



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

CITY OF ASHLAND

City Source

July 2017

Electric Rate Increases

The City Council has approved a rate increase for Electric Service effective July 1, 2017, based upon a rate design that was recently completed through a Cost of Service and Financial Study (COS). The rate design recommended an increase per customer class based on the cost to serve that unique customer class. The system average increase will be 6.04%, but varies by the actual cost to serve the individual customer class. The rate increase will provide funding for increased BPA (power and transmission) costs, Operations (personnel services, materials and services), and budgeted capital projects anticipated in the approved Electric System 10-Year Planning Study.

The last electric rate increase was two years ago in July, 2015. This rate increase will raise the typical residential consumer's electric service charges by \$3.74 per month.

The City of Ashland has a variety of efficiency programs that may help customers lower their monthly consumption (See, *Rates*, Page 3)

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Summer Fire Safety Tips

Ashland Fire and Rescue reminds you to help keep our community safe by heeding fire prevention measures:

- Keep an eye on the fire danger level at ashland.or.us/fireseason.
- Before using engine-driven or spark-producing equipment such as mowers, chainsaws, or welding equipment, check on the required shut-down time.
- Use barbecues at least 10 feet from combustible materials and structures including eaves and decks.
- Outdoor debris burning is prohibited.
- Fireworks are prohibited.
- Sky lanterns are prohibited.
- Smoking in areas of combustible vegetation is prohibited.
- The use of outdoor free-standing, wood burning fire places and the fire rings in Lithia Park are prohibited in HIGH and EXTREME fire danger.

If you are traveling or camping, be sure to check the current conditions and fire prevention measures in the area you are going. Fire is everyone's fight!





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A Service of the City of Ashland



Rates

Continued from Page 1

and their costs. For program information, and water and energy saving tips, please visit our website at ashland.or.us/conserve.

For questions on how this increase may impact your utility bill, please contact the Customer Service Division (Utilities) at 20 East Main St., or 541-488-6004. You may also review all utility rates at ashland.or.us/rates.

We value you as a customer and appreciate the opportunity to serve you.

Tips for a Water Wise Landscape:



- **Water only when needed.** Let the soil dry between watering. Roots will grow deeper looking for water below the surface as soil dries.
- **When to Water.** It's best **not** to water every day. Less frequent, deep sprinkling will encourage deeper root growth and plants won't become stressed as quickly when the weather is hot.
- **Make adjustments.** If you have a dry area in your landscape, apply extra water manually with a hose instead of running the sprinkler system longer.
- **Mulch to save.** Add mulch to your garden beds to lock in moisture and minimize evaporation.
- **Adapt watering to the season.** Adjust sprinkler timers at least once a month throughout the summer to account for plants' changing water needs. Doing this can significantly reduce water use.
- **Check your sprinkler system regularly.** Inspect for leaks and make sure all sprinklers are watering your plants and not hardscape or bare ground.
- **Water at the best time.** Water between 8:00 p.m. and 6:00 a.m. to avoid losing water to wind and evaporation. Watering during the heat of the day may cause losses of up to 30 percent.
- **Create interest.** Plant your landscape with

attractive drought tolerant, firewise and pollinator friendly plants.

For more tips on how to care for your landscape and save water this summer, visit our website at ashland.saveswater.org and be sure to check out the outdoor watering calculator. You can also take advantage of the resources on the Conservation Division webpage at ashland.or.us/conserve or call 541-552-2062 to schedule a **free** sprinkler system evaluation or to learn more about our Lawn Replacement Program.

News Notes

Recycling and Waste Reduction for Families

Getting your family to participate in a new routine can be difficult. This class is designed to make your family's transition to "going green" easier. Bring your entire family and learn the benefits of waste reduction and recycling. Get your questions answered and find out what resources are available for support. *Please register online (ashland.or.us/register) or call the Nature Center at 541-488-6606.*

AGES All Ages
DATE August 1, 2017
TIME 10:00 – 11:00 a.m.
PLACE NMP Nature Center
COST \$5

INSTRUCTOR Jamie Rosenthal is the Waste Zero Coordinator at Recology Ashland, Conservation Commission Member and Jackson County Master Recycler.

Kitchen Wreath Making

Students will be shown how to make a wreath form and can choose from locally sourced materials to create one-of-a-kind wreaths. The Kitchen Wreath, hand woven fresh herbs in a base of lavender, is a spectacular addition to any cook's kitchen, as the herbs can be pulled from the wreath for cooking. *Please register online (ashland.or.us/register) or call 541-488-6606.*

AGES 10 & up
DATE August 5, 2017
TIME 10:00 a.m. - noon
PLACE NMP Nature Center
COST \$12

INSTRUCTOR Marianne Baker enjoys flower design as a hobby and enjoys sharing this passion with others.

Movement that Matters for Older Adults

Join our new class focused on improving posture and movement mechanics to support your activities of daily living. All exercises can be adapted to meet the individual needs of students and improve strength, flexibility, and joint mobility. Please bring a water bottle and towel. Pre-registration at ashland.or.us/register is required.

AGES 30 & up
DAYS Wednesday & Friday
DATES August 9 - 25, 2017
TIME 9:15 - 10:15 a.m.
PLACE The Grove | Gym
COST \$42 (6 classes)
INSTRUCTOR Ken Dobberpuhl

HeartSaver Adult CPR / AED Course

HeartSaver CPR course is for anyone with limited or no medical training seeking a card in CPR and AED use to meet job, regulatory, and/or other requirements.

DATE Saturday, August 19, 2017
TIME 9:00 a.m. - Noon
PLACE Fire Station #2, 1860 Ashland Street
COST \$35

To Register: Registration is first-come, first-served according to when class fees are paid. Classes are typically limited to 8 people. Participants may register by mailing a check or by paying in person 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday at Fire Station 1, 455 Siskiyou Blvd. Make checks payable to City of Ashland. Credit cards accepted in person.

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

August City Calendar

City Council

Business Meetings: August 1 & 15 | 7:00 p.m.
Study Sessions: July 31 & August 14 | 5:30 p.m.

Airport Commission

August 1 | 9:30 a.m.

Conservation Commission

August 23 | 6:00 p.m.

Forest Lands Commission

August 8 | 5:30 p.m.

Historic Commission

August 2 | 6:00 p.m.

Housing and Human Services Comm.

August 24 | 4:30 p.m.

Parks and Recreation Commission

Business Meeting: August 28 | 7:00 p.m.
Study Session: August 21 | 5:30 p.m.

Planning Commission

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

Public Art Commission

August 18 | 8:00 a.m.

Transportation Commission

August 24 | 6:00 p.m.

Tree Commission

August 3 | 6:00 p.m.

Wildfire Mitigation Commission

August 16 | 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.