



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

I know December is a busy time of the year but there are two dates you should keep open to enhance your holiday experience.

On December 7th at 6:45pm, following a short Council meeting, I will be hosting a reception to announce the recipient of the first annual Citizen of the Year Award. We will also be recognizing several others who have contributed so much to the city of Talent in the past year. Coffee and cake will be served. I hope you will all come and support those who have contributed so much to the quality of life in Talent.

Talent's annual Tree Lighting and Holiday Party will be on December 13th at 6pm. There will be plenty of caroling, entertainment and refreshments. If you have a yearning for a good old fashioned, small town, holiday celebration, then this is it.

I hope to see you at both events.

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

URBAN RENEWAL NEWS

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

Clearing of Old Camelot Theater Site: In October, the Agency held a fabulously successful Free Cycle weekend advertised on Craig's List to encourage the public to re-use and recycle items remaining behind after Camelot's move into its new theater facilitation. Items included lumber, old props and costumes, an ADA-accessible ramp, and a two story metal storage barn. By the end of the Free Cycle, 95% of the items had been removed or claimed by citizens, leaving very little for the Agency to dispose of in the landfill. Thank you! The relocation of the old theater (now privately owned) to its new home on Wagner Creek Road is taking longer than originally anticipated due to the intricacies and sturdiness of the building, but progress is rapidly and visibly being made. The first section has been detached and wrapped, the remaining sections are ready to be detached, and the entire understructure has been deemed incredibly strong by Doc's House moving, the firm hired for the relocation by the theater's new owner. As of this writing, the date for the first section to be moved is unknown, but once it is set, the Agency will publicize the date.

LED Pilot Project: Take a look at the new Seiber Street, behind the new Camelot Theater, which boasts dozens of public parking spaces and two LED cobra head streetlights. The LED



lights were obtained by the Agency from Pacific Power under its statewide pilot program. According to Daren Dixon of Pacific Power, the Agency is one of the utility company's first customers in the southern Oregon area to receive LED lights under the pilot program, which is currently evaluating LED for viability as a new streetlight standard. Take a look and let us know what you think.

Centennial Clock Monument: A year ago, the Agency purchased and installed the tall clock in front of City Hall as a gift to the community during its centennial year. There is now a beautiful monument rock and plaque sitting in front of the clock in commemoration.

Talent PD News

By Chief Mike Moran

December is one of the busiest months for police agencies. Thefts, burglaries, domestic violence and drivers who drive while impaired all increase during the holidays.

To help protect your homes and property, please lock your doors at home. A surprising number of people don't do so. Also, this past year there were several car break-ins in Talent. So please lock your car doors too and keep valuables hidden in your car during holiday shopping.

Domestic violence continues to be a serious epidemic. There are people who are ready to help someone in an unsafe relationship. The best number to call to access those resources is Helpline at **541-779-4357** (HELP). If there is a domestic abuse occurring, call 911.

The emphasis on arresting impaired drivers in the Rogue Valley has shown two things.

1. Police officers are doing an excellent job in making our streets safer and preventing death and serious injuries caused by impaired drivers.

2. The high numbers of arrests suggest drivers are just not getting the educational messages. It is disturbing that DUI incidents are so high. One would think that after so many years of trying to get the message out to not drink and drive by such groups as MADD, that the incidents of highly impaired drivers would be down not up.

A recent mail Tribune article recognized the achievement of Officer Robert Righenour of Medford PD. He made 80 arrests from January through the first 10 months of 2011. We will never know how many lives he saved by removing those impaired drivers from the road. But we should be thankful for his work.

Talent PD also has officers who are highly successful in DUI enforcement. Officer Bill May has made 44 DUI arrests so far this year. Officer Dan Moulin has made 24. Officer May has completed Drug Recognition Expert School to be able to determine impaired drivers under the influence of drugs versus alcohol. These numbers will likely increase as we head into the heavy holiday drinking and driving season.

Please don't become a DUI statistic or let someone become one. If you see someone trying to drive while impaired, call the police or call them a cab. This year, Dick's Wrecker Service

is continuing a program that has undoubtedly saved many lives. From Thanksgiving through New Years, Dick's Towing will tow you home for free if you have been drinking. This program was started many years ago by Maynard Hadley when he owned the towing company. He recently passed away but this legacy of community service continues. Use this service, call a cab or find a sober designated driver.

Many people think all the police do is arrest or cite people. We do so much more than that. I am going to highlight each month in this column cases of exceptional service provided by TPD officers.

Recently, a woman came to Talent PD with a subpoena to testify at Grand Jury in Curry County. She would have to drive 6 to 7 hours round trip to appear in person to testify for about 5 minutes. She is a senior citizen and did not want to undertake that long trip in part because she is also a care provider for her husband at home.

Corporal Dave Plummer listened to her and went to work on the problem immediately. Dave arranged to have her testify via Skype. She did not know the first thing about Skype, so Dave set up a computer at Talent PD with the help of Arlen Hatlestad, our computer expert. This woman was able to come to Talent PD instead of going to Gold Beach. She testified and was back home in less than 20 minutes versus 7 hours. She wanted to pay us for this but it was just part of the job we do.

This was something Corporal Plummer did not have to do. Our employees often go to extra efforts to help outside our usual work. Excellent service Corporal Plummer!

News from the Planning Department

Graffiti

Over the last couple of months there has been a rash of graffiti sightings, mostly concentrated in and around the Talent Old Town District. Graffiti is not a typical issue for Talent, but it does occasionally occur. And, if left alone, it could easily spread and negatively impact the community's charm. As such, the City of Talent will be attempting to curb the graffiti by focusing on its quick removal, publicizing it as an issue, and to have our Police patrols looking out for suspicious activity.

If you see suspicious activity or the act itself, please contact the Talent Police Department at 541-776-7206. If you notice graffiti on a building, fence or other structure, please contact the Talent Planning Department at 541-535-7401. Thank you for your participation in eliminating this issue before it becomes a problem.

Talent Dog Park (Bark Park)

The City's newest park is really taking shape. Over the last month six additional trees have been planted and the grass is really growing well. It's also getting lots of use and giving lots of enjoyment to the dogs and their owners. Thanks again to all of the individuals that helped make the dog park a successful outcome.

Home Occupations in Residential Zones

The zoning code allows people to conduct certain types of businesses in residential zones provided they are not disruptive to the residential

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character of the neighborhood. Prospective business owners should contact the planning department for more information and for a Home Occupation application form. If approved, you also need to get a City business license, which is dependent on the home occupation approval. Disruptions include excessive non-residential traffic and noise. Retail businesses are not allowed, but offices are. The occupation is to be carried on within a residential building and only by members of the family occupying the dwelling. For more information, see Article 22 of the Talent Zoning Ordinance, which can also be viewed on-line. If you have a specific request or need more information, please feel free to contact Planning at 541-535-7401 or via e-mail at mark@cityoftalent.org.

News from the Parks Commission

Exciting things are happening at our Parks Commission!

First of all we would like to give a big THANK YOU to all the generous people who donated money, trees, equipment and their precious time to make our Bark Park look fantastic! There is still more improvement in the works and we would like to thank everybody who helps in this process!

We are also currently applying for Grants to improve the Chuck Roberts Park.

There will be a lot of work to do and as always we would love volunteers to help maintain our beautiful community.

Currently there are 2 Parks Commission openings. We welcome all motivated and interested individuals to our team! You can pick up an application at City Hall. Or on the City's website: www.cityoftalent.org

Curious what is happening in our monthly meetings? Then come to our next meeting on

Wednesday, December 14th at 6.15 pm at the Community Center here in Talent.

Talent needs you!

Vacancies for City Committees and Commissions

Budget Committee
There will be 2 vacancies as of January 2012. Budget Committees members

serve 3 year terms and work is done primarily in April and May each year.

Planning Commission
There will be 1 vacancy as of January 2012. Planning Commissioners serve 4 year terms. The Commission generally meets the 4th Thursday of the month at 6:30 pm in the Community Center.

Parks & Recreation Commission, Traffic Safety & Transportation Commission, and Together for Talent Committee are also seeking new members.

For more information contact Melissa Huhtala at City Hall: 541-535-1566 or email: Melissa@cityoftalent.org. You can stop by City Hall for an application or find one online at www.cityoftalent.org.

Applications will be due December 21, 2011.

Firelines - Home Heating Safety Tips

*Dan Marshall, Fire Chief
Jackson County Fire District # 5*

Each year as the weather begins to change from fall to winter we begin to respond to increased calls for fires related to home heating including fireplaces, woodstoves, portable space heaters and electric baseboard and wall heaters. As winter weather arrives it is very important for homeowners to inspect home heating equipment before using them.

Statistics provided by the Office of State Fire Marshal indicated from 2006 through 2010 in Oregon, there were 2,169 home heating-related fires resulting in 9 deaths, 77 injuries and more than \$37 million in property loss. Seventy-six percent of home heating fires occur in the months from October through March.

You can keep you and your family safe by following these home heating safety tips:

Fireplaces and Woodstoves

- Have chimney and woodstove flues inspected and cleaned each year by a qualified chimney specialist. Check for creosote deposits, soot build up, physical damage.
- Always use a fireplace screen. Make sure the screen is made of sturdy metal or heat tempered glass to prevent sparks from escaping.
- Keep a clutter-free environment. Clear the area around the hearth of debris, decorations, and flammable materials
- Store kindling, fire logs and wood at least three feet from any heat source.

Portable Space Heaters

- When using portable heaters make sure they come with an automatic tip-over switch and a high-temperature limit switch.
- Give heaters space. Keep at least three feet of space between the heater and combustibles.
- Check heater electrical cords.
- Never use an extension cord with a portable electric heater.
- Unplug heaters when not in use.

Electric Baseboard and Wall Heaters

- Beware of electric baseboard and wall heaters. These heaters are thermostatically controlled and may turn on without warning when temperatures drop.
- Keep combustibles clear. Give heaters space (at least three feet).

And remember, working smoke alarms save lives! Install smoke alarms on every floor of your house, outside each sleeping area and in each bedroom. Develop a home fire escape plan and practice it with your family 2-3 times a year. For more home fire safety tips contact us at 541-535-4222 or on our website at jcf5.com.

Adopt a Family for Christmas

The Christmas tree is up at the Talent City Hall and Christmas is just right around the corner! We are kindly asking the community to join our City employees along with Fire District #5 in effort to make Christmas special for some of the less fortunate families in our area.

If you would like to help please stop by City Hall and pick up a gift tag from our Christmas tree. Each tag will have the first name of one family member that will include the gender, age and suggested gift from the wish list for that person. We will gladly accept donations of wrapping paper, gift tags/stickers, bags, bows and ribbon to wrap these gifts in. There will also be two dropboxes located at City Hall and the Fire Department in Talent for non-perishable foods for those who would like to contribute in this way.

These families will be receiving a Christmas dinner basket containing a turkey and several non-perishable food items. All gifts and dinner baskets will be hand delivered on a fire truck by Fire District #5 and Santa Claus the week of Christmas.

All gifts will need to be turned in, unwrapped or in an open gift bag with the original gift tag attached to it at City Hall no later than **5pm on Friday, December 16th**.

If you have any questions please direct them to Leslea Heiken or Coleen Bradley at City Hall, 541-535-1566 or leslea@cityoftalent.org. Thank you so much for your support and Happy Holidays!

Holiday Baking Camp for Kids

Don't forget, all you young bakers, that Parks and Recreation will be hosting a holiday baking camp on **Monday, December 19, 2011 from 9am-2pm for kids ages 8 to 14**. Come and enjoy 5 hours of fun-filled food preparation and baking of many holiday favorites. Each baker will prepare a box of goodies to take home and share with friends and family. **Lunch is also included!** All this for the small registration fee of \$20.

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 Monday, December 12th**.

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

THANK YOU

As part of the Talent/Phoenix Ford Institute Leadership Class, we have chosen our projects that acknowledge each city's unique identity, culture, and history by creating a community mural in Talent and a community bandstand in Phoenix. To raise money for these projects we held a Fundraising Gala on November 5th. We are grateful to the many businesses and citizens committed to these two projects that came together to bring their time, talents, and treasures for a fun and inspiring evening. Due to their dedication, we met our fundraising goal, enabling the award of matching funds from the Ford Institute for Community Building. This means the band shell and mural are moving to the next phase and will begin construction soon.

We celebrate the community spirit shown by the stakeholders to help create vibrant and vital areas in which to live. With the band shell and mural, Phoenix and Talent will have attractions that will truly draw people together! Thank you,

Carrie Prechtel