



City Manager's Report

November Report—11.4.2025

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 [October 24 issue](#).
- In October, the City launched a new video series, **3 Things to Know!** See the [YouTube Playlist](#).
- Discover the ways to **watch public meetings** at ashlandoregon.gov/WatchMeeting, including the new **RVTV (Rogue Valley Television) app** where you can watch live or on demand! The app also features captioning and keyword-searchable videos for easier access.
- **Sign 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. **Don't want to create an account? Simply text 97520 to 888777 to sign up for Ashland alerts!**
- **Nominations for the annual James M Ragland "Volunteer Spirit" Community Service Award are underway.** This award recognizes outstanding volunteers who make a lasting impact on Ashland. The 2026 recipient will be acknowledged at Town Hall 2026 on January 21. **Apply now at ashlandoregon.gov/AnnualAwards.** The deadline is November 16.
- Ashland has partnered with Ashland Recology to launch the **first RecycleOn drop off site in the nation for hard to recycle items.** See the [City News post for more information](#).
- In mid-October, **SERJAC (Social Equity Racial Justice Advisory Committee) launched their [Community Belonging and Welcoming Survey](#).**

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT:

- **Code enforcement** is working with Bimart and Shop 'n Kart on enforcing clean-up of their back areas and progress is being made.
- **Eight low-income housing units were approved** as part of a 16-unit development at 300 Clay Street in Ashland.

FINANCE and DEPARTMENT OF INNOVATION & TECHNOLOGY:

- The **Citizens' Budget Committee has one citizen-vacancy.** The committee will reconvene after the first of the year, the deadline to apply is November 14. Learn more at ashlandoregon.gov.
- AFN (Ashland Fiber Network) has **signed new bandwidth contracts that will save the City 41K and provide customers with 33% more bandwidth.**

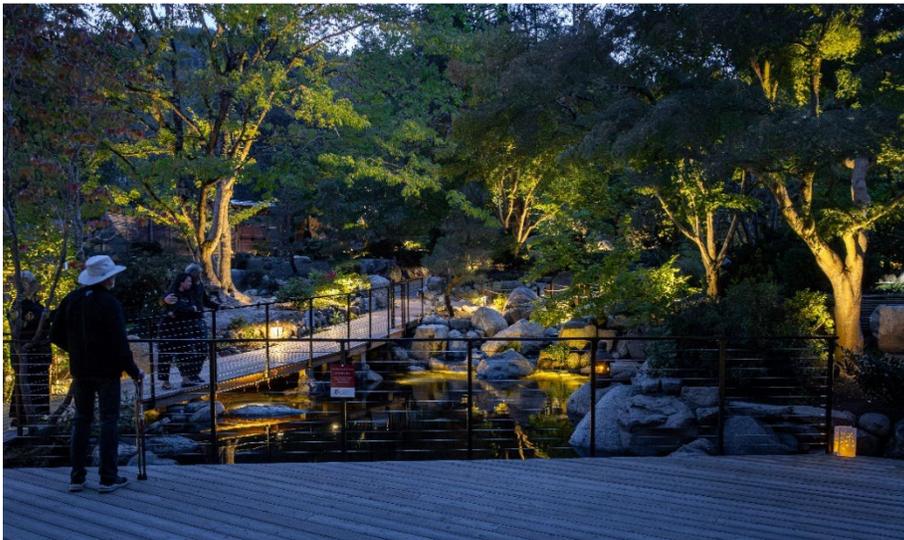
FIRE:

- The RFPs (Request for Proposals) for the **Regional Fire Study** have been reviewed, and a selection is being made.
- Sign up for **non-emergency notifications about controlled burns and wildfire smoke.** Join the City's Watershed group by texting **WATERSHED** to **888777**.
- As of **October 14, the summer fire season has ended.** Outside of fire season is a good time to work on your defensible space and home hardening! More at ashlandoregon.gov/FireAdapted.

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PARKS & RECREATION:

- The Parks and Recreation Department has hired **Hamid El Ouafi** as Parks Tech 1. Hamid will be joining the Facilities Team. This past summer he worked as a temporary Parks Tech 1. *Welcome Hamid!*
- On October 18, Ashland Parks and Recreation hosted the **"Return of the Salmon Family Field Day."** This event, coordinated by *Salmon Watch*, saw about 250 people visit North Mountain Park and families were able to participate in hands-on, educational activities to learn about the salmon life cycle, local waterways and watershed health. The free event was organized by various local groups, including Rogue Valley Sewer Services, Ashland Parks and Recreation, Stream Smart, RVCOG (Rogue Valley Council of Governments) and the Southern Oregon Land Conservancy.
- The second annual **Otsukimi, Moon Gazing Festival**, took place at the **Japanese Garden** on October 5. Visitors enjoyed tea ceremony demonstrations, traditional shakuhachi flute and Dobra tea service. Over 1,000 visitors enjoyed the garden, with nearly 500 attending the event from 5 to 7:30 p.m.!





Japanese Garden photos courtesy Bob Palermi of Ashland.News.

- The Ashland Rotary Centennial Ice Rink will open for the season on November 21, 2025. View the full schedule at ashlandoregon.gov/IceRink.
- The annual **Firefighters' Union Thanksgiving Pie** event will be held on November 24, from 2 to 3:30 p.m. at the Ashland Senior Center, 1699 Homes Avenue. Registration is required for this free event. Please call 541.488.5342.



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PUBLIC WORKS:

- **Owners Dam Safety Program did a site visit and walkthrough of Hosler Dam.** The final report regarding dam safety is expected sometime in November.
- Ashland Creek is now flowing through the **new culvert.** Learn more about the Water Treatment Plant project at ashlandoregon.gov/WaterPlant.

