

Events with APRC

By Dorinda Cottle, Executive Analyst for APRC

Each year we look forward to bringing the community a variety of events. This year, as we lay out our plans, things may look a little different, as our number one priority is to keep the public safe during the pandemic. We all know by now that gathering together in ways that we have in the past is not possible at this time and so we must look for creative ways to stay connected and continue to make our community livable and enjoyable.

The **Rogue Valley Bike Swap**, which historically takes place in April at The Grove, will take on a different form this year. We are collaborating with the *Rogue Valley Transportation District (RVTD)* to facilitate a bike donation drive. During the pandemic, we have seen a rise in demand for outdoor recreation equipment, and affordable bikes are hard to come by. Donated bikes will be distributed to local organizations with the aim of getting bikes in the hands of those affected by the Alameda Fire, veterans and low-income community members. If you have a bike that you are able to donate, we will be accepting donations on Friday, June 18, from 1 to 4 p.m., and Saturday, June 19, from 9 a.m. to Noon. Donations will be accepted in a drive-through format at these times at the parking lot of The Grove, 1195 E Main St, Ashland. Bikes should be in working order, those in need of minor repairs are welcome. If you have a question, please reach out to Sulaiman Shelton, Volunteer and Special Event Coordinator for APRC, 541.552.2264, Sulaiman.shelton@ashland.or.us.

The **Rogue Valley Bird Day** is part of an annual international celebration of migratory birds, with over 700 events, from Argentina to Canada, culminating the second weekend of May each year. The North Mountain Park Nature Center will join in the festivities by offering socially distanced bird walks that will guide you in identifying birds and help you delve into the biology of birds! RogueValleyBirdDay.net.

Save the date for Memorial Weekend when we will kick off the annual **Ashland World Music Festival**. The 2021 Festival will be a hybrid event with many layers and opportunities for music, culture and art. "Renewing Connections with Community & Culture!" The event is also a fundraiser for the Unete Farm Worker and Immigrant Family Relief Fund. This fund distributes money directly to families for basic needs like food, gas and other essentials in response to the complications surrounding the recent Alameda Fire. More info at our partner website, RogueWorldMusic.org/AWMF.

Join us for the summer concert series, **Rock the Knoll**, at Oak Knoll Golf Course. This FREE concert series, brought to you by *Blackstone Publishing* in Ashland, is appropriate for all ages. Performers and dates are:

- July 16 – East Main Band
- July 23 – The Brothers Reed
- August 27 – Danielle Kelly SP
- September 10 – Hog Wild

Find yourself immersed in the beat and experience the best concert series in all of Southern Oregon. Night putting, dancing, delicious food, drink and so much more... Check out your municipal golf course at OakKnollGolf.org, [@OakKnollAshland](https://twitter.com/OakKnollAshland) #OakKnollGolf #OakKnollGolfCourse #OKGC.

Our Senior Services Division will bring you an ***Ice Cream Social Drive-through*** event for seniors and their families. On Wednesday, July 21, between 1 and 2:30 p.m., patrons will have the opportunity to say hello to staff and indulge in a tasty treat! The event is offered at no charge – Please call 541.488.5342 to sign-up... We want to make sure we have enough ice cream for you and yours! This event is made possible by our sponsor, *Village at Valley View*.

The **45th Annual 4th of July Run** will take place virtually this year, with three running options available: a 1-mile fun run, a 5K or a 10K. Run the race in your neighborhood between Saturday, June 26 and Sunday, July 4, and submit your results to Ashland4thofJulyRun@gmail.com before noon on Monday, July 5. No registration required. In the past this event benefited, in part, the Phoenix High School (PHS) Cross Country Team; however, the 2021 event will be offered at no charge. If you would like to make a donation to the PHS Cross Country Team, please go to ashland.or.us/JulyRun. This web page will also offer details on ordering a commemorative 2021 Virtual Run T-shirt! T-shirts will be for sale from May 11 through June 10 – Proceeds to benefit PHS Cross Country Team and APRC. Connect and share on the event Facebook page at facebook.com/groups/AshlandJuly4thRun and [@AshlandParksandRec](https://twitter.com/AshlandParksandRec) and use the hashtags: **#Ashland4thJulyRun #AshlandParksandRec #APRC #AshlandWhatToDo #FunItsInOurNature #InThisTogether**. Selfies of you and yours during the run are encouraged!

As you can see, most of our events are supported by various organizations throughout Southern Oregon, either as a partner, or a sponsor of the event. We want to thank each of them. As your thoughts turn toward warmer weather, keep us in mind, not only for events, but recreation programming too! Our 2021 Summer PlayGuide will be available online by April 10. For more information on summer programs, events and APRC in general, please visit AshlandParksandRec.org, [@AshlandParksandRec](https://twitter.com/AshlandParksandRec) on social media, **#InThisTogether #APRCstayConnected #AshlandParksandRec #APRC #FunItsInOurNature #AshlandWhatToDo #AshlandPlayGuide #APRCplayGuide**.