

City

S O U R C E

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

Railroad Property

The Union Pacific Railroad Company (UPRR) is planning to begin a voluntary cleanup of the railroad property in Ashland in preparation for sale of the property.



In 2001 the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) issued a Record of Decision (ROD) detailing the selected remedial actions for UPRR and the former rail yard in Ashland.

The city has added a link to the DEQ web page with information about the clean-up which can be accessed from the left hand column of the city's homepage or ashland.or.us/railroadproperty.

Content will include information from the Oregon (See *Railroad Property*, Page 2)

Newest Public Art

Ashland's newest piece of Public Art was installed in May. Located at the corner of Lithia Way and Pioneer Street in Ashland, the sculpture titled *Nourishing Our Community* by Portland artist Lonnie Feather honors the lives of three prominent Ashland men: Everett Henry McGee, James Henderson McGee, and Richard L. Neill.

Although the Ashland Public Arts Commission has provided the guidance for this Memorial project, it has been citizen driven from the start. Over twenty-five (See *Newest Public Art*, Page 2)

Changes in Bus Service

The Rogue Valley Transit District (RVT), which provides public transportation, faces a shortfall of about \$1.2 million for the upcoming fiscal year beginning July 1. RVT is proposing a cut in services and a fare increase from \$1.00 to \$2.00 system-wide in order to balance that shortfall.

What does this mean for bus service in Ashland?

Currently the City of Ashland pays \$290,000 per year for enhanced bus service in Ashland: free bus fare in town and Route 5, an Ashland only route. Route 5, coupled with Route 10, provides for 15-minute service between downtown and the university.

RVT estimates that to continue to provide both free fare and Route 5, the cost to Ashland will be more than \$800,000 based on the current ridership. RVT notified the city in mid-May of the changes — too late for the council to discuss at the May 16 meeting. The item will be on the June 6 agenda for the regular council meeting. The RVT board has tentatively approved the proposed changes and will formalize the decision on June 28. ▼



Railroad Property

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Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) and from the City of Ashland with links to the consultants who are managing the project for Union Pacific. The currently posted content is limited but new information will be added as it becomes available.

DEQ has not yet received the work plan from the railroad so does not yet know how the clean-up process will be implemented. Once DEQ receives and approves the work plan it will be posted on the page mentioned above.

At the study session with the city council on May 1, Greg Aitken from DEQ stressed that DEQ will not initiate a new public comment period about the project as the Record of Decision completed in

2001 reflects the public comment period at that time. However DEQ will host a public meeting about the project after the work plan is approved.

City staff is in regular contact with DEQ and has been working with the agency to develop the public involvement plan. Both DEQ and the city are committed to providing regular and timely information to the community throughout the course of the project.

If you would like to be notified by email of updates on the railroad property cleanup, please send your email address to ann@ashland.or.us and to aitken.greg@deq.state.or.us.

Once UPRR submits the work plan which explains how the site will be cleaned and once DEQ approves the work plan, DEQ and

the City will be able to provide citizens with more specific information about the project. ▼

Newest Public Art

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artists submitted proposals, some coming from as far away as Poland. Through a selection process, a panel of Ashland citizens chose Ms. Feather's design. *Nourishing Our Community* recognizes the lifelong service these men brought to the Ashland community.

Nourishing Our Community was funded through a bequest from the estate of Everett McGee. Contributions to Public Art can be sent to the Public Arts Commission, City Hall, 20 East Main Street. For more information contact Ann Seltzer, staff liaison to the commission at 552-2106. ▼

How Fast is Ashland Growing?

Growth in Ashland has been expressed as one of the biggest challenges facing the community. The population in 2001 was 19,770 and as of July of 2005 it was 20,880 — a 5.3% increase or 1,110 more people in five years. The City's Comprehensive Plan projects that an average of 87 single-family homes and 71 apartment units will be constructed each year. These figures serve as benchmarks for planning purposes. The following chart gives a picture of growth in Ashland between 2000 - 2005.

| | 2001 | 2002 | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 |
|-------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|------------------|----------------|-----------------|
| Population | 19,770 | 20,130 | 20,430 | 20,590 | 20,880 |
| Single-family permits | 99 | 119 | 125 | 119 | 130 |
| Multi-family permits | 54 | 32 | 16 (52 units) | 23 (34 units) | 20 (38 units) |
| Commercial Permits/Valuation* | 25/\$13,938,481 | 61/\$12,773,057 | 154/\$35,817,729 | 36/\$7,871,530 | 42/\$19,719,200 |

*Based on cost per construction foot. Commercial permits include those issued for new construction as well as improvements to existing properties.

Conservation Programs

The City of Ashland offers numerous conservation programs, tips and incentives for both electric and water conservation. For a complete list of conservation programs, visit the city's website at www.ashland.or.us/conservation or call Larry Giardini at 552-2065, Cathy Cartmill at 552-2063 or Robbin Pearce at 552-2062.

Water Conservation Programs — Indoor Water Analysis

The City's Water Conservation Analyst will visit your home and determine the efficiency of your plumbing fixtures, replace the showerheads, faucet aerators and retrofit toilets if needed. You will also receive information on appliance rebates as well as state tax credits.

Irrigation analysis

Summer water use increases by as much as 300%. Generally, it is due to landscape watering. The city will review your landscape irrigation system and offer suggestions on improvement, which could save you money and improve the health of your landscape investment.

For more information about these programs, contact Robbin Pearce at 552-2062 or pearcer@ashland.or.us. ▼

Low Cost Ways to Keep Cool

- ❑ Keep the sun out of the house. Exterior shading is best (such as exterior blinds, shutters, and trellises) but closing drapes and blinds can also help.
- ❑ Reduce internal heat gains. Minimize the use of stoves, clothes dryers and other heat-producing appliances, TVs and incandescent lights during the hottest parts of the day.
- ❑ Close up your house whenever the temperature is hotter outdoors than indoors. At night, open windows to take advantage of naturally cool night air.
- ❑ Use fans to create breezes in occupied rooms; people feel as cool under a ceiling fan at 82 degrees as in 77 degree still air!

If using a central air-conditioner, check and clean the filter every 2-4 weeks, keep vents unobstructed, and don't set the thermostat lower than 78 degrees F. If using portable air conditioners, put them on timers to come on 30 minutes before anyone arrives home in the day. Make sure your attic has adequate insulation and ventilation. If you have questions, please call Cathy at 552-2063. ▼

Ragland Award

On Tuesday, May 16, 2006 Mayor Morrison presented the twelfth annual James M. Ragland Volunteer Spirit Community Service Award. This year the award was given to Melissa Mitchell Hooge. Melissa has been doing wonderful work with the group, Save Our Schools and Playgrounds. Melissa and the group have been vital in joining together the City Council, City Parks and Recreation Commission, and the School Board in order to preserve the playgrounds at the now closed Lincoln and Briscoe Schools as City park land.

Congratulations
Melissa.



Fire Season

The 2006 fire season began on Wednesday, May 24 within the City of Ashland and on all state, county, private, and Bureau of Land Management lands protected by the Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) in Jackson and Josephine Counties.

Summer conditions have reached the stage in which fire prevention regulations are needed to reduce the possibility of human-caused wildfires. The regulations are designed to restrict activities that have historically caused fires. All wildfires can be costly, but preventable human-caused wildfires are a needless waste of money. The City of Ashland and ODF are urging all residents and recreationists to be extremely careful by helping to prevent a season of costly wildfires and property damage.

Debris burning — Open burning will be prohibited within the City of Ashland until fire season is terminated. Cooking fires for food preparation will still be permitted where authorized by Ashland Fire & Rescue.

Industrial Forest Operations — Also effective Wednesday, May 24, 2006, at 12:01 a.m., is an Industrial Fire Precaution Level 1. Under the IFPL 1, commercial operators on forested lands are required to have fire equipment on site, and provide a watchman service.

As fire danger increases throughout the season, restrictions and regulations designed to prevent wildfires will also increase. Residents are encouraged to monitor their local news media for information and changes, or contact Ashland Fire & Rescue. For information regarding wildland fires actively burning in the Ashland area this summer, the public may call the Ashland Fire & Rescue Fire Information Hotline at 552-2490, or visit the City of Ashland website at www.ashland.or.us.

Safety Tips for Driveways — In a wildfire emergency your driveway is your escape route. Keep flammable and dead brush away on both sides, and never try to drive through flames.

Safety Tips for Streets & Drives — Only park where permitted. Vehicles parked in areas designated “no parking” or “fire lanes” could prevent emergency vehicles from arriving in time to help.

Safety Tips for Homes — Most homes lost in wildfires are ignited by embers landing on, in, or under the house itself, or attached porches and decks. Screen all vents, decks, porches and other openings and remove dry fallen leaves and needles from gutters, roofs, and any other area where embers might fall or be blown into.

Safety Tips for Surrounding Property — Once dried-out, tall annual grasses will easily carry fire into the brush and trees around your home. Now is the time to cut grasses down, cut back and thin flammable brush, and remove dead and low-hanging tree limbs. Taking action now can dramatically reduce the risk of fire overtaking your escape route or your home later in the season. This will also give firefighters a margin of safety, and a chance to be more effective in their efforts to save your home.

Safety Tips for Addresses — It is essential that emergency response agencies are able to promptly locate your home. Make sure that firefighters can find your home by posting your address so that it is visible from the street, and by using additional signage at forks in the road, if necessary, to find your home. ▼

CITY OF ASHLAND City Calendar

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|----------|--------------------------------------|-----------|
| July 5 | Historic Commission | 7:00 p.m. |
| July 6 | Tree Commission | 7:00 p.m. |
| July 11 | Forest Lands Commission | 5:30 p.m. |
| July 11 | Planning Commission | 7:00 p.m. |
| July 13 | Council Study Session | 5:15 p.m. |
| July 17 | Housing Commission | 6:30 p.m. |
| July 18 | City Council Meeting | 7:00 p.m. |
| July 20 | Bicycle and Pedestrian Commission | 5:15 p.m. |
| July 21 | Public Arts Commission | 8:15 a.m. |
| July 24 | Parks and Recreation Commission | 7:00 p.m. |
| July 26 | Conservation Commission | 7:00 p.m. |
| July 27 | AFN Programming Committee | 5:30 p.m. |
| July 27 | Traffic Safety Commission | 7:00 p.m. |
| August 1 | Airport Commission | 9:30 a.m. |
| August 1 | City Council Meeting | 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. ◆ TTY 1-800-735-2900

