



CITY MANAGER'S OFFICE:

- Staff are working with Finance and Public Works to provide accurate information on the potential financing of the water treatment plant. Fact/FAQ page at ashland.or.us/WaterPlant.
- Staff are working with a local vendor to get window awnings for City Hall.
- The **April 2024 City Newsletter** is available at ashland.or.us/Communications.
- The new **website**, including the new agenda management, the online form modules and See-Click-Fix component, continues to move forward. The trainings are scheduled throughout the month of April. The Design-Reveal with CivicPlus is scheduled for April 4, 2024. Staff will start building-out department pages once training is completed.
- Social media updates:
 - As of March 21, 2024, the City now has an Instagram account, [instagram.com/cityofashlandoregon](https://www.instagram.com/cityofashlandoregon).
 - Work is underway for a City Nextdoor account.
 - Staff are working on a draft social media policy.
- The results of the **Communication Survey** will be shared with Council at the retreat on April 12, 2024.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT:

- The Department has finished reviewing and issuing a building permit for the renovation of the Ashland High School Science building renovation project, valued at \$6.2 million. This step paves the way for starting the seismic upgrade project, which was supported by the Ashland School Bond.
- Department has been notified by the Department of Land Conservation and Development (DLCD) Commission that our previously waitlisted grant application for consultant services to develop a Manufactured Home Park Zone is now funded and approved. The DLCD is set to draft a grant agreement for this initiative, aiding Ashland's Housing Production Strategy.

FINANCE:

- Finalizing RESP (Rural Energy Savings Program) USDA Loan Agreements with City Attorney's office; working with Conservation to organize the start-up of the program.
- Helping to inform the public on the potential financing of the Water Treatment Plant through the Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (WIFIA) and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).
- Phone lines are open at 541.488.6004 on Tuesdays and Thursdays, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.; continued in-person service at The Grove (1195 East Main) on Fridays, also 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.
- In April/May, Utility Billing will start delinquent processing, beginning with accounts over \$10,000 that have been outstanding over 180 days. The City will make several attempts to contact individuals to bring their account up-to-date. Payment options are available. If left unresolved, services will be disconnected.



City Manager's Report

HUMAN RESOURCES:

- HR will be at the **Southern Oregon University Career Fair on April 10, 2024**, along with the Fire Department.
- HR and multiple City departments will be at the **Careers in Gear 2024** fair in Central Point. Careers in Gear is hosted by Rogue Workforce Partnership and will be happening on **April 25** at the Jackson County Expo. This is a one-of-a-kind annual career expo and job fair for youth in the Rogue Valley with over 150 employers represented and over 2,000 high school students attending this year. We are highlighting some of our exciting careers with participation from GIS, Finance, Building, Public Works, Police and Fire!

PARKS & RECREATION:

- Oak Knoll Golf Course had a \$10,000+ weekend this March. Staff has received consistent positive feedback on the state of the greens.
- APRC is applying for two Oregon Parks and Recreation Department Grants, each for \$1M. One is to rehabilitate the eight tennis courts at Hunter Park. The other is to build Phase One of the East Main Park, including the Pump Track and Skills Park. Both projects have received an outpouring of community support.
- APRC has hired five new staff members in the last six months, including Parks Superintendent, Executive Assistant, Senior Administrative Analyst, Parks Tech I (two positions), and is currently interviewing for an Office Assistant II position to support the Recreation Division.
- Express Employment Professionals have posted announcements for Lifeguard, Swim Instructor and Customer Service Specialist positions to staff the Daniel Meyer Memorial Pool.
- The Ashland Rotary Centennial Ice Rink is officially closed for the 2023-2024 season.

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

- **Arbor Day Tree Planting** on Friday, April 26, 10 a.m. at N MT Park
- **Rogue Valley Bike Swap** on Saturday, April 27 from 12 to 2:30 p.m. at The Grove – RTVT.org/bikeswap
- **Japanese Garden Tour... a guided walk for seniors and friends** on Monday, April 29, 1 to 3 p.m. Register by calling 541.488.5342.