

# City SOURCE

## Ashland Round Up

Many of Ashland's low-income residents have 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.

Customers who qualify for low-income assistance are screened to determine eligibility using the current Federal poverty guidelines. In addition, occasionally customers who don't necessarily qualify as low-income may need one time per year assistance due to personal difficulties.

There are currently 540 Ashland citizens contributing to this program for a total of \$3,446.01 for the last fiscal year. This amount, along with additional individual contribu-

tions, has assisted 54 low-income customers with their monthly utility bills in the last year.

Many public utilities around the country operate a "round up" program to provide public purpose funding to assist others. This is a voluntary program. Please join the Ashland Round Up program by completing the coupon below and returning it with your utility payment. ▼

## Controlled Burning

During the wetter months of this year, and for many years to come, forestry crews will be at work in the Ashland watershed and surrounding areas using controlled burns as a tool to decrease summer wildfire hazards as part of the Ashland Forest Resiliency (AFR) Stewardship Project. The controlled burning will take place on both City and U.S. Forest Service land.

The main goal of the project is

to decrease fire danger, better protect our main source of municipal water, and protect adjacent homes and property. To accomplish this, crews will use fire under controlled conditions to consume excess vegetation that would otherwise fuel a summer wildfire. Burn projects will consist of debris piles as well as controlled underburns that mimic fire's natural, and long absent, role in our local forests.

Smoke management is taken seriously and notifications about controlled burns will be posted on our website, [www.ashland.or.us](http://www.ashland.or.us), the AFR Stewardship Project website, [www.ashlandwatershed.org](http://www.ashlandwatershed.org), as well as the City's Smoke and Wildfire Hotline number at 541-552-2490. You can also sign up to get email alerts by sending an email to [chris.chambers@ashland.or.us](mailto:chris.chambers@ashland.or.us).

All efforts are made to keep smoke away from town, but it will occasionally be visible above the city. ▼

## 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 needy Ashland residents with their utility bill.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Service Address \_\_\_\_\_

Account Number \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

Please complete this coupon and return it with your utility payment.