



# THE FLASH

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

# City of Talent

April 24, 2008 /Volume 11, Issue 4

## THE FLASH'S LAST ISSUE

Starting in June you will no longer receive a copy of the Flash in your mail box the first week of each month. All the news that would normally appear in the Flash will instead be included in the Talent News & Review that will be mailed to your home. This newspaper is new to Talent and the publisher and the City Council have decided to work together to provide the same information to you in the newspaper format. City staff will continue to prepare the articles related to City information and the newspaper will set aside pages within each monthly edition for this information. We will still continue to have the Flash on the City's website monthly. It is intended that both the City and the newspaper will benefit from this combined effort. While the City continues to be committed to provide all the information that we think is important to you, this offers us an opportunity to reduce some of our expenses.

The City will retain editorial control over the articles that it writes. The City pays about \$900 per month for the printing and mailing of the Flash and this expense can be reduced to \$500 a month. The City welcomes the Talent News & Review to the community and is hopeful that this new relationship will be a better service to all Talent Citizens.



City-Wide Green-Up and Clean-Up is happening on Saturday, May 3rd from 8:00 to 2:00 pm., join us in the Tarks Parking Lot for free donuts and coffee before heading out to help in the clean-up!

City-Wide Yard Sale is Saturday May 10th. Maps showing the yard sales in town of those people that signed up will be available beginning May 3rd at

the following locations: *Tark's Market, Talent Post Office, Talent Laundromat, City Hall and the Community Bulletin Board.* 9-2 pm the Garden Club and the Chamber will hold a fundraiser yard sale, plant and bake sale in the Tarks parking lot.

Yard Waste Program, Saturday, May 3rd, Ashland Sanitary has offered a reduced price of \$3.50 per load drop off at the Ashland Transfer Station to the residents of Talent. Along with this the Together for Talent Committee will have a few volunteers available with trucks able to pick up brush for those who are in need of this curbside service. Cost is \$3.50 per load, larger donations will certainly be appreciated. Only tree limbs & woody brush (no grass or leaves) wood scraps & lumber (nails and screws are ok, no other hardware) No trash! Call Susan to request this service or if you have a truck and want to volunteer to help at 535-1865.



**Official  
Newsletter of the  
City of  
Talent**

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## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

May 1—Summer Recreation Program Sign-Ups Begin

May 3—Green-Up Clean-Up

May 8 & 15—Budget Committee Hearings

May 10—City-Wide Yard Sale

June 18—City Council Budget Hearings

June 21—City Picnic

## OPEN MIC OPPORTUNITY FOR NEW ARTISTS

Have you been waiting to share your musical talent to sing or play a musical instrument on a real stage for friends and family? The City is looking for you and can provide an “Open Mic” opportunity at the “Summer Nights Concerts in the Commons.” With the support of the Parks Commission and the Public Arts Committee this opportunity to perform and share your talents with a willing audience of Talent residents can happen this summer. If you are interested please submit a letter of interest that includes the following: 1) Name of Band or group; 2) Type of music you play; 3) Number of members in the group; 4) Contact name; 5) Phone number. Mail or drop this information off at City Hall, mark the outside of the envelope - “Summer Nights in Talent”. While any musical genre can apply, the content of the material must be suitable for a general audience that includes young children. Deadline for signing up is June 15<sup>th</sup>. This will allow the City time to schedule and promote the evening events. If you have questions you can contact the City Manager at 535-1566 or [betty@cityoftalent.org](mailto:betty@cityoftalent.org).

## COMMISSION OPENING

There is a vacancy on the Planning Commission that is open to any City resident. The Commission meets on the 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of the month. The Commission reviews development proposals for compliance to the codes and also spends time making/rewriting existing code for City Council consideration.

## BUILDING INSPECTION PROGRAM FEE INCREASES

A number of years ago the City of Talent decided to administer and enforce a building inspection program for all building construction within the City limits. This program requires that anyone doing any type of building, either new construction or renovation, obtain a building permit. The permits cover structural, mechanical, fire/life safety, energy, disabled access and manufactured dwellings. While the City contracts with Jackson County to administer this program the building inspectors work out of offices at Talent City Hall. The State permits the City to charge fees that will totally cover the costs for operating this program. The fees include not only the contract price to the County but City staff expenses related to the administration of this program and other operating costs. It has been over ten years since any of the fees have been adjusted in Talent. It is in the interest of the City that these fees cover costs and at the same time are competitive to the fees charged by other cities in the Rogue Valley.

A City Ordinance to adjust these fees will be presented to the City Council for public comment at the May 21<sup>st</sup> meeting of the Council to be held at the Community Center at 206 E. Main at 6:30 p.m. The entire list of fee changes can be viewed at City Hall in the Community Development Office. If approved the fees would go into effect one month from the date of adoption of June 21<sup>st</sup>.

## SUMMER RECREATION PROGRAMS

The insert in this issue of the Flash provides all of the new and continuing programs that will be offered to Talent residents during the summer months. This is the first year we have been able to get this information out early enough and hopefully it will be helpful for you in planning the summer activities for your children. Please take the time to look over the brochure and call city hall if you have any questions.

## COP TALK By Chief Rector

**Outdoor Activities Need Increased Awareness.** As the weather improves and we all spend more time outside, I'd like to call attention to a variety of issues that need greater attention. I've included below some discussion and relevant web sites. Please use these sites to do your own research. If you do not have access to the internet, please give us a call if you have questions about any of these topics.

First off, we're seeing some unsafe activity on wheels, mostly by children. The following site is Chapter 814 of the Oregon Revised Statutes, which is the state law that covers usage of things like mopeds, bicycles, motor-assisted scooters, skateboards, scooters, and in-line skates: [www.leg.state.or.us/ors/814](http://www.leg.state.or.us/ors/814). In this chapter you will find the legal requirements for operating a motor-assisted scooter (such as: must be at least 16 to operate and must wear protective headgear), as well as protective headgear requirements for bicycles, skateboards, scooters, and in-line skates (under age 16 must wear). [Note: Talent City

Ordinance requires that all Skate Park users must wear protective headgear regardless of age]. Second is the increasing number of noise complaints we're getting, from barking dogs to late night festivities.

Please refer to the Talent City Ordinance #749 – Nuisances, Section 16 addresses “Noises – Unnecessary”: [www.cityoftalent.org](http://www.cityoftalent.org), click the Ordinances link and “N” for Noise. When faced with these noisy problems, many citizens handle these issues just fine with their neighbors, while others will need to call the police for assistance. Call us.

Third, warm weather brings out the swimming pools. Swimming pools, whether they are in-ground or aboveground, as well as spas and hot tubs, must have a barrier around them to prevent children and others from wandering into them and drowning. The specific requirements for these barriers are found in Oregon Residential Specialty Code, Appendix G, which can be found online at [www2.iccsafe.org/states/oregon/Residential/Res\\_Frameset](http://www2.iccsafe.org/states/oregon/Residential/Res_Frameset)

Finally, the nice weather also seems to bring out door-to-door vendors and salespeople. The City of Talent has a Peddlers Ordinance that requires an individual to get a permit to sell doortodoor.

This requirement is entirely separate from the Business License Ordinance. If you encounter a door-to-door seller, ask to see their Peddler's Permit. If they don't have one, call the Police Department and let us know about this activity.

As a reminder, we are permanently in our new and improved facility at 604 Talent Avenue. Stop by and see us at the new police station.

We are very grateful for this excellent new building. On behalf of the entire Talent Police Department staff I thank the taxpayers of Talent for this very much-needed facility.

As always, you can reach a Talent Police Officer 24/7 by calling 911 in emergencies, and in other cases by calling 776-7206 to reach our Dispatching Center. For administrative issues that don't require immediate attention, call 535-1253.

If no one answers, leave a message and we'll get back to you as soon as possible.

## **PLANNING DEPARTMENT NEWS**

### **PUD Appeal Denied**

'Pacific Stage Heights' has received a second rejection. The hearings officer issued a decision on 4/7 upholding the Planning Commission's earlier denial of the 143-lot residential planned unit development. 'Pacific' was to be located at the southeast end of town, across the tracks and off Belmont Road.

The basis for his decision was the uncertainty of **access**. Belmont Road would be the only public railroad crossing for the area southwest of the tracks until reaching W. Rapp Road. The applicant, Artner Construction, argued that they had a crossing further east, where the old route of Pacific Stage Road crosses the railroad, that was suitable for *emergency* secondary access. They proposed to phase their

project to coincide with improved secondary access, such as when a new street is built connecting Rapp to Belmont.

The hearings officer was not persuaded by their arguments, finding that their ability to use the old Pacific Stage Road crossing was debatable. That—coupled with the uncertainty of *when* a new street is built that would solve the two-access requirement—made it “too tenuous to make a determination that two accesses will be feasible for the initial phases.”

On the other disputed issue—**density**—the hearings officer rejected the Planning Commission's finding that there were too many lots being proposed.

Interested persons may find the decision on the City website's homepage.

# TALENT URBAN RENEWAL NEWS

For more information contact Executive Director Marla Cates, 535-6170 or [ura.talent@charterinternet.com](mailto:ura.talent@charterinternet.com)

Early Agency Sunset: The City Council has asked the Urban Renewal Agency to sunset in 2016, three years earlier than originally planned, as long as the Agency is still able to build the North Talent Avenue and West Valley View street projects. After working out a variety of scenarios and projections, the Agency has determined this will be possible. Although an early sunset will reduce the Agency's overall project-producing ability by about \$1.2 million, there should be enough funds to accomplish these key projects as well as the popular rehab/facade improvement grant and a few other smaller projects.

Next steps on West Valley View Master Plan: After a brief hiatus, the Agency is beginning to move forward with next steps on this project. With the traffic and parking analysis completed last fall, and a state grant recently becoming finalized, the Agency will soon solicit proposals for a project engineer. It is anticipated the engineer will begin surveying and other pre-engineering work this summer. In addition, a design team will be selected to begin work on streetscape concepts, with an eye to involving the public. If you would like to be on the "interested party" mailing list for periodic project updates (but haven't signed up yet), please contact the Agency.

Updated website information: The City hosts a web page for the Agency. Recently updated, it provides a brief overview of urban renewal-related information including projects and a boundary map. Detailed information on the West Valley View project and the rehab/facade improvement grant program are also available Go to [cityoftalent.org](http://cityoftalent.org). On the home page, click on "Urban Renewal Agency" on the right side of the screen to be taken to the Agency's page.



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Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 Public Arts Committee 6:00pm Comm. Center	2	3 Green Up & Clean Up 8:00am @ Tark's Market
4	5 Court 3:00pm Comm. Center	6	7 City Council 6:30pm <u>Comm. Center</u> Harvest Festival 3:30pm City Hall	8 Planning Sub-Committee 6:00pm City Hall	9	10 City Wide Yard Sale
11	12 Together for Talent 3:30pm City Hall	13 Traffic 3:00pm <u>Public Works</u> Architectural Review 6:00pm	14 Parks 6:00pm Comm. Center	15	16	17 Architectural Review Walk-Around 9:00am
18	19 Court 6:00pm Comm. Center	20 Urban Renewal 6:00pm 102 Home St.	21 Safety Committee <u>1:30pm</u> City Council 6:30pm Comm. Center	22 Planning Commission 6:30pm Comm. Center	23	24
25	26 Holiday Memorial Day City Offices Closed	27	28	29 The "Flash" Distributed in the Talent News & Review	30	31