



THE FLASH

City of Talent

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

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WATER NEWS

Winter Weather Is Upon Us: Tips for Water Customers

With winter upon us, now is the time to prepare for the possibility of an extreme winter season and do what we can to avoid costly emergency repairs. Here are some tips that may save you money this winter:

- Locate your water shut off valve. You should have one located on your property side of the City's water meter. Make sure you can turn it easily. Don't wait for an emergency to locate this valve.
- Insulate your plumbing (hot water pipes too) in areas that are not heated such as crawl spaces, garages and outside. This will help prevent pipes from freezing.
- Temporarily seal off crawl space holes during winter with foam or cardboard pieces.
- Disconnect garden hoses before freezing temperatures arrive. Place insulated caps on all of your hose bibs.
- Traveling to warmer climates this winter? Before leaving on trips, do not set your thermostats lower than 55°. This will help prevent your pipes from freezing inside your house.

During Freezing Weather

- Maintaining heat in any room that has plumbing fixtures, especially ones with plumbing located on outside walls. Open up cabinet doors under sinks to let the heat in.
- Keep a VERY Small trickle of water (during EXTREME cold times only). This will help prevent pipes from freezing as it is harder for flowing water to freeze. This is most helpful for faucets that are further away from where your water enters the house.
- If your pipes freeze, NEVER try to thaw it with an open flame. Use a hair dryer or space heater to do the job.
- If you are going to be away, ask a friend or neighbor to check your house out during cold spells. If something breaks, they can get it taken care of before it causes much damage.

WINTERIZE YOUR SPRINKLER SYSTEM

This can be one of the most important winter preparations you can do. By doing this simple task you can make your sprinkler system less likely to suffer freezing damage. Sprinkler systems are one of the most common reasons for water leaks during summer months. They are also one of the hardest leaks to detect because often a leak will NOT cause water to rise to the surface.

- Turn off all of your sprinkler sys-

tem controllers. You may also want to disconnect the common wire during the winter to ensure that your system can't accidentally be turned on.

- Shut off the water to your sprinklers. Sometimes there is a valve that isolated the irrigation from the main house water supply. If you do not have one of these valves you may want to consider adding one to your system. Your Backflow Valve System should NOT be used for this purpose. They should be left open to allow for drainage.

- Drain your individual sprinkler components as much as possible. Most newer sprinkler systems are properly equipped to be professionally blown out with air. This is generally at a minimal cost. If yours is not equipped for this, you can briefly remove sprinkler risers or prop them open to help them drain. This is particularly important for systems that are equipped with check valves.

- Installing drains at low points can be very helpful. If you do this, you may want to consider selecting a manual drain instead of an automatic drain. These allow you to control when the system drains rather than it occurring after every irrigation cycle.

COP TALK

by Chief Morgan

One of the great things about Talent is the safety and friendliness of small town living. However, far too often criminals take advantage of our neighborliness and trusting nature. Due to longer hours of darkness and the possibility of more valuables being in the home or left in vehicles, December is a time when unlocked doors on both cars and homes lead to an increase in thefts and burglaries. If you are always locking your doors you will reduce your odds of being victimized.

The holiday shopping season is in full swing despite the current economy. So, here is a list of safety tips as important as your gift list.

Be alert and aware. Be attentive to your surroundings at all times.

Do not carry more cash or valuables than is necessary. Be discreet so that you do not attract attention.

Take extra precautions with your wallet or purse. Carry your purse with the opening flap next to your body and with the strap hung over your shoulder.

Allow for darkness. As I mentioned before, it gets dark early this time of year, so be sure to factor this into shopping plans.

Instruct children on holiday safety measures. Know where your children are at all times. Before going shopping, decide where to meet if you and your children should get separated.

Always lock your car doors and remember take note of where you are parked before you leave your car.

Be sure to put valuables out of sight (i.e. packages, purses, mobile phones, CDs, etc.). Place them in the trunk or take them with you.

Never hide spare keys in or on your car. These hiding places are easily discovered. If you need spare keys, keep them in your wallet or purse.

Be alert to suspicious persons or circumstances. Avoid parking where

you see someone sitting in his or her vehicle for no apparent reason. Trust your instincts. If you feel uncomfortable or unsafe in a situation, report it to security immediately.

When walking in any parking lot, grocery store, airport, shopping center, etc., walk confidently with your head up, make eye contact, and have your keys ready.

Drive defensively and courteously. Do not drive across parking stalls. Use appropriate marked driving lanes and obey all traffic signs in the parking lots. And remember, parking lots will be more crowded and checkout lanes will be busier, so be patient and have a safe shopping experience.

Report all suspicious activity to the police immediately. We need your help in keeping Talent a safe community. The number for serious in-progress emergencies is 911. For any other police response the number to call is our dispatch center 776-7206.

Another big December problem is drunk driving. Don't let friends, relatives or co-workers or even strangers drive drunk. Report drunk drivers immediately!

From the men and women of the Talent Police Department, Have a wonderful Holiday Season.

-Chief Morgan

City Population Growth

Each year Portland State University updates the population estimates for every City in the state based on input from each city's planning office. As of July 1, 2008 the Talent population estimate is 6635. This represents a 19% increase since the US Census was completed in 2000 when the population was 5589.

Boy Scout Christmas Tree Pick Up

Talent Scout Troop 535 will be picking up discarded Christmas trees on January 3, 2009 for all City residents. Please place the trees at the curbside by 9:00 a.m. the morning of the 3rd to assure pickup. Please make sure that ornaments and stands have been removed, since the trees will be turned into mulch that will be used on trails and for plant mulch. This is a great opportunity to dispose of your tree in an environmentally sensitive manner. Any contributions that you can make to help with programs of the Boy Scouts will be greatly appreciated. For more information, or if an out of city pick up is needed, please call 512-9750.

SEASON FOR GIVING THANKS

Over this past year the City has many reasons to be grateful to the citizens of the community who have taken the time to get involved and worked to make the city a better place to live. The Mayor and City Council, members of the Talent Urban Renewal Agency, Planning Commission, Parks and Recreation, Architectural Review, Traffic Safety, Public Arts, and the Harvest Festival Committee have all contrib-

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uted many hours of their time to the City. City employees have worked as well to make this a better place.

The citizens in general have tolerated the disruption from all the construction projects some complete, some still ongoing. For all of this support and involvement we thank you. This is what it is all about when you set out to build a community.

Organizations such as the Talent Chamber of Commerce, the Lions Club, Fire District #5, and a number of businesses in Talent have worked closely with the City to provide resources and support to City events. The City is a better place for all of these efforts.

Our small City of 6635 has a lot to be grateful for and everyone who has helped to make this happen. Thank you!

Disaster Registry - Is it for You?

Disaster Registry is a program designed to identify persons that would need special assistance to evacuate their homes in times of extreme emergency, such as a flood, forest fire, or other disaster.

Is this program for you? You should register, if you or someone you care for, would:

- need outside help to safely leave home during a disaster, or
- be in jeopardy if you stayed in your home, without assistance, for three days, or
- need special notification about the need for evacuation, due to impairment.

How does it work? Citizens enroll themselves into the program by completing a registry form; their information is added to a 911 Emergency Dispatch Center database, and in the event of a disaster making it necessary to evacuate the neighborhood where the citizen lives, emergency services personnel are made aware of the citizen's special needs, and coordinate to provide that assistance.

Does Registry guarantee priority assistance? There are so many needs during a disaster, that emergency re-

sponders can't help everyone at once. But if your name is in the Disaster Registry, they will know of your need for special assistance.

Will my information be kept confidential? Yes, this information is available only to those in Jackson County Emergency Management and the 911 Center, who would pass it directly to emergency responders when needed.

Where to register? The Disaster Registry forms are available at Talent City Hall, and from the Rogue Valley Council of Governments, 155 N. 1st Street, Central Point.

Questions about the program should be directed to Connie Saldana at Senior & Disability Services of Rogue Valley Council of Governments, (541) 664-6676, ext. 379.

City Council Election Results

Congratulations to the successful candidates elected November 4, 2008 to serve a 4-Year Term beginning January 1, 2009 for the City of Talent.

Sherman Lamb, for Council Member, Seat #2

Teresa Cooke, for Council Member, Seat #4

EJ McManus, for Council Member, Seat #6

Also thank you to Dan Goyette for participating in the process and for your interest in serving. We wish you continued success in all your future endeavors.

WELCOME TO NEW STAFF AT CITY HALL

We want to extend a warm welcome

to two new members of our staff here at City Hall.

Mark Knox has been hired on a consultant basis to cover the duties of our previous City Planner John Adam. Mark comes to us with over 16 years experience in the City of Ashland's Planning Department and also has his own consulting business. Mark will be in on a limited basis, but can be reached in the Planning Department at 535-7401.

Chris Peters was selected from a pool of highly qualified candidates to serve as our new Accounting Specialist. Chris will become a familiar face in our front office. Next time you're in City Hall be sure to stop and say Hi and welcome her to our City. Once these two get a little more settled in we'll try and convince them to create an introduction to get more acquainted with the community.

TREE LIGHTING PARTY - DECEMBER 2nd at 6:30 P.M.

Please join us on December 2nd at the Community Center to light the Christmas tree and a holiday celebration afterwards. Each year, in conjunction with the Ashland community Hospital Lights for Life program, the City lights the Christmas tree in front of the Community Center. Again this year we will have a holiday party afterwards with refreshments and fun for the whole family! The Talent Middle School Choir will perform Holiday songs there will be Storytelling by well-known and highly esteemed local storyteller of Native legends, Tom Doty. Also back from last year, storytelling from the Talent Library and a decoration craft table. Please plan on coming out and starting the holiday season together.

Come Join the City of Talent

**Holiday
Celebration**

Talent Community Center

December 2nd

★ **Tree Lighting 6:30 PM** ★

Talent Middle School Choir

Holiday Story Telling

Decoration Craft Table

Refreshments

