

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

UTILITY ASSISTANCE AVAILABLE FROM ACCESS UNTIL DECEMBER 31, 2020

ACCESS, Jackson County's Community Action Agency, was awarded \$770,867 in funds for Energy Assistance that must be pledged by December 31, 2020. If you are in need of financial assistance, please contact Access at (541) 779-9020. There is not a requirement to be at risk of disconnection.

We encourage all City of Ashland Utility account holders in need of assistance to contact Access before these funds are no longer available. For more information please visit <https://www.accesshelps.org/energy-assistance/>.

STAY UPDATED ON THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

Please note that City offices are still physically closed to the public. Staff is available to provide assistance over the phone, email and with limited appointments as needed. Go to the City Directory at www.ashland.or.us/contactus.asp to find contact information for each Department.

To help ease concern over the COVID-19 pandemic and spread correct information, the City has created a webpage ashland.or.us/coronavirus 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.

CITY LOW INCOME UTILITY ASSISTANCE

The City of Ashland has funds available for the Ashland Low Income Energy Assistance Program (ALIEAP), which assists low income residents with electric bill costs during the cold winter months. Eligible Ashland residents include those whose income is at or below 65 percent of Oregon's median income. 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. Applications are also available on the City of Ashland website at ashland.or.us. 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.

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ANNUAL CHRISTMAS TREE-CYCLING DAY

Ashland Scout Troop 112's 35th Annual Christmas Tree-Cycling Day is Saturday, January 9. Please have your trees at the curb in front of your house for pick up by Friday evening, January 8. Troop 112 and its charter organization, the Ashland Lions Club, will collect trees to be chipped by Ashland Parks and Recreation and used as mulch in Ashland City parks.


Donations for this service will be accepted; checks should be made out to Troop 112 (P.O. Box 839, Ashland, OR). This project benefits the citizens of Ashland, the Scouts of Troop 112, and the environment. Turning hundreds of trees into mulch enhances our parks while sparing our landfills. This service is for the City of Ashland only.

For updates on or after the 9th, or for information on Troop 112, please visit troop112.com. If we miss your tree, please use the form at troop112.com or call John Ourant at (541) 708-3942.



ROUND UP YOUR CHANGE FOR CHANGE

The City of Ashland's Round Up program allows Ashland utility customers to voluntarily round up their utility bill to the nearest dollar to assist low-income Ashland residents through the Ashland Low Income Energy Assistance Program. You can join the Ashland Round Up program by going to ashland.or.us/roundup or complete the coupon and return 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.



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: _____

MAKE SURE YOUR UTILITY ACCOUNT IS UP-TO-DATE

In certain situations, such as water leaks or electrical outages, it is important for the City to be able to contact Utility account holders. Please ensure that you have provided the Utility Billing staff your current phone number or email address by calling (541) 488-6004 or emailing utilitybilling@ashland.or.us.

Also, please remember that we need your help in keeping access to electrical meters open in the case of an emergency. Landscaping, shrubbery, debris, building materials, and/or cars should never be placed on or parked on water meter boxes. Thank you for your assistance!

Electric Vehicle Incentives Available

City of Ashland is pleased to offer new resources to increase zero emission vehicle adoption and support community climate action. Please see ashland.or.us/ev for a current list of programs and electric vehicle incentives.

City of Ashland Electric Vehicle programs exist to support Ashland's Climate and Energy Action Plan. Ashland's Climate Vision for 2050 is to be a resilient community that has zero net greenhouse gas emissions, embraces equity, protects healthy ecosystems, and creates opportunities for future generations. For more information please see www.ashland.or.us/climate.



Snow Removal Responsibility

It's that time of year again when snow and ice are possible and road and sidewalk surfaces can be slick and dangerous. Our Street Divisions works hard on plowing the streets when snow falls. Our priority starts with maintaining the busiest roads and those for life safety concerns, including the route to the hospital. From there we work our way through the arterial streets and into the neighborhood streets.

As for sidewalks, we are often asked, "Who is responsible for maintaining the sidewalk in front of my house?". The short answer is, you are. The Ashland Municipal Code covers sidewalk care and maintenance in two different sections. [Section 9.08.090](#) describes the property owners' responsibility to remove snow and ice within two hours of daylight after the snow has fallen, or to cover the ice with a material making it safe for travel such as sand or ashes. We recommend that you do NOT use salt as the salt can severely damage concrete surfaces and significantly reduce its useful life.

The other section of the municipal code referring to sidewalks is [section 13.04](#). That section covers sidewalk responsibilities and repairs in a couple different areas. One of those areas describes the abutting property owners' responsibility to maintain the sidewalk in good repair and to remove obstructions. Meaning that if the sidewalk has any hazardous conditions, such as an uneven surface with tripping hazards or broken concrete with wide cracks, those conditions must be repaired and it is the responsibility of the abutting property owner to have those repairs completed to the standard outlined by the Public Works Department. Contact Public Works at (541) 488-5587 or go to ashland.or.us/streets for more information.



City offices will be closed on Friday, January 1 for New Year's Day and Monday, January 18 in observance of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.

Check out how Ashland connects at www.ashlandfiber.net



EVENTS

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

Identity, Meaning and Purpose for Aging Adults: Presentation and Discussion

Our sense of self can be challenged by the shifts that often accompany aging, such as retirement, an empty nest, relocation, changes in health status, or loss of loved ones. Social isolation can result. After a presentation on the possible impacts aging can have on health and wellbeing, there will be an opportunity for discussion from attendees' own experiences and strategies that can help in staying stimulated and engaged.

Presented by Anne Bellegia, current Chair of Ashland Senior Advisory Committee. In retirement, Anne also volunteers in the realms of aging services, including adult education at the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at SOU and planning for end-of-life and long term care. Register at ashland.or.us/register or call the Senior Center at (541) 488-5342.

DATE January 27, 2021
TIME 1 to 3 PM
PLACE Online (Zoom)

Save the date! Ashland Radio Hour

Join us for an old-fashioned radio play performed by talented local seniors via Zoom! We are excited to present a very entertaining original play written by locals Jack Seybold with Cheryl and Mark Goodman-Morris and set in our own beloved Ashland. Watch more for details in next month's *City Source* newsletter. Register at ashland.or.us/register or call the Senior Center at (541) 488-5342.

DATE February 10, 2021
TIME 1 to 3 PM
PLACE Online (Zoom)

December City Calendar

Due to COVID-19 and social distancing measures in place, many meetings might be canceled or held electronically. Please check ashland.or.us/calendar.asp for updates.

- City Council
 - Business Meeting: Dec. 1 & 15 | 6 p.m.
 - Study Session: Nov. 30 & Dec. 14 | 5:30 p.m.
- Airport Commission
 - December 1 | 9:30 a.m.
- Conservation & Climate Outreach Commission
 - December 16 | 3 p.m.
- Climate Policy Commission
 - December 10 | 4 p.m.
- Forest Lands Commission
 - TBD
- Historic Commission
 - December 2 | 6 p.m.
- Housing and Human Services Commission
 - TBD
- Parks and Recreation Commission
 - Business Meeting: Dec. 9 | 6:30 p.m.
 - Study Session: TBD
- Planning Commission
 - Business Meeting: December 8 | 7 p.m.
 - Study Session: December 22 | 7 p.m.
- Public Art Commission
 - December 18 | 8:30 a.m.
- Transportation Commission
 - December 17 | 6 p.m.
- Tree Commission
 - December 3 | 6 p.m.
- Wildfire Safety Commission
 - TBD

▲ TTY 1-800-735-2900 ▲ Meetings are held electronically until further notice. Please check ashland.or.us/calendar.asp for information on how to view the meetings live or watch a recorded version. ▲ City Council, Parks, and Planning 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, select channel RVTV Prime.

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

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



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

