

Council Communication

October 21, 2014, Business Meeting

Discussion of deer education proposals

FROM:

Dave Kanner, city administrator, dave.kanner@ashland.or.us

SUMMARY:

At its September 16th business meeting, a citizen testifying under Public Forum spoke to having been attacked by a deer in her yard and requested that the City increase public awareness about living with deer by posting information on the City web site. The Council agreed at that time to schedule a discussion of deer for a future meeting.

BACKGROUND AND POLICY IMPLICATIONS:

Ashland, like many cities in Oregon and throughout the United States, has a large urban deer population. In the past year, the City has heard from two citizens who were attacked by deer, as well as others demanding that the City “do something” about the deer; presumably either culling the herd (i.e., killing the deer) or sterilizing the deer so they cannot reproduce. Neither of these approaches is recommended by the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, which has exclusive purview over wildlife in Oregon, including wildlife populations inside city limits.

Ashland for its part has done what we are legally permitted to do by adopting an ordinance that prohibits the feeding of deer and allowing property owners to construct 8-foot high deer fencing.

At the September 16th Council business meeting, a citizen, Amy Felmley, addressed the Council with regard to having been attacked by a deer in her yard. Ms. Felmley requested that the City take steps to increase public awareness about deer; suggesting that the City post information on its web site. Following Ms. Felmley’s testimony, Council agreed to schedule a discussion of deer issues.

(It should be noted that the City already provides a link to information [about living with deer and wildlife](#) on the home page of its web site. See attached screen shot. The City also provides information about living with deer and wildlife in its [City Source newsletter](#), which goes to every utility customer in the City. See attached [October City Source](#). These are our two most prominent and effective communication tools.)

Discussion at this business meeting could potentially focus on two areas: Education and mitigation. With regard to education, the Council might discuss:

- Is this a priority for the Council?
- Should the City be the lead agency on education? (We are not the experts on deer and wildlife.)
- What options do we have for educating the public?



With regard to mitigation, the Council might discuss:

- Is this a priority for the Council?
- What options do we have for dealing with nuisance and dangerous wildlife?
- Does Council support any particular option legally and technically viable?

STAFF RECOMMENDATION AND REQUESTED ACTION:

N/A. This item is scheduled for discussion only, although Council may give direction to staff.

SUGGESTED MOTION:

N/A


ATTACHMENTS

City of Ashland web site screen shot (<http://www.ashland.or.us/Page.asp?NavID=16440>)









October City Source (<http://www.ashland.or.us/SIB/files/October%202014.pdf>)





<p>Pay Your Utility Bill</p> <p>Agendas & Minutes</p> <p>Council Business</p> <p>Permits & Licenses</p> <p>Employment</p> <p>Municipal Code</p>	<p>News</p> <p>Calendar</p> <p>Services</p>	<p>Hot Topics</p>
	<p>Jackson County Plastic Round-up ... Save & Sort Plastics for Recycling! Jackson Co. Plastic Round-up, Oct 24-... Read More</p>	 <p>Living with Deer & Wildlife ▶</p> <p>● ● ● ● ●</p>
	<p>Prepare with AIR - Ashland is Re... Ashland Fire & Rescue presents the second annual Ashland is Ready! on Saturd... Read More</p>	
	<p>APD PRESS RELEASE Possible Sexua... ASHLAND POLICE DEPARTMENT &... Read More</p>	
	<p>See All News</p>	

<p>Fire Danger Level</p>  <p>is Moderate</p>	<p>Election Information</p>  <p>get details</p>	<p>Opt-in to Citizens Alert</p>  <p>sign up</p>	<p>Council Look Ahead</p>  <p>learn more</p>	<p>Emergency Contacts</p>  <p>complete list</p>
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<p>ASHLAND 24/7</p>	<p>Pay Your Utility Bill</p> 	<p>Connect to AFN</p> 	<p>Request Conservation Evaluation</p> 	<p>Proposals, Bids, Notifications</p> 
	<p>Request Building Inspection</p> 	<p>Apply for Building Permits</p> 	<p>Apply for Other Permits, Licenses</p> 	<p>Register for Recreation Programs</p> 

CITY OF ASHLAND City

OCTOBER, 2014

Energy Efficiency Program

The City of Ashland Energy Efficiency and Weatherization Program still has funds available to assist with energy efficiency and weatherization upgrades. Income-eligible applicants may be qualified to receive a 0% interest loan of up to \$3,000 to assist with energy efficiency upgrades. All participants will receive an energy audit which can identify weatherization deficiencies. Participants may also qualify for up to \$7,500 in additional 0% interest loan funds through the Conservation Program.

(See, *Efficiency*, Page 3)

S O U R C E

THE CITIZEN'S SOURCE OF INFORMATION ABOUT THE CITY OF ASHLAND

Stay informed. For all the latest news visit www.ashland.or.us. Sign up for e-mail alerts!



Parks Survey

The City of Ashland will conduct a citizen survey in late October.

Within the survey is an open-ended question related to parks

and recreation. It is the intent of the Ashland Parks and Recreation Department to stay current with trends and give residents programs and services that they desire.

The mission of the Ashland Parks and Recreation Department is to provide and promote recreational opportunities and preserve and maintain public lands. Some of the many programs and services the department already provides include:

- Parks and open spaces that are safe and well maintained;
- Opportunities for recreational and educational activities for all ages and abilities such as adapted recreation, environmental education, older adult recreation;
- Management and oversight of the Daniel Meyer Pool, North Mountain Park Nature Center, Ashland Rotary

(See, *Parks*, Page 2)

Living with Deer

We occasionally get phone calls at City Hall from people whose gardens have been devastated by our local deer population or – in two separate cases this summer – people who were actually attacked by deer. The question inevitably arises: “What is the City going to do about the deer?”

Unfortunately, the City is severely constrained in its ability to address the deer problem. In Oregon, the management of deer populations is the exclusive purview of the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife. Ashland for its part has done what we are legally permitted to do by adopting an ordinance that prohibits the feeding of deer and allowing property owners to construct 8-foot high deer fencing. ODFW also offers advice about living with deer and other wildlife. Go to the City website (www.ashland.or.us) and look for the “Living with Deer and Wildlife” link under Hot Topics.

The City adopted an ordinance that prohibits feeding deer and other wildlife for a reason. Too many people treat the

(See, *Deer*, Back Page)



City SOURCE

Ashland Ice Rink

It's that time of year again... so lace up your skates and hit the ice! The Ashland Rotary Centennial Ice Rink will be operational (weather permitting) beginning November 17, 2014.

On November 22, from 6:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. we'll officially kick off the season. Evening high-lights will include:

- Open skate with live *DJ Hope*
- Southern Oregon Figure Skating Club performances
- 3-on-3 hockey exhibition game
- Chilly the Snowman
- Ice sculpting by Roger Butterfield
- Discounted coupons distributed for youth programs
- Kids 5 and under skate free; Adults \$3.00 (does not include skate rental)

The outdoor rink is located at 95 Winburn Way. Come prepared to skate, as changing rooms are not available.

For more information, prices, daily schedule, extended holiday schedules, and ice skating lessons visit www.ashland.or.us/IceRink, call the ice rink directly at 541-488-9189, or call the Parks & Recreation office at 541-488-5340. ▼

Parks

Continued from Page 1

Centennial Ice Rink, Ashland Senior Center, Oak Knoll Golf Course and general recreation activities held at The Grove;

- Volunteer opportunities throughout the parks and recreation system;
- Management of 463 acres of

forest land and 30 miles of trails.

Visit www.ashlandparksandrec.org for more information on current programs.

Ashland Parks and Recreation is seeking your feedback on what parks and recreation opportunities you would like to see offered in the future. Some of the new trends in parks and recreation are:

- Adult playgrounds:



- Community gardens
- Bike share programs: Borrow a bike from point "A" and return it at point "B" for a small fee



2014 TREE OF THE YEAR - OFFICIAL BALLOT

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| <p><input type="checkbox"/> 48 Gresham – Sitka Spruce (<i>Picea sitchensis</i>)
 <i>"It is very imposing - tall, elegant, and graceful. Beautiful blue/green color. Also a favorite with birds."</i> – Rich and Paula G.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 77 Granite – Dogwood (<i>Cornus florida</i>)
 <i>"This spring had the most stunning display of pink blossoms I have ever seen in my life, anywhere! It was a vision from paradise."</i> – Debroah K.
 <i>"It is such a perfect looking, uniform tree. Against the blue sky the flowers are Gorgeous!"</i> – Becky S.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 502 Siskiyou – White Birch Tree (<i>Betula papyrifera</i>)
 <i>"It's great for climbing and provides shade for people both walking downtown and watching the Fourth of July Parade. It is a beautiful tree."</i> – Lucy Q.</p> | <p><input type="checkbox"/> 556 Fairview - Fig (<i>Ficus</i>)
 <i>"Over 100 years old, this tree has survived severe trauma (split trunk) and is still producing bountiful figs and has new shoots."</i> – Rosie H.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 445 Stadium St. - Silver Maple (<i>Acer saccharinum</i>)
 <i>"This great tree was saved during construction of the new dorm buildings and sits prominently in the courtyard between the two buildings where it is adorned everyday by hundreds of students. It is also beautifully lighted for the festival of lights."</i> – Mike O.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 923 Garden Way – Variegated Beech (<i>Fagus sylvatica</i>)
 <i>"Beautiful – the delicate pink around the leaves gives it color and almost texture. It changes in the fall to a red/bronze color. People often stop to admire it when walking by."</i> – Heidi G.</p> |
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Voting can also be done on-line at: <http://gis.ashland.or.us/treeofyear2014/>

BALLOTS MUST BE RECEIVED BY FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 2014

Mail or deliver to: Michael Piña, City of Ashland, 20 East Main Street, Ashland, OR 97520



HeartSaver Adult CPR

HeartSaver CPR is a classroom, video-based, instructor led course that teaches adult CPR and AED use, as well as how to relieve choking for an adult. This course teaches skills with the American Heart Association's research-proven Practice-While-Watching technique, which allows instructors to observe the students, provide feedback and guide the students' learning of knowledge and skills.

This course is for anyone with limited or no medical training seeking a course completion card in CPR and AED use to meet job, regulatory, and/or other requirements.

The cost for this course is \$35, which includes a student study book and card*. The class takes approximately three hours to complete. All fees must be pre-paid prior to the class date to confirm reservation. Please register early to reserve your space as class sizes are limited.

When: Saturday, November 22

Where: Ashland Fire Station 1

Time: 9:00 a.m.- 12:00 p.m.

Cost: \$35

For information or to register contact cert@ashland.or.us, 541-552-2226, or www.ashland.or.us/cpr.

*Upon successful completion, students will receive an American Heart Association HeartSaver CPR Course Completion Card that is valid for two years.

- Winter outdoor recreation activities such as snowshoeing or cross country skiing
- Lifetime sports like biking, kayaking, tennis, swimming, or jogging;
- Family activities such as movies in the park, camping in the park, or scavenger hunts
- Fitness classes: pregnancy fitness classes, adaptive and therapeutic fitness, preventive fitness
- Cooking classes
- Online classes
- Photography
- Gardening
- Parklets or small spaces serving as an extension of the sidewalk to provide amenities and green space for people using the street. Offer a place for people to stop, sit, recreate, park a bike, look at art, people watch, etc.:



- Preventive wellness programs
- Classes on using your mobile devices

- Day trips for older adults
- Storytelling (workshops on “how to” as well as storytelling events)
- Sustainability programs such as water conservation and reuse or green living

We look forward to your feedback on the upcoming survey! ▼

Efficiency

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If you would like more information about the Energy Efficiency Program or if you would like to receive an application for the program, Please Contact Linda Reid, Housing Program Specialist at 541-552-2043 or visit the City's website:

www.ashland.or.us/eeloan ▼

Ashland is Ready

November 1, 2014, 9:00 a.m.- 12:00 p.m. or 1:00 -4:00 p.m.

Is your family prepared to be self sufficient during a disaster? Ashland is Ready (AIR) helps prepare you. Choose either a morning or afternoon session. Guest speakers will provide valuable information about earthquake preparedness, computer backups, and supplies to keep on hand. New this year are vendors to demonstrate tools and kits to help you prepare. Pre-registration is required, the cost is \$10, and each participant will leave with an emergency kit. For information and to register go to www.ashland.or.us/air. ▼

Deer

Continued from Page 1

deer as stray pets rather than as wild, untamed animals. Feeding them encourages them to come back to populated areas and to lose their natural fear of humans. If you feed deer, please stop.

People will sometimes ask: "Can't the City cull the herd?" The short answer is no. It is legally permissible for ODFW to allow a local government to kill deer (as long as the meat is immediately harvested and donated to a local food bank), but Ashland's situation with deer does not rise to a danger level at which ODFW would permit it.

People also ask: "Can't the deer be given birth control so they can't reproduce?" That would be logistically impossible. The deer would have to be captured, given birth control, then tagged and tracked down the following year to be given another dose (assuming they stayed in the area). It's not feasible to leave birth control-laced food out for them to eat, as other animals could (and would) eat it, thus endangering other wildlife populations.

Ashland is a city built next to a forest teeming with all kinds of wildlife. While it's true that the wildlife sometimes causes problems for us humans, in the final analysis it's up to us, not them, to adjust to having these animals as our neighbors and co-inhabitants. Again, we encourage you to check the ODFW web site, www.dfw.state.or.us, for advice about living with deer and other wildlife. ▼

Looking for VIPS

The Ashland Police Department is looking for volunteers for its Volunteers in Police Service (VIPS) program. VIPS should be able to give approximately 20 hours a month performing various duties. These include but are not limited to; DA courier, mail courier, vacation house checks and traffic control at various events and parades. Other duties will be instituted as we build up our cadre of personnel.

All VIPS must pass a comprehensive background check as sensitive information is handled in some of the tasks. VIPS should also possess a valid Oregon driver's license and be able to work weekdays.

No prior police experience is required but any such background would be a plus. Training and uniforms will be provided to those who qualify.

To inquire about the VIPS program, please call 541-482-5211, Monday through Friday between 9:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. ▼

CITY OF
ASHLAND

City Calendar

- **City Council** meets on the first and third Tuesdays at 7:00 p.m. Study sessions occur on the day before at 5:30 p.m.
- **Planning Commission** meets on the second Tuesday 7:00 p.m. Study sessions occur on the fourth Tuesday at 7:00 p.m.
- **Airport Commission** meets on the first Tuesday at 9:30 a.m.
- **Conservation Commission** meets on the fourth Wednesday at 6:00 p.m.
- **Firewise Commission** meets on the third Wednesday at noon
- **Forest Lands Commission** meets on the second Tuesday at 5:30 p.m.
- **Historic Commission** meets on the Wednesday prior to the Tuesday Planning Commission at 6:00 p.m.
- **Housing and Human Services Commission** meets on the fourth Thursday at 4:30 p.m.
- **Parks and Recreation Commission** meets on the fourth Monday at 7:00 p.m. Study session occurs on the third Monday.
- **Public Art Commission** meets on the third Friday at 8:15 a.m.
- **Transportation Commission** meets on the fourth Thursday at 6:00 p.m.
- **Tree Commission** meets on the Thursday before the Tuesday Planning Commission Meeting at 6:00 p.m.

▲ City Council and many other city meetings are broadcast live on cable channel 9. Charter Communications customers will find city meetings on channels 180 and 181. Meetings also stream live on the internet at rvtd.sou.edu. ▲ Meetings are held at Council Chambers, 1175 East Main or at 51 Winburn Way. ▲ For information about all City meetings please call City Administration at 541-488-6002. ▲ Back issues of the City Source are posted under "Documents" on the City's Website, www.ashland.or.us. ▲ TTY 1-800-735-2900.

