



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

Here we are, January 2012! WOW! I am not one for New Year's resolutions but I do set goals to focus my thoughts for the coming year. So here goes.

One of the first areas I plan to focus on is economic development. We need to create an economic development plan that complements our existing businesses while encouraging new business, jobs, and services. A strong business community is an essential element to a healthy and functioning city and community. More and more people want to live close to their work to reduce commute costs. We need to provide some of those jobs.

Secondly, I want to work closely with the City Council and Staff to continue to provide high quality essential services, such as water, public safety, parks, streets, etc., at a cost we can all afford. This is a challenging task when revenue is flat and costs continue to rise.

Thirdly, I want to continue to encourage community building. We, as the citizens of Talent, need to create our own future and destiny. We can do this by working and participating in programs that directly improve the quality of life in Talent. We need to make things happen, not just talk. We need people like Elizabeth Zwick who rallied a number of volunteers to complete two walking paths, or Cecil Gore who not only volunteers at the food bank but takes it upon himself to keep our City clean, or Sharon Anderson, Ron Ridgway, Jesse Hodgdon, and so many others that take action to improve the quality of life in Talent. Communities and the quality of life we enjoy are built by people, not governments. So I encourage each one of you to become involved in your community.

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

PLANNING DEPARTMENT NEWS

Volunteers Needed

The City is looking to fill a vacancy on the Talent Architectural Review Committee Except during the holidays the Architectural Review Committee meets on the third Tuesday of the month at 6:00 p.m. at City Hall. Civic participation can be very rewarding

and educational. Please contact Mark Knox at 535-7401 or Melissa Huhtala at 535-1566 for any specific questions. We look forward to hearing from you.

Current Planning Activities

One of the City Councils goals for 2011 – 2012 is to initiate the process to annex various parcels along Highway 99 that are generally surrounded by City limits. There are a total of 14 parcels, 12 of which are zoned commercial and scattered among numerous City limit parcels. The annexation is expected to resolve a number of issues that primarily deal with the coordination between City and County service providers as it relates to land use planning, infrastructure planning and code enforcement. It is expected at least two public meetings will be held with the property and surrounding property owners to discuss the merits of the proposal. The City Council has the right to initiate an annexation with no cost imposed on the property owners under Section 8-3M.330 of the Talent Municipal Code.

Talent PD News By Chief Mike Moran

The past year has been a tragic one in law enforcement in America. Police officers lost their lives in the line of duty at an alarmingly high level. It began in a small town in Northern Oregon when Rainer Chief of Police Ralph Painter was assaulted and murdered in the course of answering a routine call.

Nationally, violent crime is on the increase. This past year Talent has not been immune to this. In February a suspect burglarized a home and attempted a sexual assault on a woman during daylight. In October a suspect attempted to kidnap a young woman walking on West Valley View Drive. On Thanksgiving Day shots were fired into a house. We recently captured a young man wanted for a string of armed felonies in Siskiyou County. We have responded to reports of armed suspects in our town. I mention these things to remind you that it is always important to take precautions to protect you, your family and your property. I also am discussing this because the Talent Police Department officers need your support and it helps for you to know the extent of the problem we face in keeping Talent safe.

On traffic issues, January 1, 2012 brought a few changes to traffic laws. First of all, some good news, if you happen to get a traffic citation; bail schedules have been reduced for traffic violations in Oregon.

One major change that has received lots of publicity is the new law on driving while using a cell phone. The loophole about driving and using a cell for work has been removed. Studies have shown the danger of distracted driving being as dangerous as drunk driving. If you don't have a hands-free cell phone, please, just hang up and drive.

I also want to pass along this information from the Medford Police

Department. MPD sent out a warning of a recent attempted Medicare Fraud. On 12-28-11, a Jackson County resident received a phone call from a person claiming to be from MediCare. The subject confirmed some basic information (name, address and phone number) and then began to ask about banking information. The subject was trying to get some bank account information from the citizen.

With the recent changes to MediCare and the December deadline to choose a plan, seniors should be cautious and not give out any personal information over the phone. If it is a legitimate call, the employee might need to ask you some security questions to confirm your identity, but these should be with pre-approved answers to questions you are familiar with (mother's maiden name, etc).

Become a Master Recycler in Spring 2012

Applications Due Friday February 3

Interested in giving service hours to support and expand waste diversion programs and projects in Jackson County? Join a training course which will offer an extensive handbook, discussion-based classes and presentations from local and regional experts. You will gain knowledge on waste prevention, recycling, the local solid waste infrastructure, hazardous waste avoidance, composting and more.

Classes will be held at Jackson Co Fairgrounds Mace Building; 1 Peninger Road, weekly on Wednesday evenings beginning March 7th and continue through to May 23rd. For more information you can email: jcmasterrecyclers.org or call 541-494-5488.

FRIENDS OF TREES IN TALENT

Let's continue and expand on the emphasis on trees we had during our City's Centennial in 2010. If you share our love of trees and appreciate how beneficial they are to us and the community, come to an organizing meeting **Thursday, January 26** at 5:30pm at the library where we will explore ways to promote and encourage tree planting and care on an ongoing basis in Talent.

Call Sharon @ 535-9055 if you want more information. This is a project of the Together for Talent Committee.

'Firelines'

Dan Marshall, Fire Chief
Jackson County Fire District # 5

Let's roll guys, 'turn out' and hit the ground running, go, go, go! The New Year is here, like it or not. Time waits for no firefighter and change is good! Right? Right? Yeah, yeah, yeah... sure Chief. (Honestly, a little more vacation time to prepare for upcoming changes in 2012 might not be a bad idea).

At Fire District 5, a new year always brings exciting and challenging times filled with optimism, high expectations

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and inevitably, change. Change is constant, and daily our troops are required to provide life-saving solutions for complex emergencies in an ever-changing environment. Often times the actions we take and decisions we make literally makes the difference between life and death.

In 2012, our Board of Directors will continue to evaluate policies, review programs and make decisions to support our firefighters' efforts which ultimately impact your fire and life safety. Programs and key issues include apparatus and equipment replacement, strategic planning, staffing levels and response time standards.

Monthly Board Meetings are scheduled for the 3rd Tuesday each month at 7:00 pm, at Station 1, 5811 South Pacific Highway, Phoenix, Oregon.

Quick note: Our Board is considering changing our Board Meeting time from 7:00 pm to either 5:30 pm or even as early as 3:30 pm, if you have input or preference please contact me by e-mail (chiefdan@jcf5.com) or call at 541-535-4222. Board meetings will continue to be scheduled for the 3rd Tuesday of each month.

Remember at Fire District # 5 we are very proud of our motto "We Still Make Housecalls."

News from the Parks and Recreation Commission

Happy New Year from the Parks Commission! We hope you're going to continue to enjoy our Talent parks in 2012!

Just a reminder, that all Parks are winterized and all faucets and water fountains are turned off in the parks. Have that in mind when you are taking your dog to the Bark Park.

We are looking forward to an exciting year here at the Parks Commission!

Our next meeting is **Wednesday, January 10 at 6.15pm (Wednesday, February 8)** at the Community Center here in Talent and is, as always, open to the public.

Talent Public Works Construction Projects

The City of Talent has finished the street overlay projects around town and we appreciate the cooperation from all of the citizens. The Arnos Street Construction project has been completed for the winter. The contractor will return in the spring and finish up the striping of the road including bike lanes on both sides of the road. We were not able to finish the striping before the weather turned cold. The City will also be looking into landscaping for the existing swales that have been created on the North side of the street over the next several months. The next project that the City residents will be seeing underway is the replacement of a waterline in Hwy 99 from Rapp Road to Creel Road. This project will begin in February and will continue through April. If you have any questions please call Talent Engineering at 541-535-5531.

Holiday Celebration Success



This year's Holiday Celebration/Tree Lighting was a huge success. The City of Talent would like to give a special thanks to the entertainment: **Ballet Folklorico, Mariachi Cencella**, and our **Carolers**. Thank you **Donna Boehm** for the children's craft project and **Jesse Hodgdon** for being a great emcee. Another thank you to those from **Fire District 5** who drove Santa and his helpers in to light the tree and hand out candy canes. And thank you **Talent Chamber of Commerce** for providing the delicious refreshments and the **Garden Club** for beautifully decorating the Community Center. What a great way to get the community together and celebrate the Holiday! We are looking forward to keeping up with the community togetherness for 2012! From all of us at Talent City Hall, Public Works Department and Talent Police Department **Happy New Year!!**

Bark Park Thank You!

The City of Talent would like to thank Sally Hankins, FOTOS, Together for Talent, and Funky Fashions owner Lisa Keogh for their tree donations. We would also like to give thanks to Plant Oregon for their outstanding help in planting the trees!

Budget Committee Opening

There is one vacancy for the Budget Committee. Budget Committees members serve 3 year terms and work is done primarily in April and May each year. For more information contact Melissa Huhtala: melissa@cityoftalent.org or call 541-535-1566. Applications can be found on the City's website: www.cityoftalent.org or can be picked up at City Hall.

Adopt a Family for Christmas Thank You!

The City of Talent and Fire District 5 would like to thank everyone who helped in making this year's "Adopt a Family for Christmas" program such a tremendous success! Below are just a few names of the many of this year's sponsors. Thank you to everyone who participated!

Phoenix/Talent Head Start
Leslea Heiken
Coleen Bradley
Fire Chief Dan Marshall
RVMC Respiratory Department & Sarah Woodman
Access Food
Talent Chamber Members
Recology Ashland Sanitary

Volunteer Thank you!

A hearty thank you to the dozen volunteers, with rakes, shovels and wheelbarrows, who worked in tandem with Talent Public Works to improve the walking access along Rapp Road adjacent to Parkside Apartments, from the railroad tracks to the Wagner Creek Bridge. Their efforts have greatly improved safety and comfort for the many walkers who use this roadside to get to

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to the Mayor's Citizen of the Year: **Sharon Anderson!** There are many items that could be listed as contributions of Sharon to the City of Talent! Just a few include: Organizing the Talent Friday Evening Market, hard work as a Master Recycler, tireless worker with the Talent Garden Club, Talent's Great Green Garden, the Harvest Festival and Together for Talent. Her activities can best be described as wherever the Community of Talent needs help Sharon is there to offer her time and energy with a smile on her face! Thank you Sharon!!

Congratulations to the 2011 Citizen Volunteer Appreciation Award winners:

Cecil Gore-Thank you for helping to keep Talent clean and green!
Cynthia Care-Thank you for your leadership in keeping Together for Talent on track!
Elizabeth Zwick-Thank you for your hard work in helping to create the Wagner Creek Trail!
Karen Rycheck-Thank you for your efforts in making Talent a more artistic place to be!
Mike Davis and Family-Thank you all for your hard work in helping with the Wagner Creek Trail!

Thank you all for the hard work you do for the City of Talent, your dedication and involvement in the community is greatly appreciated!!