

CITY MANAGER'S OFFICE:

- The Emergency Homeless Shelter contract with the service provider, OHRA (Opportunities for Housing, Resources and Assistance, Inc.), has been extended through April 1, 2024.
- Site improvements continue at the Emergency Homeless Shelter – Thank you **Robert Halbritter and team** for your efforts!
- The next stakeholder meeting for the EOC (Emergency Operations Command Center) will take place on January 18. Representatives from the City, SOU (Southern Oregon University) and the Ashland School District attend.
- **Kelly Burns** and **Councilor Bob Kaplan** are working with Rogue Food Unites on contract development for responder support (meals) during disasters.
- **Kelly Burns** is working with **Scott Fleury** on FERC (Federal Energy Regulatory Commission) updates.
- Evacuation Zone signage is being installed in all 10 Ashland zones. Thanks to **Joe Escure** and **Chuck Schweitzer in Streets** for helping to create and install the signs. And, thanks to **Lea Richards and her team in GIS** for helping to design the signs.



- **January News:** The January 2024 City Newsletter is available online at ashland.or.us/Communications, and will be mailed out in City Utility Bills during the month of January. The newsletter contains February happenings.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT (The achievements and certifications below enhance staff's capacity for complex plan reviews and to conduct inspections in-house, reducing our dependence on neighboring jurisdictions to complete local inspections):

- **Steve Matiaco**, Building Official, was elected to the OBOA (Oregon Building Officials Association) Board of Directors in August of 2023, contributing to the organization's efforts in promoting consistent building standards and practices across Oregon. Steven's service on this board allows Ashland to be engaged in Statewide and National Building Code changes that have local implications. Steve has also recently completed numerous additional certifications including Commercial Electrical Inspector, Electric Plans Examiner, Fire Inspector, Fire Code Specialist, Plumbing Plans Examiner and Inspector certifications, and Plumbing Code Specialist designation, all toward achieving his personal goal to complete the Master Code Professional Certification.
- At the close of 2023 **Ryan Lougheed**, Building Inspector, completed the International Code Council (ICC) Specialized Electrical Inspection coursework, and Building Inspector Chad Stichter, completed training for the A-Level Commercial Mechanical Inspector and passed the corresponding exam, earning his certification.

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FINANCE:

- The Utility Billing Department is open for in-person customer service on Fridays from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at The Grove, 1195 E Main St. The most effective and fastest method of communication with Utility Billing is by email at utilitybilling@ashland.or.us.

FIRE & Rescue (AF&R):

- AF&R received their first Single Role Ambulance, which will be in service by February 19.
- Hiring for the Single Role positions continues. AF&R is in phase II of this process and 18 of the most qualified applicants have been invited to an assessment center.
- The new Battalion Chief vehicle has gone into service, replacing the older vehicle that will now be used for the CERT program.

HUMAN RESOURCES:

- The following City staff retired in January 2024
 - **Isleen Glatt**, 5.5 years of service – Parks and Recreation, Senior Services Division Superintendent
 - **Dan Hendrix**, 19 years of service – DoIT, Information Systems Manager
 - **Kariann Olson**, 29 years of service – Finance, Purchasing Representative
- **For City Staff... it is tax-time!** If you had an address change in 2023, please notify Human Resources so they can make sure your W2 is mailed to the correct address.

PARKS & RECREATION:

- The WinterSpring 2024 Playguide has been mailed out to residents and the Recreation Season is now open. Rec and Senior Services Staff have launched the new Smart Rec software to process program registrations and facility reservations. Customers can now browse and sign up for Parks and Rec programs directly at ashland.or.us/register.
- The Nature Center hosted more than 40 fourth grade students from the Bellview Elementary school to explore and release salmon fry in Bear Creek. Students visited the creek and participated in education and games in the Nature Center.
- Approximately 100 patrons and volunteers enjoyed a Holiday Party at Ashland Senior Center on December 22. Event sponsor Village at Valley View provided festive refreshments. OLLI's French Caroling class performed familiar Christmas Carols in French. The Senior Services Division, with help from the Rotary Club of Ashland and Shop 'n Kart, provided 70 gift cards and other small gifts, ensuring that everyone received a holiday gift!
- In addition, each participant received a magnet gift made by students from the Inspire program at Ashland High School and a Community Services class from Pathways.





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WHAT'S COMING UP?

- **Project FeederWatch** at North Mountain on alternate Saturdays at 8 a.m. beginning January 20 through March 16
- **Town Hall Gathering** at SOU on Wednesday, January 24, 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. – ashland.or.us/COAtownhall
- **Ashland Rotary Centennial Ice Rink** in Lithia Park is open through February 2024 – ashland.or.us/IceRink