

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

CITY OF ASHLAND

City Source

May 2018



Daniel Meyer Pool... OPENS June 14

The pool season is almost here and Ashland Parks & Recreation Commission (APRC) invites you to the Daniel Meyer Pool this summer! The pool will reopen on Thursday, June 14, 2018. Check out all of the swim programs, including swim lessons, and view the calendar for the 2018 season at ashland.or.us/Swim.

Swimming in Imagination with Stories Alive

Join us on Saturday, June 16, for our OPENING EVENT with Stories Alive from 1:30 to 8 p.m.! Stories Alive will lead activities like boat making that can be used in the pool, and a fun story-writing and performance workshop that will make your imagination come alive. This event is for ages 5 to 11.

If you can't make it to the tropical islands this summer, then come and join us for "Island Night: An Aloha State of Mind" on Saturday, July 21, from 2 to 8 p.m. at the Pool! Enjoy Hawaiian music and dancing and fun activities for all ages. Admission is only \$2 per person.

Daniel Meyer Pool, an outdoor/seasonal pool located in Hunter Park at 1705 Homes Ave, will be open through early September, 2018. Find complete information at ashland.or.us/Swim. The pool can be reached directly, after June 14, at 541.488.0313.

Exciting New Software Coming Soon!

Changes are coming to utility billing! The City is in the process of upgrading its software in an effort to better serve you. Along with a new and improved merchant portal you will notice a difference in the appearance of your utility bill, accompanied by a change in your account number. Additionally, the process to start autopay will be different: regardless of whether you're currently utilizing autopay for your utilities, or you've never used it before, it will be necessary to make a one-time payment manually first with the payment method you intend to use each month before autopay will initiate for future monthly payments. You will receive notice when this step is necessary. If you have any questions please contact the Utility Billing Division at 541. 488.6004, or by email at utilitybilling@ashland.or.us.

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Oregon Fallen Badge Foundation (OFBF)



The OFBF is a dedicated team of men and women, from around the state and beyond. In March, 2018, with the passing of on-duty officer Malcus Williams, a OFBF team of approximately 30 members came to Ashland where they worked tirelessly, putting in 1,700 hours of support to the Williams Family and APD. This support was offered free of charge, with no expectation that it be reimbursed. Please read Police Chief Tighe O'Meara's open letter to the community at ashland.or.us/OFBF, to learn how you can support OFBF.

Silent Disco in the Park

Silent Movement is back for its 3rd summer of Silent Disco in the Park! Silent Movement features local DJs spinning an assortment of funky beats. These "silent" events are fun for all ages.

A \$5 donation gets you a pair of wireless headphones to roam freely from the Butler Bandshell (where you can dance to the music) to the playground and even the Plaza and beyond. Bring a can of food for the Ashland Emergency Food Bank and get in the express check-out line. In addition to fundraising for the Ashland Parks Foundation, proceeds will help fund youth DJ workshops and build interactive art installations featured monthly at the events. Come see what all the buzz is about every First Friday* from 5 to 11 p.m. at Silent Disco's new venue: the Butler Bandshell. More info at... silent-movement.org.

(*Jun event will be held on the second Fri, Jun 8.)



WasteWater Treatment Plant CONSERVATION

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

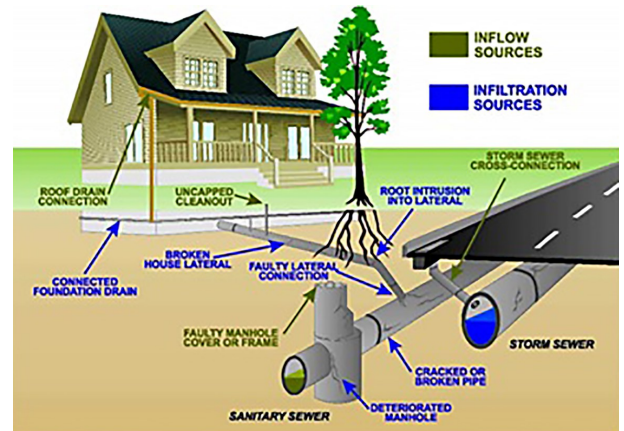
The problem: Infiltration and inflow (I&I). I&I are persistent problems that plague all sewer collection systems and ultimately the wastewater treatment plant. Our studies show that as much as 70% more unnecessary flow goes into the wastewater plant after rain events.

What the City will be doing: Starting at the end of the month, the Wastewater Collections Division will begin smoke testing the sanitary sewer system to detect I&I problems. A non-toxic smoke manufactured just for this type of testing is pumped into the sewer system. We will have several inspectors in the area while this is going on to monitor for smoke escaping from the sewer system. If smoke is found to be escaping the system in unexpected areas, that is an indication of an I&I issue. Those areas will then be targeted for repairs. It is possible that smoke could escape in your section of the sewer lateral or even in your house. If this occurs, it is likely corrections will need to be made, possibly by a plumber. If this non-toxic smoke enters your home that is an indication that sewer gasses are also entering your home. Sewer gasses can be unpleasant and even hazardous and identifying these plumbing problems is important to your health and safety.

What to expect: Our goal is to smoke test the entire sanitary sewer system over the next five years. This means we will test 20% of the system each year. If your house or business is in the planned testing area, you will receive a letter a few days ahead of time further explaining what to expect. The impact to your neighborhood should be very minimal, but the results of this testing could uncover serious or even hazardous I&I issues that can then be resolved.

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.



Lithia Park Hosts Needed

Come share your love of Lithia Park by volunteering at an information table located at the front of Lithia Park. Flexible, two-hour shifts available starting in June, with training provided. High school students welcome, come earn some community service hours. For more information contact Lori Ainsworth at lori.ainsworth@ashland.or.us, 541.552.2264 (office)/541.499.8798 (text).

Lithia Park Nature Walks

Three days a week—Sundays, Wednesdays and Fridays (additional Saturday walks in July and August)—rain or shine, trained volunteer naturalists from APRC lead an easy, interesting, 1.5-hour, FREE nature walk through Lithia Park. Topics include: trees, flowers, birds, climate, water, geology and the history of the park. Nature walks are free and all ages are welcome. Please meet at 10 a.m. at the park entrance, across from the Plaza in Ashland

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Lithia Park Master Plan

The Lithia Park Master Plan is underway and **Design Week** is upon us! This will be your opportunity to share your ideas for Lithia Park and help with the planning process. Design Week will take place June 12—15. Details at ashland.or.us/LithiaParkMasterPlan.

Community Wildfire Safety OPEN HOUSE

This last year changed our thinking about wildfires. The seven-week smoke inundation and incredible California devastation affected our thoughts and our health. And, climate change models predict a 300 percent increase in wildfires by 2040 in our neck of the woods. What can we do? Building wildfire safe homes and businesses is a good first step.

Ashland Fire & Rescue and the Wildfire Mitigation Commission have taken input from the Planning Commission, Tree Commission and public to create a comprehensive strategy to increase your safety. One element of the strategy is to expand the existing Wildfire Hazard Zone (WHZ) to encompass the whole city. The proposed ordinance would eliminate use of wood shake roofing and flammable landscaping during new construction or remodels that increase a building's footprint by more than 200 square feet. In addition, a ban is proposed on all new planting of flammable plants near homes. Want to know more? Please join us for a Community Wildfire Safety Open House.

When: Thu, May 31, 6:30 to 8:00 p.m.

Where: City Council Chambers, 1175 East Main St

See our websites on this wildfire safety ordinance:

ashland.or.us/whz and ashland.or.us/wildfireordinance.

The proposed wildfire safety ordinance changes are planned for hearing at the Planning Commission on June 12 and at a City Council meeting sometime in July or August, to be announced at ashland.or.us.

City of Ashland Launches OpenGov to Further Increase Effectiveness & Accountability

The City of Ashland has partnered with OpenGov, the leader in government performance management, to further increase budgetary effectiveness, transparency and accountability.

The City of Ashland is using OpenGov's open data portal to provide the public with easier access to its financial data sets to increase transparency and provide easy access to financial records.

The site is an easy-to-use graphical tool to visualize various financial information. The financial data is updated nightly; providing real-time financial information to the community.

The City of Ashland joins over 1,800 city, county and state governments, special districts and schools that rely on OpenGov to be more effective and accountable. **You can access the City of Ashland's Open Data Portal at ashlandor.opengov.com.**

Concerts in the Park with the Ashland City Band

Enjoy a FREE summer concert every Thursday evening, June 14 through August 16, in **Lithia Park**, from 7 to 8 p.m. The concerts are held at Butler Bandshell. Bring a picnic dinner (alcohol is not allowed), blanket or chair, plus your family and friends! *A 2018 patriotic concert will be offered on the 4th of July at noon; special thanks to the Ashland Chamber of Commerce!*

Cut Weeds and Grass by June 15

CUT IT SHORT!



Properties

1 Acre or Smaller

Cut and maintain grass and weeds to no more than 4" in height:

- On the entire property
- On abutting park rows, alleys and other right of ways

Why is Weed Abatement important?

We have much to lose in Ashland when it comes to wildfires. Cutting grass and weeds reduces the ability for fire to start or spread as quickly, thus substantially decreasing the fire risk in our community.

Visit ashland.or.us/weedabatement for more information and useful links

Section 9.04 of the Ashland Municipal Code requires landowners or occupants to cut grass and weeds by June 15 each year and maintain that height throughout fire season. This applies to all lots within City limits.

Failure to abate and maintain weeds and grass by June 15 each year can result in fines up to \$500 each day the violation exists, plus any abatement and staff costs.

Properties

Greater Than 1 Acre

Cut and maintain grass and weeds to no more than 4" in height:

- On abutting park rows, alleys and other right of ways
- Within 30 feet of every structure
- In a 15-foot wide buffer strip around your property
- In a 15-foot wide buffer next to access roads and driveways through the property

KEEP IT SHORT!

Please visit our website at ashland.or.us/weedabatement or call 541.552.2246 for more information



Stretch Your Water Use... Graywater Workshop

Interested in installing a graywater system? Don't know where to start? Then this workshop is perfect for you! Join us to learn how to install your very own Graywater System at your home!

Local experts will be on hand to:

- Demonstrate how systems are designed, installed and operated
- Display materials needed to build your own graywater system
- Discuss local and state building codes & permits

When: Saturday, June 16, 9:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Cost: \$35.00/person

Where: Southern Oregon University, Rm 319 in the Stevenson Union

Lunch will be provided. Some of the workshop may be held outside, so please wear appropriate clothing. Also, bring pen and paper for notes and a water bottle.

Space is limited, so register for your spot as soon as possible at julie.smitherman@ashland.or.us or call 541.552.2062.

RECYCLING PLASTICS Know Before You Throw

Global changes in recycling have taught us to take more responsibility for what we had once wishfully tossed into our curbside carts. Because recycling can vary so widely depending on the municipality, doing a little research before you recycle will likely increase your positive impact.

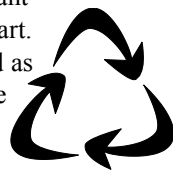
Hands down, the most confusion amongst the public is centered around plastics. Did you know that in Ashland, only three types of plastics should go into your recycling cart? Perhaps you mistakenly learned to throw every piece of plastic donning the recycle symbol into your cart, because, after all, the recycle symbol means it's recyclable, right? Wrong.

Upon creation, the recycle symbol was never intended to indicate the packaging is recyclable. The symbol was in fact created to identify the plastic resin the packaging was made of. Leading to further confusion, the symbol is not trademarked and is in the public domain, which means virtually anyone can use it any way they wish.

Although we've learned that resins 1, 2 and 5 are the most valuable in the industry, "going by the numbers" is not an option, as the shape of the item and its ability to survive the rigorous sorting process, comes into play. Items that break apart easily or are small enough to fall through cracks of sorting equipment or get wrapped in gears of machines should not go into your cart regardless of the number.

Until better processing technology is developed, it's important to note that only three types of plastic should go into your cart.

1) Bottles: such as detergent, ketchup and shampoo; defined as having a neck smaller than the base of the item, 2) Jugs: like what milk and juice come in, and 3) Rigid tubs: opaque, thicker, like what butter and cottage cheese come in.



June City Calendar

City Council

Business Meetings: Jun 5 & 19 | 7:00 p.m.

Study Sessions: Jun 4 & 18 | 5:30 p.m.

Airport Commission

Jun 5 | 11:30 a.m.

Conservation Commission

Jun 27 | 6:00 p.m.

Forest Lands Commission

Jun 12 | 5:30 p.m.

Historic Commission

Jun 6 | 6:00 p.m.

Housing and Human Services Commission

Jun 28 | 4:30 p.m.

Parks and Recreation Commission

Business Meeting: Jun 25 | 7:00 p.m.

Study Session: Jun 18 | 5:30 p.m.

Planning Commission

Business Meeting: Jun 12 | 7:00 p.m.

Study Session: Jun 26 | 7:00 p.m.

Public Art Commission

Jun 15 | 8:00 a.m.

Transportation Commission

Jun 21 | 6:00 p.m.

Tree Commission

Jun 7 | 6:00 p.m.

Water Advisory Ad-hoc Committee

Jun 26 | 4:00 p.m.

Wildfire Mitigation Commission

Jun 20 | 11:00 a.m.

▲ Meetings are typically 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. ▲

Water Quality Report (Updated)

The City of Ashland provides exceptional water and diligently safeguards its water supplies in order to continue providing safe drinking water for our residents.

Visit ashland.or.us/SIB/files/WQR.pdf to view the 2017 Water Quality Report. Hard copies are available at the Ashland Public Library, the SOU Library, City Council Chambers, City Hall and the Community Development Department. More information by contacting the Water Department at 541.488.5353.