



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

Each month I try to discuss some program that is important to the City of Talent. This month I am deviating from this policy to recognize an individual.

On November 17, 2011 Ted Buncker a resident in Talent will turn

100. This started me to think about how important each individual is in defining the culture of our community. So often we look upon those in the public eye as a model for our culture. In reality, every person who lives in Talent is just as important as the next in creating the community that we are.

I don't know Ted. I don't know if he was a politician, teacher, truck driver, plumber, engineer, or whatever (I put this in for all the teenagers who may read this article). I do know that he is a part of the building blocks of our community, and for that I am grateful. In a short time Ted will be one of the select few to enter the centurion club. I hope that each one of us will recognize Ted by sending him a birthday card to the Jackson House, 300 Suncrest Road, Talent, OR 97540.

Bill Cecil, Mayor
541-535-1566
mayor@cityoftalent.org

News From Public Works

With winter upon us, now is the time to prepare for the possibility of an extreme winter season. Here are some tips that may prevent costly emergency repairs:

Locate your water shut off valve (see below for help).

Insulate your plumbing (hot water pipes too) in areas that are not heated such as crawl spaces, garages and outside.

Temporarily seal off crawl space holes during winter with foam or cardboard pieces.

Disconnect garden hoses before freezing temperatures arrive. Place insulated caps on all of your hose bibs.

Before leaving on trips, do not set your thermostats lower than 55*.

During Freezing Weather

Maintain heat in any room that has plumbing fixtures, especially ones with plumbing located on outside walls. Open up cabinet doors under sinks to let the heat in.

Keep a VERY Small trickle of water (during EXTREME cold times only). It is harder for flowing water to freeze. This is most helpful for faucets that are farther away from where your water enters the house.

If your pipes freeze, NEVER try to thaw with an open flame. Use a hair dryer or space heater to do the job.

If you are going to be away, ask a friend or neighbor to check your



house during cold spells. If something breaks, they can act before it causes too much damage.

Winterize Your Sprinkler System

This may be one of the most important winter preparations. Sprinkler systems are one of the most common reasons for water leaks. They are also one of the hardest leaks to detect because often a leak will NOT cause water to rise to the surface.

Turn off all of your sprinkler system controllers. If you disconnect the common wire during the winter it will ensure that your system can't accidentally be turned on.

Shut off the water to your sprinklers. Sometimes there is a valve that isolates the irrigation from the main house water supply. If you do not have one of these valves you may want to consider adding one to your System. Your Backflow Valve System should NOT be used for this purpose. That should be left open to allow for drainage.

Drain your individual sprinkler components as much as possible. Most new sprinkler systems are properly equipped to be professionally blown out with air. This is generally at a minimal cost. If yours is not equipped for this, you can briefly remove sprinkler risers or prop them open to help them drain. This is particularly important for systems that are equipped with check valves.

Installing drains at low points can be very helpful. If you do this, you may want to consider selecting a manual drain instead of an automatic drain. This allows you to control when it occurring after every irrigation cycle.

If a Water Pipe Does Break:

- Shut off the Water
- Look for your shut-off valve in the following places:
 - In the garage, near the water heater or laundry hookup.
 - In crawl space or basement, where the waterline enters the home.
 - Outside near the foundation, often protected by a concrete ring or clay pipe.

Can't find your Shut-off Valve?

If you can't find your waterline shut-off valve call a plumber to help you locate it. If you don't have one, you should have one installed. If you need to shut your water off at the meter, please call:

During Business Hours (541) 535-3828

Public Works or (541) 535-1566

After Business Hours: (541) 535-2322

Please do not tamper with the water meter yourself, as you are liable for damages.

News from the Parks Commission

It's tree-planting time at the Bark Park! More trees have been donated from Together for Talent and FOTAS to beautify our dog park. A work party has been set for November 2nd after 3 PM. At the Bark Park, of course! Dan Bish from Plant Oregon will be bringing the trees. So join us for some digging time, or to watch and cheer us on. It might be safer for our furry friends to stay on a leash at this time, as there may be heavy equipment inside the park. More trees are still needed to help fill out the park. Contact the City if you would like to donate!

Our summer recreation program "got Talent?" is expanding! Be on the lookout for some fun winter classes

coming up soon. Holiday cooking anyone? Or fitness classes that seem to happen around the holidays.

The Parks and Recreation Commission has openings and is looking for a few good folks interested in working together to help make our parks the best they can be. Pick up an application at City Hall and come to a meeting. The next Parks and Recreation meeting is Wednesday in the Community Center at 6:15.

Become a Friend of Trees in Talent

Come and join other interested community members who care about trees at an organizing gathering to be scheduled later this month. The focus of the group will be entirely up to the participants, but is envisioned as an ongoing advocate for trees in our beautiful community.

Possible activities could include planning our annual Tree City/Arbor day celebration, conducting an assessment of our current "canopy", identifying legacy trees, monitoring and caring for newly planted trees, identifying specific locations in need of trees, fundraising for planned tree plantings, educating others on planting/caring for trees, and developing programs to encourage residential tree planting.

Please email Sharon at scanderson1@charter.net with your specific area of interest.

A project of the Together for Talent Committee

Trees For The Bark Park

The Parks Commission and the Together for Talent Committee will be helping Plant Oregon plant trees this month in the park and need donations for additional trees. Five trees have been donated so far; we are hoping for two more to complete the landscaping on the south and west sides of the dog park. Please contact Sharon at: 541-535-9055 if you can help out.

News from the Planning Department

Talent Community Center - National Register of Historic Places

As reported in September, the City of Talent's Community Center, located at 206 E. Main Street, will soon be listed on the National Register of Historic Places. A unanimous recommendation of approval was received by the State Advisory Committee on Historic Preservation on October 13th, 2011. The application will now be forwarded to the U.S. Secretary of Interior who then officially lists the Community Center on the Register. Listing the Community Center on the National Register of Historic Places is the first step in applying for rehabilitation grants to assist in future building repairs and upgrades. In September of 2010 the City was awarded a \$4,000 grant from the Robertson E. Collins Fund of the Oregon Community Foundation to assist the City in the nomination process. The City of Talent would like to thank the Robertson E. Collins Fund for recognizing the Talent Community Center as a worthy candidate as well as George Kramer, local Historian, for his efforts in the nomination process.

National Flood Insurance Program

In September of 2011 the City of

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Talent was audited by the Department of Homeland Security, Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), to determine if the City was meeting its obligations under the National Flood Insurance Program's Certified Rating System (CRS). The City received exceptional praise, but more importantly will continue to receive a 5% flood insurance policy discount for our citizens. The savings are a tangible result of the flood mitigation activities the City of Talent implements to protect lives, reduce property damage and save money. In fact, a recent study was completed by FEMA that shows the City's adopted regulations requiring homes to be constructed 2' above the base flood line have an insurance rate that is 65% less than if the home was constructed at the base flood line.

Current Planning Activities

In late October 2011, the Talent Planning Commission will be hearing a presentation by staff to amend the Talent Sign Ordinance exempting public art from being considered a sign and subject to the Sign Ordinance's various regulations. As currently written, public or private "art" is defined as a sign and therefore regulated. The amendment is part of the City Council's 2011 - 2012 goals. The City Council will be the final decision making authority in determining what is "public art", but for clarification purposes, it is not intended to be construed for the benefit of private advertising.

Leaf Bag Discount Program

Don't forget for the months of November and December you can have your leaves picked up at curbside by using compostable leaf bags. From October 24th - November 4th you can purchase these special leaf bags from Recology at a discounted price of \$10 for 5 bags. After November 4th the cost of the leaf bags will be \$14.50. Recology is located at: 170 Oak Street Ashland, OR 97520. If you have any questions please call Recology at: 541-482-1471.

Jackson County Alert & Warning Notification System

Jackson County has a new alert and warning notification system. You can go to www.jacksoncounty.org/alert and sign up quickly and easily. With this system you can sign up all of your family's cell phones and associate your

number with five separate locations such as: work, kids school, or home. Notifications can be received by cell phone, land-line, text messages or email and you can decide which order you would like to receive the alerts.

Note: This is a free service and all information will be used for alerts, warnings and important events only.

For more information contact Jackson County Citizen Alert (541) 776-7338

Holiday Celebration

Mark your calendars for the Talent Holiday Celebration on December 13, 2011. Along with the tree lighting there will be entertainment and refreshments. The festivities will begin at 6:00 pm at the Community Center.

In Search For Holiday Carolers

If you are interested in sharing your singing voice around the City of Talent and for the Holiday Celebration please call Carolyn Cecil at 541-535-5863 or email melissa@cityoftalent.org, with your name and contact information (phone number and email address if you have one).

Holiday Baking Camp for Kids

Calling all young bakers! Don't miss out on your chance to bake some holiday favorites. Parks and Recreation will be hosting a holiday baking camp on Monday, December 19, 2011 from 9 a.m. – 2 p.m. for kids ages 8 to 14. There will be a \$20 registration fee for the Camp that includes 5 hours of fun filled food preparation and baking many holiday favorites. Each baker will prepare a box of goodies to take home and share with friends and family. Lunch is also included!

You can pick up applications at City Hall or on the City website. There is limited space available so hurry and get your applications in. The application deadline is December 12th.

For more information contact Melissa Huhtala at 541-535-1566 or email Melissa@cityoftalent.org.

Talent PD News

By Chief Mike Moran

The Talent Police Department is pleased to announce the graduation of Officer Bill May from the Drug Recognition Expert Course sponsored by the State of Oregon. The course was an intensive 2-week classroom and a 1-week hands-on on the street laboratory dealing with drug impaired individuals. With so many impaired drivers who are not under the influence of alcohol, this will enable us to keep our streets safer.

One thing I hear very often is that people don't lock their houses; they leave keys in their cars and generally don't take crime prevention measures because "Nothing happens in Talent." While Talent is a very safe town, that sentiment is not good policy. We do have crime in town and criminals look for soft targets first.

In October we had a young woman attacked as she walked on West Valley View near Lynn Newbry Park. She was prepared by having a cell phone at the ready and made a quick call to a friend and the suspect ran off. TPD arrested the suspect within two hours of the attack. However, this attack is a reminder to always take precautions for your safety.

Hours of darkness will be at their peak from now through February. Crimes such as burglary and car break-ins occur more often. Please also call us when you see something suspicious immediately. Call 911 for in progress emergencies. Call (541) 776-7206 for all other police matters.

On a positive note, Talent has seen a great reduction in our traffic accidents in the first 9 months of 2011 versus 2010, last year we had 34 reported crashes and that number is down to 23 this year.

A couple of scams came up involving the use of legitimate companies names

on emails.

A local resident received a message supposedly from FedEx about a package awaiting delivery, requiring payment of \$150. Our local resident realized it was a scam as there were numerous misspellings, they requested a lot of information they should have had in file and the address to send the money to was in Nigeria. This one was not too subtle.

A more discreet attempt was involving Century Link. They have merged with Qwest and the scammer sent an email asking for a response to Centurylink.net. The actual address is with a .com at the end.

The main thing to remember is NEVER reply to an email to you requesting personal information even if it appears to be a legitimate company. If the email asks for money to be sent via Western Union it is also clearly a scam.

Firelines

By Dan Marshall, Fire Chief of Jackson County Fire District # 5

Fire Prevention Week/Open House 2011: Protect Your Family From Home Fires

On October 11th, in support of national Fire Prevention Week October 9-15, 2011, we held our annual Open House. This year's campaign was designed to educate people about how to "Protect Your Family From Home Fires".

In 2010 in Oregon, there were 2,733 fires in one-and two-family dwellings resulting in 16 deaths, 172 injuries and more than \$62 million in property loss.

The annual Open House activities focused on how to 'protect your family from home fires' and emphasized the importance of fire-safe family habits. There were several interactive displays highlighted by the use of the regionally owned fire safety trailer, designed to identify home fire hazards and train families on home fire escape planning and working smoke alarms.

Additional fire prevention stations included wildfire safety tips for homeowners, emergency preparedness information and discussion with members of the Bear Creek Community Emergency Response Team, firefighter protective clothing and apparatus and equipment displays, simulated firefighting and hose line development (spraying water) for the kids and of course 'stop, drop, and roll' for everybody.

Over 500 people attended the event and our staff provided barbecued hot dogs and drinks for all participants who displayed an honorary 'junior firefighter badge' which could only be obtained by successfully completing one or more of the interactive stations.

If you were unable to attend and want more information regarding working smoke alarms, home fire escape planning or other fire safety information feel free to stop by or call us at 541-535-4222. You can also visit our website at jcf5.com.

Jackson County Fire District # 5 – "We Still Make Housecalls"

Talent Artist Registry

Don't forget that The Talent Public Arts Committee is now accepting submissions for its own Artist Registry. This information will only be used to contact you for upcoming public shows in Talent, OR, or for related arts events. Please submit to Talent Public Arts Committee at www.melissa@cityoftalent.org with the subject line "Talent Artist Registry" IN THIS ORDER: Full Name, Phone #, Home Address, Business Address, E-mail Address, Web Address and medium(s). We are currently showing work in the Talent City Hall lobby gallery, rotations will be approximately every 2 months. Please help us showcase our local Talent in Talent by participating in this free of charge effort all run by unpaid volunteers. Help us to make your Talent known!

NOTE: The Talent Public Art