



# 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 Mayor's Office

#### Is the cost of water rising in Talent?

The West is littered with conflicts over water. Talent is no exception. The City of Talent contracts with the Medford Water Commission to treat and transport water to a pumping plant in East Medford jointly owned by Talent, Phoenix and Ashland. Talent, as well as other cities in the Rogue Valley, has serious concerns with the Medford Water Commission on a number of issues including a new rate structure recently imposed to transport and treat water. The City of Talent is part of a coalition of water users that hopes to work with the Commission to resolve some of these issues.

How the Medford Water Commission's new rate structure will affect the individual water user in Talent is not known at this time. The cost of water is only a part of the equation. Presently the cost of water for a typical water bill of \$42.35 is \$6.18. The remaining \$36.17 of the bill goes to personnel services to read meters, maintain the system and process bills, materials cost, and debt service on a 4.5 million dollar loan to construct our water system and acquire water rights from Lost Creek Lake.

I urge everyone to become well informed about the cost of water in Talent and our relationship with the Medford Water Commission. You can start by reading the City's "Background Information on Water Issues" which will be available on the City web site or in hard copy at City Hall.

In the near future the City Engineer will begin work on a Water Rate Study to determine what the City of Talent rates should be to keep water flowing and the system maintained and solvent. You can take an active role in this study by volunteering to serve on a citizens' committee that will work with the City Engineer during this process. You will also have the opportunity to participate in at least one public meeting and a public hearing before any rate change is considered by the City Council. I urge you all to help the City make responsible decisions by taking part in the public meetings or volunteering on the citizens' committee. Please let me know at the following address if you would like to serve on the Water Study Citizens' Committee.

**Bill Cecil**  
Mayor  
PO Box 445, Talent, Or 97540  
mayor@cityoftalent.org  
541.535.1566



### News from the Parks and Recreation Commission

Happy news for dog owners: After a long planning period, Talent will soon have its own **Dog Park!**

Currently under construction, the Dog Park will be on the vacant parcel next to the Police Station on Talent Avenue. Weather permitting and if all goes as scheduled, it will be available for use in late spring/early summer! The date of the official dedication will be announced in a future FLASH.

This year's **Arbor Day Celebration, Thursday, April 7th at noon** will be held at the Dog Park location. The celebration will include the planting of the Park's first tree providing shade and aesthetic qualities.

To date three trees for the Park have been donated: one from the Together for Talent Committee, one from Jane Hardgrove (who also designed the park) and one from the employees of City Hall. Thanks to all of them!

We are still in need of more trees, shrubs and also benches!

Help make our Dog Park more beautiful and user friendly!

If you want to donate something or need more information, please contact Janet at 541.601.4092 or Nadine at 541.727.1333. You are also invited to come to one of our meetings. The Parks and Recreation Commission meets the 2nd Wednesday each month at 6:15pm at the Community Center in Talent. (Please note: due to an earlier parks tour, the April meeting will begin at 7:30pm.)

There are currently seats open for two additional members on the Parks Commission. We encourage those interested to apply and join us in an active role in the ongoing development and planning of Talent parks. Applications are available at City Hall. We look forward to working with you!

### Talent PD News

#### Dog Ordinance

Recently Talent Police officers have responded to several reports of dogs at large. In one instance two dogs attacked a smaller animal being walked by its owner. With the nice spring weather we expect more citizens will want to take their dogs for walks. It is important to have your dogs on a leash. Not only does it protect your dog by being kept under control, it protects other animals and other people. Many people we stop to warn about the leash laws tell us their dog is under their verbal control. That usually is not the case especially when another animal is present. But it also does not meet the requirements of the law.

Talent city ordinance reads:

#### **Section 3. Keeping of Animals - Dogs:**

(1) All dogs must be confined by fence, leash, or obedience training to the property of the person owning, harboring or having the charge, care, control, or possession of such dog; however, it shall be permissible for a dog to be confined by fence, leash or obedience training to the property of another if such other person has given express permission. Leash lead shall be no greater than six (6) feet.

(2) Any dog that is vicious or dangerous to the safety of persons

must be confined by an enclosure to the property of its owner or keeper.

(3) Any dog not confined to property as set forth above and which is on either public or private property must be on a leash.

(4) Dogs not on private property as described above must always be attended by their owner or person having the custody of such a dog; and, it shall be unlawful for any person to tie a dog or any other animal to any tree, hydrant, railing or other object on the public property of the City of Talent for longer than fifteen (15) minutes.

(5) Dogs are not permitted in any city park or greenway under any condition except in those areas where special rules, as adopted by city council, may apply.

(6) Any person, with the exception of a sightless person, responsible for any dog, shall be in possession of tools for the removal of and shall remove, excrement deposited by the dog in any public area not designated to receive those wastes, including but not limited to streets, sidewalks, parking strips, trails or roads paralleling ditches, swales, culverts, canals, railroad tracks or similar facilities.

(7) Seeing eye dogs, dogs for the deaf, and any licensed/certified assistance therapy dogs when in custody and control of a person who legally falls into the category of blind, deaf, or therapy assisted, are exempt from the provisions of this section.

(8) No person shall keep more than three (3) dogs over three (3) months of age on any tract within the city.

Please be a responsible pet owner. The fine for violation of these rules is \$500.

#### **Landlord-Tenant Disputes**

We often receive complaints regarding landlord and tenant disputes. This area of the law is handled most often by the Sheriff's Civil Division. For those of you who are newer landlords it may be wise to be as informed as possible. The Salem, Oregon Police Department is sponsoring training April 20th and 21st in Salem for landlords. For more information call 503-588-6175 or on line at: [www.cityofsalem.org/police](http://www.cityofsalem.org/police)

#### **Pedestrian Enforcement Operations**

Recently the Talent Police Department received another grant to conduct Pedestrian Enforcement Operations. We will be conducting at least 4 over the coming months. It is important to protect the safety of pedestrians in crosswalks. Please review the law on yielding to pedestrians. Here is the law for your review:

811.028<sup>1</sup>

Failure to stop and remain stopped for pedestrian

(1) The driver of a vehicle commits the offense of failure to stop and remain stopped for a pedestrian if the driver does not stop and remain stopped for a pedestrian when the pedestrian is:

(a) Proceeding in accordance with a traffic control device as provided under ORS 814.010 (Appropriate responses to traffic control devices) or crossing the roadway in a crosswalk, as defined in ORS 801.220 ("Crosswalk"); and

(b) In any of the following locations:  
(A) In the lane in which the driver's vehicle is traveling;

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(B) In a lane adjacent to the lane in which the driver's vehicle is traveling;

(C) In the lane into which the driver's vehicle is turning;

(D) In a lane adjacent to the lane into which the driver's vehicle is turning, if the driver is making a turn at an intersection that does not have a traffic control device under which a pedestrian may proceed as provided under ORS 814.010 (Appropriate responses to traffic control devices); or

(E) Less than six feet from the lane into which the driver's vehicle is turning, if the driver is making a turn at an intersection that has a traffic control device under which a pedestrian may proceed as provided under ORS 814.010 (Appropriate responses to traffic control devices).

Please uphold the law and protect Talent's pedestrians.

### City of Talent 2011-2012 BUDGET CALENDAR

#### **April 21, 2011**

Budget Committee Training - 6:30pm

#### **April 25, 2011**

Budget Committee meeting to receive budget & budget message - 6:30pm

#### **May 2, 2011**

Budget Committee Work Session/ Public Hearing - 6:30pm

#### **May 9, 2011**

Budget Committee Work Session/ Public Hearing - 6:30pm

If budget is not approved on May 9, the Budget Committee meeting will be continued until May 12, 2011 at 6:30pm.

#### **June 15, 2011**

City Council Budget Hearing for final adoption of budget.

The Budget Committee is made up of elected and appointed members. It holds public hearings and takes public comment on the proposed City Budget. Committee meetings for Fiscal Year 2011-2012 begin soon. If you are interested in serving on the Budget Committee or other City Committees or Commissions, please come to City Hall and complete an application. For more information, you may call: 535.1566.

**'got Talent?'****City of Talent Summer  
Recreation Program**

**Now: Provide input to the selection and schedule of this year's activities!**

You can help determine the variety and timing of this summer's activities by emailing Brian McKinnis, program coordinator, about what you want to see offered and when it best fits your schedule. Help tailor the program to match your needs.

Send your suggestions and comments to [brian@cityoftalent.org](mailto:brian@cityoftalent.org)

**May: Look for the 2011 edition of your 'got Talent?' Summer Recreation Guide in the TNR!**

The May edition of the Talent News and Review will feature a full program brochure and instructions on how to sign up in the center section. Plan your summer schedule with our popular activities/offerings such as....

**Youth Tennis Lessons  
Baby Sitter Training  
Swim Lessons  
Skateboard Camp  
Art Classes  
Dance Classes  
Performance Arts  
Sports Camps and More...**

**CITY MANAGER  
ACCEPTED AT HARVARD**

City Manager Jay Henry has been accepted by Harvard University's John F. Kennedy School of Government to participate in a program for Senior Executives in State and Local Government. Harvard's selection process is comprehensive. Talent's City Manager was among candidates from all over the country vying for a spot.

The program covers management issues including how to interact effectively with the community and City Council. Faculty and participants work together on case studies and learn from each other. One focus will be on public discourse over difficult issues and how to create and maintain conversations that lead to positive change.

As Mayor Bill Cecil told the Mail Tribune "They don't select everybody to go to this. I think it's a wonderful opportunity." He thinks it can only benefit Talent.

The City Manager is paying all costs for the program and all expenses. He told the Mail Tribune, "I didn't feel right asking the city to pay for it. This course has been a goal of mine for the last 10 years." He added that he expects "to return from it with the best innovations and concepts in local government management to better assist my community in these difficult times."

Congratulations to our City Manager! With respect and appreciation for your dedication to continue to grow professionally as you serve Talent.

**Urban Renewal News**

West Valley View Goes to Bid! – After many years of planning, the first of four sub-phases of the West Valley View Project has gone to bid! Bids for Phase 1-a -- Seiber Street and the areas north of the new Camelot Theatre building – will be opened March 31. A potential contract award date is scheduled for April 8. Construction could begin as soon as mid-April, depending on weather and the contractor's schedule, and must be completed by the end of November.

The partial extension of Main Street is anticipated for 2012, with the roundabout, plaza and parking area on West Valley View completed in subsequent years.

Budget Committee Openings – There are several openings on the Urban Renewal Budget Committee to review and approve budgetary items for the upcoming year. The committee meets once a year, usually in May. Please contact Marla Cates for more information: [execdir@talenturbanrenewal.com](mailto:execdir@talenturbanrenewal.com)

Rehab Grant Awarded to "Malmgren Garage" – Keep an eye on the building at 111 Talent Avenue, the former Southern Oregon Pottery Supply and now home to several talented sculptors. Property owner Bonnie Morgan was awarded a façade improvement grant for this historic, circa 1925 building built by early Phoenix physician Theodore Malmgren as an auto repair shop capable of holding ten vehicles. Historic repairs and façade improvements will include a system to mitigate existing water damage to masonry walls, repair of historic windows, and a set of wood-and-iron bi-fold doors that mimic the original garage doors.

For more information on Urban Renewal, contact Executive Director Marla Cates, [execdir@talenturbanrenewal.com](mailto:execdir@talenturbanrenewal.com)

**Arbor Day Celebration!**

You've heard about the 100 Trees for Talent Centennial Project, but did you know that Talent is a Tree City USA? It is one of 54 cities in the state that receives that special designation as a result of the city's focus on tree planting and maintenance. In honor of Arbor Day, the City of Talent is celebrating its status as a Tree City USA -- for the 11th year -- with the planting of the very first tree at the planned Dog Park adjacent to the Police Station. On April 7th at noon, Mayor Bill Cecil will be there to dedicate the tree and Ashley DuBrey from the Oregon Department of Forestry will be presenting Talent with its latest Tree City Award. Come join the celebration and see the proposed park. Please use the parking lot at Chuck Roberts Park and keep the Police Station parking available for PD visitors. See the article in this issue of FLASH from the Parks and Recreation Commission for more information about the new Dog Park.

**TALENT CITYWIDE YARD SALE**

**Saturday May 14th, 2011**

**9:00 to 4:00**

*Meet new people! Find great deals!*

*Get to know the community!*

Sign up form is at Talent City Hall / \$5.00

Deadline for sign up is April 29th

Maps of participating locations will be available between May 4th & May 14th at:

Talent City Hall    Talent Library  
TARKS                Talent Post Office  
Laundromat

ODP/boys & girls club building - 309 W. Main St,  
Talent (maps available here day of yard sale only)

For further information call: Kalona (541) 535-4262

