



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

CITY OF ASHLAND

City Source

June 2017

Rate Increases

The City Council has approved rate increases effective July 1, 2017. Rates will increase 4.5% for Water service, 5% for Sewer service, and 2.4% for Storm Drain service. The estimated monthly impact on an average residential utility account will be \$4.70. This change will occur during mid-billing period for some customers, therefore bills will be prorated with a portion of the billing period at the old rate, and the remainder of the period at the new rate.

The system fees collected will be used to support maintenance, operations and capital expenditures to maintain regulatory compliance.

The City of Ashland has a variety of efficiency programs that may help customers lower their monthly consumption and bills. For information about efficiency programs, and water and energy saving tips, please visit our website at www.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 call (541) 488-6004. You may also review all utility rates at www.ashland.or.us/rates.

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

Table of Contents

Reduce Wildfire Risk	2	Summer Energy Savings	3
Lithia Park Nature Walks	2	New Look for City Website	3
Saturday Morning Bird Walks	2	Pollinator Garden Tour	3
Exceptional Electric	2	News Notes	4
Garage and Yard Sale Signs	3	City Calendar	4

Artist Presentation

The community is invited to attend a presentation by public artist Gordon Huether on Monday, July 31, at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers, located at 1175 East Main Street.

Mr. Huether has developed two public art concepts for the Theater Corridor, the walkway between Starbucks and Earthly Goods connecting Main Street with the Oregon Shakespeare Festival (see photo below). He will present both concepts to the public and again to the City Council the following evening.

Following the presentations, an independent Selection Panel will evaluate the concepts and make a recommendation to the Public Art Commission regarding which concept to accept. The Public Art Commission will seek Council approval for the recommended concept at a City Council meeting in September.



Tips to Reduce Wildfire Risks

Simple and easy steps to help reduce a home's wildfire risk by preparing ahead of a wildfire:

- Clean your roof/gutters of leaves and needles at the beginning of fire season
- Clear the view of your house number so it can be easily seen from the street
- Trim all tree branches overhanging your house and within 10 feet of chimney
- Prune lower branches of trees 6 to 10 feet off the ground within 30 feet of home
- Rake debris accumulation away from your house 3 to 5 feet
- Remove any wood/flammable materials from underneath decks and balconies
- Relocate woodpile at least 20 feet from structures
- Dispose of accumulated trimmings before fire season
- Talk to your neighbors and create a bigger defensible space together
- Have practice drills - include all family and pets
- Check fire extinguishers. Are they charged? Accessible? Does everyone know where they are kept and how to use them?
- Talk to children about fire safety.

Free Lithia Park Nature Walks

Enjoy Beautiful Lithia Park's Natural History

Three days a week - Sundays, Wednesdays and Fridays (additional Saturday walks in July and August) - rain or shine, trained volunteer naturalists from APRC lead an easy, interesting, 1.5-hour nature walk through Lithia Park. Topics include: trees, flowers, birds, climate, water, geology and the history of the park. These nature walks are free. Please meet us at the park entrance, across from the Plaza in Ashland. Pre-registration is not required.

Summer Saturday Morning Bird Walks

Stroll through North Mountain Park with local birding experts from the Rogue Valley. This will be an opportunity to see and hear a variety of birds that spend the summer here in the valley. Binoculars & field guides will be available for checkout.

Ages: All ages welcome
Date: July 8 and August 12
Time: 8:00 – 9:00 a.m.
Place: North Mountain Park
Cost: Free

Please register online or call the Nature Center at 541-488-6606.



Exceptional Electric

The City of Ashland's Electric Department has received national recognition for achieving exceptional electric reliability in 2016. The recognition comes from the American Public Power Association (www.PublicPower.org), a trade group that represents more than 2,000 not-for-profit, community-owned electric utilities.

The Association helps members track outage and restoration data through its subscription-based eReliability Tracker service and then compares the data to national statistics tracked by the US Energy Information Administration for all types of electric utilities.

“This recognition helps demonstrate public power's commitment to reliable electric service,” said the Association's Senior Vice President of engineering Services, Michael Hyland.

Public power has a strong track record of reliability, said Hyland. Nationwide, the average public power customer has their lights out for less than half the time, compare to other types of utilities.

The Electric Department is proud to receive this recognition. It is a testament to the hard work of all our staff to ensure that the lights stay on for all our customers.

Garage and Yard Sale Signs

With the start of summer, many households want to hold garage and yard sales. Remember, however, that in Ashland it's against the law to place signs in the public right-of-way, which includes the park row (the area between the curb and sidewalk), on utility poles and boxes, lampposts, traffic signs, or private property without permission from the property owner.

Illegal signs may be removed without notice by the City. Don't forget to remove any signs once your event is over!

Summer Energy Saving Tips

As our warmer weather starts to show itself, here are some important energy saving tips to remember:

- Shade west-facing windows with awnings and trees. Exterior shading is more effective than interior shading.
- For un-shaded windows, draw curtains and use reflective blinds.
- Use natural ventilation by opening windows at night time when outdoor temperatures are cooler to remove heat buildup during the day and close windows before outdoor air gets too warm.
- Remove any accumulation of debris and allow adequate airflow from around outdoor air conditioning units.
- When using your air conditioner, set thermostats to 78 degrees or warmer if possible and turn it off when you are away from home.
- Consider air conditioning alternatives such as window or ceiling fans that use much less energy and can accomplish similar cooling goals.
- To pull cooler air in and exhaust warmer air out, window fans are best installed facing away from prevailing winds. To cool as much of your home as possible, tightly close windows near the fan and open a window in a room farthest from the fan, preferably on the windward side of your home. Windows near cooler outdoor areas provide the best intake air.
- Does your home have enough insulation? For electrically heated homes call Dan Cunningham at 541-552-2063 for a free energy analysis.

For a complete summary of all the various energy

efficiency programs offered by the City of Ashland Conservation Division, check out www.ashland.or.us/conserve or call 541-488-5306.

New Look for City Website

To provide a more robust user experience, the City of Ashland, in conjunction with Project A, has spent several months re-designing its website to be more mobile-friendly. The updated website will respond and configure to the tablet and smartphone sized screens. The new website launched in late May.

The City of Ashland website, www.ashland.or.us, was originally designed for optimal viewing on a desk top computer. However, national trending shows that 50% of Americans use a mobile device to access the internet and this will only increase as more and more households shift to wireless devices.

The site content will not change but navigation of the site is slightly different on a mobile device.

If you have questions about this update or the City's website, call 541-488-6002.

Ashland Pollinator Garden Tour

Bee City USA Ashland's first annual Pollinator Garden Tour showcases more than a dozen pollinator gardens created by the residents of Ashland. During this self-guided tour, you will see gardens that are not only beautiful, but also support our pollinators with year-round forage and habitat. Gardens range in style from 'a little on the wild side' to 'perfectly designed'. The gardeners will be on-hand to answer questions. (Note: bathrooms are not available at the tour sites.)

Please register online at www.ashland.or.us/register or call the Nature Center at 541-488-6606.

Pick up your tour booklet at the front desk of the Nature Center, Monday to Friday, 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Ages: All Ages
Date: July 9
Time: 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.
Place: North Mountain Park Nature Center
Cost: \$10
Instructor: Kristina Lefever

News Notes

HeartSaver First Aid/ CPR / AED Course

HeartSaver is for anyone wanting to learn the critical skills needed to respond to and manage in the first few minutes to a first aid, choking or sudden cardiac arrest emergency until emergency medical services (EMS) arrives. Students learn skills such as how to treat bleeding, sprains, broken bones, shock and other first aid emergencies. This course also teaches adult CPR and AED use.

Date: July 22

Time: 9:00 a.m. - Noon

Where: Fire Station #2, 1860 Ashland Street

Cost: \$55

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 www.ashland.or.us/cpr

Pickleball Clinics

Beginner: For those interested in learning a popular sport for all ages – this is your opportunity to learn the basics. Find out all the social and fitness benefits playing pickleball!

Intermediate: Take your skills to the next level and get more enjoyment out of the game!

Ages: 16 & up

Date: July 1

Time: Beginners: 10:00 a.m. - Noon
Intermediate: 8:00 - 10:00 a.m.

Place: Lithia Park Tennis Courts

Cost: \$20/clinic

Pre-registration at www.ashland.or.us/register is required.

City offices will be closed July 4, 2017, for Independence Day.

We apologize for any inconvenience this may cause.

July City Calendar

City Council

Business Meetings: July 18 | 7:00 p.m.

Study Sessions: July 17 | 5:30 p.m.

Airport Commission

TBD | 9:30 a.m.

Conservation Commission

July 26 | 6:00 p.m.

Forest Lands Commission

July 11 | 5:30 p.m.

Historic Commission

July 5 | 6:00 p.m.

Housing and Human Services Comm.

July 27 | 4:30 p.m.

Parks and Recreation Commission

Business Meeting: July 24 | 7:00 p.m.

Study Session: July 17 | 5:30 p.m.

Planning Commission

Business Meeting: July 11 | 7:00 p.m.

Study Session: July 25 | 7:00 p.m.

Public Art Commission

July 21 | 8:00 a.m.

Transportation Commission

July 27 | 6:00 p.m.

Tree Commission

July 6 | 6:00 p.m.

Wildfire Mitigation Commission

July 19 | 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.