



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

"Ask not what your Country can do for you, Ask what you can do for your Country" was President Kennedy's call for volunteers.

There are so many positive rewards to volunteer work. On an individual level, volunteering creates a sense of belonging and home. When you volunteer for your community, you become part of the community. In tough economic times, volunteers keep our cities, libraries, historical societies and social programs functioning.

I ask each one of us to ponder: **"what can I do for my community?"** There are many possibilities for every one of us to make a difference in our City. The Talent Historical Society, Friends of the Library, Food and Friends, The Talent Food Project, and various youth programs are just a few of the volunteer opportunities that contribute to the quality of life in Talent. There are those who take on individual projects that enhance our community. Cecil Gore can be seen around town picking up trash when he is not volunteering at the Food Bank or the Historical Society. Elizabeth Zwick has volunteered to develop a walking map with points of interest to see in and around Talent. The City also needs volunteers to serve on its various commissions and committees. Presently our Parks Commission has openings for two regular and two alternate members. If you have an interest in city parks and recreation, I urge you to apply. You can check with City Hall for other opportunities to volunteer. There are just so many ways available to each one of us to help. Become involved and make Talent an even better place to live.

Bill Cecil, Mayor

541.535.1566

mayor@cityoftalent.org

PLANNING DEPARTMENT NEWS

Public Art or Sign?

On April 6th 2011, the City Council heard from members of the Ford Institute, a regional group fostering positive change in rural communities. The group was requesting Council's input on possible amendments to Talent's Sign Ordinance. Specifically, they would like the City to allow murals as public art and not have them considered signage. The Council asked many questions as to why art would be considered signage and what was involved to allow murals. In response, City staff explained that there are constitutional issues relating to signage -- and that most

jurisdictions, including Talent, do not necessarily limit art (such as a mural on the side of a building), but do limit the size, location and type of signs -- and art is currently included in the signage definition. In order to provide implementing language to have art that is not considered a sign, the Ford Institute, along with City staff and members of the Public Arts Committee will look at possible ways to amend the Talent Municipal Code. This process is likely to require a few meetings resulting in a proposal that will be submitted to various public commission groups and then onto the City Council for final adoption.

Talent Community Center – National Registry Nomination

On Wednesday, April 20th 2011, City Council will consider forwarding the National Registry of Historic Places Nomination to the State of Oregon Historic Preservation Office, and eventually onto the Secretary of Interior, to have the Talent Community Center (originally the Talent Elementary School) listed on the National Registry of Historic Places. The nomination work was performed by George Kramer, a local Historic Preservationist, under a generous grant from the Robertson E. Collins Fund of the Oregon Community Foundation.

According to the nomination documents, the Talent Elementary School was built in 1899 and has, for more than a century, served literally and figuratively as the center of civic life in Talent. After its acquisition by the City in 1914, this one-story building has housed virtually every aspect of government services, including serving as city hall, city offices, the post office, and the library, in addition to hosting a wide variety of non-profit community groups, public lectures, dances and other events. Still owned by the City, the building remains the historic focal point of the City's Downtown.

TALENT PD NEWS

by Chief Mike Moran

MADD Ceremony

I am proud to announce that Officer Bill May of Talent PD recently was recognized by the Jackson County Chapter of Mothers Against Drunk Driving. Bill received recognition for his commitment to excellence in enforcing DUI laws. Properly processing a Drunk Driving investigation is complex and takes considerable time. Officer May takes this responsibility seriously and the results are successful convictions of impaired drivers.

Arresting a drunk or drug impaired driver prevents that driver from killing or seriously injuring someone. During the ceremony we heard from many survivors of drunk drivers and their families... Some may think that Drunk Driving is not a serious problem – it is. If you know someone who drinks and drives have him or her attend the monthly Victim Impact portion of Traffic Safety School sponsored by the Sheriff's Office. Their compelling stories are heart wrenching and are the best anti-drunk driver messages I have heard.

We are fortunate that we have several officers who understand and enforce DUI laws diligently. I am sure that at the next MADD awards meeting Officer May will be joined by others at TPD being recognized for their efforts.

Skate Park Use

When nice weather arrives after our spring shower season, our skate park will increase in popularity. This is a reminder that all riders must wear helmets in the park - adults and kids. If you see illegal activities such as drinking alcohol in the park or illegal substances being used or you observe disorderly or bullying behavior call us immediately. The non-emergency dispatch number is 541.776.7206.

Student Safety

May means students are looking forward to summer break and they may not be making traffic safety their number one priority. Please slow down and be extra careful, watch for them walking, skating or biking to and from school. If you are the parent of a child, please be sure your child wears a helmet while skating or biking to school.

Budget Message From The City Manager

Hello all,

The City of Talent is beginning our public annual budgeting process and I would encourage every citizen to pay attention and to offer input to the critical budget decisions that must be made. The meetings are all held at the Community Center at 206 East Main Street and they are all at 6:30 P.M. The dates of the Budget Meetings are: April 25th, May 2nd, and May 9th.

I have served as Talent's City Manager for almost three years. In those three years our budget has gone from being deeply in the red to a very sustainable budget despite these tough economic times. We have even dug out of our financial hole enough to increase our reserve funds and produce a very high level of infrastructure maintenance. In other words, our roads and water systems are now in exceptional shape for a small city. We have made the most of available stimulus funding and successfully gone after grant funding at the highest level ever. Our city is a very safe city with a professional, well-trained police department. We have added additional businesses during this recession and are taking action to further promote economic development. It has not always been this way in Talent.

At our Centennial Celebration a previous Mayor mirrored my thoughts when he told me he felt that Talent was in a "renaissance period." We have recently finished the best Talent Harvest Festival in my tenure, which received many, many positive comments from the public. I believe that we now have the finest cadre of department heads that the city has ever had.

We are making progress, but no matter what, the city must continue to operate, and operate as efficiently as possible. We cannot allow minor divisions and personal agendas to impede our progress. I would offer four items of guidance to consider as we make our way through the budget process:

1. Face the reality of our situation. Our revenues are remaining flat due to state legislation as our expenses continue to rise. Just like our citizens and businesses, we are paying more for fuel, our hourly personnel costs are increasing, and our general cost of doing business increases every year. The city's situation is similar to any business whose revenues remain

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flat, while it faces greater and greater expenses each year. When this happens in any well-managed business, tough decisions must be made.

2. Accept the change. Our world, nation, and state are massively changing and we cannot operate as if it's still the boom years. We must be efficient and we must be forward thinking – Remember: "If the internal rate of change does not at least match the external rate of change we're finished" and that "Change is not a single event, it is an ongoing process." We must embrace change and lead change if we hope to keep up with these difficult times.

3. Make intelligent choices. These times require tough choices, there are not and will never be the resources to fund everything. We have to choose wisely and for the overall greater good of Talent. This is a difficult challenge, as every budget choice has winners and losers. The budget "pie" is a fixed size, and what we give to one takes away from the others that are demanding resources.

4. Put together a strong, cohesive team. I remain convinced that my most important duty is to hire competent, caring, ethical and effective employees that can work together to solve problems. Our Mayor, Bill Cecil, is emphasizing teamwork and unity among the city committees, commissions, and council. The City is doing well because of the dedication and caring of our volunteers and staff, and I fully support Mayor Cecil's emphasis on moving the city forward as a team effort.

In closing, the City is doing very well and I do not foresee insurmountable problems in our budget process. The budget is healthy, and the City is in good shape financially because of the wise choices made in the past by the City Council, Budget Committee, and City Staff.

Jay Henry, City Manager

PUBLIC WORKS

A Friendly But Important Reminder

The City of Talent Public Works Department wants to remind citizens that all appurtenances within and attached to the water meter boxes are the responsibility of the citizens if they are damaged. The number of facilities that are being damaged seems to be on the rise. The City maintains each box and is responsible for ordinary

maintenance on these facilities, but damage caused to the appurtenances beyond normal wear and tear will be repaired or replaced by the City and billed to the respective owner. Thanks for your understanding and cooperation.

**T.A.K.E. A.C.T.I.O.N.
Be Kind to the Earth**

Talent's Public Works crew takes action every day to improve the environment. That action might be cleaning out a storm drain to keep the water entering streams cleaner or it might be fixing a water leak to reduce water waste. We ran across the following "TAKE ACTION" message and thought it was worth sharing. Please heed as you enjoy Oregon's rivers, lakes and beaches.

Take part in a local creek, river, lake, or coastal cleanup campaign. **A**lternative or recyclable materials should be used when possible.

Keep trash with you when on a boat or the beach, then dispose of it properly.

Educate yourself and others about water conservation issues.

Always throw unwanted fishing line in a trash can, not in the water.

Cut loops from six-pack soda rings before disposing of them.

Toilets should not be used to dispose of trash of any kind.

If your family and friends pollute, teach them how to properly dispose of trash.

Offer your help to environmental and conservation groups and participate in community projects.

Notify the Coast Guard or proper authorities if you see boats dumping trash into the water.

City of Talent Public Works
P.O. Box 445
Talent, OR 97540
541.535.3828
pubworks@cityoftalent.org

**May Is Green Up And
Clean Up Month**

This month the City's **Together for Talent Committee** is calling on you to participate in keeping our community looking its best. You can do so by focusing on your own neighborhood. Just grab a used bag, put on a pair of gloves and pick up any litter that has gathered in your neighborhood. If your bag is still empty, expand a little to a nearby field or an adjacent street. Lots of you already do this as you are walking around town. As the Mayor recognized in his message about volunteers (see **From the Mayor's Office** in this edition of FLASH), Cecil Gore is someone you will see with his grabber and bags several times a week doing more than his part for the community.

If you want to, please let us know if and how you participated in Clean Up month, and we will recognize your personal efforts. Thank you for helping keep Talent green and clean!

There are many organized opportunities this month as well to recycle and dispose of unneeded items. Here are a few:

- Plastic Round Up May 14 in Grant's Pass for plastic that is not normally recyclable (Jackson County's annual round up will be this fall). For more information: www.roguecc.edu/recycle/newsandevents.htm

- The annual Hazardous Waste Disposal at the Rogue Disposal Transfer and Recycling Station on May 6 and May 7 for everything that shouldn't go down the drain or in the landfill. For more information: www.roguedisposal.com/news/household-hazardous-waste-may-6-7/

- Central Point Recycling Day, Saturday, May 7, at the Expo.

Central Point organizes a central location and resources to make it easy for you to recycle lots of stuff. For more information: www.centralpointoregon.gov/parks.aspx?id=755

- Talent's own city-wide yard sale on Saturday, May 14. Call City Hall (541.535.1566) to find out how to get "on the map."

URBAN RENEWAL NEWS

**West Valley View
Construction to Start!**

After seven years of planning, start of construction is within sight at last. On April 11, the Agency awarded a contract for \$379,105 to Pilot Rock Excavation for Phase 1a which builds Seiber Street, an alley near the new Camelot Theatre building, a detention pond for stormwater runoff, and sidewalk improvements on New Street. The contractor is the same company which constructed the Agency's street improvements on North Talent Avenue last year, and the Executive Director is happy to be working with them again on this project. Eight bids were received, all of which were under the engineer's estimate, and Pilot Rock's low bid saves the Agency approximately \$75,000. At the time of this writing, a construction schedule has yet to be developed. However, it is anticipated the contractor may be able to begin work in May.

Old Camelot Theatre

The Agency is still looking for an individual or individuals interested in acquiring the old Camelot Theatre building and relocating it to another site. While an excellent proposal for relocation was received and accepted by the Agency in February, the proposal was recently withdrawn. The Agency favors relocation and re-use over demolition. Anyone interested in relocating the theater should contact Executive Director Marla Cates as soon as possible at 541- 535-6170.

Join the Budget Committee

This is an easy and very interesting volunteer task that occurs just once a year, takes just a few hours, and is a great way to gain an understanding of how urban renewal works. The Budget Committee is scheduled this year to meet on May 17, 6:00 p.m.

If you're interested in applying, or for more info on any of these topics, contact:

Executive Director Marla Cates
541.535.6170
execdir@talenturbanrenewal.com

**News from the Parks and
Recreation Commission**

The Parks Commission recently held its annual Parks Tour in which all existing parks and dedicated park-sites in Talent are observed. Those present included members of the Parks Commission and the City Council, the City Planner, and Mayor Bill Cecil.

The purpose of this tour is to ensure proper maintenance of the facilities, plan future projects, and allow attendees the opportunity to view Talent's multiple park sites.

It is exciting to see how much our parks improve the quality of living in Talent and to realize how much the parks are being used by the people!

To maintain the quality of our parks we would like to remind the citizens of Talent to enjoy the facilities with respect and responsibility. Please do not leave any trash behind and please comply with the signs throughout the parks. Thank you!

Talent's Arbor Day Celebration was held on April 7th in the midst of a snow storm! Nevertheless, the first official tree for the Dog Park, donated by the employees of City Hall, has been planted along with two other



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FEATURING LOCALLY ROASTED ORGANIC FAIR TRADE NOBLE COFFEE

coffee and espresso drinks made with organic whole, skim or soy milk

breakfast and lunch sandwiches, soups, salads, pastries and baked goods

sample our new bento menu at the
talent art and music festival! friday may 13, 2011 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm

BRING IN THIS AD GET 20% OFF YOUR PURCHASE

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

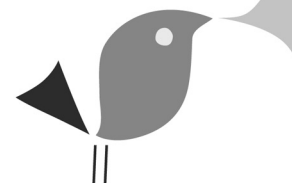
Deadline for sign up is April 29th

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



beautiful maples. The trees planted in the front of the Dog Park will provide shade on Talent Avenue. Thank you to Sue Hutcheson and Jane Hardgrove for their donations, and also to Joe Chaplin who generously donated several pine trees for the new park!

If you have trees, shrubs or benches you would like to donate for the Dog Park or if you have any questions regarding the City's parks, please call Janet at 541.601.4042 or Nadine at 541.727.1333.

In this same edition of FLASH,

please be sure to check out the 2011 Recreation Guide outlining the City's summer recreation program.

NOTE: The next Parks meeting will be Wednesday, May 11th at 7pm at the Talent Community Center following the second part of the Parks Tour. As always, this meeting is open to anyone who is interested. If you want to play an active role in the ongoing development and planning of Talent parks, there are still seats open for two additional members on the Parks Commission. Come join us!