



CITY MANAGER'S OFFICE:

- **Severe Weather Shelter activations** have taken place for eight (8) nights for the month of February. Since December 2023, the severe weather shelter has been open 20 nights.
- **The Evacuation Task Force** met in mid-February with City staff from Police, Fire, Public Works and Electric. ODOT was also present. The group discussed action plans for... pinch points and intersection clearing, including a downed power lines challenge. Next meeting in May 2024.
- **RVTV has completed our first two PSA video shorts...** one on **Evacuation** and one on **Alerts**. The videos will be promoted on the City website, including the emergency preparedness page at ashland.or.us/BetterPrepared, and social media.
- Ashland will be part of **research project with Boise State University, "Household Response to Wildfire."** The team will evaluate how residents in and around Ashland respond to wildfire threats and evacuation notices. In person meeting with research team March 14, 2024.
- Public Presentation on **Emergency Preparedness**, including evacuation, on March 5 at the Ashland Metaphysical Library.
- **Public Comment on the Ordinance Amending AMC Title 16 Telecommunications** is being accepted through March 14, 2024. Comments are posted each week and available at ashland.or.us/Telecommunications.
- The **March 2024 City Newsletter** is available at ashland.or.us/Communications.
- Staff from Police, GIS and Emergency Management attended training to learn how to provide **drone support in an emergency**.
- The new **website**, including the new agenda management and online form modules, continues to move forward.
- A joint study session between Council and APRC is tentatively scheduled for April 1, 2024, to **review our DEI Assessment results and discussion around cleaning up the AMC**.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT:

- **Regan Trapp**, Permit Technician II, for Community Development, has been named President Elect for the Oregon Permit Technician Association.
- Through a contracted vendor, which was budgeted for, Community Development is now in the process of **scanning plans/removing duplicates**. The plans will be removed from the Community Center, where they have been stored, and taken off-site for scanning.

FINANCE:

- **Review of Second Reading Procurement Code Revisions** underway - this change will be a significant cost savings to the City, implementing efficiencies and better controls across the board.
- **Audit Services RFP** was issued and will be reviewed in March 2024.
- A **Procurement Specialist** will be hired soon, meanwhile making some exciting automation changes and anticipating some major efficiencies to come from the AMC revisions.



City Manager's Report

FIRE:

- Promotion of the **Community Connect** software continues. Via this software, residents can provide critical information to first responders, such as Information about medical conditions, special needs, emergency contacts and even information about pets. To date, 156 residents have signed up, with 141 signing up in February alone! (Community Connect is not a substitute for signing up for Citizen Alerts, which provides emergency notifications, ashland.or.us/Alerts.)

HUMAN RESOURCES:

- Human Resources will be at the Southern Oregon University Career Fair on April 10, 2024.

PARKS & RECREATION:

- Parks and Recreation staff are collaborating with Public Works to make improvements to the Lithia Park Bandshell for the upcoming spring/summer concert season.
- Parks and Recreation and Public Works staff are consulting with Evans Brooks Associates to seek grant funding for multiple bike/ped projects in Ashland, including the Central Bike Path and the Bear Creek Greenway – To date, two grant opportunities have been identified.
- Parks Commissioners passed a Resolution in Support of Expanding Multi-Modal Transportation Routes in Ashland in response to community desire to see the expansion of the Central Bike Path and other bike/ped trails in Ashland.
- Parks and Recreation has a robust and thriving Volunteer in Parks Program led by Volunteer and Special Event Manager Sulaiman Shelton. The total number of volunteer hours given to support Parks and Recreation increased from just over 10,000 hours in 2022 to over 12,000 hours in 2023! This is equivalent to 5.79 full time staff, and \$389,994 in dollar value contributions, based upon the latest rates from the Independent Sector.

POLICE:

- **Five(5) new officers** are currently in background check. Four (4) of the five (5) officers would need to attend the Police Academy before starting work, and ultimately the department will then be fully staffed.
- First responders will be provided with the **First Watch Wellness app**.

PUBLIC WORKS:

- Work with the Oregon Health Authority continues regarding the Lithia Water, and if this is a community water source. The **drinking fountains on the Plaza** will remain turned off in the interim.

WHAT'S COMING UP? Free classes in March through Ashland Parks and Recreation – more at ashland.or.us/Register

- **Project FeederWatch** at North Mountain Park on March 16 – Take part in a national bird counting effort
- **North Mountain Park Garden Opening** on March 20 – Orientation and work party
- **Senior Computer Literacy Classes** at Ashland Senior Center on March 6
- **Rogue Valley Bike Swap donations are needed for the April event.** Donations welcome at The Grove on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.