

CITY MANAGER'S OFFICE:

- **Kelly Burns**, Emergency Management Coordinator, presented to the Southern Oregon University (SOU) Board of Trustees in April to provide an overview of the **Intergovernmental Agreement that created the joint Emergency Operations Center** between SOU, the Ashland School District and the City.
- On May 8, **Kelly** is presenting to local business leaders on **business emergency preparedness**. This opportunity is through the Ashland Chamber of Commerce.
- Staff released an **RFP** (Request for Proposal) for **Severe Weather Shelter Services and Dust to Dawn public camping area**. The deadline for proposals is May 8. We would like to welcome our new Procurement Specialist, **Colton Cochran!**
- The **May 2024 City Newsletter** is available at ashland.or.us/Communications.
- Work on the **new website** continues. The new site will be presented to Council on May 20, and we launch the new site on May 22.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT:

- Planning staff recently participated in the Wall Raising Celebration for the 80th and 81st affordable housing units constructed by Habitat for Humanity of the Rogue Valley. These units are the first two of eight required affordable units in the Beach Creek Subdivision; the remaining six units will be constructed with the third and final phase of the subdivision, which is expected to be platted in the next couple weeks. See the [Ashland News article](#) from April 25.



Brandon Goldman, Community Development Director, helps with the wall-raising.



Kendall Escuin, Permit Technician, and Derek Severson, Planning Manager, are sporting the “2024 Habitat Build” t-shirts designed by Regan Trapp, Permit Clerk II, to raise funds to support Habitat through the Oregon Permit Technicians Association.

FIRE:

- **Brian Hendrix**, Adapted Communities Coordinator; and **Kelly Burns** are working to present a **Wildfire Preparedness Workshop** on May 8 and 15 at SOU. The workshop is hosted by Fire Adapted Ashland and Boise State Hazard and Climate Resilience Institute.
- The new EMS single role staff are scheduled to start June 8.

PARKS & RECREATION:

- Parks has cancelled a portion of the city contract with Pathways and has hired a small Facilities Team to do all parks public restroom cleaning and trash. Importantly, to reduce incidents of vandalism, the team will be locking restrooms every night and unlocking them in the morning. The annual cost of maintaining our own team is ~80K less than using contractors.
- Interim Parks Director Eldridge has completed four small group “Lunch with Leslie,” sessions with Parks and Recreation staff. These were opportunities for staff to enjoy a free lunch together and share their challenges and opportunities at APRC.
- The Ashland Japanese Garden has re-opened after an Ashland Parks Foundation funded project to improve water quality in the Koi pond. A new bead filter, ultraviolet disinfection, Koi “exerciser” jet manifold and an additional pump have been added to the system.
- On May 5, Children’s Day at the Japanese Garden took place. “Kodoma no Hi,” or “Children’s Day” is a Japanese national holiday, celebrated since the 12th century. It is meant to respect children’s individuality and to celebrate their happiness. Every year on this date, families raise “koinbori,” or carp-shaped windsocks, with different colored carp for different members of the family. Koi, a type of carp, swim vigorously against strong currents and even climb waterfalls. Celebrating the strong carp symbolizes asking children to grow strong and healthy.



City Manager's Report

- Ashland Senior Center now has a portable electric wheelchair charger, courtesy of United Way. This pilot program is starting in Southern Oregon with the goal of reaching communities across the globe. Learn more and see other local participating locations at wheelchaircharging.com.

PUBLIC WORKS:

- **Rob Halbritter** is our new Facilities Supervisor. Rob will be implementing changes, including how we handle our custodial services. **Tommy Hoak** is our new Fleet Manager.
- Our **Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) Outfall Relocation Project** has gone through testing to ensure it was built to the requirements of the Approved Contract Documents. Additional Performance Evaluation was completed to validate that the effluent pipeline and outfall are functioning as intended. Outfall dye testing was performed by documenting effluent discharge mixing into Bear Creek during flow events. The Effluent Pipeline will effectively convey authorized discharges from the WWTP to Bear Creek going forward. Special thanks to **Jacobs Engineering**; **Chance Metcalf**, Senior Engineering Project Manager for Public Works; **Ben Russell**, Wastewater & Water Reuse Supervisor for Public Works; **Rickey Fite**, Senior GIS Analyst for the Department of Innovation and Technology (DOIT); and **Jamie Blankenship**, GIS Technician for DOIT.





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WHAT'S COMING UP in MAY?

- **Rogue Valley Bird Day** at North Mountain Park on Saturday, May 11, 8 a.m. to Noon – RogueValleyBirdDay.net
- **Green Debris, be fire-free day (for FREE!)** on Saturday, May 11, 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at the Valley View Transfer Station – ashland.or.us/GreenDebris
- **Marking Ashland Places** on Saturday, May 18, 10 a.m. to Noon at Railroad Park – More on this and Historic Preservation week at ashland.or.us
- **Community Garden Open House** at Ashland Creek Park on Saturday, May 18, 10 a.m. to Noon