

#### 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 <u>ashland.or.us/coronavirus</u> with the most up-to-date information from the Federal, State, County, and City governments. The webpage includes information on:

**Prevention and Health** links to the CDC, Oregon Health Authority, and Jackson County Health and Human Services.

City Government Updates including current City closures and how to attend virtual meetings and events.

Current Restrictions offering a timeline of the Governor's orders including mandated closures.

Local & Business Resources—where affected businesses and locals can go for help and information on how to support local businesses and organizations.

## LOW INCOME ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

The City of Ashland has funds available for the Ashland Low Income Energy Assistance Program (ALIEAP), which assists low income residents with their electric bills during the cold winter months. Eligible Ashland residents include those whose income is <u>at or below 65</u> <u>percent of Oregon's median income</u>. 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 for either group.

Beginning October 1, applicants may call the request line at (541) 552-2038 to request a Low Income Assistance application packet. 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 February 1, 2021.

Even if you do not qualify for ALIEAP and are struggling with paying your utilities, go to page 2 to find out how to set up a payment plan.

### **COVID-19 ASSISTANCE AVAILABLE**

As the COVID-19 pandemic continues, various local assistance programs are available to help those affected by it. ACCESS, Jackson County's Community Action Agency was awarded funding from the State to provide rental and utility assistance to Jackson County residents most affected by COVID-19 and who are at or below 80 percent of the area median income.

For ACCESS rental assistance, visit <u>accesshelps.org/rentalassistance</u> or call (541) 414-0308. For ACCESS energy assistance, visit <u>accesshelps.org/energy-assistance</u> or call (541) 779-9020.

United Way was awarded funding from Jackson County to provide payments for rent, utilities, and other qualifying expenses to residents and small businesses in Jackson County. Individuals and families can receive up to \$1,500 and small businesses can receive up to \$3,000 in assistance paid directly to landlords and utilities. For more information and the applications, go to www.unitedwayofjacksoncounty.org/covid-19-fund/.

Both assistance options are only available until the funds are expended. For updates on local and business assistance, visit our COVID-19 Local & Business Resources page at <u>ashland.or.us/coronavirus</u>.

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# UTILITY ACCOUNT PAYMENT DEFERRAL PROGRAM

The City has established an Account Payment Deferral Program that allows for utility accounts with delinquent amounts to have those charges deferred based on either a six-month or twelve-month repayment plan option. Features of the deferment plans include:

• The negotiated portion of the deferred amount will be due and payable by the normal utility bill due date each month along with the current month's charges.

• To continue the deferment program for the full length of the six- or twelvemonth period, customers must pay the deferred amount each month or risk being removed from the program.

• Any account older than three months that has a deposit on file can choose to apply that deposit directly towards the utility account balance.

For more information and to apply go to <u>ashland.or.us/deferralapp</u>. Contact the Customer Service Division at (541) 488-6004,

or <u>utilitybilling@ashland.or.us</u> for questions regarding the application or program details. Applications can be emailed or dropped at the Utility Billing drop box at City Hall.

# STATE OF OREGON COVID-19 EVICTION MORATORIUM

On June 26, 2020, the legislature passed <u>HB 4213</u> to protect tenants from being evicted or charged late fees on unpaid rent until October 1, 2020. After October 1, 2020 only evictions and notice of terminations can be issued for reasons other than rent not being paid during the eviction moratorium (April 1, 2020 to September 30, 2020).

Tenants will have until March 31, 2021 to pay back any rent not paid during April 1, 2020 to September 30, 2020. However, starting October 1, 2020 landlords can give notice asking the tenant if they plan to use this six month grace period for paying back rent. Tenants must reply within 14 days to the landlord otherwise the landlord can charge half a month's rent as a penalty. If the tenant indicates they will use the grace period, but fails to pay back rent by March 31, 2021, the landlord can start the eviction process on April 1, 2021.

If a landlord is in violation, a tenant can get a court order allowing them to move back into their home and sue the landlord for three months' rent. Tenants can use the following resources if the landlord is in violation:

- Write to the landlord that they are violating the law;
- Contact the Oregon Law Center or Legal Aid Services of Oregon;
- Contact the Community Alliance of Tenants; and/or,
- Contact the <u>Oregon State Bar's lawyer referral service</u>.

Go to <u>https://oregonlawhelp.org/classroom/public-health-and-coronavirus-covid-19/housing-protections/evictions-update-for-oregon-during-covid-19-emergency</u> for further details on the new law, FAQs, and a sample letter tenants using the grace period can send to their landlords.

## 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:	

### CONNECT WITH THE MYASHLAND APP



Did you know your City has an app? The MyAshland app can be found in the App Store or on Google Play.

The app gives condensed information about the City in the palm of your hand.

You can report an issue to various Departments and even send in a photo of the issue. You can also find out about upcoming meetings and events through the Calendar tab. The news section displays the most up-to-date information from the City. The agendas section displays the full agendas for all upcoming Council and advisory body meetings. The app also gives quick access to our website, Facebook, and Twitter pages.

For more information on different ways to "Connect with Us" go to <u>ashland.or.us/</u> <u>connect</u>.

### ROUND UP YOUR CHANGE

With the COVID-19 pandemic continuing, many residents are having difficulty paying their basic monthly utility services. The City of Ashland's Round Up program allows Ashland utility customers to voluntarily round up their utility bills to the nearest dollar. The additional funds accumulated will be devoted to assisting low-income Ashland residents with their monthly utility bills.

This is a voluntary program. You can join the Ashland Round Up program by completing the coupon and returning it with
your utility payment or by
dropping it 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.

# LOVE YOUR WATER - USE IT WISELY

Our community has taken mindful steps to use water wisely this summer and we want to thank you for all your efforts. We continue to encourage everyone to Love Your Water and Use It Wisely as we transition into late summer and early fall. Below are some tips to help you weather the remainder of the summer, water-wisely and keep a healthy water -efficient landscape.

- Adjust Your Watering Schedule Over-irrigation is common in late summer and early fall, especially September. Even though we still have high temperatures during this time, plant water needs decrease significantly because daylight hours have become shorter and the sun's intensity has decreased.
- Avoid Watering when it Rains Keep an eye on the weather and shut off your sprinklers during any form of precipitation. You might consider installing a rain sensor that will shut off your sprinklers during periods of rainfall.
- **Check Soil Moisture** Use a moisture meter to detect whether moisture remains in the soil from previous watering. If there is sufficient moisture, then watering can be delayed.
- **Replace Grass with Drought-Tolerant Plants** Replacing portions of your lawn with drought-tolerant groundcovers and shrubs can be a stylish way to conserve a lot of water. Explore the City of Ashland's Water-Wise Landscaping Website (www.ashlandsaveswater.org) for some fresh ideas.



- **When to Water** Water only when needed and between sunset and sunrise to avoid losing water to wind and evaporation. Overwatering results in shallow roots and poor plant health.
- **Inspect Your System Regularly.** Check for leaks, broken or clogged heads and make adjustments to be sure you're watering plants and not sidewalks, fences or buildings.

Schedule a FREE Irrigation Evaluation – To schedule an appointment simply call (541) 552-2062 or email <u>Julie.smitherman@ashland.or.us</u>. For a limited time, a free "Love Your Water" reusable tote bag will be given out upon our visit to your home. For more water efficiency tips please visit, <u>www.ashlandsaveswater.org</u>.

# WHAT IS THE WILDFIRE RISK AT YOUR HOME?

In July, homeowners in Ashland received a postcard containing wildfire risk information specific to their property. Each postcard has a unique five-digit access code granting you access to information about the wildfire risk around your property and provides you a wildfire risk score based upon what we saw when we conducted the curbside risk assessment.

Ashland Fire & Rescue challenges you to lower your wildfire risk score by following the recommendations provided on the website. This might include:

- If you have leaves or needles on your roof and in your gutters, clean them off your roof and out of your gutters;
- If you have bark mulch around your home or other structure, rake the mulch away at least five feet from the side of the building; or
- If your address number isn't clearly visible from the street, **post visible and reflective numbering that can be seen from all angles of the roadway.**

Once you've done work around your property to reduce your wildfire risk, click "Reassess My Home" at the bottom of the page and we will come out to your home to assess is your wildfire risk has been reduced. If you have lost your postcard, please email

wildfire@ashland.or.us and we will provide you the personal access code for your property.

In 2018 we conducted a curbside assessment of the wildfire risk to your Ashland property. YOUR PROPERTY RISK IS	Ashland Fire & Rescue 455 Siskiyou Blvd Ashland, OR 97520
LOW EXTREME	
YOUR SCORE:	John Doe
To view the risks <u>for your property</u> , visit: www.fireadaptedashland.org/myhome	1234 Main Street Ashland, Oregon, 97520
Your personal access code < <id_code>&gt;</id_code>	
This website also provides specific information on how to reduce wildfire risk on your property. You will be asked to enter the personal access code shown above to view your risk information. If you have trouble accessing your webpage, email: wildfire@ashland.or.us	Enter your unique ID at <u>www.fireadaptedashland.org/myhome</u> to see your wildfire risk information

# **OREGOIN' ELECTRIC**



The City of Ashland is supporting Oregon's effort to make electric transportation accessible to all statewide. Oregoin' Electric is a new mobile game that rewards you with prizes as you learn how you can get around on electric bikes, buses, cars and more as a part of your every day. Learn more at <u>oregoinelectric.com</u>.

City of Ashland offers several programs to help electrify your ride. Visit <u>ashland.or.us/ev</u> to get the most recent information on Ashland's public charging upgrades, workplace charging incentives, vehicle incentives, and ebike incentives.

#### **EVENTS**

Due to COVID-19 and social distancing measures in place, many of our events may need to be canceled or postponed.

#### Art is for Everyone!

This art class for seniors (50 and better) welcomes all skill levels. Each session of three classes (one each in October, November and December) will feature a different medium. Through step-by-step instruction, students will complete one or more pieces of art in each session. A supplies list and Zoom link will be emailed after registration; students should obtain supplies prior to course start. Register at <u>ashland.or.us/register</u> or call the Senior Center at (541) 488-5342.

DATES	October 17, 24, 31 (Watercolors)
TIME	1 to 3 PM
PLACE	Online (Zoom)
COST	\$60 per session ( <i>three sessions</i> )

#### Gentle Yoga for Adults 50 & Better

The focus of this one-hour hatha yoga class is to increase strength, flexibility and balance while simultaneously alleviating stress and fatigue. Additional benefits of regular yoga practice include an overall sense of well-being and an increase in self-awareness and self-acceptance. Participants must be aware of their own capabilities in order to participate safely. Ability to get up and down from the floor is encouraged. Please have a mat, two blankets and a light-weight portable chair for each Zoom class. Register at <u>ashland.or.us/register</u> or call the Senior Center at (541) 488-5342 for one or both sessions.

DATES	Session 1: Wednesdays, October 7, 14, 21, 28
	Session 2: Fridays, October 2, 9, 16, 23, 30
TIME	10:30 to 11:30 AM
PLACE	Online (Zoom)
COST	\$20 (Session 1; 4 classes) or \$25 (Session 2; 5 classes)



Check out this and past versions of the City Source online anytime at <u>ashland.or.us/citysource</u>.

For more information on different ways to "Connect with Us" go to <u>ashland.or.us/connect</u>.

Study Sessions: Oct. 5 & 19 | 5:30 p.m. Airport Commission October 6 | 9:30 a.m.

City Council

Check out how Ashland

connects at

www.ashlandfiber.net

Conservation & Climate Outreach Commission October 28 | 6 p.m. Climate Policy Commission October 8 | 4 p.m. Forest Lands Commission October 13 | 5:30 p.m. Fire Station #2, 1860 Ashland Street Historic Commission October 7 | 6 p.m. Housing and Human Services Commission October 22 | 4 p.m. Parks and Recreation Commission Business Meeting: Oct. 14 | 6:30 p.m. Study Session: Oct. 7 | 6:30 p.m. Planning Commission

**October City Calendar** 

Due to COVID-19 and social distancing

measures in place, many meeting might be

canceled or held electronically. Please

*check* ashland.or.us/calendar.asp *for* 

updates.

Business Meeting: Oct. 6 & 20 | 6 p.m.

Business Meeting: October 13 | 7 p.m. Study Session: October 27 | 7 p.m. Public Art Commission October 16 | 8:30 a.m. Transportation Commission October 15 | 6 p.m. Tree Commission October 8 | 6 p.m. Wildfire Safety Commission

October 21 | 11 a.m.

▲ 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 <u>rvtv.sou.edu</u>, select channel RVTV Prime.



20 East Main St., Ashland, OR 97520 | www.ashland.or.us



City of Ashland | City Source Newsletter

www.ashland.or.us | (541) 488-6002

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