

CITY OF
ASHLAND

City Source

October 2016

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

Cooler Weather Water Conservation

Fall is in the air! Our plants need less water this time of year as the days are getting shorter and temperatures continue to cool, especially with the rains returning. Enjoy these cooler temperatures as you prepare your garden for winter. Here are some tips to help you conserve water.

Fertilize your plants. Fertilizing your plants can actually help you save water. Providing plants with the nutrients they need to develop healthy root systems will help them take advantage of water in the soil and thrive next spring. Phosphorous (that's the middle number in the standard fertilizer formula) encourages root growth. Be sure to talk with someone knowledgeable about your plants' needs when choosing a fertilizer. Also, with the extra growth happening, you will want to avoid watering in the evening, because the extra water combined with the cooler night time temperatures can promote disease.

Reapply mulch. Not only does mulch help to slow water evaporation from your soil, it can also moderate temperatures for your plants' roots. Mulch decomposes and releases nutrients into the soil, however it also means that it needs to be applied regularly to your landscape. Pay particular attention to the areas around trees, perennial plants, and flower beds.

Winterize your sprinkler system. As the weather continues to cool, it's a good time to start watching the forecast for freezing

(See, *Water Conservation*, page 2)

Table of Contents

Upcoming Council Agendas	2	Water Conservation , cont'd	3
Don't Feed Wildlife	2	Lawn Replacement Program	3
Open City Hall	3	Stream Restoration Work Party	4
Ice Rink Opening	3	City Calendar	4

Low Income Assistance

Once again, the City of Ashland has set aside money during the budget process for the Ashland Low Income Energy Assistance Program to help low-income residents with electric bills during the cold winter months.

Eligible Ashland residents include those whose income is at or below 60 percent of Oregon's median income. These levels are based on household income and household size. Qualified recipients will receive a credit on their electric utility charges. Credits of up to 50 percent will be given to seniors and disabled persons for up to six months and credits of 50 percent to other qualified residents for up to three months. The *maximum* allowed credit is \$300.00 for either group.

Applicants may call the request line at 541-552-2038 to request a Low Income Assistance application packet be sent to them or pick one up at the utility billing counter at City Hall.

If you know of someone who might qualify and needs assistance, please let them know about this program. The deadline to submit the application is **January 31, 2017**. Late applications will not be accepted.



Coming up on the Council Agenda

Coming up on City Council agendas in the near future are discussions of an Electric Utility cost of service study and a discussion of a construction excise tax as a means by which the City can fund its Affordable Housing Trust Fund.

The Electric cost of service study is scheduled for the Council's study session on Monday, October 31. A cost of service study identifies all of the costs of the utility, identifies the different customer classes, distributes costs to the appropriate customer class and develops rates and charges intended to provide financial stability. Cost of service models often involve what's called "de-coupling" or "unbundling" utility rates. That is, it creates a rate model in which the fixed costs of the system are equitably spread across different rate or customer classes and consumption drives the variable portion of the bill. (In other words, the city doesn't have to rely on increased consumption in order to pay fixed costs.) It's a complex subject that the City has been working on for more than two years. Please visit the City web site and search for "Cost of Service Study" for more information.

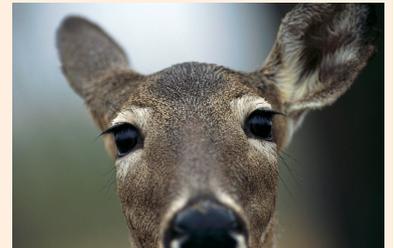
On November 14, the Council is scheduled to discuss a construction excise tax, mostly to learn more about it and how it works. The State Legislature earlier this year passed a bill that allows cities to impose an excise tax on the "permit value" of new construction, with the money dedicated to supporting affordable housing. Ashland has had an Affordable Housing Trust Fund since 2008, but has never identified a regular, ongoing source of revenue for it. The purpose of the Fund is to support the creation or preservation of housing that is affordable to people with incomes that do not exceed 120% of the area median income.

Remember, Council agendas are subject to change on short notice. Please monitor the city website for exact dates if you are interested in these subjects. Better yet, subscribe to the city's email news feed. Go to the city website, www.ashland.or.us, and sign up for email updates on the home page.

Don't Feed Wildlife



Deer, bear, raccoons, and wild turkeys are wild animals. They are not tame. They are not pets. They should never, ever be intentionally fed. The intentional feeding of deer and other wildlife within the city limits of Ashland is a violation of City ordinance (AMC 9.08.280).



The ordinance states that it is a violation when a person knowingly places, deposits, distributes, stores or scatters food, garbage or any other attractant so as to constitute a lure, attraction or enticement for deer, raccoon, or potentially habituated wildlife. If found in violation of the ordinance fines can exceed \$500.

Keep wildlife wild:



- Keep pet food indoors.
- Keep birdfeeders at least 10 feet off the ground.
- Remove fruit that has fallen from trees.
- Plant deer-resistant plants
- Use bear-proof garbage cans
- Encourage your neighbors to remove wildlife attractants.



Open City Hall

Have you signed up for Open City Hall? It's a way for your voice to be heard on various issues affecting the City and to see what your neighbors are saying as well.

Open City Hall is a public participation tool that's accessed through the City web site: www.ashland.or.us. Look for the link to Open City Hall under "Hot Topics." Once you sign up for Open City Hall, you'll be notified by e-mail when new topics are posted for public comment. We recognize that with the busy lives people lead, it can be difficult for people to come to public hearings at nighttime meetings. Open City Hall is a great way to educate yourself about issues and convey your thoughts to City decision-makers.

Peak Democracy, the firm that created Open City Hall, estimates that each Open City Hall comment is roughly equivalent to three minutes of testimony at a public hearing. So, if we receive 27 on-forum comments on a subject (as we recently did with an Open City Hall on changes to the food and beverage tax ordinance), that's the equivalent of an hour and 20 minutes of public hearing testimony!

Check out Open City Hall and sign up today. We're waiting to hear from you!

Ashland Rotary Centennial Ice Rink

It's that time of year again... so lace up your skates and hit the ice! The Ashland Rotary Centennial Ice Rink will be operational November 16, 2016 through February 26, 2017.

Don't miss FIRST FROST our seasonal grand opening on November 19, from 6:00 to 10:00 p.m. Highlights of the evening include:

- Rec Skate with live *DJ Hope*
- Performances by *Southern Oregon Figure Skating Club*, at approximately 7:30 p.m.
- Come early for the 3-on-3 hockey exhibition game at 3:00 p.m.
- Our friendly mascot, Chilly the Snowman
- Ice sculpting by Roger Butterfield

Kids 5 and under skate for free; Adults \$3.00 (not including skate rental, \$2.50/pair)

The 2016-17 ice rink season will feature something for everyone! Visit our website for a complete listing of programs: AshlandParksandRec.org.

The outdoor rink, a division of Ashland Parks and Recreation, is located at 95 Winburn Way, across from the Lithia Park playground, around the corner from the Plaza, and at the corner of Nutley Street and Winburn Way. Bring the whole family! Our skate rentals accommodate toddler size 9 up to men's size 15.

Please come prepared to skate, as changing rooms are not available. Hot chocolate, coffee and a variety of snacks will be available for purchase. The rink offers skate trainers for select sessions, available at no charge.

For more information on prices, schedules, lessons, family and adapted programming, hockey, scholarships and all we have to offer you, visit Ashland-ParksandRec.org, call the ice rink directly at 541-488-9189, or call the APRC office at 541-488-5340.

We hope you can experience one of the most magical places in Ashland - that little outdoor rink in beautiful Lithia Park, where the air is fresh, the white lights are twinkling and the music blends with the sounds of nature and blades on the ice.

"Let's skate!"

Water Conservation

Continued from Page 1

temperatures. Before night time temperatures are consistently at or below freezing, you will want to winterize your irrigation system. Consider scheduling an appointment with your landscaper to assist you with this process.

For more information on water and energy conservation programs visit our website at ashland.or.us/conserv. If you need assistance with programming your controller or if you would like a sprinkler system evaluation call 541-552-2421.

Did you know?

You can still apply for the City of Ashland Lawn Replacement Program.

A 1,000 square foot lawn may need up to 1200 gallons (160 cubic feet) of water each week to stay green! Yikes! We are offering an incentive to replace your lawn with drought tolerant plants. So, if you are tired of the upkeep of your green lawn or would like to save green money on irrigation water, consider the City's lawn replacement program. Go to ashland.or.us/LRP to see if you are eligible or call 541-552-2421. For inspiration, explore the City of Ashland's water-wise landscaping website; ashlandsaveswater.org.

Stream Restoration Work Party

Lend a hand in improving both the native plant community and habitat it provides for fish, wildlife and pollinators. Tools, snacks and instruction provided. Event will be held rain or shine!

AGE	All ages welcome
DAY	Saturday
DATE	November 5
TIME	10:00 a.m. - Noon
PLACE	Location and other details coming soon.

For more information call 541-488-6606.

City offices will be closed

November 11, 2016, for

Veteran's Day

and

November 24 and 25, 2016 for

Thanksgiving.

**We apologize for any inconvenience
this may cause.**

November City Calendar

City Council

Business Meetings: Nov 1 & 15 |
7:00 p.m.

Study Sessions: Nov 14 | 5:30 p.m.

Budget Committee

Business Meeting: Nov 30 | 6:00 p.m.

Planning Commission

Business Meeting: Nov 8 | 7:00 p.m.

Study Session: Nov 22 | 7:00 p.m.

Airport Commission

Nov 2 | 9:30 a.m.

Conservation Commission

Nov 23 | 6:00 p.m.

Forest Lands Commission

Nov 8 | 5:30 p.m.

Historic Commission

Nov 2 | 6:00 p.m.

Housing and Human Services Comm.

TBD | 4:30 p.m.

Parks and Recreation Commission

Business Meeting: Nov 28 | 7:00 p.m.

Study Session: Nov 21 | 7:00 p.m.

Public Art Commission

Nov 18 | 8:00 a.m.

Transportation Commission

Nov 17 | 6:00 p.m.

Tree Commission

Nov 3 | 6:00 p.m.

Wildfire Mitigation Commission

Nov 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.

