



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

There have been a number of positive things that have happened in Talent in the month of July. The first is that Talent City Council appointed Dale Shaddox as City Manager pro tem until the position can be filled on a



more permanent basis. It is expected this will take about six months. Dale is a resident of the Rogue Valley and has many years of experience both as an interim and full time City Manager. If you have not already met Dale, stop by City hall and welcome him to Talent.

The second thing I would like to report is that the Rogue Valley Area Commission on Transportation (RVACT) unanimously voted to re-program funds to make the Highway 99 modernization project from Rapp Road to Creel Road possible. This will still need to be approved by the Oregon Transportation Commission but RVACT's vote is a huge step in the process. The Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) went over the top in developing a funding package that made this all possible. I want to personally thank Art Anderson and the whole ODOT crew for their support. We can expect design on this project to start in 2012 and construction in 2015.

Thirdly, I would like to thank the 30+ volunteers who showed up on July 16th to put the finishing touches on the trail along Wagner Creek from Old Bridge Village to Highway 99. I must also thank SOS Plumbing for allowing this trail to be constructed over their land and for using their equipment to do the grading. Wood chips for the trail were donated by Upper Limb-It Tree Service. This was a true Community project and the reason I am so proud to live in Talent.

*Bill Cecil, Mayor
541.535.1566
mayor@cityoftalent.org*

Welcome to the City!

New to the City staff is Dale Shaddox, serving as City Manager pro tem. Dale was hired by the City Council to serve in this temporary position during the time it will take to recruit and fill the City Manager position permanently, which will likely be in late fall of this year.

Dale is a semi-retired City Manager who has served in interim City Manager positions throughout Oregon. He has over 35 years of experience in city governments in California and Oregon, and holds a Masters' Degree in Public Administration from California State University, Chico.

Dale and his wife, Karen, live in Eagle Point and they enjoy golf, traveling and family visits when Dale

is not busy with his next interim assignment. He says he enjoys helping local governments overcome times of uncertainty and turmoil and hopefully leaves each assignment having helped to improve the work environment of city employees, identifying and correcting as many problems as possible in a short period of time, and especially enjoys serving the Mayor, City Council and citizens of the community.

Please drop by City Hall and introduce yourself. Dale can also be reached by phone: 541-535-1566 or email: dale@cityoftalent.org

Urban Renewal News

For more information, contact Marla Cates, Executive Director, 541.535.6170 or execdir@talenturbanrenewal.com

West Valley View First Phase Nearly Complete: The first phase of construction to install Seiber Street, an alley near the new theater, a storm detention pond, and sidewalks on New Street is nearing completion. Paving has already occurred, planter beds will soon be filled with soil, and striping and signage should all be done by the end of July. In August, the general contractor Pilot Rock Excavation will return to complete final small tasks, including creating a fenced turnaround at the south end of Seiber Street to allow all parking spaces to be fully utilized. The turnaround will remain in place until next summer, when Main Street can be extended and a safe intersection at Talent and Main can be created. The project team is considering purchasing a decorative type of barrier block to keep cars out of undeveloped areas, while still allowing easy passage for pedestrians and bicycles. These blocks can be moved to different locations within the West Valley View project, and could be donated to the City if no longer needed by the Agency. The Agency is also discussing additional work with the general contractor which would connect the Seiber Street sidewalk with the sidewalk in front of Camelot and provide some leveling of the Main Street extension area for an improved appearance. The extent of the work and timing depends on the relocation schedule of old Camelot Theater (see below). For now, the Seiber Street will be illuminated by a few tall cobra heads lights at the intersections. These lights use an LED light source as part of a Pacific Power pilot project -- the first to be installed in southern Oregon. Pedestrian scale lighting and landscaping will occur next summer, as it will be more cost effective to have that work performed after the Main Street extension has been accomplished.

Old Camelot Theatre to be Relocated: A contract has been signed with Chris LaDue to acquire the old theater building and move it to his property on Wagner Creek Road. A large article on this project was featured recently in the Mail Tribune. The relocation will begin as soon as permits are received and will take several weeks, during which time the building will be cut into three pieces and moved piece by piece down Main Street to Wagner Creek Road. It is hoped the relocation schedule can be posted on the old "blackboard" sign next to the old theater so the public can be kept informed of the relocation

schedule and watch the process as it unfolds.

Opening of Rogue Farmers

Rogue Farmers is proud to announce the opening of their new organic and hydroponic gardening store in Talent! Rogue Farmers, located at 1007 S. Pacific Hwy (Green Tree Plaza), is owned and operated by husband and wife team, Jamin and Melissa Giersbach. They will be selling indoor and outdoor gardening supplies for all of your gardening needs. There will be on-going demonstrations of different types of growing systems and many learning opportunities available. Rogue Farmers goal is to offer a variety of in-stock garden supplies, dirt, fertilizers, nutrients, etc. and to teach the consumer about the different types of products offered. Rogue Farmers plans to open 6 days a week, Tuesday-Sunday from the hours of 10am -6pm. Be sure to drop by and show your support for the success of this new business!

News from the Parks and Recreation Commission Talentians - Mark your Calendars!



Following the vision of our former Mayor Don Steyskal and years of planning and hard work, our Dog Park will finally open its gate for you and your 4-pawed friends!

The Grand-Opening-Ceremony will be held at 10 am, Saturday, August 13th at the Dog Park, located on Talent Avenue, right next to the Police station.

Refreshments for you and your dog will be provided.

Look out for flyers and posters to come!

On Saturday, July 16th, 34 highly motivated volunteers, including our Mayor Bill Cecil, rolled up their sleeves and made the Wagner Creek Trail Work party a huge success!

The so called "Talentians" followed an invitation by Elizabeth Zwick and brought their tools, wheelbarrows and pioneer spirit to the path and helped clear trees, bushes and spread loads of wood chips. This trail is located on Wagner Creek and is connecting Talent Ave., through the Old Bridge Community to Hwy 99 and is the first section in a planned trail system that eventually will tap into the Bear Creek Green Way. Although the end result will take several years to complete we are already off to such a great start thanks to the wonderful Community help!

Talent citizen Elizabeth Zwick is who initiated this great event. She is a wonderful example of what volunteer work can do for our City!!

Without her initiative, enthusiasm and vision, this project would have

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not been done in such a short time. Thank you Elizabeth, and thanks to all the unnamed volunteers who came out so early and made the work party so successful!

Talent needs your volunteer spirit, too! That is what makes our City so great!

If you want to help with the follow-up work on the path, or if you want to offer your help for upcoming projects, call Elizabeth Zwick at 541-499-2264 or you can contact the Parks Commission at City Hall.

Your help is Talent's success!
The next Parks and Recreation meeting will be held on Wednesday, August 10 at 6.15 pm at the Community Center and is as always open to public.

TALENT HARVEST FESTIVAL



Harvest Festival 2011

Don't forget to mark your calendars for the HARVEST FESTIVAL on SEPTEMBER 10, 2011! Come join in the fun and support the community. We would love to have as much participation as possible this year. Ways you can show support include: being in the parade, having an informational or food booth, and/or sponsoring the Harvest Festival Event. We would also love as many volunteers as we can get to help with the many activities throughout the day.

You can start your day at 8 am with a fun 10K run or 5K run/walk sponsored by Southern Oregon Runners; this will help to work up your appetite

for a delicious pancake breakfast sponsored by the Chamber which will go from 7-11 am. The festivities will continue until 4:00 pm with children activities, a variety of vendors and live music. This year the bands we have booked are Dave Storie and the Truth Machine, Flat Five String Band, Eight Dollar Mountain and back by popular demand is Salsa Brava so get your dancing shoes ready!

Applications and entries are due Friday, August 19th, 2011. You can find parade, run, vendor and sponsor applications on the city website: <http://cityoftalent.org>. Or you can drop by City Hall and pick one up. Remember this is an admission free festival so come one come all! You don't want miss out on this wonderful event filled with family fun and community togetherness!

If you have any questions or need information don't hesitate to contact Melissa Huhtala, Festival Coordinator at 541-535-1566 or Melissa@cityoftalent.org.

Grand Marshal for the Harvest Festival Parade

The nominees for the Grand Marshal for the 2011 Talent Harvest Festival are Marla Cates and Cecil Gore so please send in your votes to Melissa@cityoftalent.org. or call directly at 541-535-1566.

The Dog Days of Summer Have Finally Arrived in Talent!

On Saturday, August 13, at 10am the dogs will have their day!

Come and be a part of the grand opening celebration with other dog owners and show support as we unleash our best friends at Talent's first dog park located on Talent Avenue next to the police station.

The Talent dog park is a fenced area available for residents to let their dogs out to enjoy the outdoors while providing a place for exercise and dog socialization.

"A piece of grass a day keeps the vet away"

Talent PD News

By Chief Mike Moran

This month I have been Chief of Talent PD for 3 years. I deeply enjoy working in this great community and I appreciate your support for this excellent group of police officers and our support staff.

One of the things we receive a great deal of comments on is traffic enforcement. No one likes to receive a ticket but issuing citations for traffic offenses is an integral part of making our city safe.

Some things you may not know are that the fine amount you see on your citation is established by the Oregon Legislature. They also have established rules about how much the judge can reduce a citation.

Some comments I receive are "why can't you give warnings?" We can and sometimes do depending on the violation. It is up to the officer's discretion. However, if warnings are always given, soon there will be no accountability for driving because everyone will know they will only receive a warning.

Another comment is "why are the bails so high?" As I mentioned, the Legislature establishes them. But here is some good news, in this past session they have actually lowered the traffic fines and given judges more leeway in reducing fines. Among items in the bill, the new law: establishes the presumptive fine by statute, applies this fine statewide, and eliminates variability in fine amounts based on the court into which a person is cited;

Provides for judicial discretion to reduce the presumptive fine by up to 50 percent;

Increases the judicial discretion in school, construction, and safety corridor zones fine to 75 percent of

the presumptive fine; and the new bail schedule drops Class A violations from \$472 to \$435; Class B from \$287 to \$260; Class C from \$190 to \$160 and Class D from \$142 to \$110.

We have our radar trailer working again, thanks to the efforts of Officer Schweizer. If we receive a request from citizens, we will put the trailer out in your neighborhood. Contact Officer Gail Schweizer at TPD 541.535-1253 ext. 1009.

This summer we have had a series of unauthorized entry to motor vehicle cases.

There have been a couple of groups that picked Talent as a random stop in their criminal tour of the valley breaking into cars in Medford, Central Point and here. Our officers worked closely with MPD and recovered a great deal of property from one of the episodes.

However, most of the thefts could have been prevented by locking doors on vehicles and secondly by not leaving valuables in vehicles.

Recently there was a vehicle stolen in another city in the valley. The victim had been out drinking at a restaurant, left her vehicle in the parking lot and went home with a friend. When she was asked why she had left her vehicle unlocked and keys on the front console, her response was "come on, this is(fill in your city)."

I hear that a lot about crime in Talent. Sadly, there are people who will steal if given the opportunity. That brings up a criminology theory that is quite accurate: A criminal must have three elements present before committing a crime:

1. Desire to commit the crime
2. Skills and ability to commit it
3. Opportunity

We don't have much control over the criminal's desire, skill and ability. But we can take away the criminal's opportunity to succeed.

Make your cars and homes difficult for criminals by locking them up to start. Then take steps to hide and secure items of value. Remove the opportunity.

Prescription Drugs Deposit Box

To help keep prescription medicines away from children and out of our landfill, water supply and waste water treatment systems Recology Ashland Sanitary Service is pleased to partner with the Ashland Police Department and the Talent Police Department to provide a container to deposit unwanted prescription drugs.

The local deposit box is located in the lobby of the Talent Police Department, 604 Talent Avenue. You can drop off your unwanted prescriptions Monday-Friday, 8am-noon & 1pm-4pm.

What is ACCEPTABLE to leave in the deposit box:

- Prescriptions
- Over the counter medications
- Medication samples
- Medications for pets
- Ointments
- Lotions
- Liquid medication in glass or leak proof containers

What is NOT ACCEPTABLE to leave in the deposit box:

- Needles (sharps)
- Thermometers
- Bloody or infectious waste
- Medications from businesses or clinics
- Hydrogen peroxide
- Aerosol cans or inhalers
- Food items
- Supplements

*Please leave the prescription in its container so it can be easily identified. For privacy purposes personal information such as name and address can be blacked out.