MERV filter (MERV 13 or higher if possible).
- Avoid outdoor activity and trips out of the home. When you have to go out, wear an N95, P100, or KN95 rated mask if you already have one.
- If you can't purify air throughout your home, designate a room away from outside doors as a clean air space and prioritize sleeping areas. Stand-alone air purifiers can be moved from room to room.

In 2016, Ashland Fire & Rescue partnered with the Ashland Chamber of Commerce, Asante Ashland Community Hospital, Jackson County Health and Human Services, the Oregon Shakespeare Festival, Southern Oregon University and the Wildfire Safety Commission to create Smokewise Ashland.

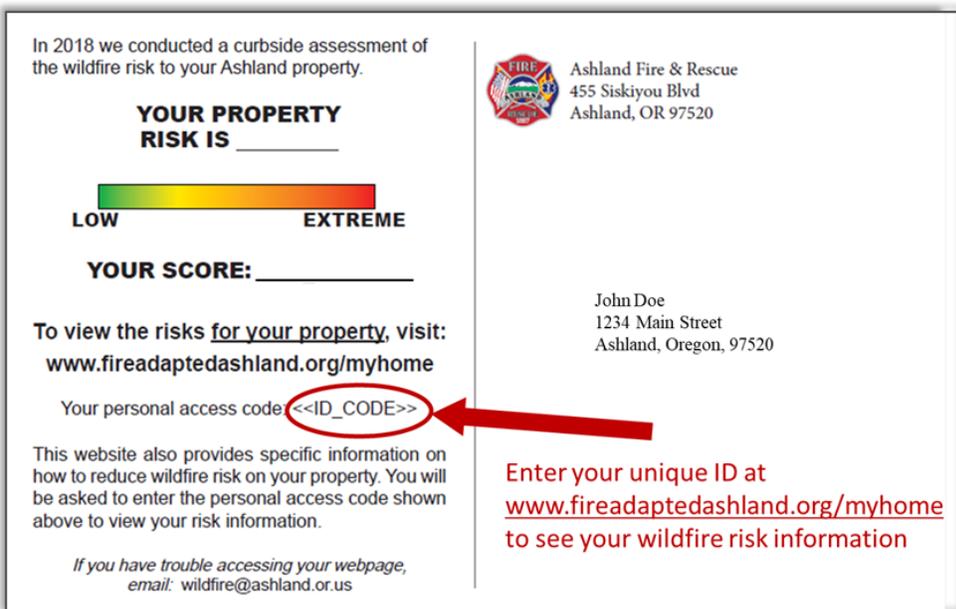
Visit www.smokewiseashland.org to learn more about smoke, health, and more.

WHAT IS THE WILDFIRE RISK AT YOUR HOME?

In July, homeowners in Ashland received a postcard containing wildfire risk information specific to their property. Each postcard has a unique five-digit access code granting you access to information about the wildfire risk around your property and provides you a wildfire risk score based upon what we saw when we conducted the curbside risk assessment.

Ashland Fire & Rescue challenges you to lower your wildfire risk score by following the recommendations provided on the website. This might include:

- If you have leaves or needles on your roof and in your gutters, **clean them off your roof and out of your gutters;**
- If you have bark mulch around your home or other structure, **rake the mulch away at least five feet from the side of the building; or**
- If your address number isn't clearly visible from the street, **post visible and reflective numbering that can be seen from all angles of the roadway.**



Once you've done work around your property to reduce your wildfire risk, click "Reassess My Home" at the bottom of the page and we will come out to your home to assess if your wildfire risk has been reduced. If you have lost your postcard, please email wildfire@ashland.or.us and we will provide you the personal access code for your property.

FALL WATER CONSERVATION TIPS – USE WATER WISELY

On September 14, 2020, the City entered into mandatory water curtailment. This meant that the Reeder Reservoir supply was no longer keeping up with the water demands of our community. As a result, residents were asked to stop non-essential uses of water such as irrigating between 10 a.m. and 8 p.m., washing walkways, buildings, cars, etc., serving water in restaurants, cafes, etc. unless requested, and filling pools or decorative fountains or ponds, etc. While these are good short term water conservation efforts, the next page gives tips on how to save water in the long term. *Continued on page 3...*

FALL WATER CONSERVATION TIPS – USE WATER WISELY

Continued from page 2...

The fall is a great time to reassess our lawns and gardens to make sure we're making the most of the water we use in our yards. As the weather cools and plants get ready for winter temperatures, they'll require less water and a little less maintenance. It is also a good time to evaluate our indoor water use as we transition into the winter season. Below are a few water saving tips to help reduce water use in and around your home this fall.

Water Less – Over-watering is common in late summer and early fall, especially September and into October. Visit www.ashland.or.us/weather for updated watering information.

Water Only When Needed – Overwatering results in shallow roots and encourages weeds, disease and fungus growth. Check soil moisture before watering. Use a moisture meter to detect if soil is still moist from previous watering. You can pick one up for free by calling (541) 488-5587.

Inspect Your Irrigation System – Check for leaks, broken or clogged heads and make adjustments to sprinklers to reduce runoff and be sure you're watering plants and not sidewalks, fences or buildings. Adjust your water pressure; too much pressure on sprinklers uses more water than needed. To schedule a sprinkler evaluation please email Julie.smitherman@ashland.or.us.

Replace Thirsty Lawns with Drought Tolerant Plants. A 1,000 square foot lawn may need up to 5,000 gallons (670 cubic feet) of water in a peak summer month as well as fertilizers and ongoing maintenance to stay green and healthy— an expensive and time-consuming task. Replacing portions of your lawn with drought-tolerant groundcover and shrubs can be a stylish way to conserve a lot of water and save money.

Participate in the Lawn Replacement Program. The City offers rebates for the removal of well-maintained and watered lawns to be replaced with drought tolerant plants and more efficient irrigation. For more information visit the website at www.ashlandsaveswater.org

Take Shorter Showers – Or, consider replacing your showerhead with one that has a lower flow. The City is giving away free showerheads and bathroom and kitchen aerators, that work well and reduce water use. Please call (541) 488-5587 to arrange a time to pick them up.

Change Out that Old Toilet – Toilets are typically the highest use of water inside the home. I know it's surprising, but they can use a lot of water, especially older toilets pre 1994. The City is offering rebates for replacing these toilets. You can find the rebate form and instructions on the City's website at www.ashland.or.us/rebates.

Repair Leaks – Repair leaks promptly. If you suspect you may have a leak, contact a plumber or a landscape professional to investigate.

The City's Water Conservation Team is here to assist you in your efforts to use water efficiently and minimize waste. There are a variety of programs, rebates and resources available for all of our customers to take advantage of. Please visit www.ashlandsaveswater.org or call (541) 552-2062 for more information.

DOG ETIQUETTE

The City would like to take this time to give a few reminders to dog owners and walkers for when you go out with your dog.

Leashes

All dogs must be on a leash six feet or shorter when not in their own yards or at the designated dog park (ashland.or.us/dogpark).

Parks

Dogs are not allowed in Lithia and North Mountain Park, but they are allowed in most other Ashland parks excluding playground areas and ballfields. Check out ashland.or.us/dogfriendly for a list of places you can explore with your dog.

Waste

Be sure to pick up your dog's waste when out and about. There are WoofWaste dispensers located near parks where dogs are allowed.

Private Property

When out walking try to avoid private property, including yards, gardens, driveways with your dog. It may seem odd, but dogs are not supposed to go on private property unless the property owner has given permission. Dogs can cause damage to lawns and gardens and no one wants to pick up someone else's dog waste. Please respect your neighbors and those whose neighborhoods you might be exploring by making sure your dog does not go on to their property.

Wildlife

When encountering deer or other wildlife while walking your dog, be sure to give the animal plenty of space and consider changing your route to avoid the wildlife all together. Especially, deer can become aggressive around dogs as they feel threatened and mother deer are very protective of their young.

Thank you for considering this etiquette for dogs and keeping our City dog friendly by following the rules.

City offices will be closed on Wednesday, November 11 in observation of Veterans' Day and Thursday, November 26 and Friday, November 27 in observation of Thanksgiving.

We apologize for any inconvenience this may cause.

Check out how Ashland connects at www.ashlandfiber.net



EVENTS

Due to COVID-19 and social distancing measures in place, many of our events may need to be canceled or postponed.

Art is for Everyone!

This senior art class welcomes all skill levels. Each session of three classes (one each in October, November, and December) will feature a different medium. Through step-by-step instruction, students will complete one or more pieces of art in each session. The November session will be chalk pastels. A supplies list and Zoom link will be emailed after registration; students should obtain supplies prior to course start. Taught by Shea Cathey. Register at ashland.or.us/register or call the Senior Center at (541) 488-5342.

DATES November 7, 14, 21
TIME 1 to 3 PM
PLACE Online (Zoom)
COST \$60 per session (3 classes)

Gentle Yoga for Adults 50 & Better

The focus of this one-hour hatha yoga class is to increase strength, flexibility and balance while simultaneously alleviating stress and fatigue. Additional benefits of regular yoga practice include an overall sense of well-being and an increase in self-awareness and self-acceptance. Participants must be aware of their own capabilities in order to participate safely. Ability to get up and down from the floor is encouraged. Each class will conclude with deep relaxation. Please have a mat, two blankets and a light-weight portable chair for each Zoom class. Taught by Linda-Grace Wilhelm. Register at ashland.or.us/register or call the Senior Center at (541) 488-5342 for one or both sessions. A Zoom link will be emailed after registration.

DATES Session 3: Wednesdays, Nov. 4, 11, 18, 25
Session 4: Fridays, Nov. 6, 13, 20 & Dec. 4, 11, 18
TIME 10:30 to 11:30 AM
PLACE Online (Zoom)
COST \$20 (Session 3; 4 classes) or \$30 (Session 4; 6 classes)

November City Calendar

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

- City Council
 - Business Meeting: Nov. 17 | 6 p.m.
 - Study Session: Nov. 2 & 16 | 5:30 p.m.
- Airport Commission
 - TBD
- Conservation & Climate Outreach Commission
 - Nov. 25 | 3 p.m.
- Climate Policy Commission
 - Nov. 12 | 4 p.m.
- Forest Lands Commission
 - Nov. 10 | 5:30 p.m.
- Historic Commission
 - Nov. 4 | 6 p.m.
- Housing and Human Services Commission
 - TBD
- Parks and Recreation Commission
 - Business Meeting: TBD
 - Study Session: Nov. 4 | 6:30 p.m.
- Planning Commission
 - Business Meeting: Nov. 10 | 7 p.m.
 - Study Session: Nov. 24 | 7 p.m.
- Public Art Commission
 - Nov. 20 | 8:30 a.m.
- Transportation Commission
 - Nov. 19 | 6 p.m.
- Tree Commission
 - Nov. 5 | 6 p.m.
- Wildfire Safety Commission
 - Nov. 18 | 11 a.m.

▲ TTY 1-800-735-2900 ▲ Meetings are held electronically until further notice. Please check ashland.or.us/calendar.asp for information on how to view the meetings live or watch a recorded version. ▲ City Council, Parks, and Planning 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 rtv.sou.edu, select channel RTV Prime.

Check out this and past versions of the City Source online anytime at ashland.or.us/citysource.

For more information on different ways to "Connect with Us" go to ashland.or.us/connect.



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