



# THE FLASH City of Talent

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

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## From the Mayor's Office

A lot has happened at City Hall in the past month. On June 1<sup>st</sup>, the City Council voted to not renew the City Manager's employment contract for the fiscal year



beginning July 1, 2011. At the time I am writing this article, the City Council is in the process of selecting an interim City Manager. Hopefully by the time you read this article this will have happened. The next step is to begin recruitment for a full time City Manager. It is anticipated this will take from four to six months. I can assure you this will be an open process involving citizens of Talent.

I know a number of Talentians are concerned that major problems propelled the change at City Hall. I do not feel comfortable speaking for City Council on this subject. If you have concerns, I suggest you contact your City Councilors directly. I am confident, however, that the day to day operations at City Hall are functioning as efficiently as ever. We have an extremely competent staff who work together effectively to carry out City business with limited resources. I believe you can be very proud of your City. Talent is one of the few cities that is not having to make major changes to balance the budget. In fact, our City was able to dedicate \$8,000 to initiate a new program to promote public art. The City Council also dedicated \$2,000 for the Mayor to promote economic development.

I am so proud to serve the citizens of Talent and our City Staff. Those of us serving the City may not see eye to eye on every issue, but we collaborate and get things done. It is very important, however, that we recruit an interim and then a full time City Manager as soon as possible. A ship, no matter how good the crew, will start to drift without someone at the helm.

Bill Cecil, Mayor  
541.535.1566  
mayor@cityoftalent.org

## Thank You From The City!

This week Talent City Employees and the Mayor were honored with a most thoughtful surprise. A wonderful note of appreciation, accompanied by a bouquet of beautifully fragrant roses, was delivered to City Hall from Talent Friends Church. All of us here serving the City were touched by the sincere note of gratitude and want

to say THANK YOU so much for your recognition. We will continue to work hard for Talent and live up to your expectations and those of all Talent residents.

Sincerely,  
Mayor Bill Cecil & All City Employees

## Welcome to the City!

Hello City of Talent!

My name is Melissa Huhtala and I am pleased to be writing this article as your new Assistant City Recorder. I have lived in the Valley for approximately six years and am happy to be a part of this Community. I hope to assist in the growth of this City and am looking forward to all positive changes.

After graduating from Southern Oregon University, I began working for the City of Ashland where I gained great experience working in City Government, which led me to this opportunity. In my free time I love spending time with my family and friends and enjoy outdoor activities, especially running.

I am excited to start my new position with the City of Talent – my hometown. September is right around the corner and I am hoping to help make the Harvest Festival another huge success! This will be a great opportunity for me to meet all of you. Please drop by City Hall anytime and introduce yourself. You can also reach me by phone: 541.535.1566 or email: [melissa@cityoftalent.org](mailto:melissa@cityoftalent.org)



## PUBLIC WORKS

### Please help control puncture vine.

With current soil moisture and sunny days, this noxious weed is growing rampantly. Talent Public Works is making a concerted effort to control puncture vine on city property and public rights-of-way and is asking that you please check your property and take steps to stop its spread.

The vine is a low, mounding annual plant that spreads as much as ten feet in diameter from a central base. Flowers are yellow with five petals, and leaves are composed of 4 to 8 pairs of leaflets. It survives in conditions unfavorable to most other plants, including drought. It prefers dry, sandy or gravelly sites.

The best method of control is to destroy the first plants found in an area before burs begin to form. If green burs carrying seed are present - pull, bag and burn the plants, including loose seed pods. Check with Jackson County Fire District 5 for burn permits and fire restrictions.

Chemical control must be well-planned as the plants begin producing viable seeds within 4 weeks and spraying a mature plant will only increase the infestation when the seed heads drop to the ground and are spread. Contract the Oregon State

University Extension Service for more information.

**Thanks for doing your part to control this weed.**

## Urban Renewal News

For more information contact Executive Director Marla Cates, 541.535.6170 or [execdir@talenturbanrenewal.com](mailto:execdir@talenturbanrenewal.com)

**Construction of Seiber Street:** As of this writing, construction crews have laid underground utilities and storm drains, and are preparing to pour curbs and light bases. Sidewalks and paving are anticipated to occur around mid-July. Seiber Street is a brand new street designed to provide head-in parking and a connection between New Street near Umpqua Bank and the future extension of Main Street behind the new Camelot Theatre. A storm detention pond near New Street is in the process of being built, and will eventually look like a fenced, grassy swale.

**Malmgren Garage Project Completed:** Property owner Bonnie Morgan recently completed an Agency-funded façade improvement project at the historic 1925 Malmgren Garage building at 111 Talent Avenue. The former site of Southern Oregon Pottery Supply, it now houses professional sculptors. The Agency funded this project through its Rehab/Façade Improvement grant program. Improvements consist of new wooden bi-fold doors to replicate originals seen in early photographs, window and glass repair, drainage correction, and paint.

## News from the Parks Commission & Together for Talent Committee

### July 16 Workparty - Wagner Creek Trail

Let's hear it for volunteers! Thanks to the great generosity of Mike Davis of SOS Plumbing and the efforts of Together for Talent, Talent Parks Commission, planning director Mark Knox and many enthusiastic volunteers, the Old Bridge walkway along Wagner Creek is being extended by a trail through the SOS Plumbing property. This zero budget, all volunteer project will provide much needed walking access from Talent Avenue to Highway 99 at Wagner Creek. Special thanks are due Mike Davis, who not only granted permission through his property and laid out the path, but also used his bobcat to cut the trail. Thanks also to Upper Limbit Tree Service for their donation of a truckload of hardwood chips and to Siskiyou Rare Plant Nursery for the offer of native plants to enhance the site. More volunteers are needed. A work party is called for Saturday morning, July 16 at 8:30am (to beat the heat) at SOS Plumbing, 206 South Pacific Highway, to spread wood chips and dress out the trail. Come everyone! Bring shovels, rakes and wheelbarrows if you have them. Refreshments will be provided. We hope to make this a real party! Call Elizabeth Zwick at 541-499-2264 if

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you can come and/or lend tools, so we can plan appropriately. If you can not come on the 16th but would like to help, please call as well; there is preliminary and follow-up work we would like to schedule for small groups.

## Talent PD News By Chief Mike Moran

Last July in my article I wrote: "This Spring was one of the wettest and coldest in recent years." Spring 2011 seemed a lot worse.

One thing a damp and cold Spring does is to delay the declaration of fire season by the Oregon Department of Forestry. That declaration is the point after which we begin enforcement of the weed abatement ordinance per the Municipal code of Talent.

Meanwhile we have been taking calls about high weeds and have begun tracking them. By the time this article is out we should be in the fire season and will begin enforcement mode.

Thankfully, most property owners have great pride in ownership and keep weeds mowed for aesthetic reasons. However, weeds are a danger. Last summer shortly after the Ashland Oak Knoll Fire we had a fire in the field north of Oak Valley in Talent. Fire District 5 did a great job keeping that threat under control. But this serves to prove high weeds are a serious issue.

Please mow your grass and weeds to less than ten inches to be in compliance with our city ordinance.

We have a new volunteer weed compliance coordinator this summer. Her name is Divya Amesur. She is a student at SOU. Divya is the third summer volunteer TPD has used. In 2009 we utilized London Westerfield, a Talent student attending Oregon State. Last summer Ben Weaver, a Criminology student at SOU, did a great job for us. We are glad to have Divya with us.

I'd also like to mention another volunteer, Marlene Fazio of Talent. Marlene is doing great work for us in our records and evidence tracking.

Soon you will see three new Talent Police Reserves. All three of our new reserves graduated very highly in the



reserve academy which concluded in May. We will have more on them later.

One item I am often asked about is yard sale signs. Talent City Ordinance prohibits posting them. They are a distraction when posted on public sign poles, particularly at busy intersections. Although we usually do not cite for first time offenders, a citation can be issued. Another problem is that most people leave their signs posted after the event and it looks trashy. Please don't post signs on public poles, on roadsides or on other's property. A sign in your own yard on the date of the event is fine.

Scams continue to be at minimum a nuisance to Talent residents. They can also be a serious financial problem. The latest scam is someone from the 876 Area Code calls and offers a million dollars if you will wire \$50 of you money to a California address. Sound too good to be true? It is!

The 876 number is a Jamaican area code. Do not call this number as additional fees could be placed on your phone bill. The best course of action is to hang-up immediately on these criminals. You may receive numerous calls but hang up and never offer any information to them.

Don't forget the Harvest Festival Celebration is coming up soon on September 10, 2011. Volunteers are needed to man positions throughout the day. If you'd like to help contact Melissa Huhtala at city hall. 541.535.1566 or melissa@cityoftalent.org.

### Harvest Festival 2011

It is almost that time of year again! The Harvest Festival will be held on Saturday, September 10, 2011. For almost 40 years this has been an annual event in the City of Talent. The Harvest Festival is open to the public with **no admission**.

The Harvest Festival Committee is gearing up to make this the best festival to date. Please join us in the fun. If you are interested in participating in this event we would be happy to have you! We still need volunteers for the many activities we have planned for the weekend. The festivities will begin with a pancake breakfast from 7-11 am provided by the Chamber. The morning will continue with a 10K Run or 5K Run/walk hosted by Southern Oregon Runners which will begin at 8 a.m. and end just in time for you to enjoy the parade at 10 am.

In the past we have had many wonderful sponsors. Your support is greatly appreciated and allows us to

plan and carry out a successful event for the whole community. In return for your contribution the City of Talent offers benefits that can help enhance your business.

We hope to have many vendor booths that can include arts & crafts, jewelry, clothing, toys, Rogue Valley growers, information on Talent and the surrounding area and a variety of delectable food and beverages.

**If you are interested in having a booth, being a parade entrant or being a sponsor for this great community event, please visit the city website [www.cityoftalent.org](http://www.cityoftalent.org) and complete the applications. You can also come by Talent City Hall or call (541) 535-1566 or more information. The deadline for all entries and applications is August 10, 2011.**

The Talent Harvest Festival is a great way to support and build the community so please mark your calendars and don't miss out on this fun event!

### Grand Marshal For The Harvest Festival Parade

This year the Harvest Festival Committee thought it would be fun to get the Community involved in picking the Grand Marshal for the Talent Harvest Festival. So please participate and email your nominations and reasons for your suggested Grand Marshal to **Melissa@cityoftalent.org** or call directly at 541.535.1566. **Please submit your nominations by Monday, June 20, 2011. Thanks!**

