

CITY MANAGER'S OFFICE:

- The budget process for the **2025–2027 Biennium Budget** is underway and the Citizens' Budget Committee will meet on April 30, **May 7 and 14**. The committee will present the budget to City Council on **June 3**. View information:
 - [Online Proposed Budget in Open Gov](#) | [Proposed Budget Book PDF](#) (print version)
 - [Budget Resources Webpage](#)
 - [Budget Bites FAQs](#)
- The **EOC (Emergency Operations Center) Team** toured the Phoenix City Hall and EOC. Representatives from Southern Oregon University (SOU) and the City shared expectations and experiences with Phoenix Police Chief Derek Bowker. *(The Ashland Police Department plans to utilize the Phoenix EOC for training.)*
- The **Better Prepared Wildfire Workshop Series** is underway. The City is collaborating with **Ashland.news, Ashland Together** and the **Ashland Climate Collaborative** to bring this important series to the citizens of Ashland. The theme is, **"Take action to be Better Prepared!"** Registration is open for these free events. Below are the events still in the line-up:
 - **Protect Your Home & Yard**, virtual Event on **May 14** (hosted by Ashland.news)
 - **Evacuation Planning & Practice** at the Historic Ashland Armory, **July 16** (hosted by Ashland.news)

Complete information on the series and other supporting events/programs at ashlandoregon.gov/BetterPreparedSeries. (The April 21 **Better Prepared Wildfire Series/Workshop** was successful with 104 people attending – see photo below.)



Fire Adapted Communities Coordinator Brian Hendrix addresses the crowd at the April 21 event

City Manager's Report

- **Office Hours at City Hall:**
 - **Councilor Jeff Dahle** – 3rd Monday of each month from 2 to 3:30 p.m.
 - **Councilor Bob Kaplan** – 1st Monday of each month from 1 to 2:30 p.m.
 - **Councilor Gina DuQuenne** – 1st Thursday of each month from Noon to 1:30 p.m.
 - **City Manager Sabrina Cotta** – Thursday each week from 8:30 to 10 a.m.
Office hours exclude holidays.
- **Coffee & Conversation** will kick off this month and continue for the calendar year. This is an opportunity for residents to connect with elected officials and staff. The gatherings are informal with no set agenda. Events are scheduled as follows:
 - May 13, 1:30 to 3 p.m. at Oak Knoll Golf Course
 - June 17, 1 to 2:30 p.m. at Railroad Park
 - July 16, 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Garfield Park
 - August 12, 5 to 6:30 p.m. at Hunter Park
 - September 10, 3:30 to 5 p.m. at Enders Shelter
 - October 14, 1 to 2:30 p.m. at North Mountain Park Pavilion
- The OLLI '**Show me the Money**,' series is underway (*Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at Southern Oregon University*). This 5-part virtual class offers a look at the finances of local government that includes the City's fund structure, revenue streams, major expenditures and what the City can and cannot spend money on. View the sessions and learn more at ashlandoregon.gov/OLLI.
- Our spring **RVTD (Rogue Valley Transportation District) campaign, 'Do it All in Ashland,'** is now rolling through Southern Oregon—from Ashland to Talent, Phoenix, Medford, Jacksonville, Central Point, White City, Eagle Point and back to Ashland! This campaign is funded by the Transient Lodging Tax (TLT), which is a 10 percent tax on temporary or short-term lodging, and 31 percent of the tax proceeds are dedicated to promoting tourism. More at ashlandoregon.gov/YourTaxesAtWork.





City Manager's Report

- The **May 2025 City Newsletter** is available ashlandoregon.gov/CityNewsletters.
- **Website analytics** for the City of Ashland for March 26 through April 24, 2025:
 - Top 3 pageviews...
 - City Home Page – 10,499 views
 - Utility Customer Service – 3,395 views
 - Parks & Recreation – 1,450 (37% increase over stats for April 2025)

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT:

- Working to update City zoning codes to identify and re-zone Climate Friendly Areas and adopt new Walkable Design Standards citywide. Climate Friendly hearings at Planning Commission on April 29 and Council on May 6, and Walkable Design Standards work sessions at City Council on May 19 and Planning Commission on May 27. (And the third iteration of the Grand Terrace Annexation will be back at Planning Commission on May 13.)
- Nominations for the 2025 Tree of the Year will be accepted through May 31, 2025, email planning@ashlandoregon.gov. Information available in the May City Newsletter, ashlandoregon.gov/CityNewsletters.

ELECTRIC:

- **Right Tree–Right Place...** The Arbor Day Foundation promotes planting the right tree in the right place to boost tree health, lower maintenance and reduce wildfire risk. Proper tree selection and placement—especially in fire-prone areas—can create defensible space and help slow the spread of fires. This also includes preventing trees from growing into power lines. More info at arborday.org.

FIRE:

- **Get Ready for Fire Season: Know Your Responsibilities – Help Keep Ashland Safe!** The **Weed Abatement Program** is underway, and it's crucial to reduce fire risks in our community. Cutting grass and weeds and removing flammable plants and debris near your home can greatly improve the chances of your property surviving wildfire. Ensure your property is safe by cutting grass and brush to a height of four (4) inches or less and removing invasive vegetation such as blackberry, thistles, broom and ivy. Timely weed abatement helps protect your home and the surrounding community. **DEADLINE FOR COMPLIANCE IS JUNE 1, 2025. If you see overgrown vegetation in your neighborhood, report it through SeeClickFix under "Weed Abatement Concern."** For more details on requirements, visit ashlandoregon.gov/WeedAbatement. Take Action today—help make Ashland safer for everyone!
- Two **wildfire-related surveys** aimed at improving preparedness, response and community resilience across Southern Oregon are available at ashlandoregon.gov/Surveys.
- Received a **grant from Firehouse Subs Foundation** for extraction gear in the amount of \$23k.



City Manager's Report

- **Ashland's Community Emergency Response Team (CERT)** is made up of trained volunteers who assist during emergencies—helping with evacuations, search and rescue, fire safety, damage assessments and medical aid. Take part in mini training sessions every second Wednesday of each month, covering skills like first aid, triage, radio communications and more. These sessions are open to all residents eager to learn. In September, CERT will offer the FEMA-certified CERT Basic Training. Monthly sessions are a great prep for this valuable course. For details, visit ashlandcert.org or cert@ashlandoregon.gov. (A CERT evacuation drill will be held in June). *Let's build a more resilient Ashland!*
- Southern Oregon Wildfire School will offer hands-on **wildland firefighting training for structural firefighters June 20–21, with live fire drills and air ops practice in the Ashland area**. Registration info at orrita.com/classes.

INNOVATION & TECHNOLOGY Department (DoIT):

- The number of AFN (Ashland Fiber Network) customers continues to increase. The City is serving 4,285 customers as of early April 2025.

PARKS & RECREATION:

- **PROS (Parks, Recreation, Open Space and Senior Services) 10-year Strategic Plan** neighborhood meetings wrapped up in April. Neighborhood focus group meetings for North, South, and Central Ashland were held on April 17, April 23, and 24.
- New sod has been installed at the driving range at the Oak Knoll Golf Course. The 12,000 square foot grass tee will soon be open for use.
- The Ashland Senior Center was closed the week of April 14 through 18 for roofing repair work.

POLICE:

- **Marissa Foreman** joined the Team in April. Foreman will be heading to the Police Academy. Welcome!

PUBLIC WORKS:

- The **City's water supply is 121% of historic snowpack**.
- **TAP** (Talent-Ashland-Phoenix) intertie, which is a water transmission main from Medford will be on in early May.
- The annual **Mercury Awareness information** is now available at ashlandoregon.gov/MercuryAwareness. *Through education, awareness and responsible action, we can make our environment better, together!*



City Manager's Report

WHAT'S COMING UP?

- **May is Wildfire Awareness Month!** It's a great time to review your [emergency preparedness](#) plan. Be sure to:
 - Know your evacuation zones and levels
 - Have a go-bag packed
 - Sign up for emergency alerts (The emergency alert system for Ashland has been renamed JACKSON ALERTS. [Here's what you need to know.](#))
- **Parks & Recreation Summer PlayGuide:** Visit AshlandParksandRec.org to view summer programs and register.
- **Living with fire in the Rogue Valley: Building fire-resilient communities**, this two-day event/workshop will take place **May 8 and 9**, in partnership with SOU.
- The **2025 Rogue Valley Bird Day** is Saturday, **May 10, 8 a.m. to Noon**, at North Mountain Park, located at 620 N Mountain Ave. This is a local celebration of World Migratory Bird Day that includes bird walks, educational booths, kids' activities and a bird calling contest. More at RogueValleyBirdDay.net.
- **Sparking Action - A Community Gathering at ScienceWorks!** for Celebrating Our Forests and Community Wildfire Preparedness, Mother's Day Weekend, Saturday, **May 10 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.** ([RSVP TODAY!](#))
- **DIY Air Filter Classes** offered this spring!
 - ScienceWorks! clean air and disaster preparedness workshop. We will have fun activities for kids and families are encouraged to attend with their little ones as well as adults of all ages. Please Register ahead for Saturday, **May 10 from 1:30 to 2:30 p.m.**
 - Ashland Senior Center cleaner air class. Please call 541-488-5382 to register. Space is limited! Monday, **May 19 from 1 to 2 p.m.**
- **Ashland Preservation Historic Week**
 - **May 13 at 1 p.m., Walk Ashland Railroad District Tour** – Railroad Park. Peter Finkle presents his Walk Ashland Railroad History Tour. Meet at 1 p.m. at the Golden Connection Sculpture in the Railroad District at A Street & 7th. The tour is 1.5 hours long and is filled with information on buildings, landmarks and the colorful characters who worked and played there.
 - **May 14 from 2 to 4 p.m., Meet the Ghosts** – Ashland Cemetery. Banter with Ashland's favorite celebrity ghosts as they wander about the Ashland Cemetery telling stories of their lives as founding families of Ashland. The haunting starts at 2 p.m. and the ghost hosts will retire at 4 p.m. Ashland Cemetery is on East Main Street.
 - **May 15 from 3 to 5 p.m., Photo Contest** – Ashland Plaza. Do you have an eye for photography? Join our photo contest! Send your photos via email by May 6 to be considered. The requirements are that you photograph a home or landmark within one of the four Historic Districts of Ashland. We are excited to see the city through your lens!
 - **May 16 from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. – Self-Guided Tours – Ashland Memorial Mausoleum.** Take a self-guided tour! Mountain View Cemetery is located on the east side of Ashland Street and Normal Avenue.
 - **May 17 from 2 to 4 p.m., Awards Ceremony** – Lithia Park (Location TBD). Celebrate the Historic Preservation Awards, which recognizes the best of new construction and compatible remodels within Ashland's Historic Districts. View the photo contest winners!



City Manager's Report

- **Spring Clean-up Day** on **May 18, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.** at the Valley View Transfer Station, 3000 N Valley View Rd. Clear out clutter and make space for the season. Dispose of trash, recycling and gently used items for donation (Goodwill will be on site). This first annual event is **FREE** for **Ashland Recology** residential customers (ID required). *Let's all Take Action and be Fire Ready!*
- The annual **Ashland Airport Day** will take place on **Saturday, June 7, 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.** with free admission and parking. Celebrate the world of flight at your city-owned airport! This event offers a unique opportunity to explore and connect with your airport community. Here's what to expect: Skydivers, Smokejumpers, Ashland Robotics Club, ScienceWorks presentation, Radio controlled plane exhibitions, Airplanes on display, Food trucks, Kid's activities, Drones & more! The Airport is located at 403 Dead Indian Memorial Rd. More on your airport at ashlandoregon.gov/Airport.
- **Ashland Fire & Rescue is partnering with the American Red Cross in May to install free smoke alarms into Ashland homes.** The Sound the Alarm event will take place on Saturday, May 10 when several volunteers will be out in the community installing smoke alarms for those who have signed up. Sign up today by emailing preparedness@redcross.org, calling 833.386.0043 or scanning the QR code below.



American Red Cross



Smoke Alarms Save Lives!

Working smoke alarms can cut the risk of death from home fires in half.

That's why we're rallying volunteers, fire departments and partners to *Sound the Alarm*.

Together, we're installing **FREE** smoke alarms in your community. Request a smoke alarm installation today!

Event Date: Saturday May 10th

You can request a free smoke alarm
833.386.0043
Email: Preparedness@redcross.org
Or scan the QR Code



Scan to learn more

Learn more at www.redcross.org/local/oregon/about-us/our-work/home-fire-campaign



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