

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.

LOW INCOME ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

The City of Ashland has funds available for the Ashland Low Income Energy Assistance Program (ALIEAP), which assists low income residents with their electric bills during the cold winter months. Eligible Ashland residents include those whose income is at or below 65 percent of Oregon's median income. These levels are based on household income and household size.

Qualified recipients will receive a credit on their electric utility charges. Credits of up to 50 percent will be given to seniors and disabled persons for up to six months and credits of 50 percent to other qualified residents for up to three months. The maximum allowed credit is \$300 for either group.

Beginning October 1, applicants may call the request line at (541) 552-2038 to request a Low Income Assistance application packet. If you know of someone who might qualify and needs assistance, please let them know about this program. The deadline to submit the application is February 1, 2021.

Even if you do not qualify for ALIEAP and are struggling with paying your utilities, go to page 2 to find out how to set up a payment plan.

COVID-19 ASSISTANCE AVAILABLE

As the COVID-19 pandemic continues, various local assistance programs are available to help those affected by it. ACCESS, Jackson County's Community Action Agency was awarded funding from the State to provide rental and utility assistance to Jackson County residents most affected by COVID-19 and who are at or below 80 percent of the area median income.

For ACCESS rental assistance, visit accesshelps.org/rentalassistance or call (541) 414-0308. For ACCESS energy assistance, visit accesshelps.org/energy-assistance or call (541) 779-9020.

United Way was awarded funding from Jackson County to provide payments for rent, utilities, and other qualifying expenses to residents and small businesses in Jackson County. Individuals and families can receive up to \$1,500 and small businesses can receive up to \$3,000 in assistance paid directly to landlords and utilities. For more information and the applications, go to www.unitedwayofjacksoncounty.org/covid-19-fund/.

Both assistance options are only available until the funds are expended. For updates on local and business assistance, visit our COVID-19 Local & Business Resources page at ashland.or.us/coronavirus.

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UTILITY ACCOUNT PAYMENT DEFERRAL PROGRAM

The City has established an Account Payment Deferral Program that allows for utility accounts with delinquent amounts to have those charges deferred based on either a six-month or twelve-month repayment plan option. Features of the deferment plans include:

- The negotiated portion of the deferred amount will be due and payable by the normal utility bill due date each month along with the current month's charges.
- To continue the deferment program for the full length of the six- or twelve-month period, customers must pay the deferred amount each month or risk being removed from the program.
- Any account older than three months that has a deposit on file can choose to apply that deposit directly towards the utility account balance.

For more information and to apply go to ashland.or.us/deferralapp. Contact the Customer Service Division at (541) 488-6004, or utilitybilling@ashland.or.us for questions regarding the application or program details. Applications can be emailed or dropped at the Utility Billing drop box at City Hall.

STATE OF OREGON COVID-19 EVICTION MORATORIUM

On June 26, 2020, the legislature passed [HB 4213](#) to protect tenants from being evicted or charged late fees on unpaid rent until October 1, 2020. After October 1, 2020 only evictions and notice of terminations can be issued for reasons other than rent not being paid during the eviction moratorium (April 1, 2020 to September 30, 2020).

Tenants will have until March 31, 2021 to pay back any rent not paid during April 1, 2020 to September 30, 2020. However, starting October 1, 2020 landlords can give notice asking the tenant if they plan to use this six month grace period for paying back rent. Tenants must reply within 14 days to the landlord otherwise the landlord can charge half a month's rent as a penalty. If the tenant indicates they will use the grace period, but fails to pay back rent by March 31, 2021, the landlord can start the eviction process on April 1, 2021.

If a landlord is in violation, a tenant can get a court order allowing them to move back into their home and sue the landlord for three months' rent. Tenants can use the following resources if the landlord is in violation:

- Write to the landlord that they are violating the law;
- Contact the [Oregon Law Center or Legal Aid Services of Oregon](#);
- Contact the [Community Alliance of Tenants](#); and/or,
- Contact the [Oregon State Bar's lawyer referral service](#).

Go to <https://oregonlawhelp.org/classroom/public-health-and-coronavirus-covid-19/housing-protections/evictions-update-for-oregon-during-covid-19-emergency> for further details on the new law, FAQs, and a sample letter tenants using the grace period can send to their landlords.

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: _____

CONNECT WITH THE MYASHLAND APP



Did you know your City has an app? The MyAshland app can be found in the App Store or on Google Play.

The app gives condensed information about the City in the palm of your hand.

You can report an issue to various Departments and even send in a photo of the issue. You can also find out about upcoming meetings and events through the Calendar tab. The news section displays the most up-to-date information from the City. The agendas section displays the full agendas for all upcoming Council and advisory body meetings. The app also gives quick access to our website, Facebook, and Twitter pages.

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

ROUND UP YOUR CHANGE

With the COVID-19 pandemic continuing, many residents are having difficulty paying 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.

This is a voluntary program. You can join the Ashland Round Up program by completing the coupon and returning it with your utility payment or by dropping it off at City Hall, 20 E. Main Street. You can also make a one-time donation by sending in a check indicating it is a donation to help with the utility bills of those in need.



OREGOIN' ELECTRIC

The City of Ashland is supporting Oregon's effort to make electric transportation accessible to all statewide. Oregon' Electric is a new mobile game that rewards you with prizes as you learn how you can get around on electric bikes, buses, cars and more as a part of your every day. Learn more at oregoinelectric.com.

City of Ashland offers several programs to help electrify your ride. Visit ashland.or.us/ev to get the most recent information on Ashland's public charging upgrades, workplace charging incentives, vehicle incentives, and e-bike incentives.

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 art class for seniors (50 and better) 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. A supplies list and Zoom link will be emailed after registration; students should obtain supplies prior to course start. Register at ashland.or.us/register or call the Senior Center at (541) 488-5342.

DATES October 17, 24, 31 (Watercolors)
TIME 1 to 3 PM
PLACE Online (Zoom)
COST \$60 per session (*three sessions*)

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. Please have a mat, two blankets and a light-weight portable chair for each Zoom class. Register at ashland.or.us/register or call the Senior Center at (541) 488-5342 for one or both sessions.

DATES Session 1: Wednesdays, October 7, 14, 21, 28
Session 2: Fridays, October 2, 9, 16, 23, 30
TIME 10:30 to 11:30 AM
PLACE Online (Zoom)
COST \$20 (*Session 1; 4 classes*) or \$25 (*Session 2; 5 classes*)



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.

Check out how Ashland connects at www.ashlandfiber.net



October 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: Oct. 6 & 20 | 6 p.m.
Study Sessions: Oct. 5 & 19 | 5:30 p.m.

Airport Commission

October 6 | 9:30 a.m.

Conservation & Climate Outreach Commission

October 28 | 6 p.m.

Climate Policy Commission

October 8 | 4 p.m.

Forest Lands Commission

October 13 | 5:30 p.m.

Fire Station #2, 1860 Ashland Street

Historic Commission

October 7 | 6 p.m.

Housing and Human Services Commission

October 22 | 4 p.m.

Parks and Recreation Commission

Business Meeting: Oct. 14 | 6:30 p.m.
Study Session: Oct. 7 | 6:30 p.m.

Planning Commission

Business Meeting: October 13 | 7 p.m.
Study Session: October 27 | 7 p.m.

Public Art Commission

October 16 | 8:30 a.m.

Transportation Commission

October 15 | 6 p.m.

Tree Commission

October 8 | 6 p.m.

Wildfire Safety Commission

October 21 | 11 a.m.

▲ 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.



20 East Main St., Ashland, OR 97520 | www.ashland.or.us

