



Every other week at the City Council Business Meeting, I deliver a City Manager's Report to Council and the public. The reports highlight the incredible work being done by you, the City staff. I want to share this report with you in a biweekly email. It's important for all of us to stay connected with what is going on in the City organization, including the great work of your colleagues and the City Council.

I want to give attention to the valuable work being done by our Wildfire Division Chief, **Chris Chambers**, the team at AFR and the Forest Lands Advisory Committee. Chris presented at the April 18, 2023, City Council meeting on climate change and the effect on our forestlands. He proposed an addendum to the Ashland Forest Plan to address these changes. Council unanimously voted to move forward with the addendum, which will provide the necessary direction and policy to reach to current conditions and, importantly, to anticipate future changes. Watch for more information in the upcoming May City Newsletter. View the [2016 Ashland Forest Plan](#).

Our Housing Manager, **Linda Reid**, and our Community Development Director, **Brandon Goldman**, also presented at the April 18 Council meeting on three proposals received for the award of Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds for the 2023 Program year. Proposals received were from the Maslow Project, and two from OHRA (Options for Helping Residents of Ashland). Council voted unanimously for staff to draft the 2023 Annual Action Plan for the use of CDBGs reflecting the award of CDBG funding for the 2023 Program year as follows:

- \$15,000 for the Maslow Project for School Based Services
- \$11,936 for OHRA Navigation Services
- \$141,235 for OHRA Commercial Kitchen Project

I'd like to give a shout out to our new Climate & Energy Analyst, **Chad Woodward**, who has partnered with SOU (Southern Oregon University) to bring an electric vehicle carshare program to Ashland! This is a win for all, from the valuable partnership with SOU, to addressing climate change and offering the residents of Ashland another mode of transportation. More information on this program will be in the May City News, but also available at [GoForthCarshare.com](http://GoForthCarshare.com).

And lastly, I am grateful for our new Code Compliance Specialist, **Lisa Evans**. We now have someone who can address questions like, "Is it okay to feed wildlife in Ashland?" And in case you are wondering, the answer is no, it is not okay to feed deer, raccoon, wild turkeys, bear and cougars. More at [ashland.municipal.codes](http://ashland.municipal.codes) or reach out to [lisa.evans@ashland.or.us](mailto:lisa.evans@ashland.or.us).



# City Manager's Report

## **BELOW IS INFORMATION FROM SOME OUR CITY DEPARTMENTS:**

### CITY MANAGER'S OFFICE:

- Many City staff and elected officials took part in a recent ALICE training on the SOU (Southern Oregon University) Campus, presented by Bon Stewart with the Ashland Police Department and organized by Emergency Management Coordinator, Kelly Burns (ALICE stands for Alert, Lockdown, Inform, Counter, Evaluate)

### COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT:

- Ashland Planning staff, along with staff from the cities of Talent and Medford and the Rogue Valley Council of Governments, held an open house in Talent on Thursday, April 13 to discuss and take feedback on proposed Climate Friendly Areas for all three cities
- The Building Division has issued permits for a 70-unit apartment project (The Mid-Town Lofts) at 188 Garfield Street, the former site of the Rivergate Church. This project was approved by the Planning Commission in late 2018 and subsequently appealed to the Council and then the Land Use Board of appeals and was one of the first market rate rental projects proposed in more than a decade
- Occupancy permits have been issued for the 12-unit cottage housing development on Coffee Lane in the West Village Subdivision. This is the second cottage housing development completed under the Cottage Housing Ordinance, which was adopted by the Council in late 2017

### FINANCE:

- Budget process is in full swing
- The Budget calendar has been advertised in local publications such as, Sneak Preview, the LocalsGuide and our revised, "City News" monthly newsletter
- Regular/ Twice weekly, "Budget Bites," are being posted on social media (City Facebook and Twitter accounts) and posted to the "Let Curiosity be Your Guide," section of the City website
- Regular updates to the City Budget page are taking place, [ashland.or.us/23-25Budget](http://ashland.or.us/23-25Budget)
- Utility billing is caught up – A news release indicating this was sent out along with information on initiating a repayment plan for those who may have fallen behind on payments

### HUMAN RESOURCES:

#### **April Anniversaries (including MILESTONE anniversaries) – Thank you City Staff!**

<b>Brandon Winwood</b> (Fire)	8 Years
<b>Amanda Billings</b> (Police)	7 Years
<b>Ryan Lougheed</b> (Comm Dev)	<b>5 Years</b>
<b>Thomas McDowell</b> (Comm Dev)	<b>5 years</b>
<b>Lisa Winters</b> (Finance)	4 years
<b>Jonathan Frey</b> (Electric)	<b>5 years</b>
<b>Ryan Madden</b> (Electric)	22 years
<b>Lonnie Maybin</b> (Electric)	11 years
<b>Matthew O'Connor</b> (Electric)	<b>10 years</b>
<b>Joseph Escure</b> (Streets)	7 years
<b>Ian Taylor</b> (Water Treatment)	2 years
<b>Marks Reaves</b> (Parks)	16 years
<b>Tami Demille-Campos</b> (Public Works)	11 years



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<b>Alistair Andre</b> (Water Treatment)	<b>15 years</b>
<b>Daniel Moulin</b> (Police)	6 years
<b>Judy Hedgpeth</b> (Finance)	23 years
<b>Chuck Schweizer</b> (Streets)	<b>25 years</b>
<b>Heather Gillespie</b> (Police)	3 years

Retirements in April – Wishing our dedicated staff the best in retirement!

**Todd Beck – FF/Captain Paramedic** after 24 years of service with the City

**Tom McDowell – Building Inspector** after 5 years of service with the City

Promotions – Congrats!

**Brandon Goldman** – Community Development Director

**Trever Nistrath** – Senior Utility Worker

**Molly Taylor** – Interim Human Resources Director

**Richard Deckelman** – Park Technician II

New Hires – Feel free to reach out via email and welcome our new staff!

**Jason Hamann** – Line Installer

**Jennifer Chenoweth** – Associate Planner

**Jason Strait** – Engineering Project Manager

**Josiah Gomberg** – Park Technician I

**Mariane Berry** – Finance Director

## Current Job Postings:

- Line Installer (*Electric*) – Closes 5/4/2023
- Utility Worker I/II – Streets (*Public Works*) – Closes 4/24/2023
- Wildfire Risk Reduction Specialist LDA (*Fire*) – Closes 4/24/2023
  - Positions projected to be filled in June

## Closed Jobs – Review/Interview Status:

- Office Assistant II (*Public Works*) – Interviews concluded. **Candidate in background.**
- Deputy Police Chief (*Police*) – Interviews concluded. **Candidate in background.**
- Park Technician I (*Parks*) – Interviews concluded. **Candidate in background.**
- Community Service Officer (*Police*) – Interviews concluded. **Candidate in background.**
- Financial Clerk II – UB/AP Clerk (*Finance*) – Interviews concluded. **Offer extended.**
- GIS Technician (*Department of Innovation & Technology*) – Interviews concluded. **Offer extended.**
  - Positions projected to be filled in April/May
  
- Emergency Medical Technician Paramedic (Single Roll) (*Fire*) – Interviews scheduled.
- Seasonal Cadets (*Police*) – Interviews scheduled.
- Entry Level Police Officer Eligibility List (*Police*) – Applications being reviewed.
- Junior Network Administrator (*Dept. of Innovation & Technology*) – Applications being reviewed.



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- Building Inspector (*Community Development*) – Applications being reviewed.
  - Positions projected to be filled in May/June

## Upcoming Job Postings:

- City Attorney (*Legal*)
- Deputy Public Works Director (*Public Works*)
  - To be conducted by Jensen Strategies in the Spring

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Human Resources (1)	Community Development (1)	DoIT (2)
Police (4)	Public Works (3)	Parks (1)
Fire (2)	Finance (1)	Electric (1)
Administration (0)	Legal (1)	

17 in process: 3 current openings, 2 future openings, 12 in selection/hiring process

## Positions Filled to Date in 2023:

- ✓ Senior Financial Clerk (Finance – UB)
- ✓ Utility Worker I (Public Works – Water Dist.)
- ✓ Permit Technician (Community Development)
- ✓ Police Records Supervisor (Police)
- ✓ Utility Worker II (Public Works – Water Dist.)
- ✓ Climate & Energy Analyst (Administration)
- ✓ Code Enforcement Specialist (Community Development)
- ✓ Line Installer (Electric)
- ✓ Associate Planner (Community Development)
- ✓ Firefighter/Paramedic (Fire)
- ✓ Police Sergeant (Police)
- ✓ Police Sergeant (Police)
- ✓ Director of Community Development (Community Development)
- ✓ Finance Director (Finance)
- ✓ Park Technician I (Parks)
- ✓ Associate Planner (Community Development)
- ✓ Engineering Project Manager (Public Works)
- ✓ Engineering Technician II (Public Works)

Resignations / Terminations / Retirements in 2023: **7**

Resignations / Terminations / Retirements through April 2022: **10**





# City Manager's Report

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## **UPCOMING EVENTS in April**

### PARKS & RECREATION:

The 31st Annual Rogue Valley Bike Swap will take place at The Grove in Ashland, 1195 E Main, on Saturday, April 29, noon to 2:30 p.m. – Buy, sell or donate a bike, parts or accessories. A portion of the proceeds will fund youth bike education programs in local public schools. More at [RVTD.org/bikeswap](http://RVTD.org/bikeswap)

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## **Final Thoughts**

**Have a great weekend everyone and "Go Team City!"**

**Best,  
Joe L.**