

# City

## SOURCE

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

## Traffic Calming

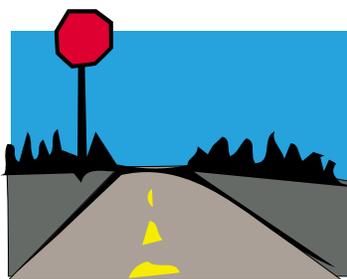
### *What is traffic calming?*

Traffic calming refers to a combination of policies and design techniques used by

planners and engineers to encourage safe and calm travel on streets. The Ashland Comprehensive Plan addresses the relationship of neighborhood livability and street traffic patterns.

□ “Integrate traffic calming techniques into city-street design standards to reduce automobile speeds within new and exiting neighborhoods.” Policy 13, Street System Goals and Policies

□ “Design streets as critical public spaces where creating a comfortable and attractive place that encourages (See *Traffic Calming*, Page 2)



## Compost Classes

The Conservation Commission is sponsoring free compost classes at the Ashland Recycling Center on Water Street. Classes are scheduled from 10 a.m. to noon and the following Saturdays; May 12, June 16 and July 21. Classes include various systems of backyard composting. Learn how compost can benefit your plants and your soil. Attendants receive a free compost bin per family.



## Water System Protection

Most residences and commercial buildings have one or more backflow protection device on their water system to protect potable (drinking) water from contamination. These devices are most commonly found on irrigation, fire, solar systems, pools, pond fillers, boilers, and many other applications. Backflow devices provide a physical separation of potable water from non-potable water.

Irrigation devices should be tested in the spring, prior to seasonal operation to assure that irrigation systems do not contaminate drinking water. Contamination from irrigation systems is the largest cause of potable water contamination in the United States.

Backflow devices within the City of Ashland are required by state and local law to be tested annually. If you have any questions about testing requirements, please call Jim Clark at 488-5353.

(See *Water System Protection*, Page 3)



## Traffic Calming

*Continued from Page 1*

people to walk, bicycle and socialize is balanced with building an efficient travel corridor. Design streets with equal attention to all right-of-way users and to promote livability of neighborhoods.”

Policy 3, Street System Goals and Policies.

When streets are safe and pleasant for pedestrians, bicyclists, motorists and neighbors, the quality of life in the neighborhood is enhanced. When traffic problems become a daily occurrence, they can threaten the sense of community and personal well being. A survey by the Federal Highway Administration found that residents find traffic moving at 20 mph through their neighborhoods acceptable, but the same

volume of traffic moving at 30 mph unacceptable.

***The objective in employing traffic calming measures is to:***

- Discourage undesirable motorists behavior
- Improve real and perceived safety for motorized and non-motorized users
- Create a street-friendly environment for pedestrians, bicyclists and motorists
- Reduce speeding
- Reduce noise and air pollution
- Maintain or improve livability of neighborhoods

There are a variety of designs and techniques used by planners and engineers to calm traffic. Three kinds of traffic calming solutions include: education, enforcement, and engineering. Education alerts people to ways

they can help ease traffic problems such as reducing speed or traveling by bus or bicycle instead of automobile and displaying “Keep Kids Alive, Drive 25” signs. Enforcement enlists the help of the Police Department to focus on enforcement efforts. Traffic officers use two tools: traditional enforcement (issuing tickets) and the speed radar trailer boards. Engineering tools include a variety of traffic calming devices that can reduce speed, decrease traffic volumes, and/or improve safety. Some are more familiar than others, such as speed humps, however many of the techniques are more subtle and are used to subconsciously change the vision of a wide street to a narrow street thereby forcing a driver to slow down.

When a street appears to be narrow and street features appear

## Safety Tips for Safer Crosswalks

**Oregon Law requires drivers to yield to pedestrians in a marked or unmarked crosswalk.**

- A stopped car may be a clue that a pedestrian is crossing. Don't pass. It is unsafe and illegal to pass any vehicle stopped at a crosswalk for a pedestrian.
- When stopped at an intersection, do not block the crosswalk. Always leave room for pedestrians to cross.
- Watch for pedestrians, especially children, when existing driveways or when backing out of parking spaces in parking lots.
- Pedestrians move at different speeds. Be patient with children and older adults who may take extra time to cross the street. Around taverns and bars be alert for pedestrians who may have slowed reaction times or impaired judgment.



## *Signs on Lamp Posts*

As the warmer weather approaches our thoughts turn to . . . garage sales. A friendly reminder that signs are not to be posted on lampposts or traffic signs. Not only is it distracting for the motorist, but it is also against the law. AMC 9.08.180.

## *Electrical Utility Boxes*

Citizens are reminded not to plant flowers and plants close to the green electrical utility boxes located around town. There are times when electric crews need to access those units and plantings risk being damaged.

## **Water System Protection**

*Continued from Page 1*

Backflow testers are private contractors, so the cost of testing may vary. If your device is due for annual testing, please schedule an appointment with the certified tester of your choice. Some residents have scheduled annual service with a tester. Your tester is responsible for sending a completed test report to the City.

The following list of approved testers is from the State of Oregon website <http://www.oregon.gov/DHS/ph/crossconnection/docs/publiclistcertifiedbat.pdf>

Mark B. Jamieson, Rogue Valley  
Backflow Service  
550 Taylor Street; Ashland, OR  
97520  
541-482-9464

Philip Sander, SO Oregon  
Backflow Service  
934 NW Cooke Avenue, Grants  
Pass, OR 97526  
541-779-8927 or 541-472-0280

Terry Scott Bradley, Scott Bradley  
Backflow Assembly Testing  
PO Box 313; Medford, OR 97501  
541-608-3736 ▼

closer to the driver, drivers tend to slow down. For example, curb extensions or bump outs at intersections do not physically narrow the street because they extend only into the parking lane but they do appear to narrow the street because the curb is now closer to the driver. Traffic islands, such as those installed on Tolman Creek Road are used to break up a long stretch of pavement, appear to narrow the street and provide a “safe” spot for pedestrians crossing the road. Trees planted in the park rows adjacent to the street break the vista of the driver and the street appears to be narrower.

Painted crosswalks draw the driver’s attention to possible pedestrians, but raised crosswalks, such as those used on Oak Street draw attention to the crossing and force the driver to slow down.

Traffic calming works. Studies have shown that traffic calming can reduce speeds by 20% or more depending on the types of devices used. Successful traffic calming involves extensive citizen participation. The people who live and work in the project area have the opportunity to become actively involved in the process.

The City of Ashland is committed to maintaining and improving the livability and safety of its residential neighborhoods.

For more information on traffic calming techniques contact Jim Olson at 488-5347. ▼



## News Notes

### *Efficient Heating and Cooling System*

If you are considering replacing your home's heating and cooling system, call and find out if an energy-efficient heat pump would be a good choice. The City now offers a \$500 cash rebate for high efficiency heat pumps that can save you energy and lower your heating and cooling costs, and you may be eligible for an additional \$300 to seal your existing leaky ducts or to install a tight, new duct system. Ashland utility customers who have existing electric heat may take advantage of a 0% interest loan in lieu of receiving the cash rebates. Call Cathy at 552-2063 for more information.

### *Demonstration Garden Tours*

On June 13 and 23, July 11 and 28, and August 8 and 25 at 9:30 a.m. soak up the sights and smells of summer while learning about the gardens at North Mountain Park with volunteer docents and master gardeners, Susan Lander and Marjorie Ratner. Discover how to attract wildlife in the Butterfly, Amphibian-Reptile Gardens or Native Plants Gardens. Step into the past in the Heirloom Garden and enjoy the fragrance of the Herb Gardens. Ages 10 years-Adult. Free. Please register online at <http://ashlandparks.recware.com> or call the Nature Center at 488-6606.

### *Summer Discovery Kit*

Join us for a kick-off celebration on Saturday, June 16 to introduce the North Mountain Park's new and improved Discovery Kits and extended summer hours! Park staff will help families explore the park and offer assistance in using the kits. The park will be open on Saturdays during the summer months with kits available for check-out. Discovery Kits are ideal for children ages 5 - 12 and their guardians. Kits are available to the public free of charge with a \$10 refundable deposit. Make a day of it — bring a picnic lunch, check out a Discovery Kit and then take time to enjoy our indoor exhibits on animals of the Rogue Valley. Discover Kits available this summer include: Animal Homes, Animal Tracks, Aquatic Insects, Birds, Geology, and Owl Pellets. For more information call the North Mountain Park Nature Center at 488-6606.

### *Meals on Wheels*

The volunteers who run Ashland's "Meals-On-Wheels" service are wondering what has happened to their clients. They would be happy to think that the need for their help was disappearing — that there were no

new shut-ins, unable to do their own shopping and preparing of evening dinners — but somehow that doesn't seem the likely explanation. They would like to remind those who read this note that Meals on Wheels, as well as SOU and Skylark Assisted Living kitchens provide dinners (seven days a week if one chooses, on either a temporary or continuing basis) for a nominal fee to those needing assistance. If you want to get more information about this program, please call Eric Massey at 552-0400 or the Chamber of Commerce at 482-3486. ▼

## CITY OF ASHLAND City Calendar

May 14	City Council Study Session	5:15 p.m.
May 15	City Council Meeting	7:00 p.m.
May 17	Bike and Pedestrian Commission	5:15 p.m.
May 17	Budget Committee	7:00 p.m.
May 18	Public Arts Commission	8:15 a.m.
May 21	Budget Committee Meeting	6:00 p.m.
May 21	Parks Commission Meeting	7:00 p.m.
May 22	Budget Committee Meeting	6:00 p.m.
May 23	Conservation Commission	7:00 p.m.
May 24	Housing Commission Meeting	5:30 p.m.
May 24	Traffic Safety Commission	7:00 p.m.
June 4	City Council Study Session	5:15 p.m.
June 5	Airport Commission	9:30 a.m.
June 5	City Council Meeting	7:00 p.m.
June 6	Historic Commission	7:00 p.m.
June 7	Tree Commission	7:00 p.m.
June 12	Forest Lands Commission	5:30 p.m.
June 13	Planning Commission	7:00 p.m.

◆ Many of the above meetings are cablecast live on channel 9 and replayed on channel 30. ◆ 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 488-6002. ◆ Back issues of the City Source are posted under "Documents" on the City's Website, [www.ashland.or.us](http://www.ashland.or.us). ◆ TTY 1-800-735-2900

