

City

SOURCE

Calle Reminder

Work on Ashland Creek and Calle Guanajuato will begin on June 15. The Calle, the walkway behind the Plaza shops, will be closed to the public through September 15. This is the only window of time permitted by Federal and State regulations for in-stream work.

The closure of the Calle will have an affect on Plaza merchants and their summer business. Staffs from the Parks Department and the City have been meeting with the Plaza merchants and Calle architects to identify specific concerns of the merchants during See Calle Reminder, Page 3)

JUNE, 2000

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

Demystifying Ashland's Property Taxes

Ashland, like other local governments, relies on property taxes to pay for certain services.

However, because Ashland has utilities and a diverse revenue stream, it is not as reliant on property taxes as other communities.



In 1997, Oregon voters approved Measure 50, which created a fixed rate for property taxes, which can never change without a constitutional amendment. However, the assessed value of taxable property can increase up to 3% per year. Measure 50 also allows for local voters to approve local tax levies. Measure 50 did not affect tax levies used to pay for debt, because they have always (See *Demystifying Property Taxes*, Page 2)

Transportation, Transit and Parking Committee Update

A series of three neighborhood meetings were held in April to discuss transportation, transit and parking concerns relevant to each of the neighborhood areas. Those areas include the hospital, downtown and the area surrounding Southern Oregon University, Ashland High School and Lincoln Elementary School.

Prior to the neighborhood meetings, an ad hoc committee was formed to coordinate and oversee the process and then to present a formal recommendation to City Council. Six additional community members representing the three neighborhood areas have joined the larger committee.

As a result of each of the neighborhood meetings in which people discussed everything from the lack of bike paths and parking to traffic safety and more, a draft transportation strategy was developed.

(See *Transportation, Transit and Parking*, page 3)



Demystifying Property Taxes

Continued from page 1

been subject to voter approval.

□ Ashland's fixed tax rate is \$3.62/\$1,000 (\$1.50 goes to the general fund and \$2.12 goes to the Parks Department)

□ Ashland's current local levy rate is \$1.38/\$1,000. This is the Youth Activities Levy, which was voter-approved.

□ Ashland's bonded debt is \$.48/\$1,000. This includes the Fire Station, and some water and flood restoration bonds, all of which were approved by voters.

Measure 50 ensures that property taxes increase in only two ways: through an increase in assessed property value and/or from voter-approved levies. Local government cannot impose a property tax increase without voter approval.

The amount of property tax

collected by the City of Ashland accounts for 2.11% of the total revenue collected for the budget year 2000-2001, and accounts for 17% of the total revenue for the General Fund. The amount of property taxes the City anticipates collecting in 2000-2001 for City operations is \$1,843,000. This is a \$103,000 increase from the prior year, due to an increase in property values.

Property taxes are divided between the City of Ashland, the Ashland School District, Jackson County, Rogue Valley Transit District and Vector Control.

Tax rates are based on \$1,000 of assessed property. While the rate itself is fixed, the appraisal of property is not. Therefore, if your property is assessed at a higher value, you will pay more in taxes for that year. The City of Ashland's overall property tax rate is \$5.49 per \$1,000 (\$3.62 +

\$1.38 + \$0.48) of assessed valuation. A homeowner in Ashland with an assessed home valuation of \$200,000 will pay an estimated City of Ashland portion of \$1,189.08 in property taxes.

While the overall City tax rate is 5.49, the property taxes revenue goes to fund a variety of services and past bond issues.

Property taxes are often hard to understand due to the complex state law about how property is assessed and the fact that several governments rely on property taxes as a revenue source. And even within a tax rate, the funds go to pay for a variety of services as well as for bond issues. If you would like additional information on how the City either collects or spends its property tax dollars, please feel free to call Mike Freeman at 488-6002 or send an email to mike@ashland.or.us. ▼

How to Calculate Your Property Taxes

First, determine the assessed value of your home. You can find this information on your property tax statement or by calling the Jackson County Assessment office at 774-6059.

Eliminate the last three numbers. Multiply the remaining number by \$5.49.

The answer is the amount of property taxes that you owe and that will be distributed to the City of Ashland.

For example, the math for a \$258,000 assessed house would be: $258 \times 5.49 = \$1,416.42$. This is the estimated portion of property tax for the City of Ashland only and does not include property taxes due for other entities (schools, EDS, Jackson County, etc.)

Calle Reminder Continued from Page 1

construction and then to make adjustments.

The Calle will be completely blocked off to public access, but business owners will have a narrow access for trash removal and fire exits. Plaza restaurants will not have table seating on the Calle and have therefore asked that tables be placed on the Plaza. This will provide customers who order take-out food a place to sit and eat outdoors.

Displays depicting the project will be placed at both ends of the Calle so that residents and visitors can have a sense of what the final improvements will look like.

This is Phase I of the project, budgeted at \$1,051,000. Of that total, \$481,000 is Federal flood mitigation funds, \$200,000 from the City's General Fund, \$200,000 from the Parks Department and \$170,000 from Flood Restoration Bonds (authorized by voters in 1998). This phase will focus on building floodwalls, reinforcing existing foundations, stabilizing the stream banks, landscaping, building new restrooms and a recycling area.

Phase II will include a mid-stream bridge connecting the east and west banks, and a staircase from Granite Street. A funding source has not been identified for Phase II, nor has a projected time

line been established.

For more information about the Calle restoration time-line and construction, please phone Brandon Goldman at City Hall, 552-2076, or e-mail him at brandong@ashland.or.us. ▼

Transportation, Transit and Parking Committee Update

Continued from page 1

This draft was then presented at a Chamber of Commerce sponsored Community Forum, held at SOU on May 18th. Based on the input from the forum, the committee is revising the strategy and will present a draft plan to the neighborhoods in June.

At the June meetings, neighbors will have another opportunity to comment and provide input on the draft plan. Based on this information, the committee will then modify the plan again, finalize it and forward it to the City Council. Citizens who want to get involved can view the draft plan on the City's Web site and attend the next round of neighborhood meetings. The meeting dates will be posted on the web page and publicized once the dates are finalized. ▼

Sidewalk Help

The Public Works department is now scheduling sidewalk repair. The work is done during the summer months, so now is the time to set the schedule. If you know of a sidewalk that needs fixing please feel free to call 488-5587 or e-mail Paula Brown at paula@ashland.or.us.



Talent-Ashland-Phoenix Water Intertie Project (TAP)

The Talent-Ashland-Phoenix Water Intertie Project (TAP) is a coordinated effort between the three communities and the Medford Water Commission. This first phase builds the water pipeline from Medford to the City of Talent, preserving capacity for the City of Ashland to tie into it at a future time. Ashland anticipates receiving 25% of its summer drinking water needs from this pipeline by the year 2016.

Cost for Ashland to participate in the TAP project:

Design and Rogue Valley Council of Governments	\$ 300,000
Construction to Talent	\$ 1,023,000
Water rights to Lost Creek	\$ 951,000

Sixty percent of the TAP project is covered by system development charges (SDCs). Water user fees cover the remaining forty-percent. ▼

A S H L A N D

City Calendar

June 1	Review Budget 2000-2001 (RVTV live call-in)	6 p.m.
June 6	City Council	7 p.m.
June 8	Transportation, Transit & Planning (RVTV live call-in)	7 p.m.
June 13	Planning Commission	7 p.m.
June 20	City Council	7 p.m.
June 26	Parks and Recreation Commission	7 p.m.
June 27	Town Hall (RVTV live call-in)	7 p.m.

The above meetings are cablecast live on channel 9 and replayed on channel 30. Council and Planning and Parks commissions meetings are held at Council Chambers, 1175 East Main.

**For information about other City meetings
please call City Administration at 488-6002.
TTY 1-800-735-2900**

A S H L A N D

City

S O U R C E

*Ashland City Source is published
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*For more information, feedback or
story ideas call 552-2106.*

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