



# THE FLASH City of Talent

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

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## Free Fall Leaf Recycling - Nov 9 & 23



Ashland Sanitary Leaf Recycling event is growing, too, thanks to all of you! Last year they diverted a total of 60,000 pounds of leaves from the landfill, and in 2007, you helped them divert over 99,000 pounds!

Again this year, on Nov. 9 and 23, you can come recycle leaves for free at the Ashland Recycling Center on Water Street (corner of Water and Van Ness).

Pre-paid Leaf Bag Recycling Opportunity 2009

The purpose of this program, which takes place in November and December, is to keep leaves out of the landfill and from clogging the storm drains to our streams. Let us compost your leaves for you. This is a great program for those of you who may not be able to make the two free days for fall leaf recycling at the recycling center on Monday, November 9 and Monday, November 23.

### How It Works

To participate, you must live within the urban growth boundaries of Talent and Ashland. Come to the Ashland Sanitary & Recycling office at 170 Oak Street in Ashland to purchase five (5) pre-paid bags for \$14.50. **Ashland residents have limited discount on bags from Oct. 26 to Nov. 6 thanks to the City of Ashland Public Works & the Conservation Commission: five (5) bags @ \$7.25 with a two-package limit.**

Fill the bags with your leaves; the bags are for leaves only. Then, on your trash pick-up day, **during a green debris week** throughout November and December, place your pre-paid leaf bags curbside. If you have leftover bags, they may be used again next year at this time.

**Please note:** These pre-paid bags are for leaves only. There is a 35-pound limit. Bags will be picked up curbside only. Leaf bags will NOT be accepted at the Transfer

## TREE LIGHTING PARTY DEC 8th AT 6pm

Please join us on December 8th at the Talent Community Center to light the Christmas tree and a holiday celebration afterwards. Each year, in conjunction with the Ashland Community Hospital Light 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, entertainment by Ballet Folklorico-Ritmo Alegre dancers, this group consists of children from both Talent Elementary and Talent Middle School. There will be fun holiday crafts for the whole family! Please plan on coming out and starting the holiday season together.

## COP TALK

There's a menagerie of things I would like to talk about this month.

First of all, the FBI released their annual crime report for 2008 recently. Talent showed a decline in reported serious crimes in 5 of the seven categories. While many local agencies had increases in some of those areas we had only an increase in burglaries. In 2008 some of the explanations for that increase have to do with the economy in a small degree. But the larger reason is drug users continuing to steal to support drug habits.

In June we added a crime fighting tool to our Department that will help us find stolen property that is pawned more easily and identify those pawning stolen items. The program is a national program called Leads On Line, a cooperative police and pawn shop initiative. It led to the recovery of several stolen items and an arrest within two weeks of us joining the program.

Scams continue to haunt us. I recently attended training on exploitation of senior citizens and was remind how clever and evil criminals are. It is hard to be aware of all the scams you could fall victim to. But if you keep these things in mind you can reduce your likelihood of being a victim:

If it seems to good to be true-it is a scam.

If you are told to tell no one about what you are doing-it is a scam.

If asked to send money by wire by someone you don't know-it is a scam

Finally, if you are approached in public, at your door, on the phone, via mail or by computer and are asked to engage in a transaction involving any exchange of your money with someone you don't know-it is probably a scam

Deal with people you know and deal with reputable businesses so you have recourse if something goes wrong.

Bicyclists are becoming more plentiful but not all of them recall the rules of the road for bikes. Frequently they ride the wrong way on the street or on a sidewalk against traffic flow. This has resulted in at least two injury collisions and resulted in citations to the cyclists because they were operating their bikes illegally. If you are a cyclist-please review your responsibilities under the law.

Drivers, just be aware of bicyclists and pedestrians. Main St and Wagner Streets are full of kids in the mornings and afternoons. SLOW DOWN please!

## REMINDERS

With the increase in the cost of gasoline motorists may want to consider using the RVTB bus. All along Talent Avenue that are a number of bus stops. You can check with RVTB at 779-2877 or on their website at www.rvtd.org for information about this service.

Need a Permit? It is always safer to check with the City if you are planning any type of home improvement project on your property as to whether a City zoning or building permit will be required. Contact the Community Development Department for answers to these questions at 535-7401.

## Adopt a Family for Christmas

The City's Christmas tree will be put up Monday, November 16th. We know this is right around the corner, but we're asking the community to help out a little sooner than in years past since there is so much coordination required to make sure that all families are provided for in the best way possible. If you would like to help in providing gifts for someone less fortunate in the Talent Community please stop by City Hall and pick up a gift tag from the City Christmas tree in the lobby once it is put up. Each tag will have the first name of a family member from the City adopted families list and will include the sex, age and a suggested gift from the wish list for that person.

**After you take a tag we would ask that you bring the unwrapped gift, with the tag attached to it to City Hall no later than December 4th.** There will also be a box for non-perishable foods for those who would like to contribute in this way. All City department employees working together with Fire District #5 have adopted families within the community to make sure they have a special Christmas. If you have any questions please ask the receptionist at the front desk, or contact Coordinator of the project, Coleen Bradley, at Public Works 535-3828. Thank you so much for helping to bring joy to a child and their family this holiday season!

## Be Kind to the Earth Each Day and Every Day by Taking Action:

Take part in a local creek, river, lake, or coastal cleanup campaign. Alternative or recyclable materials should be used when possible.

Keep trash with you when on a boat or the beach, then dispose of it properly.

Educate yourself and others about water conservation issues.

Always throw unwanted fishing line in a trash can, not in the water. Cut loops from six-pack soda rings before disposing of them.

Toilets should not be used to dispose of trash of any kind.

If your family and friends pollute, teach them how to properly dispose of trash.

Offer your help to environmental and conservation groups and participate in community projects.

Notify the Coast Guard or proper authorities if you see boats dumping trash into the water.

-Lester Naught, Public Works Superintendent

NOVEMBER, 2009

Volume 11/Issue 11

Official

Newsletter of the City of Talent

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## Water News Article by Amanda Springer, Utility Billing Clerk

### 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 too 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 system 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.

## CENTENNIAL TREE PROJECT

A major project to celebrate the City's 100 year birthday is in the works next year to add trees throughout the city!

The City of Talent's Together for Talent Committee is heading a project called "**100 Trees for Talent**" in celebration of our City's Centennial next year. Our first 100 trees are planned to enhance our city streets and public areas with the help of Plant Oregon Nursery. We are seeking 100 residents like you to match that effort by planting a tree on your property. Finally, a special Centennial Tree will be dedicated with a public ceremony on November 2, 2010 to commemorate Talent's official Centennial.

For residents, each tree will be tracked as it is reported to have been planted on a map posted at City Hall and each resident who plants a tree will be given a numbered tag for their tree. Plans are also being formalized to have engraved stones available for purchase to place at the foot of the tree to document the special planting and historical event.

If you have a business location and are interested in participating in our project, please contact Cynthia Care at 292-2677. If you are interested in matching the public effort by planting a tree at your home, contact Sharon Anderson at 535-9055. Donations in support of the project can be made to the City of Talent, Together for Talent Committee. Volunteers to assist in the project would also be most welcome.

Brochures describing the project including a 10% discount coupon from Plant Oregon are available at the City Hall and the Talent Library. More details and information will be coming in future additions of the Flash.

## URBAN RENEWAL NEWS

The West Valley View project has completed the 50% design stage and

is moving toward 80% engineering plans, which includes determining where utilities will be placed as well as specific locations for right of way acquisition and construction easements. The original roundabout concept, which was the preferred design developed with public input and approved by City Council December 2006 -- will be retained in the final road layout. The Agency is in the process of acquiring the Camelot Theatre property, in addition to land next door, which will be leased to Camelot for the purposes of building a new theater. A landscape architect will be hired soon to develop designs for the public open spaces throughout this project. A public input meeting to discuss creative concepts for these open spaces is tentatively scheduled for the evening of Monday, December 7, at the Talent Community Center. For further details, please contact Marla Cates, Executive Director, 535-6170 or [ura.talent@charterinternet.com](mailto:ura.talent@charterinternet.com)

## Talent's Parks Commissioner Darby Stricker receives 2009 City Fitness Leadership Award

At the October 14, 2009 Parks and Recreation Commission meeting, Mayor Don Steyskal presented Parks Commissioner Darby Stricker with the 2009 Oregon Governor's Council Fitness Leadership Award. Darby was nominated by Mayor Steyskal in August of 2009. Selection of Darby Stricker for the City of Talent award was announced and presented at the 2009 League of Oregon Cities Annual Meeting in Portland and then ultimately presented to Darby during the last parks commission meeting. Darby's credentials are that she is the driving force behind Talent's Recreation Program. Darby took participation during the 2005 Parks and Recreation program from 55 people involved in 16 activities to the current years participation of 210 people choosing from 39 activities. Darby has tirelessly solicited donations, organized fundraisers and lobbied citizens and council to make this program work. There is no doubt that without Darby's efforts, there would be no program of the nature in Talent.

## "CALL BEFORE YOU DIG"

The State of Oregon requires anyone, even homeowners, who plan to dig or excavate to have all utilities in the work area to be located.

For free utilities locator service call...

" Oregon Utility Notification Center  
" Statewide Toll Free: 1-800-332-2344

Call at least 48 hours in advance. After receiving a call the Oregon Utility Notification Center notifies all of the utilities that have lines in the area notifying them that they will need to locate and mark the whereabouts of their underground utilities.

Various utilities have service lines buried at different levels, which makes it very important to call before you start any project that requires digging.

Project examples might include planting trees, putting up a fence, building a deck or any yard excavation.

More Information call Talent Public Works: 535-3828