



# 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

## Boy Scout Christmas Tree Pick Up

TextTalent Boy Scout Troop 535 will be picking up discarded Christmas trees on **Saturday January 9, 2010** for all City residents. Please place the trees at the curbside by 10:00 a.m. the morning of the 9TH 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. **To make a contribution** or for more information on tree pickup, or if an out of city pickup is needed, please call 512-9750.

## TREE LIGHTING PARTY - DECEMBER 8th AT 6:00 P.M.

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.

## Become a Master Recycler in Spring 2010

Jackson County Recycling Partnership & OSU Extension Service invite residents and business representatives to become Master Recyclers, gaining a broad understanding of waste prevention, recycling, the local solid waste infrastructure, hazardous waste avoidance, and composting. Join a 10-week training course that offers an extensive training manual, discussion-based classes, presentations from local and regional experts and field trips to relevant sites, including the regional landfill, waste-to-energy plant, composting facility and waste water treatment plant.

Master Recyclers are required to give 40 service hours to support and expand local waste diversion programs and projects. Weekly classes will take place on Tuesday evenings, March 2 – May 11, 5:30–8:30pm at the OSU Ex-

tension classroom, 569 Hanley Road. Applications are due Monday, February 1, 2010 and are available online at [www.jcmasterrecyclers.org](http://www.jcmasterrecyclers.org). For more information, contact OSU Extension Service at 541-776-7371.

## PLANNING DEPARTMENT NEWS

### Call for a Planning Commission Member

The Talent Planning Commission has one seat available. If you are a citizen of Talent living within the City's Urban Growth Boundary and would like to volunteer your time to help shape your community's future, the Talent Planning Commission is just the group for you. The Planning Commission typically meets once a month (3rd Tuesday of the month) for a couple of hours to discuss current land use applications as well as long range land use plan-ning goals.

If you have a specific request or need additional information, please feel free to contact Planning at 535-7401 or via e-mail at [mark@cityoftalent.org](mailto:mark@cityoftalent.org).

### Sign Violations

The Planning Department staff has noticed an irregular amount of sign violations and will be sending out violation letters this month. In order to comply and avoid a fine, the City requests property owners review the Sign Ordinance on the City's website at <http://www.cityoftalent.org/>. If you have questions or need clarification, please call the City at 535-7401.

### Drive-Up Regulations

The Planning Commission is currently discussing Drive-Up uses and design standards with the intent to mitigate their impact on the City's character, transportation system and air qual-ity. The Planning Commission would like to encourage Talent citizens to come and partici-pate in the discussion and offer suggestions that should be considered in a final draft. Please visit the City's website at <http://www.cityoftalent.org/> to verify when this topic will next be scheduled.

## COP TALK

by Chief Moran

The unusually wet November we experienced has set the stage for a possibly long wet winter. With that comes the possibility of seasonal flooding. We should be in preparedness mode for December and January when we usually experience the worst seasonal flooding. Extreme seasonal flooding has caused those living near Bear Creek & Wagner Creek to evacuate their homes in the past and they may have to do so again in the future.

Here are some emergency preparedness reminders.

#### Obey Evacuation Orders!

Time will be short and the water will rise rapidly.

If Police or Fire order evacuation,

the threat is real.

Don't question it, just act and get out fast.

#### Do You Need Help Evacuating? -

If you can't get away from your home without help, plan in advance to get help.

1. Arrange with neighbors or others close by to come and get you if there is an emergency evacuation order.

2. Register with the Jackson County Disaster Registry. Once you are on the Registry, Police & Fire personnel will be notified of your special needs in an evacuation situation. Call 664-6676, ext 379, for assistance with JC Disaster Registry.

#### Have an Emergency To-Go Kit:

Medications, vitamins, supplements.

Toothbrush, toothpaste, denture needs, contact lenses or extra glasses, soap, wash cloth, small towel, under-clothing, extra car & house keys.

Cell phone or phone card to call long distance. Designate an Out-of-State Relative for you to call. Advise other family members they can call that relative to get an update on your situation. Call them as soon as you are safe.

#### Important Documents:

Keep in waterproof container, ready to go.

Include safe deposit box key.

Keep wallet, purse, and house/car keys together.

**Pets: Arrange a Place for Pets to Stay Ahead of Time.** Take medications, leash, tags, special instructions, and name/phone of Veterinarian.

The other big issue for December is protecting yourself from theft.

#### Staying Safe While Shopping

Always lock your car and close the windows, even if you're only gone a few moments. When possible, lock all merchandise or packages in the trunk of your car. Load your packages before departing, not at the next destination.

Shop with at least one partner. Have your car or house key in your hand as you approach the door. If attacked use those keys as weapons!

Stay alert to your surroundings and the people around you. Look inside your car and around it as you approach.

Be extra careful with purses and wallets. Carry a purse under your arm. Keep wallets in an inside pocket.

Avoid carrying large amounts of cash.

Plan your trips. Instead of one big shopping trip, try several small ones. This will cut down on the amount of money you carry, the packages you'll be encumbered with, and it will make your shopping less stressful.

Walk everywhere with a sense of purpose - show you are calm, confident and know where you are going.

Park in well-lighted areas that will be well-lighted when you return.

Report suspicious people at your home or loitering in parking lots immediately.

The Holiday Season is unfortunately a time when many people choose to drive while impaired. Drunk driving is one of America's deadliest crimes. In 2008, 11,773 people died in high-

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way crashes involving a driver with a blood alcohol concentration (BAC) of .08 or higher.

Local police agencies will be increasing their patrols to conduct high visibility DUII saturation patrols. So far this year there have been 88 DUI arrests just by the Talent Police Department.

The Talent Police Department encourages you to plan ahead if you are attending festivities and you plan to drink. Please designate a sober driver or arrange for a sober ride home before going out. The price of a cab fare is going to be minuscule compared to the costs associated with a drunk driving arrest. Another annual program designed to reduce drunk driving is sponsored by Dick's Wrecker Service. Beginning the day after Thanksgiving through New Years, you may call them to tow you home if you feel impaired and should not drive. They will drive you only to your home from where you are in Medford, Ashland, Central Point Phoenix or Talent. This service is free.

## COMMITTEE/COMMISSION VACANCIES

Currently the City is seeking volunteers for the following Committees and/ Commissions. Joining a committee is a great way to get involved and make a positive contribution to local government. Application for positions are on the City's website [www.cityoftalent.org](http://www.cityoftalent.org) or at City Hall.

City of Talent Budget Committee 3 year term.

Parks Commission Advisory Board- 4 year term, meets 2nd Wed. @6:15pm

Planning Commission Advisory Board- 2 year term, meets 4th Thurs. @6:30pm

Arch Review Committee- meets 3rd Tues. @ 6pm

Urban Renewal Agency/Budget Committee- (For more information, contact Marla Cates at 535-6170)

## **WATER – WHERE CAN I PAY MY BILL?**

City of Talent has a few different options available for your payment convenience! As always, you can bring your City of Talent Utility payment in to City Hall where we can immediately provide you with a receipt. You can also drop your payment in our white, metal drop box out front of City Hall – this drop box is for City of Talent Utility payments only and is checked daily. We also have a payment slot in the payment drop box located at Medicap Pharmacy here in Talent which we check weekly. Remember, if you have automatic payments set up through your bank, it can take up to 14 business days for us to actually receive your payment. The City is looking into other payment options so be on the look-out next year for more information!

## **INDOOR WATER USE – DID YOU KNOW?**

On average 26% of your indoor water use is by toilets.

Older toilets use 3.5 to 7 gallons per flush.

Newer toilets (since 1992) use 1.6 gallons per flush but newer WaterSense toilets only use 1.28 gallons per flush.

22% of indoor water use is from Clothes Washers – Make sure to only do your laundry when you have a full load.

17% of indoor water use is from showerheads.

16% of indoor water use is from faucets.

Did you know that you can lower your water bill up to 30% just by re-

rofitting with efficient fixtures such as showerheads, toilets, faucet aerators, washers, etc?

If you would like a better idea of how much water your family uses and some great tips on how you can save water you should check out a “Water Calculator” on-line. I have found a very user friendly one on the National Wildlife Federations website at <http://www.nwf.org/water/watercalculator.cfm>. It just takes a few minutes to complete and can save you hundreds of dollars or more a year! We recommend you calculate your average usage twice a year, once in the winter and then again in the summer.

# **Talent Holiday Celebration**

***TALENT COMMUNITY CENTER***

**December 8th**

★ **Tree Lighting 6:00 PM** ★

**Ballet Folklorico**

**Phoenix High School Choir**

**Sing along with Mayor Don Steyskal**

**Decoration Craft Table**

**Refreshments**

*Bring an ornament to decorate a tree to be donated to the Boys and Girls Club*

