



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

Helicopter Tree Thinning to Restore and Protect Our Ashland Watershed

The Ashland Forest Resiliency Stewardship Project (AFR) is now in year seven of a ten-year project and will resume helicopter thinning work by early February, weather permitting. AFR is a partnership between the City of Ashland, Lomakatsi Restoration Project, The Nature Conservancy, and the Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest. AFR is a collaboratively developed, implemented, and monitored forest restoration and wildfire safety project in and around the Ashland Watershed, source of our drinking water and critical wildlife habitat.

With over three times the number of trees that once existed in our forests, AFR selective thinning reduces competition between trees and reduces wildfire potential while offsetting costs through the sale of by-product logs. The helicopter work will occur through the end of April, if weather cooperates. Approximately 400 acres of selective thinning will take place in this phase.

Helicopter use minimizes soil impacts on the steeper slopes in the city's watershed while removing excess trees to

(See, *Helicopter Thinning*, Page 3)

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Energize Rogue: An Opportunity for Energy Efficiency

*Tuesday, March 14, 6:00 p.m.
at Ashland Public Library*

In 2017, Ashland homeowners and small businesses have a unique opportunity to invest in energy efficient ductless heat pumps, saving 25-50 percent on heating costs when compared to a traditional electric heating system.

Ductless heat pumps (DHPs) are energy efficient zonal heating and cooling systems that have at least one head unit in the home, usually placed high on the wall, a compressor placed outside the home, and a refrigerant line connecting them. Because there are no ducts, these systems are often easily installed within a day.

Energize Rogue is a group purchase program that reduces the regular price of a DHP system, simplifies the entire installation process for customers, and provides guidance on incentives and financing. In addition to cost savings through the group purchase, Ashland Municipal

(See, *Energize Rogue*, Back Page)



STATEMENT TO THE COMMUNITY

Democratic government is dependent on adherence to fundamental principles. Therefore, as we begin 2017, the City Council and Mayor of the City of Ashland affirm:

- **Our commitment to defend the civil and human rights of every person regardless of race, country of origin, religion, gender or sexuality;**
- **Our condemnation of hate speech and or crimes targeted at individuals or a class of people;**
- **Our commitment to maintain and defend the city's status as a sanctuary city;**
- **Our determination to pursue a policy agenda that ensures that individuals can turn to government for protection without fear of recrimination;**
- **Our belief in the founding principle of religious freedom and every individual's inalienable right to practice his/her own faith; and,**
- **Our commitment to foster a community predicated on inclusion rather than division.**

As individuals and as an elected body, we pledge to work to make Ashland a city that reflects these values in word and deed in the months and years ahead.

Dated this 20th day of December, 2016

41st Annual 4th of July Run Logo Design Contest

Is the artist in you ready for a challenge? If you answered yes, Ashland Parks and Recreation has an opportunity for you! We are looking for an artist to design the logo for the 41st Annual 4th of July Run.

If your artwork is selected you will win \$150, five free t-shirts featuring your design, and the pride of seeing your work in multiple mediums!

Submissions are due no later than **Wednesday, March 1, 2017**. The winner will be notified by Monday, March 6, 2017. For guidelines, additional information and to see logos from events past, please visit ashland.or.us/JulyRunLogo.

Donate Your Bikes to the Bike Swap



The Bike Swap is right around the corner and we are looking for donated bikes in good working condition. Clean out your garage, get a tax donation and help support bike education in our elementary schools! Bikes can be dropped off at The Grove, 1195 E Main St., Mon. - Fri., 8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. For more info contact lori.ainsworth@ashland.or.us or 541-552-2264.

Simple Steps to Big Savings

Did you know that the average American household loses more than 1,340 cubic feet (10,000 gallons) each year to easy-to-fix water leaks? That's why the City of Ashland is encouraging homeowners to find and fix leaks during the EPA's WaterSense® annual Fix a Leak Week, March 20 - 26, 2017.

Fixing household leaks not only saves water, it could also reduce water utility bills. Start saving today with three simple steps: Check. Twist. Replace.

1. Check First, *check* your home for leaks. An easy way to start is to examine your winter water use. If it exceeds 1,000 cubic feet (7,480 gallons) per month for a family of four, you might have leaks.

You can also check your home for leaks by looking at your water meter, which is typically located on the sidewalk in front of your house. Make sure water is not running in the house and then check your meter. If you see the meter moving, you likely have a leak.

2. Twist Apply pipe tape to be sure plumbing fixture connections are sealed tight and give leaking faucets and showerheads a firm *twist* with a wrench.

3. Replace If you just can't seem to stop those drips, *replace* them with WaterSense labeled plumbing fixtures, which use at least 20 percent less water and are independently certified to perform as well or

better than standard plumbing fixtures.

If you, or someone you know, could use help finding a water leak, or you would like FREE low flow aerators or showerheads, please request a FREE indoor water evaluation by emailing Stephanie Danyi at stephanie.danyi@ashland.or.us or call 541-552-2421. The water conservation team is happy to help!

For more information about water conservation programs, appliance rebates, or the lawn replacement program, please visit www.ashlandsaveswater.org.

Helicopter Thinning

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reduce fire hazard and improve forest health. Selective thinning, when combined with controlled burning, is the most effective means to address the pressing issues facing our local forests and community in a changing climate.

Here's what to expect:

- You will see and occasionally hear the helicopter working in the hills.
- Log truck traffic will be present weekdays on upper Tolman Creek Road and out around the Oak Knoll golf course to the freeway.
- The area above, but not including Toothpick Trail and Lamb Mine will be closed, along with upper Tolman Creek Road where it turns to dirt.

In order to complete the project for community wild-fire safety, the work area will be closed. For your own personal safety and the safety of AFR workers, **please do not enter the closure area.** Fines will be issued to trespassers.

See ashlandwatershed.org and [facebook.com/AFR.Project](https://www.facebook.com/AFR.Project) for specific updates on work schedules, trail closures, and information.

Did You Know?

Did you know that per Ashland Municipal Code (Chapter 11.26.060), boats, campers, motor homes and any kind of trailer, including small utility multi-use trailers, may not be stored on a public streets?

Energize Rogue

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Utility customers are also eligible for a \$1,000-\$1,200 rebate if upgrading from an electric heating system, and \$500 for replacement from a non-electric fuel source and existing forced air heat pump.

For homeowners and small businesses to be eligible for the Energize Rogue group purchase, the first step is to participate in a free community workshop. The Ashland workshop takes place Tuesday, March 14, 6:00 - 7:00 p.m. at the Ashland Library. Participants will learn more about the group purchase program, hear from installation contractors and program partners, and have an opportunity to ask questions.

For more details and to **register in advance** to attend the free public workshop go to www.EnergizeRogue.org.

For more information about energy efficiency programs offered by the City of Ashland, go to ashland.or.us/consERVE.

News Notes

Jackson County introduces PulsePoint

PulsePoint is a location-based smartphone application which pushes notifications to CPR-trained users who are within walking distance of a person suffering cardiac arrest in a public place. In addition to pushing out the notification, PulsePoint will inform the CPR-trained user of where the nearest AED is located. The app is free and Ashland Fire and Rescue encourages CPR-trained community members throughout Jackson County who are willing to provide assistance to someone suffering cardiac arrest to download the app from your app store and start helping today. Because this is a county-wide initiative, you can sign up for multiple fire agencies in Jackson County in case you live, work, or frequently visit other areas. The notifications come directly through our local 9-1-1 dispatch. For more information on CPR training, go to ashland.or.us/cpr.

Spring Garden Work Party

Celebrate spring's arrival while volunteering as a gardener at North Mountain Park. North Mountain Park staff and volunteers will provide an orientation to the demonstration

gardens, greenhouse and composting facility to kick off the season. Tools and snacks provided. For more information call the North Mountain Park Nature Center at 541-488-6606. **Pre-registration is not required.**

AGES 15 & up
DATE March 22
TIME 10:00 - Noon
PLACE North Mountain Park

March City Calendar

City Council

Business Meetings: Mar 7 & 21 | 7:00 p.m.
Study Sessions: Mar 6 & 20 | 5:30 p.m.

Planning Commission

Business Meeting: Mar 14 | 7:00 p.m.
Study Session: Mar 28 | 7:00 p.m.

Airport Commission

Mar 7 | 9:30 a.m.

Conservation Commission

Mar 22 | 6:00 p.m.

Forest Lands Commission

Mar 14 | 5:30 p.m.

Historic Commission

Mar 8 | 6:00 p.m.

Housing and Human Services Comm.

Mar 23 | 4:30 p.m.

Parks and Recreation Commission

Business Meeting: Mar 27 | 7:00 p.m.
Study Session: Mar 20 | 7:00 p.m.

Public Art Commission

Mar 17 | 8:00 a.m.

Transportation Commission

Mar 23 | 6:00 p.m.

Tree Commission

Mar 9 | 6:00 p.m.

Wildfire Mitigation Commission

Mar 15 | 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.