

City

S O U R C E

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

Food and Beverage Tax

The Ashland Food and Beverage tax was approved by voters in 1993. The tax expires in 2010 and voters may be asked to vote in November to extend the tax beyond 2010.

The revenue from the tax (5% on all prepared food) is collected by the City of Ashland and is used in two ways: 20% of the total collected is used by Parks to purchase property for future parks, and 80% is used by the City to pay for the wastewater treatment plant.

(See *Food and Beverage Tax*, Page 2)

Wildfire: Are You Prepared?



Recent research has shown something very important about protecting a home from wildfire: The homeowner is the most effective firefighter. Most home ignitions during wildfires are the result of a factor that was preventable by the homeowner well before the fire started, and that time is now! Waiting until smoke fills the sky is like trying to lower your cholesterol during a heart attack.

If you live in the wildfire zone:

1. Clear flammable leaves, needles, and branches from gutters and rooftops.
2. Create a five foot fuel free space around your home.

This means raking needles, leaves, and twigs around
(See *Wildfire: Are You Prepared?*, Page 2)

Wildlife Sense

There have been recent reports of mountain lion and bear sightings in the parks and neighborhood hills of Ashland. The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife offer the following suggestions:

Wildlife Backyard Tips

- Don't feed any wildlife — including birds and deer.
- Keep pets on a leash; at night keep them in a kennel with a secure top.
- Don't feed pets outside.

Wildlife Precautions

- Do not hike or run alone.
- Do not approach a mountain lion, give them time to escape.
- Do not run from a mountain lion, stand and face the animal and make eye contact. Do all you can to appear larger, open your jacket, throw stones, raise your arms slowly.
- Do not run from a bear. Do not make eye contact. Back away slowly and speak softly to let the bear discover your presence.

More tips and information can be found at www.dfw.state.or.us. Please notify ODFW if you see a mountain lion or bear at 826-8774. ▼



Wildfire: Are You Prepared?

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your home and moving all combustible materials out from under decks and near structures.

3. Thin and prune vegetation within 100 feet of any structure and remove all dead plant material. Big trees are fine, but just keep them pruned 6-8 feet from the ground and away from your siding and roofline. Consult with the Fire Department before cutting anything if you're not sure what to do.

See www.ashland.or.us/wui for a complete list of precautions. Request a free safety inspection by contacting Chris Chambers at 552-2066. ▼

Food and Beverage Tax

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The City of Ashland will host two public forums to hear from Ashland citizens on extending the tax beyond 2010. Ashland citizens are encouraged to attend. All comments will be recorded and given to the City Council for discussion at one of their regular meetings in June.

□ **Public Forum**
Monday May 18, 2009
in the Community Center
59 Winburn Way
11:30 - 1:30 or 4:00 - 6:00

For planning purposes, please email Ann Seltzer, ann@ashland.or.us if you are interested in attending and indicate which session you prefer. ▼

Downtown Spring Clean

The buds and blooms of spring signal an increase of visitors to our community and Ashland residents spending more time out of doors. With that in mind, the Ashland Chamber of Commerce, the City of Ashland, the Oregon Shakespeare Festival and our downtown businesses are teaming up to give our downtown a "spring cleaning" to welcome our visitors and locals.

We are coordinating our efforts to clean storefront awnings and windows and power washing sidewalks. We'll plant flowers, install hanging baskets, paint and clean curbs, railings, and signs and replace old worn out benches. We'll work cooperatively on other small improvement projects to give our

Open House

The City of Ashland invites you to an Open House sponsored by the Oregon Department of Transportation.

Come learn about planned improvements to the bridges over I-5 at exits 14 and 19.

See the proposed bridge designs, learn about the construction schedule, and provide your input.

There are two meetings for your convenience:

Thursday, May 28, 2009

Daytime meeting: 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. - Pioneer Hall at 73 Winburn Way, Downtown Ashland

Evening meeting: 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. - Windsor Inn, Windsor Room at 2520 Ashland Street at Exit 14

Each meeting will present the same information. More project information is available at http://www.oregon.gov/ODOT/HWY/REGION3/ashland_exit_14_19_index.shtml

Volunteer Opportunity

The Ashland Police Department is taking applications for volunteers in their Downtown Patrol.

This is a uniform unit, no enforcement involved.

The Downtown Patrol Volunteers are the eyes and ears of the Ashland Police Department and are available to anyone needing information about the community. Training will be provided. Please contact Volunteer Coordinator, Frank d'Entremont, at 541-552-2121 for more information.

downtown a fresh look and feel for the summer and fall.

Some of the work has already been started and the “spring cleaning” will continue through mid-May. Disturbances should be minimal, as most project activities will be done early in the day to avoid conflicts with pedestrians and vehicles in the downtown area.

The month of May has been designated “Take Care of Oregon” in honor of Oregon’s 150 years of Statehood. We look forward to participating by taking care of and sprucing up downtown Ashland. ▼

Avoid Aggressive Drivers

Dangerous driving habits are a serious threat on the nation’s roads. According to AAA, aggressive driving can double your chances of getting into a collision, leading to injuries and even death. What can you do?

Behave behind the wheel:

- Don’t block or drive under speed limits in passing lanes.
- Keep away from erratic drivers.
- Don’t fill more than one parking space.
- Avoid yelling out the window or stopping on the road to argue.
- Don’t speed up when someone tries to merge into your lane.
- Always buckle up in case of a crash.

Back off from aggressive drivers:

- Give way to bullish drivers. Why battle?
- Don’t challenge them by racing, flashing lights or honking horns.
- Avoid eye contact with the driver.
- Ignore gestures and don’t gesture back.
- Report unsafe driving to authorities
- If the aggressive driver is in a crash, stop safely nearby and act as a witness to the driver’s behavior.

Keeping your cool on the road can be challenging. You can’t control how other drivers act, but you can make your driving safer for everyone. ▼

Earth Kamp for Kids

Learn how you can help the planet while exploring the wet and wild places of North Mountain Park’s natural area. Learn nature crafts, search for critters in the creeks, ponds and nest boxes. Play cooperative games and grow your own garden starts and sprouts.

AGES 8—12

DAYS Monday—Thursday

DATES June 15—18 (Registration deadline is June 11)

TIME 9am—Noon

PLACE North Mountain Park

COST \$40

INSTRUCTOR North Mountain Park Staff

Register online at <http://ashlandparks.recware.com> ▼



Free Concerts in the Park at Butler Bandshell

❑ *Ashland City Band Concerts*

Weekly Summer Concerts

Days Thursdays

Dates June 18—August 13

Time 7:30pm

❑ *Special Pre-Concert Performances—6:30pm*

Dixieland BandSwing Kings Band

Licorice & Chrome

And Other Bands

❑ *Special 4th of July performance at noon*

❑ *Pyramid—Classic Rock Concert*

60's through 90's Classic Rock Music

Date Sunday August 16

Time 6:30 pm ▼

Summer Outdoor Service Days in the Parks

Answer the call to service, meet new people and learn amazing factoids about invasive plants while you help to manage them in Ashland Parks and public lands. Tools, gloves, snacks and instruction will be provided. Call North Mountain Park Nature Center for more information 488-6606. See dates, times and locations to meet listed below.

❑ Tuesday, June 9, 7-8:30 pm Wightman St. and railroad tracks

❑ Saturday, June 20, 9-11:30 am North Mountain Park Nature Center

❑ Tuesday, July 7, 7-8:30 pm Lithia Park reservoir

❑ Wednesday, August 5, 7-8:30 pm Wightman St. and Railroad tracks

❑ Saturday, August 15, 9-11:30 pm Glenwood Park

❑ Register online at <http://ashlandparks.recware.com>



CITY OF
ASHLAND

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 7:00 p.m.
- ❑ *Forest Lands Commission* meets on the second Tuesday at 5:30 p.m.
- ❑ *Historic Commission* meets on the first Wednesday at 7:00 p.m. (the Wednesday prior to the Tuesday Planning Commission)
- ❑ *Housing Commission* meets on the fourth Thursday at 4:30 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.
- ❑ *Tree Commission* meets on the Thursday before the Tuesday Planning Commission Meeting

◆ 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. ◆ TTY 1-800-735-2900

