

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

## Budget Byte

Greetings,

My name is Kelly Madding and I serve as your City Administrator. One of my objectives is to make your City government more easily understood. In the next three issues of the City Source, your City staff and I are going to focus on providing you information on our City budget. In the past, the City had sent out a multi-page “budget in brief” document. Instead of trying to condense a 300-page City budget into six to eight pages, we’re trying something different this year. We plan to provide vignettes of a sort on a specific aspect of the budget for each issue starting with this one. Think of it like reading summaries of chapters of your favorite book—only there won’t be any espionage, romance, or family drama.

You might have heard or read about the rather difficult budget process we just finished. We had to make cuts in services, some of which were outward facing (e.g. not funding a School Resource Officer in the Police Department) and some were inward facing (i.e. eliminating our Risk Analyst and outsourcing some of the duties of that position). During the budget process there were a lot of misunderstandings about our budget that were voiced on social media and in the newspaper. Through those budget meetings, I was reminded how difficult it can be to explain the requirements and nuances of local government budgeting versus how you might budget for your household. For example, the City budgets are biennial, that is for two years at a time. Another example is that we have to use State-prescribed budget categories, such as day-to-day operating expenses, capital expenses, and enterprise funds. We also need to be scrupulous about keeping funding from one category separate from funding for other categories.

It is not impossible to learn the terms and the rules that are used and govern City budgets, but it does take someone to explain it and a little time to learn. My staff and I are excited to provide you with, hopefully, understandable budget information in the next few installments of the City Source. We will try to provide digestible bites—that will whet your appetite for more or that may just be enough to provide some context for the next time you hear something about City spending.

Using the City Source to publish our budget information is new and I’m looking for any feedback you’d like to share. Also, if the information has spurred questions, please share them with me as well, and I will get them answered as quickly as I can. You can contact me and my staff by emailing [administration@ashland.or.us](mailto:administration@ashland.or.us) or calling the main City number (541) 488-6002.

Thank you for your time, Kelly Madding

### The Fun in Fund Accounting

Hello again and thank you for getting past the title without a yawn or some skepticism! This vignette will cover why your water (and other utility) bills can’t pay for Police and Fire and why we don’t use reserve funds to cover day-to-day expenses. *Continue to page 2 to find out more...*

*Ashland Low Income Energy Assistance (ALIEA) applications available October 1. Call the request line at (541) 552-2038 to request an application packet be sent or pick one up at the Utility Billing Counter at City Hall.*

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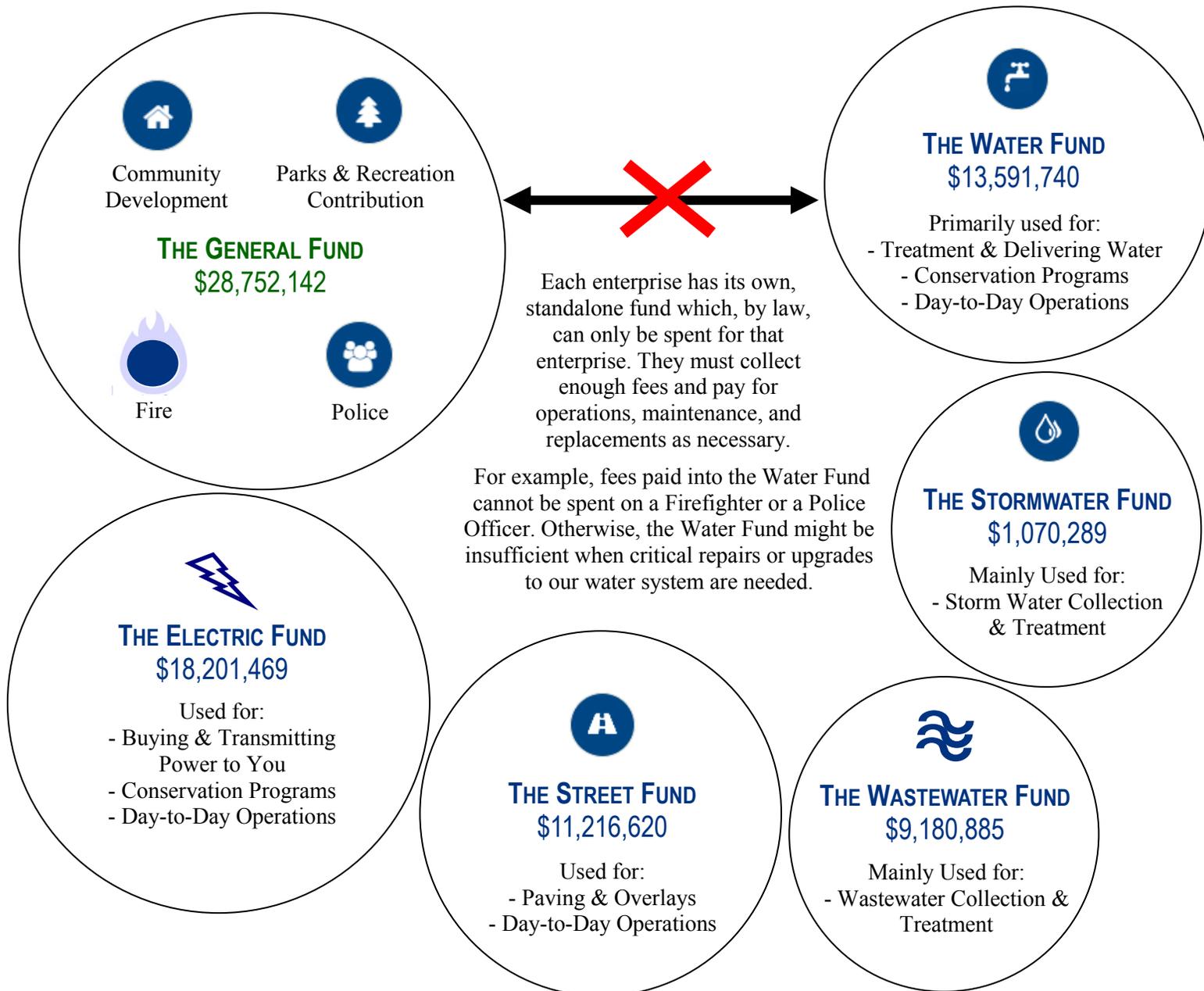
### Annual Children’s Halloween Celebration

Get dressed up and be part of the Halloween parade that takes over downtown each Halloween (this year on Thursday, October 31). The parade starts late afternoon with activities before and after for the whole family. The Ashland Chamber of Commerce hosts the festivities and it would not be possible without them. For more information and the updated 2019 schedule go to [ashlandchamber.com/halloween](http://ashlandchamber.com/halloween).



## Why Your Water (and Other Utility) Bills Can't Pay for Police and Fire?

Many people have a regular checking and savings account. The City has what are akin to many, many savings and checking accounts called funds. For example, the City has a Water Fund that you put money into every month when you pay your water bill; this is called an Enterprise Fund. An Enterprise Fund is where you get something like water and pay for what you use. The City also has a General Fund (see below for the general fund services) which gets its money in a more general way. Everyone, that lives and/or does business here, along with tourists who visit, pitch in to the General Fund via property taxes, as well as taxes on hotel stays. The graphic below shows the City's funds and what they are used for with some examples. **All dollar amounts are for the 2020 Fiscal Year.**



## Why We Don't Use Savings to Cover Day-to-Day Expenses?

Savings accounts are great for planning for big purchases, anticipating for large future expenses, and rainy day funds. The City also has savings accounts in the form of reserve funds. Each of the funds above have its own reserve fund. The difference is that individuals with savings accounts can use those one time funds to cover monthly expenses in any area of their life when money gets tight. The City cannot do this for the following reasons:

- These City funds are legally restricted to the areas that they were collected from (see above).
- Using one time money (often saved for other projects and emergencies) for reoccurring payments is not a sustainable way to keep operations going.



## STAY CONNECTED WITH APRC

Let us list the ways you can stay connected with us...

Online at [AshlandParksandRec.org](http://AshlandParksandRec.org) | Facebook & Instagram @AshlandParksandRec #AshlandParksandRec #APRC

Email Notification-Subscribe online at [AshlandParksandRec.org](http://AshlandParksandRec.org)

In-Person at The Grove, North Mountain Park, Ashland Senior Center, Oak Knoll Golf Course

Direct Contact-Call us at 541.488.5340 | Email us at [ParksInfo@ashland.or.us](mailto:ParksInfo@ashland.or.us) | Contact the Commission with our online form at [AshlandParksandRec.org](http://AshlandParksandRec.org)

**ASHLANDPARKSANDREC.ORG**

### Check Out These Electric Vehicle Programs

Learn about the City of Ashland's programs and incentives in support of electric vehicles (EV) and low-carbon transportation with the following resources:

- **EV Ride and Drive Event**—On first Friday, October 4 join our partners from Forth who will be offering free EV test drives and a low-pressure environment to answer your questions and learn what EVs have to offer.
- **Nissan Rebate**—Ashland's community-owned Electric Utility has partnered with the American Public Power Association (APPA) and Nissan to offer a limited time rebate up to \$3,500 on the new purchases of 2019 Nissan Leaf Standard and 2019 Nissan Leaf ePlus.
- **Ashland Workplace Charging Incentive**—This program offers a financial incentive of \$500 per charger installed to businesses who install electric vehicle chargers for use by their fleet, employees, or customers.

For additional information and other electric vehicle programs, please visit [ashland.or.us/ev](http://ashland.or.us/ev).

City of Ashland Electric Vehicle programs exist to support Ashland's Climate and Energy Action Plan. Ashland's Climate Vision for 2050 is to be a resilient community that has zero net greenhouse gas emissions, embraces equity, protects healthy ecosystems, and creates opportunities for future generations. For more information please see [ashland.or.us/climateplan](http://ashland.or.us/climateplan).

## Taking Charge: What to Do with E-Waste and Batteries

From our partners at Recology

Did you know that in 2009 the EPA estimated around 2.37 million tons of end-of-life electronics (think old monitors, phones, printers, etc.) were discarded, with only 25 percent of that amount being properly recycled? The great news is Recology Ashland has a recycling option for e-waste, and a safe disposal solution for batteries!

If you're ready to get rid of those old electronics, you can take up to seven of them per day to the Recology Valley View Transfer Station for free! What happens to the items once they're dropped off? They get responsibly repurposed into raw materials which are then used to make new products!

For more info about electronic waste, you can visit Recology Ashland's E-Waste webpage at <https://www.recology.com/recology-ashland/electronic-universal-waste/>. Other items and places to recycle them for free include:

- Cell phones to the Recology office on Oak Street
- Car batteries to the Valley View Transfer Station
- Rechargeable batteries to ACE Hardware
- Alkaline batteries to ACE Hardware (for a small fee)

It's important that we make an effort to divert e-waste and batteries from getting dumped in the trash!

Let's work hard to keep our environment and neighbors safe, and remember: when it comes to safe recycling and disposal of electronics and batteries—you're in charge!

### Events

#### *Bear Creek Salmon Festival*

Join us at North Mountain Park for the annual Bear Creek Salmon Festival. This free, family event will feature interactive exhibits celebrating our local watershed and the return of the fall salmon to Bear Creek. Participants will enjoy a variety of fun, outdoor activities including, crafts, live music, the Salmon Spiral Labyrinth and a tasty food concession. To learn more visit [BearCreekSalmonFestival.net](http://BearCreekSalmonFestival.net) or call the Nature Center at (541) 488-6606.

DATE	Saturday, October 5
TIME	11 a.m. to 4 p.m.
PLACE	620 N Mountain Ave.

#### *FREE "Love Your Water" Tours and Workshops*

Learn where your water comes from and where it goes. If you've always wanted to see Reeder Reservoir up close, join our FREE tour during the week of October 21. We'll also have classes about storm water management, rainwater catchment and building your own greywater systems. Register at [ashland.or.us/register](http://ashland.or.us/register).

## Events (continued)

### Ashland Green & Solar Tour

Tour innovative green homes and buildings and learn how you can use sustainable technologies to reduce monthly utility bills and help mitigate climate change. Learn about green energy and get inspired by what others have created! A healthy lunch option will be available for just \$5 per person. Space is limited. Register at [ashland.or.us/register](http://ashland.or.us/register) or call the Nature Center at (541) 488-6606.

AGES 16 & up  
DATE & TIME Saturday, October 19, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.  
PLACE Ashland Municipal Court, 1175 E. Main Street  
*Participants will travel by bus to multiple sites, with a lunch stop.*  
COST \$10 (+ \$5 for lunch)

### First Friday Silent Discos in the Park!

Rent a pair of headphones and wander through downtown's Art Walk, or dance with over 200 other attendees to multiple channels of Live DJ's playing funky beats, while the little ones can make their own music on the interactive "Wiggle Wagon". Animals and alcohol are not allowed in parks. *In case of inclement weather, visit [facebook.com/silentmovementinternational](https://facebook.com/silentmovementinternational) for cancellation updates.*

DAYS & TIME: First Fridays (October 4th), 5 to 11 p.m.  
PLACE: Front of Lithia Park  
COST: \$5 donation

*A portion of the proceeds will benefit the Ashland Parks Foundation.*

### Bear Creek Fall Fest

After checking out the Bear Creek Salmon Festival, celebrate your local water resources at Bear Creek Fall Fest! This free event will include family activities, educational exhibits, prizes and more. Sponsors of this event include Rogue River Watershed Council, Stream Smart, and White Dental Studio.

DATE & TIME Saturday, October 19, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.  
PLACE Bear Creek Park, 1520 Siskiyou Boulevard, Medford

### Gentle Hatha Yoga for Adults 60 & Better

This class is designed with the belief that yoga can be practiced by anyone! Classes are instructed at a slow and gentle pace, including yoga postures, breath work and deep relaxation. Participants will be asked to get up or down from the floor at most twice during each session. Wear comfortable loose attire, and bring your yoga mat.

DAYS & TIME Mondays & Fridays, 9 to 10 a.m.  
PLACE Ashland Senior Center, 1699 Homes Avenue  
COST \$20 for four lessons and \$6 per drop in class

### AARP Smart Driver Course

A refresher course specifically designed for drivers age 50 and older. After completion of this course, you may be eligible for a discount on your auto insurance; check with your insurance agent. Pre-registration is required as space is limited. Please register by calling the Senior Center at (541) 488-5342 or emailing [seniorinfo@ashland.or.us](mailto:seniorinfo@ashland.or.us).

DATES & TIME October 30 & October 31, 1 to 4:15 p.m. (both days)  
PLACE Ashland Senior Center, 1699 Homes Avenue  
COST \$15 for AARP members and \$20 for non-members

Check out how Ashland connects at [www.ashlandfiber.net](http://www.ashlandfiber.net)



## October City Calendar

City Council  
Business Meeting: Oct. 1 & 15 | 7 p.m.  
Study Sessions: Sept. 30 & Oct. 14 | 5:30 p.m.

Airport Commission  
October 1 | 9:30 a.m.

Conservation Commission  
October 23 | 6 p.m.

Forest Lands Commission  
October 8 | 5:30 p.m.  
Fire Station #2, 1860 Ashland Street

Historic Commission  
October 2 | 6 p.m.

Housing and Human Services Commission  
October 24 | 4 p.m.

Parks and Recreation Commission  
Business Meeting: October 28 | 7 p.m.  
Study Session: October 21 | 5:30 p.m.  
The Grove, 1195 E Main Street

Planning Commission  
Business Meeting: October 8 | 7 p.m.  
Study Session: October 22 | 7 p.m.

Public Art Commission  
October 18 | 8:30 a.m.

Transportation Commission  
October 17 | 6 p.m.

Tree Commission  
October 3 | 6 p.m.

Wildfire Safety Commission  
October 16 | 11 a.m.  
Fire Station #1,  
455 Siskiyou Boulevard

▲ TTY 1-800-735-2900 ▲ Meetings are held in the Council Chambers (1175 E Main Street) or the Siskiyou Room (51 Winburn Way) unless otherwise noted.

▲ 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](http://rvtv.sou.edu) select channel RVTV Prime.



20 East Main St., Ashland, OR 97520 | [www.ashland.or.us](http://www.ashland.or.us)

