



## CITY MANAGER'S OFFICE:

- Our **Elections informational** page is at [ashlandoregon.gov/Elections](https://ashlandoregon.gov/Elections). We have the following positions that will be on the November 2024 ballot / Deadline to submit the required documentation is August 19:
  - Mayor
  - City Councilor, position nos. 1, 2, 3 and 5
  - Parks and Recreation Commissions, position nos. 1 and 2
- Beautification Grants to help local businesses beautify their storefronts, are available at [ashlandoregon.gov/EconomicDevelopmentGrants](https://ashlandoregon.gov/EconomicDevelopmentGrants) – This is a grant-matching program funded by the Transient Occupancy Tax.
- The first annual City of Ashland **Evacuation Summit** was held in mid-July. Local and state agencies attended. Events like this will help improve regional relationships and responses for emergency events.
- **Severe Weather Shelter** update:
  - A contract for the Volunteer Coordinator for the shelter is in place.
  - Volunteer orientation took place on July 9 – Ashland Police are vetting the volunteer consent forms.
  - In July, the cooling shelter was open a total of 17 days, serving 15 to 28 individuals per day.
- An **Everbridge training** for a team of City staff from Fire, Legal, Electric and the City Manager's Office will learn to create and send alerts.
- The EOC (Emergency Operations Center) on the Southern Oregon University (SOU) Campus was stood up for the Fourth of July and remained open the next week during the heatwave. The EOC team, comprised of City staff, SOU staff and staff from the Ashland School District, continue to meet monthly.
- **Website, [ashlandoregon.gov](https://ashlandoregon.gov)**, stats for July 1 to 29 include...  
The **top five search terms** include:
  - Report & Arrest Log
  - Manager Report
  - Lithia Park
  - Daniel Meyer Memorial Pool
  - ElectionsThe **top five page visits** include:
  - Home page
  - Search page
  - Daniel Meyer Memorial Pool
  - Utility Customer Service
  - Calendar
- The **August 2024 City Newsletter** is available at [ashlandoregon.gov/StayConnected](https://ashlandoregon.gov/StayConnected).

## COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT:

- **Building Division Staff Update:**
  - Chad Stichter, Building Inspector, recently completed his Residential Electrical coursework and passed the state certification exam.
  - Ryan Loughheed, Building Inspector, recently received certification for Specialized Plumbing.These certifications, offered by the Oregon Building Codes Division (BCD), enhance Community Development's ability to conduct necessary inspections in a timely manner.



# City Manager's Report

## FINANCE:

- Presenting first reading ordinance to Council in August for **Utility Billing Customer Policies in the AMC Chapter 14.02**, which will better clarify delinquency and appeal processes.
  - Utility Billing Department has worked diligently to get current on collection of its outstanding receivables. Since March, total past due accounts receivable decreased by 7.7%
  - UB has worked with Ashland customers to get them on payment plans, seek assistance from social agencies should they need it, and/or obtain advice on conservation efforts.
- Bond Counsel reviewing and working with USDA on finalizing RESP (Rural Energy Savings Program) Loan Agreements.
- Working with outside counsel on limitations and inconsistencies with Debt Authority in City Charter.
- Year-end accounting is underway, and audit begins.
- Applications are being accepted to serve on the Citizens' Budget Committee and the Municipal Audit Committee.

## FIRE:

- The fire danger in Ashland increased to EXTREME as of July 9. Additional restrictions are in place. Information at [ashlandoregon.gov](http://ashlandoregon.gov).

## HUMAN RESOURCES:

- A **Comp and Class Study** is underway as of early July. The process will last several months and will involve staff from all departments. This type of study has not been done since 2009. This information will be used for future union contract negotiations, management resolution updates and budgetary planning purposes.

## PARKS & RECREATION:

- The Ashland Parks and Recreation **Fall Program PlayGuide** will be mailed to Ashland residents by August 9. This is for programs from late August through December. Some of the fall happenings include:
  - Rock the Knoll concert at the Oak Knoll Golf Course,
  - Bear Creek Salmon Festival at North Mountain Park
  - 2nd Anniversary Celebration of opening of the Ashland Japanese Garden in Lithia Park. Visit [ashlandoregon.gov/parks](http://ashlandoregon.gov/parks) for more information on all Parks and Recreation events.
- Parks staff held a kickoff meeting for the **Butler Perozzi Fountain restoration project** with Architectural Resources Group. The Parks Foundation has raised over \$741,000 towards this project.
- The Golf Manager position has been offered and accepted by Brian Weaver with an anticipated start date in mid-September 2024.

## POLICE:

- Congratulations to **Lieutenant Bon Stewart** and **Detective Rick Spence**, both recently promoted within APD!



# City Manager's Report

## PUBLIC WORKS:

- Reconstruction of the **Community Center and Pioneer Hall** are underway, the project is slated for completion in March 2025.
  - The Consumer Confidence Water Quality Report for Ashland is released annually at the end of June. The latest report can be found at [ashlandoregon.gov/WaterQualityReport](https://ashlandoregon.gov/WaterQualityReport).
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## WHAT'S COMING UP?

- The **Daniel Meyer Memorial Pool** is open through early September. Visit [ashlandoregon.gov/Swim](https://ashlandoregon.gov/Swim) for information on the daily schedule and programs.
- Preschool Puppet Theatre at North Mountain Park on Thursday, August 8, 10 a.m. More at [NorthMountainPark.org](https://NorthMountainPark.org). Registration is required.
- The annual **Ice Cream Social** at Ashland Senior Center will take place on Wednesday, August 28 at 2 p.m. This free event requires registration by calling 541.488.5342. The Social is intended for older adults and their families. This year, enjoy music by *Ashland Brass*. More at [AshlandSeniorServices.org](https://AshlandSeniorServices.org).
- The **City Band Summer Concert series** is underway. The Band offers a free concert in Lithia Park every Thursday at 7 p.m. The final concert for 2024 will be on Thursday, August 15 – Details at [ashlandoregon.gov](https://ashlandoregon.gov) (See the City Calendar).
- **Morning Bird Walk** at North Mountain Park on Saturday, August 17, 9 a.m. – More at [NorthMountainPark.org](https://NorthMountainPark.org).
- The free **Guided Walks in Lithia Park** will continue through September. For more information, including the schedule, visit [AshlandParksandRec.org](https://AshlandParksandRec.org).
- For a list of August programs, see the July City Newsletter, [ashlandoregon.gov/StayConnected](https://ashlandoregon.gov/StayConnected).