CITY OF ASHLAND
City SOURCE

AUGUST, 2013

Did You Know?

The City of Ashland has a mobile application called MyAshland available in the Itunes Store, and in the Adroid AppStore. With this application users can select a problem such as a broken curb, graffiti, park/playground, street lighting, etc. and submit a photo of the problem with a brief description. This problem notification and photo will then be sent to the correct city department for rectification. ▼

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

Stay informed. For all the latest news visit www.ashland.or.us. Sign up for e-mail alerts!

Back to School Safety

Whether children walk, ride their bicycle, or take the bus to school, it is extremely important that they take proper safety precautions. Here are some safety tips from the National Safety Council to share with your children to ensure their safety when traveling to and from school.

Walking to school

- Walk to school with a group of kids and always have a responsible adult with you.
- Always walk on the sidewalk, if one is available.
- If no sidewalk is available, walk facing the traffic.
- The safest place to cross is at a street corner or intersection.
- If you are 10-years-old or younger, you need to cross the street with an adult. You should not cross by yourself.
- Before you step off the curb to cross the street, stop and

(See, *School Safety*, page 2)

Pacific Power Upgrades

Pacific Power, whose transmission lines bring electricity to the Ashland electric utility, has been working to better serve the city of Ashland and surrounding communities by improving its transmission system reliability.

As part of an ongoing construction project, this summer Pacific Power will upgrading its Ashland substation. To safely complete the work, one of the two transmission lines feeding the substation must be taken out of service through August.

Ashland homes and businesses will not be impacted by the transmission line work except in the unlikely event of a problem with the second transmission line during the construction project. While the transmission line is out of service, outage restoration efforts may take longer if the remaining transmission line feeding Ashland substation experiences a problem. However, because of the upgrade work already done, an outage of the remaining transmission line feeding Ashland substation is much less likely to become an issue today than it would

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Utility Payment Scam in Ashland

During the month of July, a number of Ashland businesses and households received phone calls from people claiming to be calling from the City of Ashland or a collection agency on behalf of the City. The caller indicates the utility bill is past due, threatens to disconnect their utilities and directs people to go to either Western Union or Rite Aid to purchase and submit a money order, or to pay with a credit card over the phone.

Some utility customers have called the phone number provided and reached both Portland and California numbers. Customers have reported the caller indicates that their previous payment did not go through and asks for the credit card information to process the payment. When customers question the caller, the caller either hangs up or scrambles to answer questions.

Please be aware this is a scam. Never send money in response to a phone call or provide your credit card number.

If the City of Ashland Utilities office calls you, the call will come from our local utility office phone number, 541-488-6004. If you are concerned whether or not you have received a legitimate call, please hang up with the caller and call the Utility Department directly at 541-488-6004.

If you receive this or any scam phone call, please report it to the Ashland Police Department at 541-488-2211 or 541-482-5211 and provide them with any information you have. ▼

School Safety

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- look both directions to see if cars are coming.
- When no cars are coming, it is safe for you and an adult to cross. But look left-right-left as you do it, and hold the adult's hand.
- Walk, don't run. This gives time for drivers to see you before you enter the roadway. Running also makes you more likely to fall in the street.
- Don't dart out in front of a parked car. Drivers of cars coming down the street will not be able to see you.

Riding a bicycle to school

- When you ride your bicycle, you should wear bright colors during the day and right before the sun rises or sets.
- Riding at night can be dangerous. If you have to ride your bicycle at night, you should ride with an adult.
- You should have a white light on the front of your bicycle and a red reflector on the back. You

Family and Friends CPR Course

The Ashland CERT Program will hold a Family & Friends CPR course on Saturday, September 21, 2013 from 9:00 - 11:00 a.m.. The Family & Friends CPR course teaches the lifesaving skills of adult Hands-Only® CPR, child CPR with breaths, adult and child AED use, infant CPR and relief of choking in an adult, child or infant. Family & Friends CPR is for people who want to learn CPR but do not need a course completion card* in CPR for their job. This course is ideal for schools and students, new parents, grandparents, babysitters and others interested in learning how to save a life.

The cost of this course includes a student study book. Registration is first-come, first-served and all fees must be prepaid prior to class date to confirm registration. Register by mailing a check or by paying in-person between 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday at Fire Station No. 1, 455 Siskiyou Blvd., Ashland, OR 97520. Make checks payable to 'City of Ashland'.

For information or to register contact the CERT Program Coordinator at 541-552-2226 or cert@ashland.or.us.

* This course does not provide a course completion card; however, students receive a tear-out participation card in their student manual.

also can get lights and reflective materials to put on your shoes, helmet and clothing.

- Practice makes you more skilled at riding your bicycle. The more skilled you are at riding, the less likely you will be to crash. Practice riding skills in an empty parking lot or a place with no traffic. Practice such things as riding in a straight line, looking over your shoulder, signaling with your hands and starting and stopping.
- Always wear your helmet when riding your bicycle.
- Make sure that your helmet fits correctly. The helmet should fit low on your forehead so that two fingers fit between it and your eyebrows. Another way to check is to put the helmet on your head and look up. If you can't see your helmet, it is too far back.
- To ride safely, you need to know the rules of the road. If you don't, then you should not ride in traffic or without an adult.
- Ride on the right side of the road or trail in a single file line in the same direction as other vehicles and come to a complete stop before crossing streets.
- Wait for a driver's signal before crossing the street.

Follow these safety tips to start the school year off right! ▼

Water Wisely

Here are some tips to keep your yard green and your water bills low:

Get in the zone. Schedule each individual zone in your irrigation system to account for type of sprinkler, sun or shade exposure, and soil in that section. Different zones will almost always need different watering schedules.

Consider soil type. Type of soil determines how quickly water can be absorbed without runoff. Watering more than soil can absorb causes runoff and waste.

Avoid over-fertilizing. Applying fertilizer increases the need for water.

Got Mulch? Mulching and adding compost to soil can help soil absorb and store water. It can also help to minimize evaporation, reduce erosion and help control weeds.

Don't send water down the drain. Set sprinklers to water plants, not your driveway, sidewalk, patio or buildings.

Water only when needed. Saturate root zones and let the soil dry. Watering too much and too frequently results in shallow roots, weed growth, disease and fungus.

Water at the best time. Watering during the heat of the day may cause losses of up to 30 percent due to evaporation. Prevent water loss by watering when the sun is low or down, winds are calm and temperatures are cool - typically between the evening and early morning.

Water more often for shorter periods. Try breaking watering times into two or more shorter cycles, with about an hour resting time in between. This will reduce run-off and increase the amount of water soaking into the ground.

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Good Dog Skills

This multi-level class goes beyond basic dog training and teaches real-life skills to parents (ages 18 & up) and their dogs (ages five months to 15 years). You will both learn stay, come, and nice leash walking skills and practice real-life scenarios such as "don't chase the kitty," "good greetings with Grandma," and "no counter surfing." We will also have time each week for solving problems such as barking, jumping, chewing and more.

Dog classes are for friendly dogs that are current on vaccines and comfortable on a leash around other dogs and people. NOTE: The first class is for humans only. The instructor, Colleen Shanahan, uses reward-based dog training and has professionally trained and handled dogs since 1997.

Session one will take place on Sundays from September 15 through October 13 and session two will take place from October 27 through November 24. All sessions will be from 11:00 a.m. to noon in the Grove, located at 1195 East Main Street. Each session (5 lessons) costs $95. NEW STUDENTS need to complete the "Group Class Questionnaire" and read "What to Bring to Class" at www.DogGoneFun.Biz. Private lessons also available by calling 541-601-7601. Pre-register online at www.ashland.or.us/register. ▼

Power

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have a few years back.

These transmission system upgrades will provide for faster and easier isolation of problems with the electric system, resulting in quicker service restoration and increased reliability in the future.

For more information, including electric conservation programs and energy saving tips, see www.ashland.or.us/conserve. ▼

Water

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Adapt watering to the season. Familiarize yourself with the settings on your irrigation controller and adjust the watering schedule regularly based on seasonal weather conditions. Or invest in a smart controller so your system can make these changes automatically.

The City of Ashland offers several resources to assist you in managing your landscape and irrigation system including **FREE** sprinkler system evaluations. Explore our Water Wise Landscaping Website at www.ashland.or.us/waterwise or give us a call at 541-552-2062 to schedule an evaluation. ▼

NEWS NOTES

Graffiti Hotline

The Ashland Police Department has established a Graffiti Hotline. If you see graffiti anywhere in the city or have information about persons who vandalize with graffiti please call 541-552-2380. No personal information is required to be submitted. If you clean graffiti off your property, please take a picture of it and send or drop off the photo at the Ashland Police Department, at 1155 East Main Street. We appreciate your efforts to keep Ashland graffiti-free.

Citizen Emergency Preparedness Workshops

Disasters happen. We don't know when but they will occur. However, we can learn to prepare and give ourselves the best chance for survival. On September 7, at the Old Historic Armory, you can learn how to prepare for an emergency. Workshops will be conducted in the morning and afternoon and participants will be given a personal 72-hour emergency kit, a $30 dollar value. Reservations are required. Call Ashland Fire & Rescue at 541-482-2770 for more information and to make a reservation. ▼

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City Calendar

- □ ***City Council*** meets on the first and third Tuesdays at 7:00 p.m. Study sessions occur on the day before at 5:30 p.m.
- □ ***Planning Commission*** meets on the second Tuesday 7:00 p.m. Study sessions occur on the fourth Tuesday at 7:00 p.m.
- □ ***Airport Commission*** meets on the first Tuesday at 9:30 a.m.
- □ ***Conservation Commission*** meets on the fourth Wednesday at 6:00 p.m.
- □ ***Firewise Commission*** meets on the third Wednesday at noon
- □ ***Forest Lands Commission*** meets on the second Tuesday at 5:30 p.m.
- □ ***Historic Commission*** meets on the Wednesday at 6:00 p.m. (the Wednesday prior to the Tuesday Planning Commission)
- □ ***Housing Commission*** meets on the fourth Wednesday at 4:00 p.m.
- □ ***Parks and Recreation Commission*** meets on the fourth Monday at 7:00 p.m. Study session occurs on the third Monday.
- □ ***Public Art Commission*** meets on the third Friday at 8:15 a.m.
- □ ***Transportation Commission*** meets on the fourth Thursday at 6:00 p.m.
- □ ***Tree Commission*** meets on the Thursday before the Tuesday Planning Commission Meeting at 6:00 p.m.

▲Many of the above meetings are cablecast live on channel 9 and replayed on channel 14. ▲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 541-488-6002. ▲Back issues of the City Source are posted under "Documents" on the City's Website, www.ashland.or.us. ▲TTY 1-800-735-2900.