

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



CITY OF
ASHLAND

City Source

April 2018

Rogue Valley Bird Day

Bring the whole family to enjoy Rogue Valley Bird Day, our own local celebration of World Migratory Bird Day. This year's theme, "Year of the Bird," highlights the many ways we can help to protect migratory birds as they make their remarkable journey between wintering and nesting sites. This annual event is a great opportunity to learn about local birds and share the joy of welcoming our own local migrants home for the summer.

Explore the birds of North Mountain Park with bird walks, games, bird-calling contests and a live raptor exhibit hosted by Wildlife Images. This free event takes place on Saturday, May 12 from 8:00 a.m. to noon.

Bird walks begin at 8:15 a.m. and happen every 30 minutes. Bird-calling contests begin at 11:00 a.m. For more information on this fun, family-friendly event, please call the North Mountain Park Nature Center at 541-488-6606 or visit RogueValleyBirdDay.net.

This event is made possible with the generous support of
(See, *Bird Day*, Page 2)

HISTORIC PRESERVATION WEEK 2018

Come celebrate Historic Preservation Week with us! This year's theme is, "Lives Rooted in Places." There will be many activities to celebrate this year, including:

The Historic Preservation Awards Ceremony on Tuesday, May 15, 2018, at 12:30 p.m. in the Community Center, located at 59 Winburn Way.

A walking tour of Ashland Cemetery, hosted by the Ashland Heritage Committee and the City of Ashland's Historic Commission, on Friday, May 18th. Historic Commissioner and local historian, Terry Skibby, will conduct a walking tour of the Historic Ashland Cemetery. Meet at the Sherman Street entrance at 2:00 p.m. The tour will last approximately 1 ½ hours.

Ashland Memorial Mausoleum Self-Guided Tour, 8:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. on Wednesday, May 16, 2018.

Please call City of Ashland's Community Development Department at 541-488-5305 if you have any questions, or visit the website at: <http://www.ashland.or.us/historicpreservationweek>

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Bird Day

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sponsors, such as Klamath Bird Observatory, Rogue Valley Audubon Society, Wildlife Images Rehabilitation and Education Center, Watchable Wildlife and The Rogue Valley Messenger and Jefferson Public Radio (JPR). If you are interested in sponsoring the 2018 event, please email jennifer.aguayo@ashland.or.us or call 541-488-6606.

Ready for Spring Cleaning?

Spring has sprung and you might be feeling pulled to check out the status of your garage and storage areas. Are unwanted items like cleaning supplies, paint thinners, or weed killers just taking up space? If you're ready to say goodbye to those chemicals, are you familiar with one of the *only* ways to *responsibly* dispose of them? (HINT: these materials should never be poured down your drain).

Annually, on the first Saturday of May, Recology Ashland co-sponsors a residential Household Hazardous Waste event in White City where residents can take items such as unwanted chemicals, batteries, fuels, mercury thermostats, florescent light ballasts, and much more. Businesses may *apply* to participate on the Friday before the residential event. While the cost per resident is around a whopping \$125 to Recology, residents will only pay \$5.

It's important to note that not *all* chemicals are accepted. Paint, for instance, is not allowed because the State of Oregon already has a program in place called Paint-Care which allows you to take your unwanted paint back to participating paint stores, like Miller Paint, Sherman Williams, and Ashland General Hardware. Medical waste, propane tanks, explosives, ammunition, radioactive materials are also some examples of items that are *not* accepted.

For more information about this year's Residential Household Hazardous Waste event on May 5th, or the Commercial event on May 4th, please visit Recology Ashland's website at www.Recology.com/Recology-Ashland or www.RogueDisposal.com.

Ashland World Music Festival

Ashland Parks & Recreation Commission (APRC) and Rogue World Music are pleased to bring you the 3rd Annual Ashland World Music Festival. This FREE outdoor festival in Lithia Park, *where our community celebrates the world*, will bring live music and dance into the park!

The family-friendly event is scheduled for Saturday, May 19th, in Lithia Park and features outdoor concerts from noon to 6:00 p.m. at the Butler Bandshell (150 Winburn Way in Lithia Park), followed by international folk dancing until 8:30 p.m. at the Ashland Community Center (59 Winburn Way in Lithia Park). In addition to music and dance, enjoy a variety of ethnic food and beverages available from local vendors. Stay tuned for the release of this year's exciting line-up.

Are you interested in being a vendor at the 2018 event? Submit your online application at ashland.or.us/AWMF by Monday, April 23rd at 5:00 p.m.

We would like to extend appreciation to the Ashland Parks Foundation for their support of the Festival – AshlandParksFoundation.com. More on the event at ashland.or.us/AWMF, email ParksInfo@ashland.or.us, or call 541-488-5340.

**The City offices will be closed
Monday, May 28, 2018, for the
Memorial Day Holiday.**

**We apologize for any
inconvenience this may cause.**

2017 Water Quality Report

The City of Ashland provides exceptional water and diligently safeguards its water supplies in order to continue providing safe drinking water for our residents.

The 2017 Water Quality Report is now available at http://www.ashland.or.us/SIB/files/Public%20Works/2017_Water_Quality_Report.pdf. Hard copies are available at the Ashland Public Library, the SOU Library, City Council Chambers, City Hall, and the Community Development Department. For more information, please contact the Water Department at 541-488-5353.

New Electric Vehicle Chargers!

City of Ashland is expanding and upgrading its public electric vehicle charging infrastructure. Four new electric vehicle chargers have been installed in the public parking lot on the corner of E. Main Street and Pioneer Street. Additional chargers upgrades are planned for the Hargadine Street parking structure.

The new chargers offer level 2 charging and will be free to use during the initial testing period. After the initial testing period, the chargers will use an app-based system for payment. Users will need to use the "JuiceNet" app on a mobile device to initiate a charge session.

The City of Ashland is expanding infrastructure and support for electric vehicles as part of its Climate and Energy Action Plan, which aims to reduce Ashland's contribution to global carbon pollution and prepare the city for climate change impacts.

Ashland's Climate Vision for 2050 is to be a resilient community that has zero net greenhouse gas emissions, embraces equity, protects healthy ecosystems, and creates opportunities for future generations. Read more about City of Ashland's Climate and Energy Action Plan at www.ashland.or.us/climateplan.

Decreasing Summer Smoke

An essential solution to severe summer wildfires and suffocating smoke is more controlled burning during

cool seasons. Scientific studies show that thinning small trees and brush followed by controlled burns are the most effective tools to protect people, property, and our drinking water supply. Also, wildfires burn more fuel per acre and emit significantly more gases and particles than controlled burns, which means less summer smoke over time if we can expand this preventative approach across our region.

To that end, professional teams under the guidance of the Ashland Forest Resiliency (AFR) partnership will conduct controlled burns under safe conditions this spring. We do all we can to keep smoke away from town, but still you may smell and see smoke. We apologize for any inconvenience this may cause. Here are some tips to stay healthy:

- **Avoid Exposure:** Close windows and doors and use a HEPA air purifier and/or heating/cooling system with a MERV 13 filter.
- **Listen to Your Body:** If you are sensitive to smoke and experience health symptoms, call your health provider or 911.
- **Plan Ahead:** Check ashlandwatershed.org for where and when controlled burns will be conducted.

Go to: www.ashland.or.us/smoke for more smoke-wise strategies. Stay in the know about burns by registering for text or email notifications at www.ashlandwatershed.org. See smoke? You can also call 541-552-2490 to see if a burn is planned for that day. Wildfires will never go completely away, but we can change how they impact the places we live and love.

Free Green Debris Drop Off Day

Prepare your home for fire season now! Clean up your green debris and drop it off for FREE Saturday, May 5th from 8:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at the Valley View Transfer Station, 3000 N. Valley View Road. ID with Ashland address will be required for free disposal. All other disposal will require normal fees. Collected green debris will be composted.

Here are some activities you can do to prepare your home for fire season:

- Clean all dead leaves and needles from the roof and gutters

(See, *Green Debris*, Back Page)

Promote Drought-Tolerant Landscape

In the summer, about 50 percent of our total water usage is sprinkled on our lawns and gardens. That's a lot of water! Have you ever thought about training your landscape? As funny as that might sound, by making simple modifications to your maintenance practices *now* you can actually train your landscape to *need* 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. Visit the site at www.ashland.or.us/waterwise or for more information on the City's Water Conservation Programs please call 541-552-2062.

Green Debris

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- Remove all dead leaves, needles and branches within 5 feet of a structure, including bark mulch
- Ensure the area under the deck is free of dead leaves and needles, including other combustibles (firewood, lumber, fuel)
- Trim or remove branches that overhang the roof or deck; Keep tree limbs pruned at least 10 feet from house, and 10 feet from chimney
- Limb up lower branches 5'-10' on conifer trees within 30 feet of home

Schedule a free Wildfire Safety Home Assessment if you have not done so already by emailing alison.lerch@ashland.or.us.

The Green Debris Drop Off Day is sponsored by

Recology Ashland, Ashland Fire & Rescue, and the Wildfire Mitigation Commission. Learn more at www.ashlandfirewise.org/cleanupday. Questions? Call Ashland Fire & Rescue at 541-482-2770 or email alison.lerch@ashland.or.us.

May City Calendar

City Council

Business Meetings: May 1 & 15 | 7:00 p.m.
Study Sessions: April 30 & May 14 | 5:30 p.m.

Airport Commission

May 1 | 9:30 a.m.

Conservation Commission

May 23 | 6:00 p.m.

Forest Lands Commission

May 8 | 5:30 p.m.

Historic Commission

May 2 | 6:00 p.m.

Housing and Human Services Comm.

May 24 | 4:30 p.m.

Parks and Recreation Commission

Business Meeting: May 21 | 7:00 p.m.
Study Session: May 14 | 5:30 p.m.

Planning Commission

Business Meeting: May 8 | 7:00 p.m.
Study Session: May 22 | 7:00 p.m.

Public Art Commission

May 18 | 8:00 a.m.

Transportation Commission

May 24 | 6:00 p.m.

Tree Commission

May 3 | 6:00 p.m.

Wildfire Mitigation Commission

May 16 | 11:00 a.m.

▲ Meetings are typically 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. ▲