



THE FLASH City of Talent

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

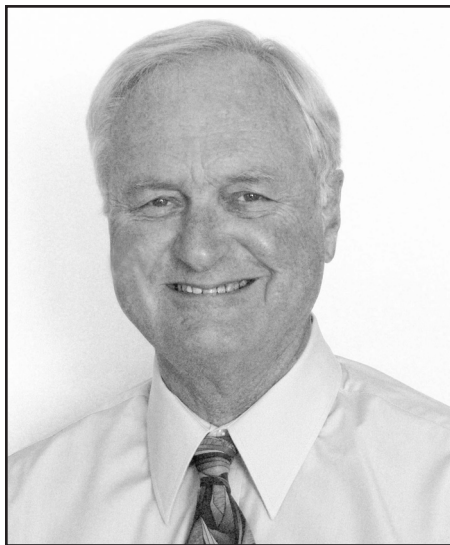
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HAPPY NEW YEAR TALENT!

The City wishes the very best for our community and all its citizens and will continue to work towards that end throughout the New Year.

Happy 2011 to all from City Hall, Public Works and the Talent Police Department.

New Mayor Takes Oath of Office



William ("Bill") Cecil was sworn in as Talent's Mayor by the Honorable Judge James Wickre at Talent's first City Council meeting of the New Year held on January 5th. Mayor Cecil has a long history of serving Talent. Prior to being elected Mayor this past November, he was President of Talent's City Council where he had served since January 2007. The new Mayor served on the Talent Planning Commission from 1998 to 2004. He also has represented the City on a number of other committees and commissions, including the Planning Commission Advisory Committee, the Jackson County Parks Advisory Committee, and he has been the City's representative to intergovernmental groups such as the Rogue Valley Area Commission of Transportation (RVACT) and Regional Problem Solving (RPS).

Talent City Council meetings are held on the first and third Wednesday each month at the Talent Community Center beginning at 6:30 p.m. Council meetings are open to the public. In addition, Mayor Cecil plans to report on items of interest and importance to Talent citizens through the Flash. Watch for "From the Mayor's Office" a new column which will soon be a regular feature.

Mayor Cecil has an "open door" policy. He may be reached at City Hall, during his regular office hours, or by appointment. Call 541.535.1566 or email mayor@cityoftalent.org. U.S. mail may be sent to Mayor Bill Cecil at City Hall, P.O. Box 445, Talent, OR 97540.

The Mayor's term runs until the end of 2014.

Along with Mayor Cecil, new Councilors Chris Auer, Diane Glendenning and Dan Goyette were sworn in on January 5, 2010 joining Councilor

E. J. McManus, Councilor Sherman Lamb and Councilor Teresa Cooke.

HARVEST FESTIVAL DVD'S AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE

You are invited to purchase a 2010 Centennial Harvest Festival DVD. It includes the parade, the walk/race, the entertainment, the fun! Great memories - Only \$10 (less if you buy more).

Stop by City Hall and order yours today.

Remembering Ken Wilson

In November a retired Talent Police officer passed away in Medford. Ken Wilson served with Talent PD from April 1992 to his retirement in April 2000.

Ken started with the City of Anaheim, Ca until he moved to the Rogue Valley. He worked for Phoenix PD for a short time, and finished out his career with Talent PD. Officer Wilson worked for Chiefs Dale Kinnan, C. W. Smith, and Elmer Kammel. Chief CW Smith promoted him to "Senior Officer" in the last few years of his career. His family has told us that he was very proud to have served Talent.

He is survived by his wife Brenda; son Shane Wilson, daughter Tara Wilson, step-daughter, Sabrina Swainston, brother, Greg Wilson; and two sisters, Marlene Valiquette and Cindy Lindhe;

Officer Wilson's son, Shane, also served with Talent PD from 2000 to 2007 as an officer. Shane had been the writer for the Talent PD section of the Flash for a few years.

Planning Department News

Volunteers Needed

The City is looking to fill some vacancies on both the Planning Commission and Architectural Review Committee. Except during the holidays, the Planning Commission meets on the 4th Thursday of the month at 6:30 p.m. in the Community Center and the Architectural Review Committee meets the 3rd Tuesday of the month at 6:00 p.m. at City Hall. Civic participation can be very rewarding and educational. Please contact Mark Knox at 535-7401 or Suzanne Heinrich at 535-1566 for any specific questions. We look forward to hearing from you.

Talent Dog Park

The winter weather is causing some delays for Talent's new Dog Park to be located along Talent Avenue, next to the Police Department (old BMX park site). Once the ground dries and City crews have completed their winter chore lists, work will again commence with the expectation the dog park will be open during the summer months. Items to be completed include fencing, irrigation, a drinking fountain and walking paths.

Camelot Theatre

According to Bruce Richey, Project Architect for the new Camelot Theatre, construction is right on schedule. Adroit Construction should be finished with the new theatre about the middle of May, 2011. The theatre company is currently scheduled to have their first production in the new theatre building in June, 2011. Also of interest is

the Camelot Theatre design has been selected to be included in the United States exhibition at the Prague Quadrennial 2011. This event in Prague, Czech Republic is held once every four years and recognizes the best theatre designs from 70 countries around the world. The new theatre is also participating in the Earth Advantage Small Commercial Building pilot program. The design and construction are on track to qualify for a Gold Level certification from the Earth Advantage Institute. This certification recognizes the sustainable and energy-conserving materials and techniques that are being utilized in the new theatre building construction.

From the City Manager's Desk

Talent is currently in a "renaissance period" thanks to our City Council, Talent Urban Renewal Agency, and the hard work of our outstanding department heads, employees, and volunteers. The city is a safe city thanks to our well trained and well led Police Department. City Hall staff is working well together and has a collective positive energy driven attitude. Our roads, parks and water lines are in very good shape overall with several exciting construction projects happening. The entrance to our downtown is being completely reconfigured, the Camelot Theater is moving to a new building, and our Harvest Festival last year was the best it has ever been, with an estimated 5,000 people attending. Developers and Builders are reporting to me that Talent is the most development friendly city in the Rogue Valley with staff that is willing to work efficiently and effectively with developers. Talent's water system has been designated one of 35 "Outstanding Performer" systems in the State of Oregon in 2010. Our budget is balanced even in these difficult times and the City Council has given the City Manager an average evaluation rating of 3.65 on a 4.0 scale for the last two years.

Here are the hard numbers from our budget:

- We have increased the Ending Fund Balance for our General Fund by 150% - from \$235,000 (2008) to \$589,297 (2010)
- We have increased General Fund Contingency Funds from \$97,581(2008) to \$150,300 (2010)
- We have increased Capital Improvement funding of Parks 585% - from \$73,477 (2009) to \$503,079 (2010) through grant funding.
- We have applied for and received the city's first Community Development Block Grant of \$857,000 for main water line replacement to encourage growth in a commercial section of the city.
- We have increased Recreation funding by 123% - From \$12,883 (2009) to \$28,750 (2010)
- We have established the city's first police vehicle reserve fund and building maintenance fund for City Hall and the Police Station.

These budget numbers are a result of some very painful trimming and cost cutting on the expenditure side of the equation and aggressively pursuing grant opportunities on the revenue side. We have not taken on any additional debt in two and half years. And, as with most cities, our tax revenue has remained relatively flat.

In light of our track record, we look

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forward to another good year. I am delighted and grateful to be Talent's City Manager and to have the opportunity to work hard and achieve success for our City.

Adopt a Family for Christmas Thank You!

The City of Talent and Fire District 5 would like to thank everyone who helped in making this year's "Adopt a Family for Christmas" program such a tremendous success! Below are just a few names of the many sponsors this year. Thank you to everyone who participated!

- Phoenix/Talent Head Start
- Leslea Heiken
- Ashlei Michaels
- Fire Chief Dan Marshall
- Mike Wilson
- Local 2596
- Fire District 5 Volunteer Firefighter's Association
- RVMC Respiratory Department & Sarah Woodman
- Access Food
- Bear Lake Estates
- Kathy Hackstock
- Sergeant Jennifer Snook
- Mayor Bill Cecil and Carolyn Cecil
- Terry Brown
- Julian Spaulding

And thank you to Santa's helpers who came to City Hall to wrap the families' gifts!

And, of course, Santa himself with his elves from Fire District 5, who delivered everything!

Talent PD News

Submitted by Chief Mike Moran

Traffic Violations: Recently we have noticed an increase in two traffic violation categories. Both are clear choices to violate and not an absent minded occurrence. One is the illegal tinting of windows and the other is driving illegally while using a cell phone.

Tinted drivers' windows are illegal because it is important to be able to see the operator of another vehicle and see if they see you, especially in the case of motorcyclists.

Driving while illegally using a cell

phone is a true hazard to all on the road. Distracted drivers are more likely to miss stop signs, not stay in their lane or not see changing road or traffic conditions. Please hang-up and drive.

Scams: Scams are never ending but the worst are those scams perpetrated by seemingly legitimate organizations. There are many groups with great sounding names or names close to a famous charity. Oregon Attorney General John Kroger posted some tips on giving to charities. I have taken some tips from the AG's website for your review.

Oregon Attorney General's Tips for Charitable Giving

Don't give to unregistered charities. Before donating, make sure the organization is registered with the Attorney General's Office by searching the online database or by calling (971) 673-1880. You can also visit www.guidestar.org, a national clearinghouse of information on charities and how they spend your money.

Do your research. There are more than 1.2 million charities registered with the IRS. Undoubtedly, there is a legitimate charity working on the issues that you care about. Take the time to ask yourself: "What is important to me?" Focus on your own priorities when deciding where your contribution should go.

Resist impulse decisions to donate. Don't let yourself be pressured into giving. When solicited by phone, always ask the caller to send you written materials about the charity; no legitimate organization will insist that you donate immediately. And watch out for solicitors who pepper you with dramatic, emotional, or heart-tugging stories.

Do not donate cash. Legitimate charities will be pleased to receive a contribution by check. Don't send contributions with a "runner," by wire or with an overnight parcel pick-up service.

If you don't remember a pledge, you probably didn't make one. Watch out for solicitors who begin by thanking you for your previous support if the organization is unfamiliar to you. Some questionable organizations will also send an invoice claiming you made a recent pledge when you didn't. These methods are intended to confuse and intimidate you into giving money.

Be leery of sweepstakes for charity. Legitimate charities may conduct raffles as fundraising events. In contrast, questionable charities may try to entice you to contribute by implying that you are a guaranteed winner in a sweepstakes.

Contact the charity directly. Call the organization directly to learn if it exists and make sure the charity is aware of any fundraising efforts on its behalf. Bogus charities often use names or logos that resemble those of well-established, reputable organizations.

Don't give personal or financial information over the phone. If you do not have a preexisting relationship with a charity, be wary of unsolicited requests for payment over-the-phone. Legitimate charities are pleased to receive a contribution by check. Always make the check payable to the organization and never the individual collecting the donation.

Reduce the number of unwanted solicitations by registering your number on the Do-Not-Call List. Under Oregon law, if your number is on the No-call list, charities may not solicit donations over the phone unless you are a past donor or expressed a previous interest in giving. Oregon residents may register by calling 1-888-382-1222 toll-free, or going online at www.donotcall.gov. If you are on the list and receive a call from an unfamiliar charity, you should file a complaint

with the Attorney General's Office at www.doj.state.or.us.

Make sure your gift is tax-deductible. Because the government recognizes the value of charitable organizations, most contributions to recognized charities are tax-deductible. To be deductible, however, your donation must be given to a qualified charitable organization.

Become a Master Recycler in Spring 2011

Applications Due Fri., Feb. 4

Talent is a partner in the Jackson County Recycling Partnership which along with the OSU Extension Service invites 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 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 Thursday evenings, March 3 – May 19, 5:30–8:30pm at the OSU Extension auditorium, 569 Hanley Road. Applications are due Friday, February 4, 2011 and are available online at www.jcrecycle.org. For more information, contact OSU Extension Service at 541-776-7371

URBAN RENEWAL NEWS

For more information, contact Marla Cates, Executive Director, 541-535-6170 or execdir@talenturbanrenewal.com.

Camelot Acquires Land from Agency: Outstanding community support, fundraising success, and excellent construction design/costs have allowed Camelot Theatre to exercise its option to buy Agency-owned land at the corner of Main and Talent Avenue ahead of schedule. The Agency purchased the land in 2009, and entered into a 20-year ground lease with Camelot in order to provide the theater company a site on which to build a new 164-seat performance facility. The building is currently in mid-construction and promises to be a wonderful new addition to the downtown.

Grant Work Completed on Hanscom Hall: Currently housing The Total Picture at the corner of Wagner Street and Talent Avenue, Hanscom Hall is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. An important historic building in downtown Talent, it underwent a major restoration in the 1990's. Recently, the Agency provided an \$8,000 rehabilitation/façade improvement grant to the building's owner for façade repair, painting, a front awning, and installation of a special sun-control film to its historic windows.

West Valley View Project: Design details for the public open space and custom bus stops are nearing completion, which includes selection of decorative elements such as benches, lighting and pavers. Initially, cobbles had been envisioned for the public open space, but after further research, a concrete paver manufactured in the Rogue Valley has been selected as a more sustainable substitute. The Project is anticipated to be built out over three years, as budget allows. The design team is currently finalizing construction phasing, and will go to bid for the Seiber Street area -- adjacent to Camelot's new theater -- this winter with a spring construction start.