



# 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

### From the City Manager's Desk (a letter to Talent's City Council and Talent residents)

Hello All

I am very pleased to report that Talent's budget is in good shape. Because of very careful fiscal management the City has increased its General Fund Balance by \$203,654 to \$589,297, which is sufficient to cover our operating costs until property tax revenues begin rolling in. As the Council is aware, when I was hired two years ago our General Fund Balance had declined to only \$235,000, which was very worrisome.

Other notable bright spots in our budget are that the Parks Fund, Street Fund and Water Fund Balances are increased as well. One thing that we need to keep our eye on is the Water Fund, as there is substantial debt from the TAP project to be repaid every year, and there will be increased operating costs due to rate increases from Medford Water Commission. I have asked Public Works Management to provide the City with a comprehensive report providing their best recommendations as to our possible options as we attempt to forecast our expenses and income in the Water Fund for the next few years.

In short, the City of Talent is doing very well in these difficult times with our budget. We need to continue to be very careful with our expenditures as Oregon's deficit is enormous and this will impact the City in the future as the State will probably implement further cutbacks. The City's current staff is doing an excellent job of providing outstanding customer service that is cost effective and our Department Heads deserve our sincere thanks for keeping their department's expenses down. Denise Woodman, Suzanne Heinrich, Mike Moran, Mark Knox, and both Joe Strahl and Jeff Ballard from Public Works Management are doing an outstanding job as our department heads and the City is very fortunate to have such a great group of competent, caring leaders working with us.

Very Respectfully,

Jay Henry, City Manager

### Traffic Safety & Transportation Committee Appreciation to Joel Goldman

On behalf of the members of the Talent Traffic Safety & Transportation Committee and the citizens of Talent we would like to thank Joel Goldman for volunteering his time and talents on our committee. Joel has served on the TSTC for over 4 years. We truly appreciate his dedication and the

valuable role he has played. His enthusiasm and input have helped the citizens of Talent have safer streets. Joel will be focusing his time and efforts on his business and other commitments after Dec. 31, 2010.

Joel Goldman is the owner of Talent Chiropractic. He has the distinction of being the first chiropractor in Talent's history. He has lived in India and traveled around the world. The charm of Talent and the kindness of its citizens eventually brought him to our city. Joel believes the city's slogan "Small Town – Big Heart."

Joel continues to serve on the Talent Urban Renewal Budget Committee, is a member of the Historical Society and is one of the first members of the Talent Chamber of Commerce. In addition he is a fan of the Talent Garden Club.

Joel feels that participating on the TSTC is a wonderful opportunity for citizens to learn how a city is run and provides them a way to help improve their city. He has enjoyed working with his colleagues and has learned a great deal about city, state and federal regulations governing transportation issues.

With Joel's departure we are seeking another citizen to serve on the TSTC. Applications may be obtained at cityoftalent.org or by stopping by City Hall for an application. Members serve for a 3 year term which expires on Dec. 31st. If you are interested please contact Coleen at 541-535-3828.

### TALENT PD NEWS

Submitted by Chief Mike Moran

I'd like to discuss the two most important crime and safety issues for December. They are protecting yourself and your possessions from thieves and secondly, the increasing menace of drunk drivers.

The holiday shopping season is in full swing. Along with that, historically, we see the holiday stealing season. Thieves look for easy targets: unlocked homes, unlocked cars, cars parked in dark areas with clearly visible valuables inside and distracted shoppers.

Remember to lock up and hide your valuables. When shopping, be aware of your surroundings in the store and when going to your car. Never leave a purse in a cart even for a second. Carrying wallets in front pockets makes them harder to remove by pickpockets.

If you feel uneasy leaving a store or you see someone just hanging around in the lot, ask a store employee to come out with you or at least watch you until you get to your car.

Report suspicious people to store security or the police.

Drunk driving should be on the decline but it seems to be increasing not only in numbers of DUI's but also the levels of intoxication. Recently Talent PD observed two vehicles violating traffic laws. When the officer stopped the most serious violator, the other car quickly left the area although they clearly were together. The first driver was arrested for DUI. Later, at the Detox Center, the second driver showed up to take the first driver home. The second driver was then arrested for DUI.

This story is an example of a trend of DUIs that are flagrant and are increas-

ing the risk to your safety and your family's safety on the roads. Impaired driving is a serious problem. Please do what you can to stop people from driving drunk or impaired by marijuana, illegal drugs and prescription drugs.

### PUBLIC WORKS

#### Important Winter Weather Water Tips

With winter upon us, now is the time to prepare for the possibility of an extreme winter season. Here are some tips that may prevent costly emergency repairs:

- Locate your water shut off valve (see below for help).
- Insulate your plumbing (hot water pipes too) in areas that are not heated such as crawl spaces, garages and outside.
- 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.
- Before leaving on trips, do not set your thermostats lower than 55°.

#### During Freezing Weather

- Maintain 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). It is harder for flowing water to freeze. This is most helpful for faucets that are farther away from where your water enters the house.
- If your pipes freeze, NEVER try to thaw 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 during cold spells. If something breaks, they can act before it causes too much damage.

#### WINTERIZE YOUR SPRINKLER SYSTEM

– This may be one of the most important winter preparations. **Sprinkler systems are one of the most common reasons for water leaks.** 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. If you disconnect the common wire during the winter it will ensure that your system can't accidentally be turned on.
- Shut off the water to your sprinklers. Sometimes there is a valve that isolates 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.** That should be left open to allow for drainage.
- Drain your individual sprinkler components as much as possible. Most new 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

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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. This allows you to control when the system drains rather than it occurring after every irrigation cycle.

#### If a Water Pipe does Break:

- Shut off the Water!  
**Look for your shut-off valve in the following places:**
- In the garage, near the water heater or laundry hookup
  - In the crawl space or basement, where the waterline enters the home
  - Outside near the foundation, often protected by a concrete ring or clay pipe

#### Can't find your Shut-off Valve?

If you can't find your waterline shut-off valve call a plumber to help you locate it. If you don't have one, you should have one installed.

If you need to shut your water off at the meter, please call:

During Business Hours: (541) 535-3828 Public Works or (541) 535-1566 City Hall

After Business Hours: (541) 535-2322

Please do not tamper with the water meter yourself as you are liable for damages.

### "FIRELINES" HOLIDAY FIRE SAFETY

Submitted by  
Dan Marshall, Fire Chief  
Jackson County Fire District # 5

Each year during the holiday season, over 400 Americans die in fires and an additional 1700 are injured, resulting in \$990 million dollars in damage. While these numbers are staggering, there are simple life-saving steps you can take to ensure a safe and happy holiday. By following the fire safety tips below you can greatly reduce your chances of becoming a holiday fire statistic.

#### Preventing Christmas Tree Fires

- Purchase Fresh Trees That Have Not Begun Dropping Needles
- Water The Tree Often
- Dispose Of The Tree As Soon As Possible After The Holidays
- Keep All Heating Sources Away From The Tree

**Holiday Lights**

- Make Sure Lights Are UL Approved (Laboratory-Tested)
- Check Lights Each Year For Worn Areas, Bare Spots, Bends Or Twists In The Wire, Broken Or Cracked Sockets
- Never Overload Outlets Or Extension Cords
- Do Not Leave Holiday Lights On Unless You're Home

**Candles**

- Avoid Using Lit Candles. If You Do Use Them, Make Sure They Are In Stable Holders And Cannot Be Easily Knocked Over
- Never Leave Home With Candles Burning
- Do Not Place Candles On Or Near Combustibles

Finally, make sure you have a working smoke alarm installed on every level of your home and test them monthly. Also, have a home fire escape plan for your family and practice it.

Wishing you a 'firesafe' holiday season from all of us at Jackson County Fire District # 5.

### Adopt a Family for Christmas

The Christmas tree is up at City Hall and Christmas is just around the corner! We are kindly asking the community to help City employees along with Fire District #5 in our efforts to make Christmas special for some of the less fortunate families in our area.

If you would like to help please stop by Talent City Hall and pick up a gift tag from our Christmas tree. Each tag will have the first name of one family member that will include the sex, age and suggested gift from the wish list for that person. We will gladly accept donations of wrapping paper, gift tags/stickers, bags, bows and ribbon to wrap the gifts. There will also be two drop boxes located at City Hall and the Fire Department for non-perishable foods if you would like to contribute in this way.

The families will be receiving a Christmas dinner basket containing a turkey and several non perishable food items. All gifts and dinner baskets will be hand delivered by Santa Clause in a fire truck from Fire District #5 the week of Christmas!

Gifts need to be turned in, unwrapped or in an open gift bag with the original gift tag attached to it, at City Hall no later than 5pm on Friday, December 17th.

If you have any questions please direct them to Leslea Heiken or Ashlei Michaels at City Hall, 541-535-1566 or email [ashlei@cityoftalent.org](mailto:ashlei@cityoftalent.org). Thanks for your support and Happy Holidays!

### HANDMADE SNOW-FLAKE CONTEST

This holiday season the City of Talent is asking the community to get involved in putting a personal touch to decorating City Hall. Create your best snowflake and bring it in. All snowflakes submitted will be on display in City Hall windows to be judged by all who visit. Snowflakes will be numbered individually and there will be voting slips available to enter into a drop box until 5pm on December 30th.

**RULES**

All entries must be submitted between December 4th-21st.

Only one snowflake can be submitted for judging per contestant.

All ages are welcome.

Snowflake must be personally hand-made.

Winner will receive recognition in the February 2011 Flash. The article will include a picture of the winner and their snowflake along with a little biographical information.

For more information please contact the City Hall at 541-535-1566 or email [ashlei@cityoftalent.org](mailto:ashlei@cityoftalent.org)

We are really looking forward to seeing everyone's snowflakes and all of Talent's creativity!



**Come One, Come All!**

# Talent Holiday Celebration

**Talent Community Center**  
**Tuesday, December 14th**

**Festivities begin at 5:00 pm**  
 Ballet Folklorico  
 Phoenix High School Choir  
 Sing Along with Mayor Don Steyskal  
 Decoration Craft Table - Refreshments

**TREE LIGHTING AT 6:00 PM with**  
 Carolyn's Carolers  
 Joyful Voices of Girl Scout Troupe 32718

(Following the Community Center festivities, "carole" your way to the  
 Talent Middle School Winter Concert, 7 pm)