



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

CITY OF ASHLAND

City Source

September 2017

Fire Hydrants

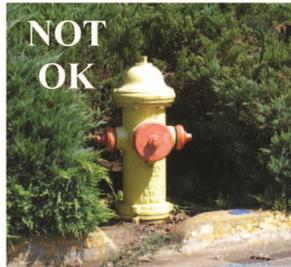
Why does clearance and vegetation maintenance matter?

Fire hydrants are located throughout the city and are critical to Ashland Fire and Rescue's success when battling a fire. Make sure hydrants on your property or the adjacent public right-of-way can be seen and used by firefighters.

When firefighters use a hydrant, they need to be able to stand next to it, connect a large fire hose and turn a wrench. Keeping three feet of clearance around a hydrant gives firefighters room to open the hydrant in a continuous motion without having to reposition the wrench. Repositioning a wrench while opening a hydrant wastes valuable time during emergencies.

Though grasses and other low-growing vegetation within three feet are acceptable, anything making the ground difficult to walk on or obstructing a hydrant cap is not okay. Trees, bushes, rocks, and fences are common offenders. Obstructing a hydrant cap may

(See, *Hydrant Clearance*, back page)



Bear Creek Salmon Festival



Join us on October 7, 2017, from 11:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. at North Mountain Park for the 13th annual Bear Creek Salmon Festival.

This year's theme is, "Communities Connected by Water." This admission-free festival will feature all-ages interactive activities and exhibits focusing on healthy salmon and wildlife habitat in our region, and watershed stewardship in our own homes and yards. Participants can also enjoy a variety of fun outdoor activities such as fly and spin casting, exploring Bear Creek and listening to Native American drumming and storytelling. Lively musical entertainment, a Salmon Spiral Labyrinth and a tasty food concession will round out the day.

More information can be found at BearCreekSalmonFestival.net or by calling the North Mountain Park Nature Center at 541-488-6606.

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Low Income Assistance

Once again, the City of Ashland has funds available for the Ashland Low Income Energy Assistance Program to assist low-income residents with electric bill costs during the cold winter months.

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 for either group.

Beginning October 2, applicants may call the request line at 541-552-2038 to request an application packet be sent to them or may pick one up at Utility Billing at City Hall, 20 E. Main Street.

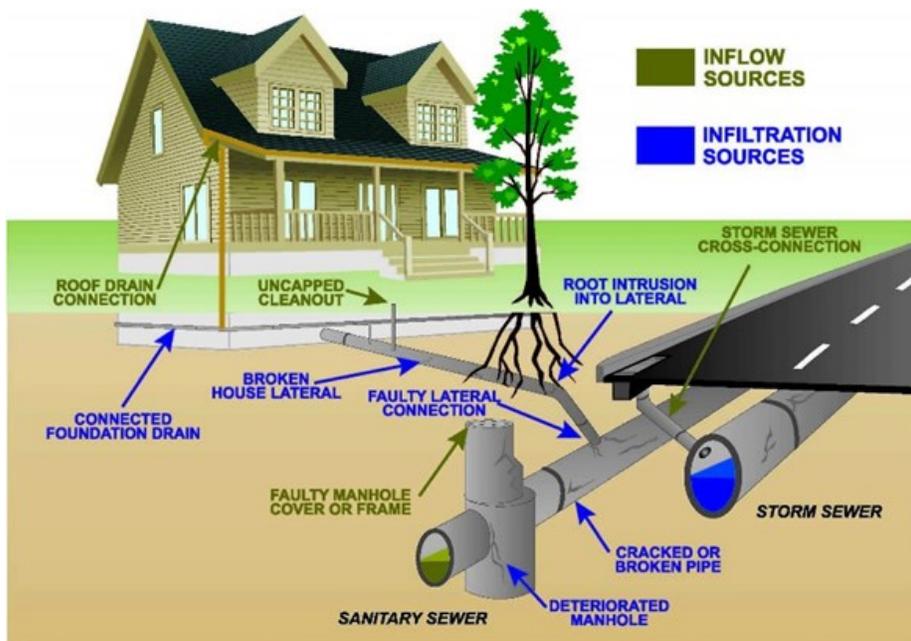
If you know of someone who might qualify for the Ashland Low Income Energy Assistance Program, please let them know about this program.

The deadline to submit the application is January 31, 2018. No late applications will be accepted.

Wastewater Treatment Plant Conservation

We need your help. Yes, you really can help minimize extraneous costs at the City's wastewater treatment plant by checking your own yard.

The problem - infiltration and inflow. Infiltration and inflow are persistent problems that plague all sewer collection systems and ultimately the wastewater treatment plant. Our studies show that as much as 70% more unnecessary flow goes into the wastewater plant after rain events.



Infiltration is groundwater that seeps into sanitary sewer systems through broken joints, cracks and due to root intrusion in aging sewer pipes. Corrections are typically completed by the City's crews.

Inflow is rain water that mistakenly gets into sewer systems through roof and foundation drains, storm drain connections and uncapped cleanouts. These misdirected connections allow rain water to flow into the City's wastewater treatment plant and drive up costs. The City's treatment plant should only treat sewage from homes and businesses, not rain and storm water. Inflow solutions are a combined response from both the City's crews and from home and business owners.

Three things you can do to help now before the rainy season:

- 1) Check your roof drain and storm drain connections. Your roof downspouts should drain to the back yard or to the street, not "disappear" into a green pipe. Likewise, your sump pump should drain to the curb.
- 2) Check your sanitary sewer cleanouts and make sure they are properly capped and did not get bumped or knocked off by the lawnmower.
- 3) Repair broken or root filled laterals (the smaller sewage pipe that goes from your house to the street) so that they are not collecting unwanted rain water.

FireMed Annual Open Enrollment

Both Ashland and Talent residents are served by Ashland FireMed, a program of Ashland Fire and Rescue providing ambulance services to all local area hospitals. FireMed offers two membership levels:

- FireMed Basic - \$55 per year for emergency ground ambulance services
- FireMed Plus - \$99 per year for emergency ground ambulance services plus air ambulance with Mercy Flights

FireMed household membership includes all persons who are permanent residents of the same single-family occupancy, non-commercial residence within the FireMed ambulance service area. Enjoy peace of mind if anyone in your household has a medical emergency.

Annual coverage deadline is October 31, 2017, and membership lasts until October 31, 2018. For more information or to sign up for FireMed, call 541-488-6009 or apply online at firemed.org.

Volunteer Gardeners Needed at North Mountain Park



Did you know that the beautiful gardens at North Mountain Park are maintained entirely by volunteers? We can always use an extra pair of hands to adopt special gardens or just to drop in and help with maintenance. Come join our garden-loving team! Call 541-488-6606 or contact Lori Ainsworth at lori.ainsworth@ashland.or.us.

Disaster Response Training

Ashland Fire & Rescue is offering Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) training. Upon completion of this course, you will be able to perform basic disaster responses such as small fire suppression, light search and rescue, and disaster medical operations. When disasters occur, CERT training participants will know how to respond by being prepared to give critical support to family, friends, neighbors and professional responders.

This training is free and open to those ages 14 and up (please contact CERT for minor participant details). If you like what you learn in the CERT training, you can become a CERT volunteer. CERT members may provide critical support to local emergency responders.

2017 Fall Training dates include:

- Thursday, October 5 - 5:30 - 8:30 p.m.
- Friday, October 6 - 5:30 - 8:00 p.m.
- Saturday, October 7 - 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
- Thursday, October 19 - 5:30 - 8:30 p.m.
- Friday, October 20 - 5:30 - 8:00 p.m.
- Saturday, October 21 - 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

For more information and to register, contact Ashland CERT at 541-552-2226 or cert@ashland.or.us or go to www.ashlandcert.org.

Planning for Nature Play - Community Meeting

We're planning an exciting new Natural Playground at North Mountain Park. Please join us for an informational meeting to learn how Nature Play can enrich our community and the ways well-designed outdoor spaces can facilitate children's physical and emotional development. We are seeking community input on this project and your support will be instrumental in putting a plan into action. Join us to learn more and share your opinions and ideas.

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

Children under 15 must be accompanied by an adult.

DATE October 18
TIME 6:30 - 8:00 p.m.
PLACE The Grove, 1195 E Main St, Ashland

Hydrant Clearance

Continued from page 1

cause a fire hose to kink and prevent water from reaching the nozzle. This could delay firefighting efforts by increasing the amount of time it takes to get water from the hydrant.

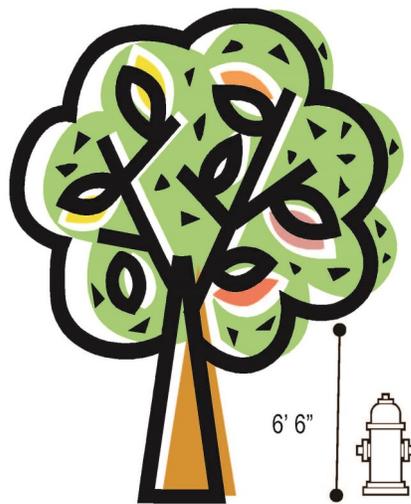
When firefighters respond to a fire, they need to be able to see the hydrant from either direction on the street. Even bushes trimmed back three feet may block the view of a hydrant from the street. When you drive by your nearest hydrant, make sure you can clearly and easily see it.

Parking at least 10 feet from a hydrant helps ensure firefighters will be able to use that hydrant without damaging vehicles in the vicinity. Even if a curb isn't painted yellow, parking within 10 feet of a hydrant is not permitted.

While it may be tempting to put an artistic touch on a hydrant, the hydrant colors are actually important to the Fire Department. The yellow paint is bright and easily seen, and the cap color tells firefighters how much water is available at that particular hydrant. Please don't paint hydrants. Let city staff take care of the painting.

Hydrant Tips to Remember:

- Keep at least three feet around the hydrant clear of vegetation, fences, rocks or other obstructions
- Cut limbs and branches to leave at least six feet, six inches above the ground clear
- Make the hydrant visible from the street from both directions
- Park at least 10 feet away from the hydrant
- Let city staff maintain the paint on the hydrant



For more information, please contact Ashland Fire and Rescue at 541-482-2770 or ashland.or.us/fire.

Stretch Your Water! An Installation Demonstration of Laundry to Landscape Graywater System Workshop (Part II)

Interested in installing a graywater system? Don't know where to start? Join us on September 30, from 10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. at a local Ashland home to watch and learn how you can install your very own "Laundry to Landscape" graywater system! The cost is free, and you will be told the location when you register.

Space is limited. To register, call Julie Smitherman at 541-552-2062.

October City Calendar

City Council

Business Meetings: Oct. 3 & 17 | 7:00 p.m.

Study Sessions: Oct. 2 & 16 | 5:30 p.m.

Airport Commission

Oct. 3 | 9:30 a.m.

Conservation Commission

Oct. 25 | 6:00 p.m.

Forest Lands Commission

Oct. 10 | 5:30 p.m.

Historic Commission

Oct. 4 | 6:00 p.m.

Housing and Human Services Comm.

Oct. 26 | 4:30 p.m.

Parks and Recreation Commission

Business Meeting: Oct. 23 | 7:00 p.m.

Study Session: Oct. 16 | 5:30 p.m.

Planning Commission

Business Meeting: Oct. 10 | 7:00 p.m.

Study Session: Oct. 24 | 7:00 p.m.

Public Art Commission

Oct. 20 | 8:00 a.m.

Transportation Commission

Oct. 26 | 6:00 p.m.

Tree Commission

Oct. 5 | 6:00 p.m.

Wildfire Mitigation Commission

Oct. 18 | 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.