



# City Manager's Report

September Report—9.16.2025

## **CITY MANAGER'S OFFICE:**

- The NEW Ashland **City e-Newsletter** brings it all straight to your inbox. [Sign up Now for City e-News!](#) View the [September 9 issue](#).
- In August, **Ashland.news** published a print edition titled [Fire Edition: What's Your Plan?](#). The guide, which includes **emergency preparedness information from the City of Ashland**, was mailed to all Ashland households.
- The **5th Anniversary of the Almeda Fire** prompted many local stories where City staff were interviewed:
  - Jefferson Public Radio – [Listen In!](#) with **City of Ashland Emergency Management Coordinator Kelly Burns** and **City of Ashland Interim Fire Chief Marshall Rasor**
  - KOBI – [Watch it!](#) with **Kelly Burns**
- Preparation for a **Community Evacuation Drill on October 11** is underway. Information will be available at [ashlandoregon.gov/BetterPrepared](http://ashlandoregon.gov/BetterPrepared). (Registration will be required.)
- **As of September 11, 2025, the City has activated a Cooling Center 12 times this season in response to temperatures in Ashland exceeding 95°F.** The centers were managed by community partners, including Avram Saks, Southern Oregon Jobs with Justice, and OHRA (Opportunities for Housing, Resources, and Assistance). Locations included the Ashland Library, Trinity Episcopal Church and the Geos Institute.
- The City provides **archives of public meeting broadcasts**. You can also watch recordings of educational programs provided by the City, including **OLLI (Osher Lifelong Learning Institute) classes—Civics 101 and Show Me the Money!**—and the **Better Prepared Wildfire Series**. Take this opportunity to learn more about how local government works and being prepared for wildfire season!
  - [Ashlandoregon.gov/WatchMeeting](http://Ashlandoregon.gov/WatchMeeting)
  - [ashlandoregon.gov/OLLI](http://ashlandoregon.gov/OLLI) (Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at Southern Oregon University)
  - [ashlandoregon.gov/BetterPreparedSeries](http://ashlandoregon.gov/BetterPreparedSeries)
- **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** gatherings are wrapping up for the season. Don't miss the last one of the year, Tuesday, October 14, 2:30 p.m. at the North Mountain Pak Pavilion. This will be an opportunity for residents to connect with elected officials and staff. The meetings are informal with no set agenda.
- **Are you signed up for emergency alerts with JACKSON ALERTS?** The City partners with Jackson County under one alert messaging system called JACKSON ALERTS. Sign up your whole family by visiting [ashlandoregon.gov/Alerts](http://ashlandoregon.gov/Alerts).

## **ELECTRIC:**

- [The Federal EV rebate](#) is expiring soon – Act now!





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## **FINANCE and DEPARTMENT OF INNOVATION & TECHNOLOGY:**

- **AFN** (Ashland Fiber Network) is working on fiber service to the 45-unit Donald E Lewis retirement community.
- Switch upgrades continue throughout the City **updating the City's IT infrastructure.**

## **FIRE:**

- Sign up for **non-emergency notifications about controlled burns and wildfire smoke.** Join the City's Watershed group by texting **WATERSHED** to **888777.**
- Completed trench training.
- Several individuals have returned from a 7-day deployment to the **Flat Fire.**
- Join Ashland Fire & Rescue on **Friday, October 10,** 2 to 6 p.m. at Fire Station No. 2 for tours, fire safety education and community connection during **Fire Prevention Week!**
- As of September 11, the **fire danger for Ashland decreased from extreme to HIGH.** Restrictions on gas-powered equipment are still in effect. Please review the current guidelines and do your part to help keep our community safe! [View Restrictions.](#)
- **CERT Training** in late September, early October. Sign up and learn more at [ashlandcert.org](http://ashlandcert.org).

## **HUMAN RESOURCES:**

- **Tentative agreements have been reached with the Fire Union and Police Sergeants Union.** Contracts will be going to City Council September/October timeframe.

## **PARKS & RECREATION (APRD–Ashland Parks & Recreation Department):**

- The **Fall PlayGuide** is out! The fall edition features events and programs held September through December 2025. There is something for every age from youth through senior. To register visit [ashlandoregon.gov/register](http://ashlandoregon.gov/register).
- The Parks and Recreation Department is in the process of **hiring an Administrative Assistant and a Parks Tech I.**
- **Upcoming Public Meetings for APRD:**
  - **PROS (Parks, Recreation, Open Space and Senior Services) Plan Second Community Meeting September 17, 2025, 5:30 p.m.,** at the Ashland Senior Center, 1699 Homes Avenue.
  - **Hunter Park Tennis Court Renovation Project Meeting September 24, 5 p.m.** at the Ashland Senior Center, 1699 Homes Avenue.
- **Upcoming FREE Community Concert, September 22, 6 to 9 p.m., Sean Hayes,** sponsored by *Ashland Folk Collective.*
- **Cheryl de Saram, Administrative Assistant** at the Ashland Senior Center, and **Kirsten Came, Environmental Education Manager at the North Mountain Park Nature Center,** staffed the APRD information table at the **OLLI (Osher Lifelong Learning Institute) Open House on August 6.**
- **Ashland Senior Services' annual Ice Cream Social for Seniors & Their Families was held on August 13,** in Hunter Park. Live music was provided by Ashland Brass. Event sponsors were Bristol Hospice and Village at Valley View.



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*Annual Ice Cream Social at the Ashland Senior Center*

## **PUBLIC WORKS:**

- TID (Talent Irrigation District) will be shut down for the season as of September 29.
- Wastewater has cleaned an oxidation ditch, which has not been done in recent history.



*Cleaned out oxidation ditch at the City of Ashland Wastewater Treatment Plant*



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## **WHAT'S COMING UP?**

- **Silent Disco in Lithia Park, 1st & 3rd Fridays thru October.** Come experience music in a whole new way! Silent Disco has wireless headphones which lets you choose between multiple channels of Live DJs in an immersive and unforgettable experience for the whole family! Celebrate the diversity and uniqueness of Ashland with Silent Disco in the Park! First & Third Fridays | May through October | 6 to 11 p.m. | \$10 for headphones.
- **Otsukimi Event, Moon Gazing Festival, Sunday, October 5,** 5 to 7:30 p.m. in the Ashland Japanese Garden in Lithia Park. More at [ashlandjapanesegarden.org](http://ashlandjapanesegarden.org).
- **Return of the Salmon, Field Day, Saturday, October 18,** 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at North Mountain Park. [Learn more.](#)