



THE FLASH City of Talent

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

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Welcome to the City!



Hello All!

My name is **Suzanne Heinrich** and I am pleased to introduce myself as the new Assistant City Recorder for the City of Talent. My background includes ten years of practicing law and over fifteen years in various administrative capacities. My undergraduate degree is a B.S. in Business from the University of Colorado. I obtained my Juris Doctorate from Santa Clara University School of Law. I welcome the opportunity to apply my experience and skills towards serving the City of Talent and its residents.

My passion is travel, particularly international travel, but it's always wonderful to return to the Rogue Valley – a great place to call home. My husband, Bill, and I moved to this area six years ago and the longer we are here, the happier we are with our decision to have relocated from the Bay Area.

I look forward to meeting many of you in the future. Please come by and introduce yourselves. My office is at City Hall and my door will be open!



Hi Talent,

My name is **Ashlei Michaels** and I'm excited to let you know that I have recently joined the staff at City Hall as Utility Billing Clerk. I currently work part time for RoxyAnn Winery as a wine specialist as well. For the past seven years I've been doing accounting for a local franchisee owner of eight Burger King Restaurants. I moved from California to Oregon nine years ago. Some of my hobbies include aviation, riding my motorcycle, horseback

riding, and exploring as much of the great outdoors as I possibly can!

City Manager Report

First, as we begin a new fiscal year, I would like to thank every single city employee for doing his or her job diligently and for providing outstanding service to the city. Now that the city is becoming fully staffed (with the exception of one police officer, for whom we are in the recruitment process), I feel that we are stabilizing after a tumultuous period.

The past two years have been very tough on all city staff. There have been reductions in staff and we have been very tight with our expenditures. As a result, even though our revenues have remained relatively flat, the city is operating within its budget and our current staff is well paid in both wages and benefits, especially if you consider the difficult economic times we live in and take the time to compare our wages and benefits to the private sector. The current economic crisis is very real, and every one of us, including myself, is incredibly fortunate to have our excellent jobs and benefits. In recent recruitments the city has received up to 160 applications for a single position. It's no exaggeration to state that times are tough... Here's what some recent articles are reporting:

- Today's USA Today reports that up to 400,000 State, county and city workers could lose their jobs in the next year due to budget constraints.

- The Governor of California is attempting to reduce 200,000 State worker's wages to the Federal Minimum Wage (\$7.25 per hour).

- City employee wage freezes and reductions are commonplace across our state.

- Last week it was reported that the city of Maywood, California has disbanded all city services and become a contract city due to budget constraints.

- National League of Cities 2010 State of America's Cities reports that:

- 75% of cities state that their overall economic and fiscal condition has worsened over the past year. The City of Talent is actually in a stronger economic and fiscal condition than both two years ago and last year.

- 68% are cancelling capital projects. We have completed several large capital projects and will be completing more in the next year, including an \$850,000 water line project and a \$350,000 parks project (both funded by outside sources).

- 71 % are making personnel cuts. We took a careful look at our budget projections when I came on board two years ago and we have made painful personnel cuts in the last two years. Our budget is now strong enough that we have been able to add staff where needed and there is no immediate need for personnel cuts.

- 22% are making public safety cuts. We're making none.

- 24% are making healthcare benefit reductions. We have increased the share the city pays for employee healthcare benefits by \$55 per month this year and will increase that by an additional \$60 per month next year.

- 22% are making revisions to Union Contracts to reduce pay/benefits. We have asked two 20-hour per week employees to go to 19 hours per week or less. All hourly city employees

will receive a 2.1% COLA as of July 1.

- 54% have eliminated or reduced travel. We have not reduced travel.

- 41% have eliminated or reduced professional development. We have not reduced our budgetary commitment to training, although we now carefully review all training requests with an eye on the return for the city.

- 19% have implemented furloughs. We have not.

I have had to make some very difficult decisions in the last two years, but those decisions are proving to be beneficial for the City of Talent and our current employees. In short, our budget is sustainable and sound and there is no current economic threat to city jobs, despite the tough economic conditions. I promise that I will do my very best to keep our budget balanced and to spend public funds as wisely as possible so that hopefully, we will be able to weather future economic storms.

I feel that our current employees are the finest city employees in the Rogue Valley. They are competent, hard working, careful with public funds, and I'm very proud to be associated with them. Morale at city hall is the best that I've seen in my two years here and it's great to see our employees working as a team. I would like to say thank you to our department heads and employees for your service to the city.

-Jay Henry

News from the City's Engineers:

Talent Avenue Construction Projects

The City of Talent is currently receiving bids for the Talent Avenue Sidewalk project which will install sidewalks and bike lanes on the east side of Talent Ave. between Rapp Road and Old Bridge Village. The City was planning on completing these improvements earlier this summer, but has decided to wait until early September to complete the project. The City decided to wait to allow Rogue Valley Sewer to complete a sewer line reconstruction project in the same area prior to the installation of the new sidewalks. Rogue Valley Sewer's work will take place between Old Bridge Village and Rogue River Parkway along Talent Avenue on the East side of the street just beyond the edge of pavement. This work is scheduled to start at the beginning of August and will be completed by the end of September at the latest. Once the sewer line work has been completed the City will begin our sidewalk improvement project. Thanks in advance for your patience and enjoy the new pedestrian connection after completion.

COP TALK

By Chief Mike Moran

August will bring a new officer to the Talent Police Department. We are in the background investigation phase of our lengthy hiring process and hope to have a new officer on board this month.

The hiring process includes a résumé review, written test, oral interviews, background investigation, psychological screening and medical evaluation. We had a total of 50 applicants and 35 took the written test. I look forward

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to introducing our new officer in next month's FLASH!

One more plug for keeping those weeds and grass areas cut to less than ten inches. Usually by this time in the summer season a second cutting is in order. We appreciate your cooperation in reducing the dangers of fire by complying with this ordinance.

Planning Department News

Levels of Review

There are four types of land-use permits the City processes (called types I-IV). The procedures are described below. For further information, see Article 8-3L.1 of the General Ordinances.

Type-I (Ministerial) decisions are made by the City Planner without public notice and without a public hearing. The Type-I procedure is used when there are clear and objective approval criteria requiring no use of discretion. Examples: Zoning Permits and Lot Line Adjustments.

Type-II (Administrative) decisions are made by the City Planner with public notice and an opportunity for a public hearing. The Planning Commission hears the appeal of a Type-II decision. Examples: Minor Site Development Plan Review and Minor Land Partitions.

Type-III (Quasi-Judicial) decisions are made by the Planning Commission after a public hearing, with appeals reviewed by the Hearings Officer. Type-III decisions generally use discretionary approval criteria. Examples: Subdivisions, Conditional Use Permits and Design Review for larger commercial development proposals.

Type-IV (Legislative) procedures apply to legislative matters. Legislative matters involve the creation, revision, or large-scale implementation of public policy. Type-IV matters are considered initially by the Planning Commission with final decisions made by the City Council. Examples: Adoption or Amendment of land use regulations, Rezoning and Comprehensive Plan amendments.

Riparian Zones

Section 8-3H of the Talent Zoning

Ordinance is intended to identify the development and disturbance standards for the City's various natural areas including floodplains and natural areas such as open spaces and riparian areas. However, like all codes crafted to not only protect the resource from un-mitigated development or site disturbance, there are also exceptions written within the codes to minimize the potential adverse impact where private property could be damaged or loss of life could occur if certain "exceptions to the rule" were not included in the code's adoption. This is specifically true in a recent case in Talent where two arborists collaborated on the health of a few trees along Wagner Creek where both arborists agreed the trees in question were not in good health and were the type of trees susceptible to falling limbs. In this example, the codes do allow for removal as long as it can be demonstrated the trees are a hazard.

Architectural Review Committee

Are you interested in Talent's architecture? In getting your feet wet in municipal government and balancing preservation with new development? Come join the Talent Architectural Review Committee. This committee meets for a couple of hours each month (on the 3rd Tuesday and in the evening) to review remodel and new construction plans in the "Old Town" design district (see map on the City's website under "Planning"). It also advises the Planning Commission on the architectural design of development projects.

If you would like more information on these matters, please feel free to contact Planning at 535-7401 or via e-mail at mark@cityoftalent.org.

Plastic – You Can Recycle it All – Here's How:

First, use your Blue Commingled Bin: this is for all your plastics that have the numbers in triangles (except number 6) - or take them to the Ashland Recycling Station on Water St.

For all the rest - from plastic film to buckets, toys, and chairs, gather it up for the Annual Plastic Round Up, October 8 and 9. All will get taken to Portland for recycling. More details to come in the next issue of Flash. Also, please visit: <http://www.jcrecycle.org/pages/about-the-partnership/special-events/plastic-round-up.php> for more information to help you start accumulating now.

Water Conservation Tips From The City Of Talent

Let's all do our part to help conserve water this year, save energy, control costs and help the environment.

Water Wise Lawn Care

Did you know that landscape water use typically runs 40-50 percent of your total water usage?

- Water no more than every third day so the grass develops deeper roots and uses moisture deep in the ground.
- Water in the early morning or late evening when there is no wind.
- After a rain, skip watering until the grass dries.

Tips to Conserve Water Indoors

- Change habits and use less water.
- Know where your master water shut-off valve is located. This could save water and prevent damage to your home.
- Install water-saving fixtures and appliances.

In the Bathroom

- Turn off water while brushing your teeth or shaving.
- (This saves 35 gallons a week per person)
- Don't use the toilet as a trash can.
- Take shorter showers or bathe in half a tub of water.

- (This saves approximately 75 gallons a week per person)

- Upgrade older toilets with water efficient models.

In the Kitchen

- Run the dishwasher only when it's full.

- (This saves 30 gallons a week)
- Don't rinse the dishes before putting them into the dishwasher; scrape them clean.

- (This saves 60 gallons a week)
- When washing fruits or vegetables, fill the sink with water instead of running the faucet.

- (This saves 30 gallons a week)
- Store a jug of water in the refrigerator for cool drinks.

In the Laundry

- Run only full loads in the washing machine unless you can adjust for smaller loads (This saves 100 gallons a week).

- Pre-treat stains to avoid the need for rewashing.

Share these water conservation tips with friends and neighbors, and please report broken pipes, open hydrants, and errant sprinklers to the property owner or City of Talent.

City Hall: 535-1566

Public Works: 535-3828

From the Centennial Committee

The Centennial Committee is hosting a booth during the Harvest Festival for families to connect with out-of-town members who might be attending. Be sure to see the News Brief in this issue of Talent News & Review about family reunions and suggestions on how to incorporate them with the Centennial. For more information please contact: Cheryl Colwell at: mail@cheryllynncolwell.com.

Centennial Harvest Festival is September 11th

Gear up, Talent. Saturday, September 11th is Talent's Centennial Harvest Festival. This year, as we celebrate 100 years of Talent, the festival is shaping up to be the best ever!

For more information or if you would like to participate in the parade or have a booth at the Festival please stop by City Hall for the application packets. You may also check the City's website: www.cityoftalent.org or phone 535-1566. Vendors take note - the earlier the better on requesting booths.

We have an excellent musical line-up for this year's Festival beginning right after the parade - 4 different bands! The booths and bands will be primarily behind City hall but we may have some on John Street as well. A children's area will include an enormous jump house, balloon sculptures, activities and the Oregon Science Works tent.

An early reminder that beginning about 7:30am there will be some street closures that will occur to accommodate the Festival Run. The run starts at 8am from Front St. up Main to Foss and out into the county and back. We will be closing off North Front to stage the runners at about 7:15am.

The parade route will run differently this year. The line up starts at 9am at the elementary School and will run down Main. Then it will loop onto Market and return to the school up Wagner Creek. Please plan for those street closures if you are out that morning. The Police Department will remind everyone again in September.

Watch for more detail on the grand Centennial Harvest Festival to be posted as the event nears!