



THE FLASH City of Talent

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

The Flash, which occupies the following two pages, is a publication of the City of Talent and is editorially separate from the rest of the Talent News and Review. All content and editorial choices contained in the rest of the paper are the sole responsibility of the TNR and are not in any way associated with the City of Talent. -JG

PLANNING DEPARTMENT NEWS

Changes to Fence Regulations

After four months of deliberation before the City Council, the Planning Commission, and Traffic Safety & Transportation Commission, the Council adopted new fence, hedge, wall and screen plantings regulations (Zoning Code, Article 8-3J.3). All new fence and hedge heights will be limited to three feet in the front yard. Existing fences that are four feet tall will be allowed to remain at four feet until 2018.

The arguments that convinced the decision-makers were that three-foot fences are more attractive, create a warmer look for neighborhoods, and—above all—are safer. A shorter fence or hedge offers better sight distance at corners and enhances the ability of police to protect the community.

Beginning in October, all new fences and hedges will be subject to the amended regulations. If you have a fence that is four feet high, you have until the end of 2018 to bring it into conformance. Currently illegal hedges and screen plantings have to be made compliant with the new regulations.

Other Code Work

The Council will consider an ordinance to adopt a new zoning district in October that applies to public lands—that is, land under the control or ownership of government or quasi-governmental agencies. Following adoption of the public district, approximately 86 acres will be rezoned. Government buildings, schools, parks, trails, and utilities are the permitted uses in the district. The City has set no date for the rezoning action, but notice will be sent out to nearby property owners prior to the first hearing.

Talent Ave Enhancement Project

The Talent Avenue street improvement project is moving along on schedule. The storm drain construction on the project has been completed and the contractor has almost finished up the curb, gutter and sidewalks. Constructing new driveway approaches that connect to existing driveways has been complicated and understandably frustrating for some residents along Talent Ave. and we appreciate your patience. The city has met onsite with ODOT and the design engineers and looked at each driveway on a case-by-case basis to come up with the best solution for each driveway. The City of Talent Engineering department has been trying to take care of the residents needs as they come up as best we can.

The engineering department is the best avenue for residents to get concerns looked at during the project. If there are any questions or concerns with the project please give us a call so we can help facilitate the completion of a successful project (535-5531). If the project continues to go smoothly the paving will take place in early October. We appreciate the cooperation of the near by residents during the work and the project will be completed soon.

COP TALK

By Chief Mike Moran

One of the items I would like to cover this month is how to contact the Talent Police Department when you need police services. Since I have been in town I have received a few messages on my phone telling me about something that was going on over the weekend or the prior evening in town. Unfortunately, there was little we could do regarding the problem the next day.

I would like to give you the best numbers to call when you need police to respond. If you are calling about something that occurred sometime previously or a non-emergency situation call 776-7206. Advise the dispatcher why you're calling and give the address of the incident.

Southern Oregon Regional Communications (SORC) dispatches Talent Police officers. They are open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week to take your call and have Talent Police respond.

For emergencies such as a crime in progress or fire or serious medical issues call 911.

I also want to encourage you to call in suspicious circumstances. If you see something that looks wrong then it may quite possibly be wrong. Particularly at night, please call in cars or persons you believe are in places they don't belong.

Officers of Talent Police Department are going to be working overtime on a Grant to enforce laws related to juvenile drinking problems. We will be cooperating with Phoenix Police Department and Jackson County Sheriff's Office in looking for Minors in Possession of Alcohol at "keggers" and private homes. There are serious consequences for minors possessing alcohol beyond the obvious dangers of being harmed while in a vehicle driven by an intoxicated driver or being victimized while intoxicated. Oregon Law provides for sanctions related to driving privileges for minors charged with possession of alcohol.

Additionally, people who provide alcohol to minors face criminal charges.

Alcohol abuse is not just a juvenile problem. Driving Under the Influence of Alcohol or Drugs continues to be a major problem. Don't let impaired drivers drive in this town. Call the police and report them. You may save a life.

Chief Mike Moran

Volunteers Wanted

The Together For Talent Committee is seeking new members. The committee is focused on improving the quality of life of residents through projects like

tree planting in the City, annual Green Up and Clean Up, Waste reduction efforts and our local Nursery discount program for new residents. Meetings are held the second Tuesday's of the month at 3:30 p.m. at City Hall. Please join us or feel free to stop by City Hall and complete a volunteer application. If you have any questions, please call Sharon Anderson 535-9055 or City Hall 535-1566.

Tree Planting Project

The Together for Talent Committee signed up several interested residents at the Harvest Festival to receive a Tree donated and planted by Plant Oregon. The committee is asking any interested residents who did not get a chance to sign up and who live in the city limits to call Cheryl at City Hall 535-1566 by November 17th if you would like to be added to the free tree list. All trees will be planted on December 7, 2008. Locate services will be done for all that have signed up within 48 hours prior to tree planting date. Adopted trees will be planted in front yards only, and the best variety for each location will be determined by Plant Oregon.

36th Annual Talent Harvest Festival



Festival goers get a dose of Shock and Awe from LAW

Saturday, September 13th was a great day for the entire community. Friends and families filled the streets of Talent for a fun filled day of events including Great Music and Food-

Harvest Festival Race—

Among many of the successful events at the Harvest Festival was the Harvest Festival Run. All proceeds netted go to the Parks and Recreation Programs. With the help of the Southern Oregon Runners and Race Director Felicia Hazel, 5K and 10K events were held the morning of the festival.

Parks and Recreation Run Winners: Top three in each category-

5K (male)- Elliot Jantzer, Zach Hibbs, Graham Circle

5K (female) - Susan Holt, Dorsey Dobry, Anne Hagy

10K (male) - John Lenthold, Jeremy Eisen, Jedrick Baures

10K (female)- Jen Shelton, Ixel Sanchez, Sarah Hyman

There was a great turn out of entries this year with 170 total runners, (that's

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a record year from last year's 90 entries) including many from the Phoenix High School and New Hope Christian in Grants Pass Cross Country groups.

Congratulations to all the runners this year!

Thank you to the 14 volunteers that turned out to help make this a smooth event. Local businesses contributed to the success by their generous donations. Thank you to TARKS Market - Ron Ridgway, the RV Runners of Ashland, Downtowne Coffeehouse and Becky Hacker.

Parade Entry Winners:

- 1st Place - Talent Garden Club
- 2nd Place - Talent Middle School Float
- 3rd Place - Talent News & Review Float
- Honorable Mention - Old Military Vehicles

What a beautiful turnout all of this years parade entries were! Congratulation to this year's winners!



Festival organizers put their heads together for Talent.

Harvest Festival THANK YOU'S

I would like to thank the Talent Harvest Festival Committee (Fire Chief Dan Marshall, Division Chief Darrin Welburn, Police Chief Mike Moran, City Councilor Lynn Perkins, Staff members; Lester Naught, Bret Marshall, Coleen Bradley, Jason Spiva, Steve Olsen, Chance Metcalf, Citizen Volunteers Joe Dunbar, Jesse Hodgdon, Nancy Rush-Yates, Susan Harrington, Katie May and Darryl Nicolay for their dedication to the planning, organizing and implementing of this year's festival. The day of the actual event puts our coordinating to the test, but I am always so impressed with the outcome. I have many people to thank for making this happen: the Talent Police Department, Sergeant Freeman, and the Talent Police Officers, Talent Public Works, Mayor Don Steyskal, City Manager Jay Henry, and Jackson County Fire District No. 5 volunteer firemen. What a team! A special thank you to those local and surrounding community businesses that generously donated their time and/or money to help make this year even better than last year!

I would also like to thank all those vendors and the community alike who attended this year's festival— it is my hope you had a good time and we'll see you next year. Remember the Harvest Festival is always the 2nd Saturday in September!

More Harvest Festival News and Thank You's

This year the Harvest Festival went Green with the very special efforts by "The Green Team" which consisted of five 5th graders from Talent Elementary school! A big thank you to Colton Beer, Zane Grimmessey, Cy Pisors, Ocean Lumbreras and Maddie Mathewson along with coordinator Denise Wright who worked with "Master Recyclers" during the festival. They were at stations throughout the festival area to educate and assist festival goers and vendors how to reduce their waste. Also a special thanks to Mary Ellen de Luca the "Reduce your Waste Mascot."

HOUSEHOLD WATER SAVING TIPS

Here are a few tips that take little to no effort but will help with our conservation efforts in a big way.

- Never pour water down the drain when there may be another use for it such as watering indoor plants or gardens. Place a bucket in the shower to catch excess water for watering plants.

- Repair dripping faucets by replacing washers. One drop per second wastes

over 2,700 gallons of water in a year.

- Replace showerheads with ultra low-flow versions.

- Avoid flushing the toilet unnecessarily. Dispose of insects or tissue in the trash rather than the toilet.

- Check your toilet to see if it has a leak. Place a drop of dye in the tank of the toilet. Wait ten minutes without flushing; if the dye color comes into the bowl then you have a leak. A leaky toilet can use thousands of gallons of water each month, which converts in to a large water bill.

- Place a plastic bottle filled with water in your toilet tank to reduce the amount of water used per flush.

- Avoid letting the water run when brushing your teeth, washing your face or shaving.

- Operate dishwashers only when they are completely full.

- Store drinking water in the refrigerator. Do not let the tap run while you are waiting for water to cool.

WAYS TO SAVE WATER WHILE LANDSCAPING

- Use mulch to retain soil moisture. Mulch also helps to control weeds that compete with landscape plants for water.

- Avoid sprinklers that spray a fine mist. Mist can evaporate before it reaches the lawn.

- Raise the lawn mower blade to at least three inches or to its highest level. A higher cut encourages grass roots to grow deeper, shades the root system, and holds soil moisture.

- When it is necessary to water, do so in the early morning hours as there is less of a chance for evaporation or loss of water due to wind.

- Only water your lawns and gardens as necessary. IT IS NOT NECESSARY TO WATER YOUR LAWN EVERY DAY. Every other day can sometimes be too often. Consider converting your sprinkler system to an "Evapotranspiration Manager Weather Based Landscape Irrigation System" or "ET Manager System" that regulates the frequency and length of watering time based on the actual needs of your lawn. Talk to your local landscaping company about some great systems that are available at little cost to convert. The savings you will see in your water bill will more than pay for the cost of converting your system

Stop by the Utility Department for more ideas on water conservation.