



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

The Talent Centennial Celebration of 2010

For those of you who don't know, Talent will be celebrating its 100th year of official city hood in 2010. Talent was established on November 2, 1910. A series of events, beginning in February, will continue throughout the year. These events will range from lectures, silent films, the Centennial Flag, tree plantings, family quilt project, a new city clock, 2 time capsules, historical walks, tours and books, a "100 years of Talent," theme for the Harvest festival & parade and a November 2nd, 2010 public celebration. Citizens are encouraged to get involved and participate in all the events. This is a great time to live in Talent! Visit the Talent Historical Society or City Hall for more information.

Centennial Committee-Chair-Greg Goebelt-541-840-5966

**The Centennial Committee,
Together For Talent
and the City of Talent
PRESENT
March Events:**

100 TREES FOR TALENT

Now is the time to plant a tree in honor of Talent's Centennial. Beginning March 1, all residents of Greater Talent are encouraged to plant one or more trees at their homes. If you don't have room for a tree at your home, you can still participate by donating a tree for planting in a public space.

Once you have planted your tree, come by the Talent City Hall and plot your tree on the map displayed there. The first 100 residents who plant a tree will receive an "I Planted" button, a centennial tag for your tree and information on commemorative stones.

Brochures describing this special Centennial project are available at City Hall. Included in the brochure is a coupon for a 10% discount on a tree from Plant Oregon, the Nursery on Wagner Creek.

In addition to the residential tree planting drive, we will be working with businesses to plant trees along Valley View, Highway 99, and Talent Avenue. Chuck Roberts Park will receive new trees, and possibly Talent Elementary School as well.

Finally, a large Centennial tree will be planted at City Hall and dedicated on Tuesday, November 2nd, as part of the ceremony celebrating our town's 100th birthday.

Be sure and check out how many new trees are planted on the City Hall map and updates in later issues of the Flash.

This is a project of the city's Together for Talent committee in coordination with Plant Oregon. For information or

to offer assistance, contact Cynthia at 541-292-2677 or Sharon at 541-535-9055.

Prescription Drug Turn-In Day March 13, 2010

Do you have unwanted medications around your home?

Properly dispose of any unwanted and expired medications. Sites around the state will be participating in the March 13 Prescription Drug Turn-in event.

The Oregon Medical Association Alliance is partnering with CARSA, Oregon Partnership, and other community groups in the first ever statewide grassroots effort for individuals to bring their unwanted medications to a central collection site for incineration.

*Unwanted medicines can be collected from individual households only. Medications cannot be accepted from businesses such as nursing homes, doctor's offices or any other institution or business.

Drop off Location:-
Medford
Rogue Valley Mall
1600 North Riverside Avenue (Exit 30 off I-5)
9am-12pm
Contact:PamOlsen-npolsen@gmail.com

Utility Bill Payment Options

All Water Utility Customers have the opportunity to enroll in an "Equal Payment Plan" for the payment of monthly water utility bills. This has been a popular program for some, and allows them to equalize their monthly payments for water usage over a 12 month period, rather than having to deal with higher water bills during the warmer months of the year and lower bills in late fall and winter months.

To participate in the program a water customer signs an agreement with the City that they will make equal monthly payments based on their annual consumption. The criteria for qualifying for this program is as follows:

- 1) You will need to have one year of payment history with the City (i.e. you have been a city water customer for at least a year).
- 2) Sign up for the program in March.
- 3) You agree to pay the calculated monthly payment on time each month.

The actual monthly payment is based on your water usage history. Looking at the previous year of usage assists in setting the monthly payment at an amount that would, over the course of a year, cover the highs and lows of the bills.

By signing up in March you will be able to build up a credit balance so that when the larger bills occur during the summer months there will be money there to cover that. Each year at this time the City reviews each one of the "Equal Payment Plan" accounts and adjusts the monthly payment to reflect the previous year usage as well as any balances on the account. If the monthly payments are not made then the City will terminate the agreement and place the customer back on a regular billing that requires full pay-

ment each month. Please call Amanda at City Hall, 541-535-1566, for more information about this program.

COP TALK

The first signs of Spring are here and many Talent residents are getting their property cleaned up by trimming trees and bushes. Removing those bush and tree trimmings from their property is the problem. We have received a couple of reports already about people burning their piles of leaves and limbs. Talent City Ordinance #565 prohibits open burning of any kind in the city limits of Talent. So you cannot burn those things.

What you can do is contact Recology, a subsidiary of Ashland Sanitary, and take those cut items to their Valley View Transfer Station. There is a fee for this. They also offer a program of putting a recycling bin at your home for pickup of green waste debris every other week. There is a fee for this also. Check their website for more details. www.recologyashlandsanitaryservice.com

Another option is taking your wood waste to Bio-mass in White City for depositing the debris. There is a fee for this too.

A parking violation that has been coming up more often is blocking a sidewalk. This usually occurs when someone parks in their driveway across the sidewalk. This causes the pedestrians to have to go into the street and navigate around the car. This is difficult for walkers who may have visual impairment or use a mechanical aid. It also often forces kids to have to enter the street when they should be able to stay on the sidewalk. You will be issued a \$142 parking citation for this violation.

Scams and unethical business practices are not exactly the same. One is clearly a crime and the latter may be what is called a "civil matter" that has to be taken up in small claims court or in a lawsuit. However, both can leave a victim short of cash.

Talent PD recently received reports of both. When sales people come to your home, carefully review any contracts before signing. It is always good to get someone else to look at it with you and preferably after the sales person is gone. If you feel you are being pressured to sign and the sales person does not want to come back after you have time to look the contract over, that is a clear sign to be cautious. If you have a person at your home who refuses to take no for an answer and won't leave, call the police. Our non-emergency number is 541-776-7206. If the person becomes violent or is yelling at you, 911 would be appropriate.

We have had another victim of the "Grandma Scam", so called because the usual victims are grandmothers who receive a call saying their grand child is in jail and needs bail money. The scammer calls and impersonates a loved one and says they need bail money wired via Western Union to Canada. Do not send money! Call the number for the loved one or another relative and you will find that person is not in jail in Canada. We don't know how these criminals choose their victims or how they know personal information about them. That is why many fall victim to the scam because the scammer knows the right answers.

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I think I can say with some certainty that if you receive an unexpected call or message to urgently send money via Western Union out of the United States it is a scam 99.99% of the time.

PLANNING DEPARTMENT NEWS

Regional Problem Solving (RPS)

As advertised in previous articles, the Greater Bear Creek Regional Problem Solving process is nearing its completion. This 10-year planning effort has brought together the cities of Talent, Central Point, Medford, Phoenix, Ashland, and Eagle Point, as well as Jackson County and a number of State agencies to identify lands suitable for long-term urban growth needs sufficient to accommodate a doubling of the Region's population, which is expected to occur by the year 2060. Lands that were selected for urban growth have been designated as Urban Reserve Areas. The Urban Reserve Areas will be those areas into which cities will eventually expand their urban growth boundaries and, ultimately, their city limits.

Over the next few months all of the associated Cities and the County will be holding public hearings to discuss the various elements that make-up the plan. The purpose of the hearings is to allow all citizens to hear the details of the plans and ask questions of their civic leaders. More information about the plan, its various maps and the next available meeting is available at <http://www.rvcog.org>.

New Camelot Theatre

At the time of this writing, the Planning Commission has yet to make a decision about the new Camelot Theatre application. The new building is to be located just northwest of the existing theatre building which will be removed in order to make room for a new road system intended to alleviate the dangerous turning movements at the intersections of West Valley View Road and Talent Avenue and East Main Street and Talent Avenue. The

Planning Staff has recommended approval of the application based on a variety of factors that include building design, use of materials, height, landscaping, etc. The Talent Architectural Review Committee had approved the application unanimously. In staff's opinion, the building's design and its central location will have a very positive impact on the Downtown and Talent Avenue streetscape.

Talent Car Wash

Also on the Planning Commission's February agenda will be a Variance request from the Talent Car Wash owner who's proposing to build a roof structure over the vacuum cleaner islands located at the rear of the property. The roof structure is intended to mitigate sound noises and lights from the patrons who tend to enjoy their music while vacuuming their vehicles. Staff has recommended approval of the application.

TALENT MUNICIPAL COURT AMNESTY PROGRAM

If you have unpaid fines in the Talent Municipal Court that have resulted in the suspension of your driving privileges and/or have been referred to a collection agency, there is a short term Amnesty Program available that may help you.

All qualifying accounts will be eligible for a 25% discount if paid in full.

This program runs from February 16, 2010 through April 30, 2010.

What should you do if you think you may qualify for this program?

- Check with the court to determine eligibility and the amount owing.

Talent Municipal Court

Phone (541) 535-1566

110 E. Main St.

Talent, OR 97540

- Check with the DMV to determine what will be required of you to obtain a valid license.

DMV - Medford office

Phone (541) 776-6025

1174 Progress Dr. Suite 103

Medford, OR 97504

- Check with other courts that have outstanding fines against you.

Additional courts in this area may be participating in this program.

Once your outstanding fines have been paid, you will be given clearance forms to take to the DMV. These forms will show the DMV that you have met the court's requirements and the hold against your license will be lifted. Your license is not automatically reinstated with the payment of your fines. Be sure to complete the necessary requirements with DMV to obtain your valid license.

CITY COUNCIL VACANCY

Due to the resignation of Brian Roberts from the Talent City Council the City is seeking applications for this vacancy. When vacancies occur between elections the City Council appoints someone to serve until the next general election. To qualify, candidates must reside within the City limits and be a registered voter in the City prior to submitting an application for appointment. Applications must be submitted to the Office of the City Manager no later than 5:00 p.m. on Monday, March 15, 2010 to be considered. The Council will interview the applicants at a special session on Wednesday April 7, 2010, 5:30 p.m. Talent Community Center, 206 E. Main Street, Talent, Oregon 97540. Applications may be obtained at City Hall, 110 E. Main Street, Talent, Oregon 97540; phone 535-1566 or on the City website: www.cityoftalent.org.