



CITY MANAGER'S OFFICE:

- The City is planning on joining the **Main Street Alliance as a Connected Community**. The Main Street Alliance program provides, training, resources and technical assistance to support place-based economic revitalization of historic commercial areas. The City will be developing the appropriate plan that is required to join the Alliance and bring it to Council in the future.
- The City will be launching **new records request software** over the next few months to streamline and accurately document the process and public record requests. Thanks to the departments who assisted in determining the best way to move forward.
- The Oregon Health Authority has declared the **Lithia fountain on the Plaza** legal, as it is technically a transient non-community water source. This means the fountain can continue to stay on. Thank you to public works staff who conducted the assessment through counting the number of users and worked with the State to preserve this landmark. Moving forward, the County will be the entity responsible for inspection as required. Due to the corrosive nature of the water, you will continue to see the City conducting on-going cleaning and maintenance of this fountain in perpetuity.
- The City has **new full page column in the Sneak Preview**, a monthly publication that is direct mailed to all Ashland addresses and distributed widely throughout Ashland. Our first column was in the January 2025 issue and focused on the tools the City uses to communicate with the public – Check it out!
- The **January 2025 City Newsletter** is available at ashlandoregon.gov/CityNewsletters.
- Mark your calendar for the annual **Town Hall gathering on January 22** at the Rogue River Room in the Stevenson Union at Southern Oregon University. Mayor Tonya Graham will give the State of the City Address, the winners of the Alan C. Bates (for those who actively support the interests of Ashland) and James M. Ragland (the “Volunteer Spirit” Community Service Award) will be announced, and attendees can interact with staff. Details at ashlandoregon.gov/Townhall.

FINANCE:

- Finance is now in their **new location at 2245 Ashland St.** In-person customer service hours are available on Mondays and Fridays, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.
- **Applications for the Utility Assistance program are available.** The deadline to apply is January 31. More information at ashlandoregon.gov/UtilityAssistance.
- **The USDA legal department is reviewing the final documents for the RESP (Rural Energy Savings Program).**
- Work commences for the **development of Biennium 25-27 Budget.**
- **Finance and Innovation & Technology staff have gathered as a combined department to work collaboratively on shared goals.**

City Manager's Report

FIRE:

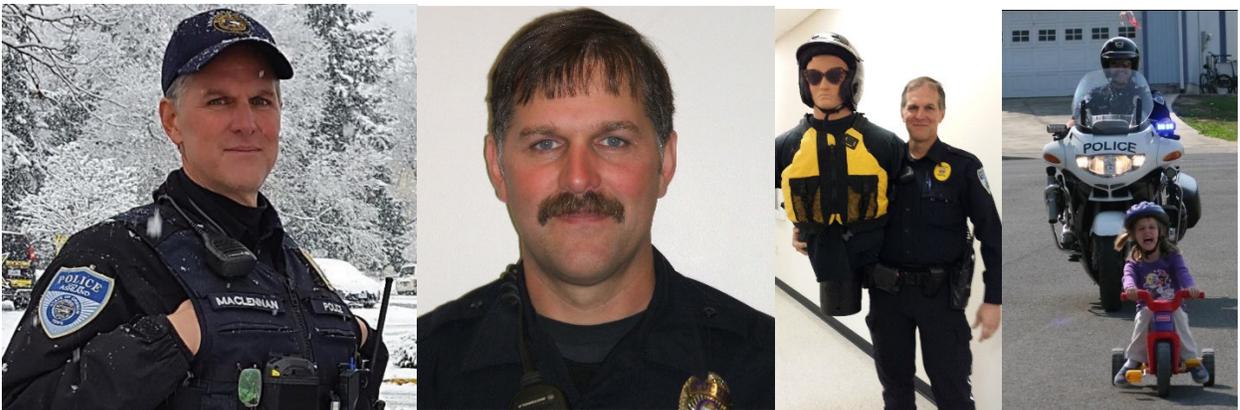
- In early January we sent three firefighters to Southern California to help battle the wildfires. AF&R staff was part of a group sent through an agreement between CAL FIRE and the Oregon State Fire Marshal.



From left to right: **Westin Martin, Andrew Burns** and **Robert Trask** (not pictured) drove to the Palisades Fire in our Heavy Brush 1 engine, which was loaded with gear. The engine is being sold to the Applegate Valley Fire District and replaced with a new engine, paid for by the State of Oregon, at the end of January.

HUMAN RESOURCES:

- Congratulations to Police Officer **Steve MacLennan** who retired last December after 34 years of service to the City! **Thank you Steve!**



INNOVATION & TECHNOLOGY (DoIT or Department of Innovation & Technology):

- AFN (Ashland Fiber Network) has completed all splices in the first PON (Passive Optical Network) Pilot Project area. AFN has now connected 27 customers to the new PON network, with eight more installs scheduled for mid-January.
- AFN received training for a new innerduct product, which will allow segmentation of the existing 2" conduit. This will greatly improve the ability to deploy fiber in conduit that contains pre-existing coax mainline.
- AFN has terminated fiber at the end of Will Dodge Way alley to prepare for new gigabit service to that block. AFN will be providing gigabit service toward the end of January. This is the fifth block in the downtown corridor to receive this service.

PARKS & RECREATION:

- The **Recreation Division Advisory Committee Member Recruitment** is underway. Applications for consideration are due by February 5, 2025. [Apply online.](#)

PUBLIC WORKS:

- In early January the **Streets Division received the following appreciation letter via the new SeeClickFix Reporting Tool, ashlandoregon.gov/SeeClickFix:**

Our thanks to all at Ashland Streets Department who responded promptly to our request concerning constant clanking noise generated by vehicles driving over a loose manhole cover in front of 183 E Hersey St.

We were impressed too, by the efficient and safe manner in which the crew performed the repair.



*Jack Honeyer
Pat Honeyer*



City Manager's Report

WHAT'S COMING UP?

- Join expert birding volunteers for **Project FeederWatch** at North Mountain Park on alternate Saturdays this winter through March 15, 2025.
- ALL IN! **All Abilities Community Skate** on **January 24**, 5:30 to 7 p.m. This free event is in partnership with and supported by Autism Society Oregon and Bridging Communities.
- **Town Hall 2025**, on **January 22**. Information at ashlandoregon.gov/Townhall.
- **HomeShare Oregon** – This free program offered through the Parks & Recreation Senior Services Division, will help to explain the availability of housing by matching homeowners who have spare room, to renters seeking affordable housing. By appointment only on **January 27**, 2 to 3:30 p.m., call 541.414.3156. More at homeshareoregon.gov.

Details for City events can be found at ashlandoregon.gov.