



# 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

## COP TALK

Talent PD has a couple of new faces this summer. Brian O'Quinn just graduated from the Reserve Officer Law Enforcement Academy sponsored by Rogue Community College. He was #1 in his class. The course begins in September and runs throughout the school year with at least two evening classes each week and several Saturday classes. Congratulations to Brian for his dedication to completing the academy and his outstanding achievement. Brian will begin field training with TPD officers soon.

Our other new face is intern Ben Weaver. He is a Criminal Justice major at SOU in Ashland. As part of his practicum he will work throughout the summer at Talent PD assisting with various tasks. One of those primary tasks will be Code Enforcement, specifically the weed abatement program.

City ordinance #716 requires property owners to keep grass and weeds less than 10 inches in height after fire season is declared. There has been more rain this spring than normal, so the fire season may not be declared as early as usual by the Oregon Department of Forestry. However, once that happens, if your yard, field or lot has vegetation over ten inches high you must mow them and keep them mowed until the end of fire season is declared. Failing to do so may result in a citation.

Please review the city of Talent website and check out this ordinance under the ordinance tab. It can be found under the letter "W" for weeds at <http://cityoftalent.org/>

Scams are continuing to become more creative as they attempt to rip-off Talent citizens. Recently a woman in her 80's was being hounded by a "collection company" over a "student loan debt." They demanded payment even though she had never gone to college. Fortunately a relative of the would-be victim interceded before any cash was lost.

Another scam involved a call from someone saying he'd won \$200 for being a local customer of Walmart. The scammers said they needed a debit card number to pay the taxes first. After giving the number the account was debited over \$200 and no money was received. The only people who collect taxes on prizes are the IRS and the Oregon Department of Revenue. You don't prepay them with debit cards. Legitimate prizes are awarded minus the taxes, or you receive a form to complete to report those earnings to be taxed later.

A similar scam was someone who was told they won the Publishers Clearing House. She was given another number to call the "IRS" to pay taxes of nearly \$2000. This victim suspected something was off when the man answering the phone spoke very poor English and the phone number came back to Jamaica. She didn't pay.

Remember, if it seems too good to be true it is too good to be true.

## Fiscal Year 2010-2011 Budget

Despite rising costs and flat revenues our budget remains balanced and we are able to meet our obligations while continuing to provide critical services. The city's total budget for FY 2010-2011 is \$9,533,771.

The city's tax rate remained relatively flat this year in accordance with Measures 5 and 50. Historical data shows that in FY 08-09 it was 2.7665 per thousand in assessed value and in FY 09-10 it was 2.7705 per thousand, an increase of less than 1 percent (0.145%) in the city's tax rate. According to the Jackson County Assessor's Office assessed value within the city during the same timeframe increased from \$294,037,919 to \$303,929,067.

Last year's budget was very dire. The City needs about \$350,000 in our General Fund Balance to operate from July to November when tax revenues begin rolling in. In FY 08-09 our actual fund balance from the previous year was \$244,814 and the most we could budget for FY 09-10 was \$235,000. We needed to make up the shortfalls so that the city could operate without taking on short term debt and we also needed to start moving towards finding the funds to increase our Fund Balance to a sustainable level.

We made up the shortfall and increased our ending fund balance enough that we are in no danger of running in the red this year. I am very proud that this proposed budget is able to produce a General Fund Balance of \$355,000.

We have applied for and received the city's first ever Community Development Block Grant of almost \$850,000. We applied for and received \$280,835 in stimulus funds through ODOT to repair pavement on Talent Avenue and West Valley View Road. We applied for and received \$349,500 in CMAQ (air quality) funds through RVCOG to begin construction of a green paving project at Chuck Roberts Parking Lot. The city continues to improve its infrastructure and its appearance despite the tough economic times.

Significant progress or completion has been made on almost every Council Goal given to city staff, including increasing the contingency funds in each department. We have increased our contingency in the General Fund to 8% this year. The city has proactively reorganized staff in order to cope with the economic climate and we will continue searching for ways to deliver services more efficiently.

The City cut water rates to our consumers by 25% in 2007 in the hope of offsetting surcharges and absorbed a 12% increase in our water rates from Medford Water last year without passing the cost on to our consumers. Many of our residential water lines are very old and will need repair or replacement shortly, so we will be searching to find a way to pay for that maintenance.

**The high points of this year's budget are:**

- We have increased Capital Improvement budget on Parks from \$73,477 last year to \$503,079 this year (an increase of 585%). This is a significant increase when you consider that only \$4,160 was spent in FY 08 on Parks Capital Improvements. The lion's share of this is dedicated grant funds that must be spent on the Parking lot at Chuck Roberts Park, but we are

also budgeting \$15,500 to construct a small dog park.

- Our overall Capital Improvement spending to upgrade city infrastructure will increase from \$1,627,656 to \$3,670,110 as we take advantage of grant opportunities and a very favorable bidding climate for construction.

- The Fund Balance for the Street Fund has been built up from \$145,000 last year to \$325,000 this year.

- City expenditures for Recreation programs have increased from \$12,883 in FY 08 to \$28,750 this year.

- We have established a formal vehicle reserve fund to plan for the purchase of police vehicles.

- The workload in our Community Development Department justifies adding a part-time Planning Assistant in order to maintain acceptable permit timelines.

- We have established Building Maintenance Reserves for our City Hall and Police Station.

**Projects completed last year:**

- Lani Way improvement project
- Talent Avenue Improvement project

- Highway 99N improvement project has been completed and is being modified to provide a left-turn lane.

- Pavement overlays on West Valley View and Talent Avenue

- Completion of the Nerton Street project

- New restroom facilities at Lynn Newbry Park

**Projects scheduled for next year:**

- Arnos Street waterline, sidewalk, and pavement improvements

- Talent Avenue sidewalk extended from Old Bridge Village to Rapp Road

- West Valley View improvements

- Dog Park Construction

- Chuck Roberts Park parking lot improvements

- Purchase of property for the construction of a water reservoir

- Highway 99S Main Water Line project

- South 1st Street waterline replacement

- Upgrade of computer controls (SCADA System) for the TAP waterline

- Continued upgrade of water meters to radio read

- Increasing the city's Information Technology capabilities

Even with our region's difficult fiscal situation, the city is still making projects happen, moving forward, and providing a high level of service.

On behalf of the entire staff, thank you for the opportunity to serve.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jay Henry, City Manager

## PLANNING DEPT. NEWS

### West Valley View Master Plan

On Wednesday, April 21st, as part of the West Valley View Master Planning efforts, the Talent City Council unanimously approved various amendments to the existing Downtown Design Standards to help guide new development within this area. The Council also unanimously adopted the final landscaping plans for the new park promenade that is to be within the vacated right-of-way of the existing street. Although the West Valley View Master Plan area is expected to take a number of years to be completed, the planned public improvements and expected private developments will help activate the downtown environment.

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## Talent Dog Park

For many years, the citizens and civic leadership of Talent have discussed the desire and benefits of local dog park. As part of the recently adopted Parks Master Plan, a dog park site was identified and will eventually be part of the Suncrest Park in the future when that park is developed. Unfortunately, it could be a number of years until Suncrest Park is developed and so when this subject recently rose again, City Manager, Jay Henry proposed to the City Council a temporary solution to use surplus City land until Suncrest Park is developed.

The idea was well received and three properties were evaluated based on location, expense and compatibility. The three candidates were Lynn Newbry Park, the vacant land behind City Hall and the vacant land immediately northwest of the Talent Police Department (old BMX park site). After numerous meetings, the decision was to place the temporary dog park on the property next to the Police Department on Talent Avenue. In order to finalize the decision, the Talent Planning Commission will review the proposal based on local land use criteria on May 27th, 2010.

## Rogue Valley Council of Governments

We are in the last stages of the Regional Problem Solving process in the Rogue Valley. There is a great deal of activity around the public process, with a fair amount of passion between opposing mindsets on the question of whether or not the draft plan is as good a first, large step to a better future for the valley as it could be. I know the answer for myself, and I know that some people share that opinion, and others do not. That's fine; good-willed and well-intentioned people can disagree on something as large and complicated as RPS—it would only be curious if that weren't the case. It would also be curious if those feelings weren't passionate at times, because RPS will have a fundamental impact on this region decades into the future, and people care about this valley.

In the midst of this passionate public process, I wanted to describe a brief impression of the May 5 Talent public hearing on the draft plan. It just happened that I was able to attend this

particular hearing at the last minute—I haven't been able to attend many others—and I was glad I did. As the hearing proceeded, it occurred to me how well our system can work when people on both sides are willing to listen and consider information, rather than beat each other over the head with bumper stickers and absolutes. At this hearing a number of citizens, most of them from Talent, were willing and able to have a reasoned, respectful conversation with their elected representatives about what their city meant to them, and what they would and would not like to see as Talent's future. The members of the City Council matched the civility in kind, and responded by suggesting potential modifications to one of their proposed urban reserves that clearly demonstrated they were listening and were willing, even at the end of this decade-long process, to continue to make refinements. No threat of a lawsuit motivated council members; rather, it was the desire to be part of a plan that works the best it can for Talent's citizens and for the region as a whole. This isn't to say that the other cities or the County need to make changes to the plan to demonstrate that they care about the Rogue Valley or their citizens. Not everyone who wants a change made at this point has had or will have a compelling case. In addition, the draft plan has been created over many years of development and refinement, and is the product of a great deal of input from every corner of the Rogue Valley. Without any doubt whatsoever, this is by far the most heavily vetted plan ever seen in this region. What this one hearing in Talent did say to me is that reasoned compromise is still very much a part of our society, no matter what we all see on the news. That can't help but bode well for what needs to happen after RPS, as the real process for creating a better future for all of us will occur then. RPS only sets the stage; the play remains to be written.

*Editorial by Michael Cavallaro*

## 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 until December. These events will range from lectures, silent film festival, the NEW pictorial book of Talent, the Centennial Flag, the Centennial Tree, the 100 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 for more information.

The Centennial Committee and the City of Talent PRESENT:

### Talent Garden Club "Garden Tour"

The Talent Garden Club is holding its First-ever, "Garden Tour," in celebration of the city's centennial. Seven gardens will be featured with a variety of different types – one promoting perma-culture, an English garden, an estate with a variety of trees, a rose garden and an orchard with hundreds of roses, a small space garden and many others. The tour map will point out sites of historical interest in addition to the gardens visited. Maps will be available the day of the tour at the starting point of Talent Elementary School. Tickets include light refreshments which will be served at Rogue Valley Brambles Farm, one of the venues on the tour, while the Old Time Fiddlers play in the afternoon. Wines from local wineries will also be avail-

able. Tickets are \$10 and are available at Tark's Market in Talent and Paddington Station in Ashland and at the Talent Elementary School the day of the tour. Help support our local garden club and make this a great annual event. For further information, please call: Jan Accord 541-535-9088

**When:** Saturday, June 12th, 11am-4pm- Music from 2-4pm

**Where:** Talent Elementary School  
301 Wagner Creek Road, Talent

**Cost:** \$10

### The Lions Club Breakfast

Enjoy a wonderful breakfast of eggs, ham and lots of pancakes without having to cook or clean up at home! This fun filled breakfast has been a local favorite for years. Come Support the local Talent Lion's Club and the people they help. Breakfast is served from 7am-12 noon.

Bring your family, come to downtown Talent & meet your neighbors! Includes milk and a hot cup of coffee. For further information, please call: Ron 541-944-1820 jan@wright-archives.com

**When:** Sat., June 20th 7am-12 noon

**Where:** Talent Community Center  
Corner of Main St. & Market St.

**Cost:** \$5 for adults and \$2 children (12 and under)

## Schools out! Schools out! Now what?

Talent Parks and Rec's "Got Talent?" That's what, and it's not just for kids anymore.

Register now for local fun and affordable classes and activities all summer long. **Scholarships are available!**

The "Got Talent?" activity guide, scholarship application and registration forms are available online at [www.cityoftalent.org](http://www.cityoftalent.org) and the City of Talent at 110 East Main St. Come on and join the fun!

## Parks and Recreation June Calendar

### Hip Hop with Calysta

June 21- July 2 M, W & F  
2:00- 3:00 TES. \$36

### Children's Tennis Lessons

June 21 – July 24 M - TH  
Ages 5 - 8 9:00 - 10:00  
Ages 9 -13 10:00 – 11:00 \$25/wk

### Cooperative Games Ages 5-8

June 22 & 24 5:00 - 6:00  
Chuck Roberts Park \$10

Everyone's a winner if they're having FUN!

**Swimming Lessons** Ages 4 and up  
Session 1 June 21 – July 1 Mon.-Thurs \$35

Improve your skill in the water with certified swim lessons. We are excited to offer these lessons again from the Ashland Family YMCA. Transportation to and from the pool will be on RVTD. Constant supervision will be provided from 11:15 pick up until 1:50 return to Chuck Roberts Park. 8 Lessons each session.

**Jump Rope** All ages June 28, 29, 30  
9:30 – 11:30 \$25

The Talented Feet Jump Rope Team will teach the tricks of single rope and double-dutch as seen in the movie Jump In. Each jumper will receive a personally fitted jump rope. All you need to bring are tennis shoes.

**Learn to Play Guitar** Ages 10 – 16  
June 28 – July 16. 10:00-11:00 M, W & F at TES \$50

Instructor Paul Hadella will be teaching a 3-week series of guitar lessons for those interested in learning to play. Guitars will be provided.

**Beginning Drawing** for adults June 21-July 26 9:00 – 10:30 am Mon. for six weeks \$70

Learn the basics of drawing in a step-by-step manner.

**Beginning Watercolor** for Adults June 21- July 26 10:45-12:15 Mon. for six weeks \$70

Learn the basics of watercolor painting in a step-by-step manner.