



THE FLASH City of Talent

An update from City Administration, Planning, Public Works and Police Departments

CITY BUDGET FOR FISCAL 2008-09

City Council adopted the City budget for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2008 at their regularly scheduled meeting on June 18th. The total budget is \$7,319,813 and represents a decrease of 22% over the current fiscal year. Much of this reduction is due to the change in the economy that has significantly affected City revenues. While every attempt has been made to provide services at existing levels there have been cuts in each of the city's funds. The only major project that will begin the first of July is the upgrade to Talent Avenue from Rogue River Parkway to Creel Road. This project is largely funded by Federal Enhancement dollars through a grant that was obtained several years ago. The City is required to provide a local match that has been set aside in the Capital Improvement Fund.

PUBLIC SAFETY SURCHARGE

In order to be able to continue to offer police services at the current level the City Council will consider the adoption of a Public Safety Surcharge in the amount of \$4.00/month. This charge will be added to the monthly utility bill. The public hearing on the ordinance to create this surcharge will be held at 6:30 p.m. on July 16, 2008 at the Community Center.

The Public Safety surcharge at the \$4/month level will generate about \$125,000 a year, while the total cost to the City for the Police Department operations will be \$1,061,666 in 2008-09. The surcharge will only cover a very small portion of what is needed. However, without it, other cuts would be necessary.

The limitations placed on the City in financing city services through the property tax have forced the City Council to find other ways to fund City services. The City only receives \$750,000 in property taxes. With the growth that the City has experienced it has been extremely difficult to meet the increases in demand for services particularly within the Police Department where the City provides 24/7 coverage.

The public is invited to the Council meeting to make comments before the City Council takes any action to implement this new surcharge.

POLICE CHIEF DEPARTURE

Police Chief Bob Rector will be leaving the City on July 31, 2008 to take a new job with the Curry County Sheriff's Department. Chief Rector and his wife lived in Gold Beach before coming to Talent in July of 2003. Many things have been accomplished through Chief Rector efforts' but most important has been the development of a very well trained staff of individuals who work continually to make Talent a safe and secure community to live in. The City will miss Bob and wishes him well in his new position.

Hiring Department Heads is the

responsibility of the City Manager and this will be one of the first responsibilities of our new City Manager when he arrives. An Interim Chief will be hired by the current manager to oversee the Department until a new Chief is appointed.

NEW CITY MANAGER

The Talent City Council has been working for the last several months to fill the vacancy created by the retirement of the current City Manager Betty Wheeler. The process has been lengthy and thorough and it is hoped that an announcement can be made soon on the person appointed to replace Betty when she departs at the end of July. It is challenging for Council to find the right person to fill this role since the responsibilities that this individual has are great and it is important to find the person who can work well with the City Council and fit well with the community. From an applicant pool of over 66, each of the three finalists interviewed on June 21st and 22nd have had previous experience in the role of a City Manager.

SUMMER EVENINGS AT THE COMMONS

Three City committees have joined forces with the Friends of Talent Library to provide a full schedule of entertainment for Friday evenings beginning July 11th and extending through August 29th. Live entertainment will take place outdoors at the Commons next to City Hall on alternate Fridays. All events are free and will begin at 6:00 p.m. and go until dusk. Volunteers from Parks and Recreation, Public Arts Advisory and Together for Talent will staff these events. All entertainers are volunteering to share their talents with you. Bring lawn chairs or blankets for use on the Commons. On the alternate Fridays the Friends of the Talent Library will be showing movies indoors at the Library. This is a great, inexpensive way to spend your Friday evenings during the summer months without leaving the City.

The schedule is as follows:

July 11: Jeff Fagan, Gary Hensarling & Paul Hadella (Acoustic blues/folk/rock) Matt Fawcett - acoustic soul

Jordan Saturen and jugglers will entertain before and between sessions.

(Tark's Market is sponsoring this evening's events.)

July 18: Family Movie Night at the Talent Library (PG Rated)

July 25: Felice Laurel, Heather Hutton, Jessica Monarch - (Inspirational/folk) Karen Kiester - storyteller

August 1: "Hamfist" - Stephany Smith-Pearson and company - string band/country/folk

August 8: Family Movie Night at the Talent Library (G Rated)

August 15: "Monk" - Kevin Connors and company - Reggae/hip hop/blues

August 22: Family Movie Night at the Talent Library (G Rated)

August 29: Camelot Theatre - Details to be announced.

Check with the Talent Library (535-4163) for the title and the rating of each of the movies.

NOVEMBER ELECTIONS

There will be three openings for positions on the Talent City Council for the November election. At least one current member (Wendy Siporen) has announced that she will not seek re-election. Anyone interested in obtaining information regarding the election process or in taking out a petition will need to contact the City Recorder at Talent City Hall, 110 E Main Street, Talent, Oregon. Petitions can be filed with the City Recorder from July 18th until August 22nd. While the final filing date to the county is August 26th the petitions must come through the City Recorder. To be eligible to circulate a petition for one of these positions an individual must live within the Talent City limits and be a registered voter. If you have just moved to Talent you will need to make sure that you have changed your residency with the County Election Office at 1101 East Main, Medford, Oregon. Forms are available at Talent City Hall to do this.

WATER QUALITY IN TALENT

All water customers in Talent should have received by now a copy through the mail of the Annual Water Quality Report from the Medford Water Commission. While the water that you receive at your home or business is stored and transmitted by the City of Talent, the actual origin of the water is from the Medford Water Commission water supply. Six years ago the City connected to the Medford Water Commission system through a joint effort with the Cities of Ashland and Phoenix. This consortium is often referred to as the "TAP" project and has allowed the City to finally offer its residents water of high quality and in sufficient quantity to meet all the demands. Please take the time to read the informative brochure presented by the Commission detailing the quality of the water that is being consumed by City residents as well as how it meets Federal water quality standards.

PLANNING DEPARTMENT NEWS

Architectural Review Committee

Are you interested in Talent's own special architecture? In getting your feet wet in municipal government? In balancing preservation with development? Come join the Architectural Review Committee.

This committee meets for a couple of hours each month (on the 2nd Tuesday in the evening) to review remodel and new construction plans in the "Old Town" design district (see

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map on the City's website under "Planning"). It also advises the Planning Commission on the architectural design of development projects and will soon be busy considering new design standards beyond the "Old Town."

E-Permits and Building Permit fee increase

Within the next few months the City will start taking part in the State's *Quick Permits* program, a web-based system for obtaining various types of plumbing, electrical and mechanical permits. This is only available for those needing permits that do not require any kind of plan review by the building officials. City inspectors will still inspect the work, and the permit will be issued through the City, but the State is hosting the website that makes this possible.

As reported in the April issue of the *Flash*, the building permit fees were increased for the first time in more than a decade. The Council adopted the new fees at their regular public hearing on May 14th. The fees are now more in line with those of our neighboring cities, but not greatly higher than they were before.

Development in the works

South Valley Bank & Trust has submitted an application for a branch bank on W. Valley View Road between the convenience store and Talent Irrigation District. The Planning Commission will likely have a hearing on the application on July 24th.

COP TALK

By Chief Rector

In my last Talent Flash article I'd like to say goodbye to the citizens of Talent and offer some personal observations and some comments about your police department. It has been a tremendous pleasure to serve in this great little City. My wife Valerie and I leave with heavy hearts and will miss all the friends we've made here. Thank you for accepting us into the community, we have enjoyed living here and we wish good for all as we say farewell. Thanks for the great memories!

I've had the opportunity to closely observe the Talent City Council over the last five years and have always been impressed with the manner in which they have governed. These folks have consistently displayed a collective intelligence in tackling the challenges they've faced, and I for one have always appreciated their thoughtful leadership as they have worked to make Talent a better place to live, work, and play. You are fortunate here in Talent to have the high quality of local government that you do have. This includes City Staff, from City Manager Betty Wheeler to all the employees in each department; these folks make up a competent group that work hard and have been a joy to work with. I will miss them all.

Finally, I say without qualification that Talent residents can be proud of the police officers and civilian staff that work to safeguard Talent everyday. Your public safety staff is a team of dedicated, caring individuals who share all the values and qualities that you would want in a police department. They are honest, trustworthy, smart, and capable of either handling whatever situation they are faced with, or reaching outside the agency to find the resources needed to address the problem. They have been well trained; some have lots of experience, some are new and still learning. All care deeply about keeping Talent resident's safe and helping people deal with the problems they face.

So when you have an emergency, call 911 and Talent PD will be there to serve you. When you need police help and it's not an emergency, call 776-7206 and they'll dispatch for help, and you can count on it.

Bob Rector, Chief of Police

PARKS & RECREATION

**THE NEW SUMMER
CAMPS FOR KIDS ARE
HERE!!!**

ENROLL TODAY.

This summer, Talent Parks and Recreation is offering day camps for kids that feature five fun days of active learning and play. Week one is **Science Week** beginning Monday July 14. Week two is **Summer Fun Week** beginning July 21 and week three is **Earth Week** beginning July 28.

Campers will learn about science and the environment by becoming immersed in hands-on activities and projects as well as receiving presentations from some of our local citizens and organizations like the fire department, animal shelter, master recyclers, Jackson County Search and Rescue, scientists, gardeners and more. Field trips include Science Works, day-camping at Chuck Roberts Park, Recycle Center, Lithia Park, and a movie at Tinsel Town. Each camp runs

for one week and will follow a central theme with activities, projects and presentations. Camp activities begin each day at 9:00 a.m. and continue until 4:00 p.m. Extended hours are available from 7:30 a.m for arrival and up to 5:30 p.m. for pick up at no extra charge. Breakfast will be available from 8:00 - 8:30 and lunch will be served from 11:30 - 12:00. Tuition for each week of camp is \$100.

Camps will be cancelled if minimum enrollment is not met.

Further information and applications are available at www.cityoftalent.org and at City Hall (541) 535-1566.

SAMPLE WEEK ONE JULY 14-18 SCIENCE WEEK

PROJECTS

Tie Dye
Build volcano
Giant Bubble Science
Make Gak
Make Playdough
Rockets
Various Painting Styles
Personal Journal
Other Science Stuff

FIELD TRIP

Science Works

ACTIVITIES

Daily Games

PRESENTATIONS

Fire Department
Scientist Pat Halpin

SAMPLE WEEK TWO JULY 21- 25 SUMMER FUN WEEK

PROJECTS

Tie Die
Paper Mache Bank
Solar Ovens
Painting
Personal Journal

FIELD TRIPS

Movie at Tinsel Town
Camping Day at Chuck Butler Park

ACTIVITIES

Daily Games
Water Games on Friday

PRESENTATIONS

Animal Shelter
Rescue Dog

SAMPLE WEEK THREE JULY 28-AUGUST 1 EARTH WEEK

PROJECTS

Tie Dye
Build Bird House
Nature Prints
Recycle Art Projects
Make Personal Nutritious Snacks
Personal Journal

FIELD TRIP

Lithia Park Hike and Picnic

ACTIVITIES

Daily Games

PRESENTATIONS

Master Recyclers
Gardening