

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

LOW INCOME ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

The City of Ashland has funds available for the Ashland Low Income Energy Assistance Program, which assists low income residents with electric bill costs during the cold winter months.

Eligible Ashland residents include those whose income is at or below 65 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.

Beginning October 1, applicants may call the request line at 541-552-2038 to request a Low Income Assistance application packet. Applications are also available on the City of Ashland website at ashland.or.us. 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, 2022.

**STAY UPDATED ON
CORONAVIRUS
(COVID-19)**

To help ease concern over the COVID-19 pandemic and spread correct information, the City has created a webpage ashland.or.us/coronavirus with the most up-to-date information from the Federal, State, County, and City governments.

ROUND UP YOUR CHANGE FOR CHANGE

The City of Ashland's Round Up program allows Ashland utility customers to voluntarily round up their utility bill to the nearest dollar to assist low-income Ashland residents through the Ashland Low Income Energy Assistance Program. You can join the Ashland Round Up program by going to ashland.or.us/roundup or completing the coupon below. The coupon can be sent along with your utility bill or dropped off at City Hall, 20 E. Main Street. You can also make a one-time donation by sending in a check indicating it is a donation to help with the utility bills of those in need.

YES, I WANT TO JOIN THE ASHLAND ROUND UP PROGRAM

Yes, please round up my monthly utility bill to the nearest dollar. I understand the funds will assist Ashland residents in need with their utility bill.

Name: _____ Signature: _____

Service Address: _____

Account Number: _____ Phone Number: _____

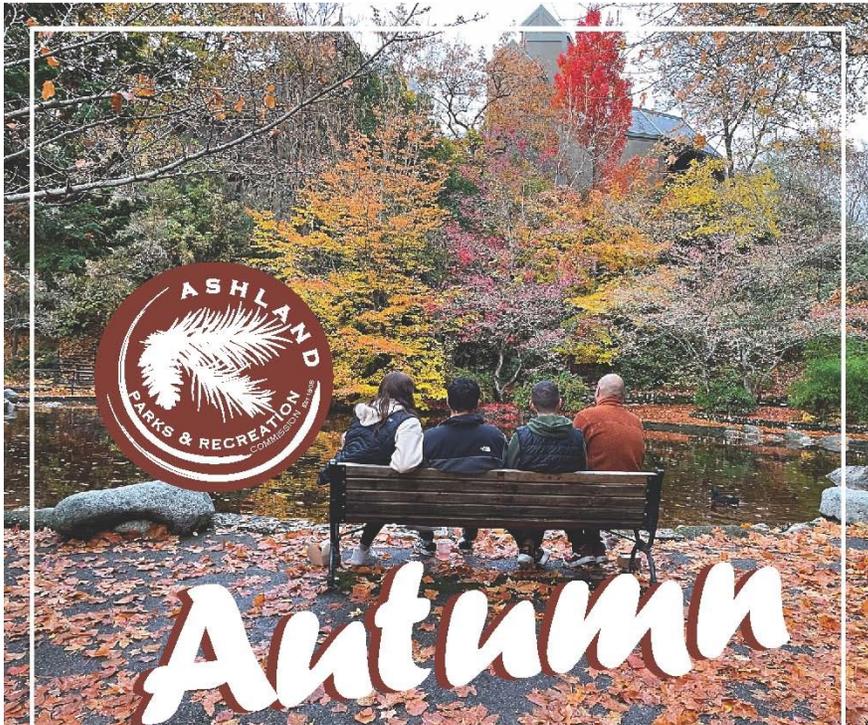
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MAKE SURE YOUR UTILITY ACCOUNT IS UP-TO-DATE

In certain situations, such as water leaks or electrical outages, it is important for the City to be able to contact Utility account holders. Please ensure that you have provided the Utility Billing staff your current phone number or email address by calling (541) 488-6004 or emailing utilitybilling@ashland.or.us.

Also, please remember that we need your help in keeping access to electrical meters open in the case of an emergency. Landscaping, shrubbery, debris, building materials, and/or cars should never be placed on or parked on water meter boxes. Thank you for your assistance!



Check out the APRC 2021
Autumn PlayGuide...

REGISTER ONLINE TODAY!

ASHLANDPARKSANDREC.ORG
541.488.5340 | ParksInfo@ashland.or.us

Facebook & Instagram @AshlandParksandRec
#AshlandParksandRec #APRC #FunItsInOurNature
#APRCStayConnected #AshlandWhatToDo



FUELS TREATMENTS LIKELY SAVED SOUTH LAKE TAHOE

Many people are aware that the City of Ashland, in partnership with the Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest, Lomakatsi Restoration Project, and The Nature Conservancy has proactively supported and implemented work in our local forests for over a decade (25 years in the case of the City's forestlands and parks) to create healthier forests that are safer for our community and the source of Ashland's water in the Ashland Creek Watershed. We don't often hear about how this work leads to success during wildfires, but the recent South Lake Tahoe experience illustrates it perfectly.

Much like Ashland, South Lake Tahoe implemented a fuels management plan over a number of years...and that plan may very well have saved their community during the Caldor Fire. Caldor Fire incident commanders said in their daily briefing that "...firefighters encountered 150 foot flames in the Caldor Fire when it came into the Lake Tahoe Basin, but once it hit the treated fuels, those flames dropped to 15 feet and they could get the fire out."

This isn't an isolated experience. Both field experience and volumes of scientific research verify that fuels treatments do work to reduce fire intensity, which gives firefighters a chance to safely protect critical values. Our research using data collected in the watershed shows that our efforts would pay similar dividends in

Ashland...we just have to get more work done on a larger portion of the landscape and particularly those areas close to town. That means using more proactive fire in the cool seasons to eliminate the fuels that drive a summer wildfire. When you see smoke in the hills later in the fall, know that we're working for your safety and to sustain the many benefits of our forests. See our page at www.ashlandwatershed.org.

LEAF BAG PICK UP AND DROP OFF

The seasonal leaf bag discount is back. Buy a set of five biodegradable "leaf bags" from Recology Ashland at \$14.50 per set. The bags hold up to 35 pounds of leaves and pickup is FREE. There are also two leaf drop-off events that will take place at Recology Ashland's Valley View Transfer Station on November 21 and December 2. This event is open to Ashland residents only. Although commercial landscapers and other businesses may not participate in these two events, they may bring their leaves to this Transfer Station – for a charge – Monday through Saturday year-round.

HEATING SEASON

As the heating season approaches here are some low cost no cost tips to help reduce your energy bill:

- **Seal drafts.** Keep doors and windows closed and block all gaps, cracks and openings to the outdoors. Keep woodstove and fireplace dampers and fireplace doors closed when not in use.
- **Turn down the thermostat.** Set your thermostat to 68 degrees or lower to heat your home. Each degree that you lower the thermostat can reduce your heating costs by as much as three percent.
- **Set your thermostat at 55 or 60 degrees** when you are away for an extended time.
- **Heat only when at home and awake.** If you have resistance heat such as ceiling heat, wall heaters or baseboards, turn down the thermostat before you go to bed at night and when you are away from home.
- **Clean heat sources.** Clean furnace filters regularly during the heating season and follow manufacturers' recommendations for replacing filters. Forced-air furnace filters trap dirt and dust, clean the air you breathe, and help the furnace operate more safely and efficiently.
- **Maximize warm air flow to improve comfort and efficiency.** Make sure that furniture and window coverings are not blocking the flow of heat.
- If you have **storm windows**, now is the time to make sure they are all closed.
- **Insulate exposed water pipes**, it's easier to do this now before it freezes and possibly reduce broken lines come spring time.
- **Walk around the perimeter of your home and seal** any penetrations to keep those pesky rodents out!
- **Use zonal heat efficiently.** Only heat rooms in use if you have baseboard, ceiling or wall heat.
- **If you have a heat pump**, ensure thermostat is set to “heat” mode, not “Em Heat”.
- **Install programmable digital thermostats** for zonal heating systems such as ceiling, wall, and baseboard heating. This allows you to control the temperature to correspond with your schedule and avoid unnecessary heating and cost, better yet consider upgrading to a ductless heat pump.

One of the many great things about the City of Ashland is the Conservation Department provides a free energy audit for electrically heated homes. Give Dan Cunningham a call at 541-552-2063 or email Dan.Cunningham@ashland.or.us to set up a residential energy audit.

ENERGY EFFICIENCY INCENTIVES

While your thinking of ways to reduce your energy bill this Fall and Winter, check out current energy efficiency incentives and programs offered by the City.

Home Energy Review—Begin with a free on-site home energy review to identify ways to reduce energy use. This could lead to simple immediate actions to improve energy efficiency. All weatherization and heating/cooling incentives require a home energy review to help determine eligibility and incentive amounts.

Weatherization—Reduce the amount of air leaks in your home through the installation of high efficiency and insulation. Only homes heated with electric heat sources are eligible.

Heating and Cooling—Replacing your old heating and cooling system with a highly efficient heat pump may be the answer to lowering your bill while adding comfort. Current incentives offered include forced air heat pump, forced air duct sealing, and ductless heat pump mini split.

Heat Pump Water Heater—Cut your water heating energy costs by up to 60 percent by upgrading to a heat pump water heater. These heaters are two to three times as efficient as a standard electric water heater.

Washer and Dryer Rebate—While replacing your Washer and/or Dryer can be expensive making the right choice at the time of purchase can have significant energy and cost savings over the life of the appliance. ENERGY STAR appliances use a minimum of 15 percent less energy than a standard appliance.

Induction Cooktop/Range Rebate—Induction cooking transfers heat between the coil and the pan, allowing induction cooking to be faster, more precise, and more efficient. There are residential and commercial incentives available for Ashland Electric customers.

For more information on each incentive listed above or to apply, visit ashlandor.org/climate-energy/find-resources/energy-efficiency/.

City offices will be closed on
November 11 in observance of Veterans Day
and on **November 25 and 26** in observance of Thanksgiving.

We apologize for any inconvenience this may cause.

Check out how Ashland
connects at
www.ashlandfiber.net.



EVENTS

Ashland Senior Services Division is offering the virtual programs for seniors in November. Depending on public health conditions, we may also have in-person or outdoor/drive-through special events. To check for updates, call 541-488-5342 or visit ashlandseniorservices.org.

Explore Art: Mixed Media Art (Watercolor & Chalk Pastel)

DATES November 6, 13, 20
TIME 1 to 3p.m.
COST \$60 + supplies/three classes
PLACE Online via Zoom

Gentle Yoga

DATES & TIMES
Session 3A: Wednesdays, Nov 3, 10, 17, 24; 10:30-11:30am;
Session 3B: Fridays, Nov 6, 13, 20; 9-10am; \$15/3 classes

PLACE Online via Zoom
COST \$20/four classes

NOVEMBER CITY CALENDAR

City Council
Business Meeting: Nov. 2 & 16 | 6 p.m.
Study Session: Nov. 1 & 15 | 5:30 p.m.
Airport Commission
November 2 | 9:30 a.m.
Conservation & Climate Outreach
Commission
November 17 | 3 p.m.
Climate Policy Commission
TBD
Forest Lands Commission
November 9 | 5:30 p.m.
Historic Commission
November 3 | 6 p.m.
Housing and Human Services Commission
TBD
Parks and Recreation Commission
Business Meeting: November 10 | 6 p.m.
Study Session: November 3 | 6 p.m.
Planning Commission
Business Meeting: November 9 | 7 p.m.
Study Session: November 23 | 7 p.m.
Public Art Commission
November 19 | 8:30 a.m.
Social Equity and Racial Justice
Commission
TBD
Transportation Commission
November 18 | 6 p.m.
Tree Commission
November 4 | 6 p.m.
Wildfire Safety Commission
November 17 | 11 a.m.

▲ TTY 1-800-735-2900 ▲ Most meetings are held electronically. Go to www.ashland.or.us/calendar.asp for more information. ▲ 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, select channel RVTV Prime. Meetings are replayed on Ashland Home Net Channel 9, Charter Spectrum RVTV 180 and 181. Replay schedules are available at rvtv.sou.edu.

Check out this and
past versions of the
City Source online
anytime at
[ashland.or.us/
citysource](http://ashland.or.us/citysource).

For more
information on
different ways to
“Connect with Us”
go to [ashland.or.us/
connect](http://ashland.or.us/connect).



**CITY OF
ASHLAND**

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