



**CITY OF  
ASHLAND**

**City Source**

April 2016

*The citizen's source of information about the City of Ashland*

## Coming up for Council in May

The City Council faces packed agendas with lots of items that are sure to be of interest to all Ashland citizens in May. The Council's May 3<sup>rd</sup> business meeting will include a discussion of funding Street maintenance needs in Ashland. Like every city in Oregon, funding for Street maintenance, which comes primarily from state gas tax (*not* your property taxes), has not kept pace with the need. Ashland now faces a \$10.5 million bill for bringing all of its arterial, collector and neighborhood collector streets up to acceptable pavement condition, and will need another \$19.7 million in coming decades to overlay the city's residential streets.

Also in May, the Council will consider an ordinance to expand Ashland's Wildfire Hazards Zone. That zone currently encompasses the areas of Ashland that interface with the forest lands that ring the City. This ordinance would expand the zone to include the entire City. Ashland Fire & Rescue has been promoting this expansion as a basic fire protection measure. As we saw with the Oak Knoll fire in 2011, even if a neighborhood doesn't butt up against the forest, it's at risk for wildfire. Properties in the zone must, among many other things, maintain fuel breaks, not plant certain types of fire-prone vegetation and keep tree limbs trimmed back from structures. The existing wildfire hazard standards are in Chapter 18.3.10.100 of the Municipal Code, which you can find on the City's website.

Lastly, the Council's May 16 study session will feature discussion of (See, *Coming Up*, Page 3)

### Table of Contents

Firewise Clean Up Day .....	2	E-mail Updates .....	3
Fight Fire with Fire, continued .....	2	Outdoor Fire Pits .....	3
Train Your Landscape .....	2	Rogue Valley Bird Day .....	3
Prevent Backyard Mosquitoes .....	2	Siskiyou de Mayo .....	4
Historic Preservation Week .....	3	City Calendar .....	4

## Fighting Fire with Fire

As we were reminded this past summer, Southern Oregon is wildfire country. We've felt wildfire and smoke impacts on our community and economy over the past decade, and global warming predictions are for more of the same. To combat the potential for the impact of severe wildfire and smoke in and around our community and watershed, controlled burns will again take place above town this spring.

Controlled burning is used to mimic the natural role of fire that has been long absent in our local ecosystem. Burns are carefully planned and amply staffed with firefighters and equipment on days when smoke is forecast to move away from town. We recognize that smoke is a hardship for many, yet the amount of smoke under controlled conditions is a fraction of what we experience during a summer wildfire, with a beneficial effect on our forested ecosystem and community safety.

Notifications about controlled burns will be posted on the City's website [www.ashland.or.us](http://www.ashland.or.us), the City's Smoke and Wildfire Hotline at 541-552-2490 and on 1700AM emergency radio. Please (See, *Fighting Fire*, Page 2)



## Ashland's Firewise Clean Up Day!

Prepare your home for fire season now! Create a Firewise yard before fire season starts by removing the fuel for a potential wildfire. On Saturday, April 30, from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. bring your green debris and drop it off at the Valley View Transfer Station, 3000 N. Valley View Road.

Ashland residents are invited to drop off their yard debris free of charge. ID with local address will be required for free disposal. All other disposal will require normal fees.

Prohibited materials includes trash, stumps, logs, lumber. ONLY organic yard debris will be accepted. Collected debris will be composted. Please note, all plastic bags must be emptied on-site and taken home.

For more information go to [ashlandfirewise.org](http://ashlandfirewise.org) or contact Ashland Fire & Rescue at 541-482-2770 or [alison.lerch@ashland.or.us](mailto:alison.lerch@ashland.or.us).

## Fighting Fire

*Continued from Page 1*

check these sources when you see smoke above town this spring to see if it is a burn day before calling 911. Always call 911 during summer fire season if you see smoke.

## Train Your Landscape to be Water Wise

Spring is the perfect time to prepare your landscape for the summer watering season. In the summer, about 50 percent of our total water usage is sprinkled on our lawns and gardens. That's a lot of water!

Consider training your landscape to use less water. Watering your landscape less frequently but for longer durations extends roots deeper into the soil profile. Plants will be healthier, need less water, and will withstand more stress if roots are encouraged to grow deep. Excess watering can cause plants to develop shallow roots that are easily stressed by dry conditions and are more prone to disease. Avoid watering every day, especially in the spring and early summer.

Check out the City of Ashland's Water Wise Landscaping website for more ideas on how to create a landscape that is healthy, attractive and uses less water. Go to [www.ashlandsaveswater.org](http://www.ashlandsaveswater.org) or call 541-552-2421. Starting May 2, 2016, you may also call our watering information line, 541-552-2057, for weekly landscape watering updates.

The City of Ashland Water Conservation Division is now on Facebook! Go to [www.facebook.com/AshlandWaterConservation](http://www.facebook.com/AshlandWaterConservation) for more information and updates and be sure to LIKE us.

## Prevent Backyard Mosquitoes



April showers bring a lot more than pretty May flowers, they can also bring mosquitoes to your yard. Fortunately, taking a few minutes to remove mosquito breeding habitat around your property can reduce your risk of mosquitoes spoiling your barbecues, or worse spreading diseases such as West Nile Virus. After each rain take a few minutes to inspect your yard and dump out water from any household containers such as buckets, flowerpots, and old tires that may breed mosquitoes. Don't forget to check for clogged rain gutters or tarps over wood piles that may also be holding water. If you are collecting rainwater for later use, be sure that barrels or cisterns are covered with fine mesh screen to keep mosquitoes from using them as a home. Ornamental ponds and stock troughs should be stocked with mosquito fish to keep mosquitoes at bay. Dog

dishes and bird baths should be cleaned weekly. Remember, anything that holds water for seven days can produce mosquitoes. For more information about mosquitoes or if you are experiencing a mosquito problem please visit [www.jcvcd.org](http://www.jcvcd.org) or call 541-826-2199. The Jackson County Vector Control District would like to thank you for helping to Fight the Bite!

## Coming Up

*Continued from Page 1*

deer and what to do about them. The deer present a vexing problem and the City has few good (or legal) options for dealing with them, but one thing all citizens can do is not feed them! Feeding deer acclimates them to humans and encourages them to return to areas where they are not wanted. Feeding deer is a code violation in Ashland that carries a \$435 fine.

Remember, any member of the public is welcome to address the Council on any agenda item at any meeting. Too, Council agendas are subject to change on short notice, so please check the City website at [www.ashland.or.us](http://www.ashland.or.us) (or sign up for e-mail alerts; see article to the right) to be sure the items in which you're interested are still scheduled for Council discussion or action.

## Celebrate Historic Preservation Week

May is Historic Preservation Month in Ashland and the following events and walking tours are planned:

- Walking tour of the Downtown District offered by the Ashland Heritage Commission on Tuesday, May 17, 2016. Meet Terry Skibby at 2:00 p.m. on the Plaza near the information booth.
- Ashland Memorial Mausoleum Self-Guided Tour, 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. on Wednesday, May 18, 2016.
- Ashland Historic Preservation Awards Ceremony, 12:00 p.m. at Pioneer Hall on Friday, May 20, 2016.

Visit the City's website, [www.ashland.or.us/historicpreservationweek](http://www.ashland.or.us/historicpreservationweek) for the full event brochure. Brochures will also be available at City Hall, 20 E. Main Street, and the Ashland Community Development Department, 51 Winburn Way. You may also call 541-488-5305 for event details.

## E-mail Updates

Stay informed! With just a few clicks of your computer's mouse, you can sign up to receive daily e-mail updates from the City. An e-mail with links to news releases, agendas, minutes and more will arrive in your inbox every day. (If it doesn't contain any items of interest on a given day, just delete it; we won't be offended.) Nearly 4,700 people have already signed up for this service. Wouldn't it be great if EVERYBODY did it?

To sign up for an e-mail subscription, go to [www.ashland.or.us](http://www.ashland.or.us). On the home page, scroll down to the "Email Updates" link, enter an email address and click "register." That will bring up a new page from which you can choose what information to receive in a daily e-mail from the City (e.g., "agendas and minutes," "calendar," "city news," etc.).

We've made it easy to stay informed about what's going on in Ashland city government. Please take advantage of this simple, easy civic engagement tool and sign up today!

## Outdoor Fireplaces and Fire Pits

Wondering if you can use an outdoor fireplace or fire pit in Ashland? The answer is maybe. Outdoor fireplaces and fire pits can be enjoyed safely and responsibly when fire danger is low or moderate. However, due to the fire danger in Ashland and close proximity to the forest, outdoor fire pits need to follow specific criteria if used. One such requirement is the need for a method to continuously prevent sparks from flying into the air.

Find all the requirements for the use of outdoor fireplaces and fire pits on the City's website at [www.ashland.or.us/outdoorfireplace](http://www.ashland.or.us/outdoorfireplace).

## Rogue Valley Bird Day

Rogue Valley Bird Day is the local celebration of International Migratory Bird Day. Join us on Saturday, May 14, from 8:00 a.m. to noon to celebrate! Enjoy Wildlife Images exhibits, guided bird walks and a bird-calling contest for all ages. This outdoor event is admission-free and takes place at North Mountain Park, 620 N Mountain Avenue. For more information visit [RogueValleyBirdDay.net](http://RogueValleyBirdDay.net) or call the North Mountain Park Nature Center at 541-488-6606.

## Siskiyou de Mayo: A World Music Festival

The Ashland Parks & Recreation Commission (APRC) is excited to announce a new event coming to Lithia Park in the spring of 2016, the Siskiyou de Mayo: *A World Music Festival*. This FREE, outdoor festival will celebrate multiculturalism with international music and dance, and is sure to entertain all ages and a multiplicity of musical interests!

The event is scheduled for Saturday, May 14, from 1:00 to 6:00 p.m. at the Butler Bandshell in Lithia Park. Our first annual line-up will feature: Salsa Brava with Back Alley Rueda, Unity African Drum and Dance, Rutendo Marimba, Rumba Turhán, Maraval Road Steel Band, Frankie Herenandez Band, Dancer Dawn KC, Ka Pi'o O Ke Anuenue, and T Poe and the Rogue Poets. Gather the family and friends, pack a picnic and stay for the entire afternoon!



This first annual event is sponsored by *Reel House Films*; *106.3 The Valley*; *JPR (Jefferson Public Radio)*; *Main Street Tours*; *Jim Chamberlain* and *Rands Art Design*, who will be on-site producing T-shirts for the new event in their mobile print shop! The shirts will sport the event logo (above) that was created by illustrator and designer, Rose Cassano, and will be available for purchase.

Are you interested in sponsoring Siskiyou de Mayo? Partnering with APRC will give your organization the opportunity to connect with more people in the Southern Oregon community. Learn more about sponsorship opportunities and the event by visiting [ashland.or.us/SiskiyoudeMayo](http://ashland.or.us/SiskiyoudeMayo), or call APRC at 541-488-5340. LIKE us on Facebook at [facebook.com/AshlandParksandRec](https://www.facebook.com/AshlandParksandRec).

**City offices will be closed  
Monday, May 30, 2016, in  
honor of Memorial Day.**

## City Calendar

### **City Council**

Business Meetings: May 3 & 17 | 7:00 p.m.  
Study Sessions: May 2 & 16 | 5:30 p.m.

### **Citizens' Budget Committee**

May 12 | 6:00 p.m.

### **Planning Commission**

Business Meeting: May 10 | 7:00 p.m.  
Study Session: May 24 | 7:00 p.m.

### **Airport Commission**

May 3 | 9:30 a.m.

### **Conservation Commission**

May 25 | 6:00 p.m.

### **Forest Lands Commission**

May 10 | 5:30 p.m.

### **Historic Commission**

May 4 | 6:00 p.m.

### **Housing and Human Services Commission**

May 26 | 4:30 p.m.

### **Parks and Recreation Commission**

Business Meeting: May 23 | 7:00 p.m.  
Study Session: May 16 | 7:00 p.m.

### **Public Art Commission**

May 20 | 8:00 a.m.

### **Transportation Commission**

May 26 | 6:00 p.m.

### **Tree Commission**

May 5 | 6:00 p.m.

### **Wildfire Mitigation Commission**

May 18 | 11:00 a.m.

▲ Meetings are held at Council Chambers, 1175 East Main or at 51 Winburn Way and are open to the public.  
▲ TTY 1-800-735-2900. ▲ 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](http://rvtv.sou.edu).