



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

There are days when I wonder how we are ever going to solve all the problems facing our communities. There is so much negative press about gangs, drugs, and other anti-social behavior, I wonder



if the young people of today will really be ready to take us into the future. On January 23rd I attended a ceremony at Phoenix High School to recognize 70 students for their volunteer efforts in our communities. These students represent about 10% of the school population and come from all parts of the district, Talent included. I am so proud of these young people. Not only do they volunteer at the food bank, hospital, and animal shelter, but there are students who also volunteer to help people with disabilities and Meals on Wheels, and in so many other areas. It was uplifting to see our young people taking such an active role in making our cities a better place to live. If what I saw at Phoenix High School is a cross section of our young people, and I believe it is, then we have nothing to worry about. Our communities are in good hands.

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

News from the Parks and Recreation Commission

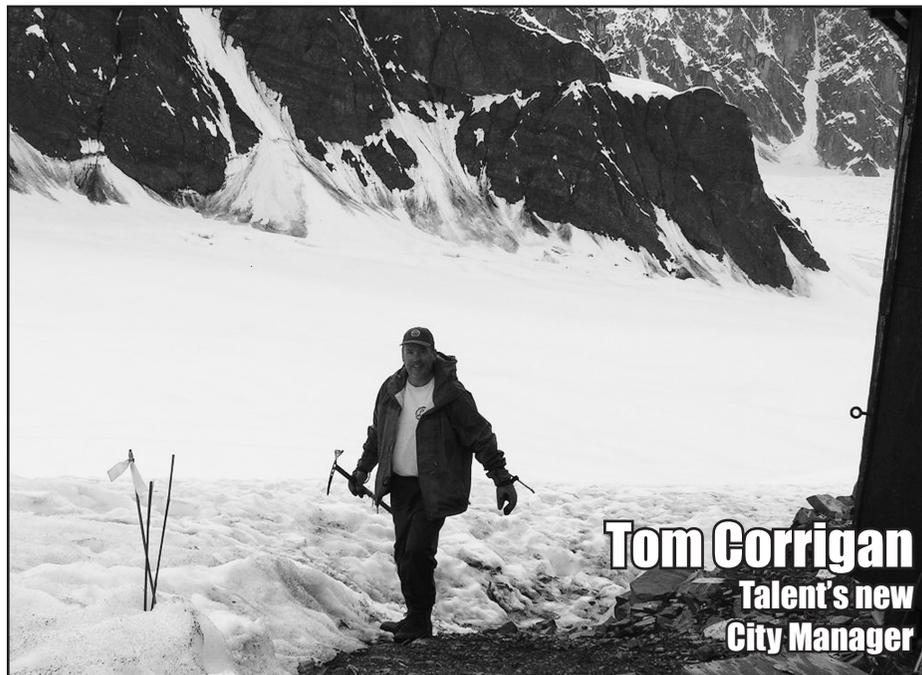
Although we are still far away from warm temperatures and summer break, it is the time of year that the Commission needs to think about our annual **Summer Recreation Program** here in Talent.

The Parks Commission recently held a study session about the contents and future of our program and decided to invite you, the citizens of Talent, to show **your** Talent and host a class or event this summer!

If you want to teach a class in something you are passionate about, want to lead a field trip or simply have an idea about what you would like to see on this year's program, please contact Brian McKinnis at brian@cityoftalent.org.

Also, if you are interested in a **tumbling class for preschoolers and kindergartners**, we would like to hear from you! A minimum of 5 children is necessary to offer the class, so contact Brian at the email address provided above (or, better yet, find four little buddies to share the fun with your child and guarantee a class!).

Our next meeting will take place at **City Hall, Wednesday, February 8th at 6.30 pm** and is open to everyone.



Welcome to the City!

His name is Tom Corrigan and he is Talent's newest City Manager. Tom was hired by the City Council and began his new position on January 10, 2012.

While he comes to Talent from Northern Alaska, Tom and his wife have owned their home in Jackson County for the past 2 ½ years. His contract as City Manager in Alaska allowed him the ability to serve there while his wife and their dogs lived in the County.

Tom has a passion for putting out fires, both literally and figuratively. A long-time volunteer firefighter/EMT, Tom battled blazes from private homes to manufacturing plants and brush to vehicles. In the local government arena, he pulled an Alaska city back from the brink of bankruptcy. Tom's desire to help in a social capacity has been the catalyst for implementing a low-income Care and Share program for residents, establishing a biannual low-cost spay/neuter clinic, as well as donning a Santa suit to find out what neighborhood kids wanted for the holidays.

Tom says that he is looking forward to a much better beginning point with the City of Talent. Tom stated recently that he has found the staff to be professional and very caring in regard to performing their various functions.

His philosophy is simple. Be available and responsive to the needs of the City Council and the citizens of Talent. He looks forward to every day meeting someone new and learning another interesting item about Talent.

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

Talent PD News By Chief Mike Moran

A recent news article about the past interim City Manager's opinions in his end of employment "exit memo" have caused some concern about the future of the Police Department. First of all I would remind everyone that the memo itself states that it is just his opinion.

While the ultimate decisions are made by our City Council, I believe the

best option for the citizens of Talent is to have its own police department and not to have police service provided on a contract with the Sheriff's Office. The Jackson County Sheriff's Office is a great organization and so is Talent PD.

Talent PD employees are working for Talent because they enjoy doing so and they all bring a very high level of professionalism to their service to you. We are staffed 24/7 and we respond to all calls for police service. The officers also bring a personal connection to the town because we are small enough to do so and the same officers are always assigned to the city.

Please let us know how we can serve you better.

Utility Bill Payment Options

All Water Utility Customers have the opportunity to enroll in an "Equal Payment Plan" for the payment of monthly water utility bills. This has been a popular program for some, and allows them to equalize their monthly payments for water usage over a 12 month period rather than having to deal with higher water bills during the warmer months of the year and lower bills in late fall and winter months.

To participate in the program a water customer signs an agreement with the City that they will make equal monthly payments based on their annual consumption. The criteria for qualifying for this program are as follows:

- . 1.) You will need to have one year of payment history with the City (i.e. you have been a city water customer for at least a year;
- . 2.) Sign up for the program in March;
- . 3.) You agree to pay the calculated monthly payment on time each month.

The actual monthly payment is based on your water usage history. Looking at the previous year of usage assists in setting the monthly payment at an amount that would, over the course of a year, cover the highs and lows of the bills.

By signing up in March you will be able to build up a credit balance so

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that when the larger bills occur during the summer months there will be money there to cover that. Each year at this time the City reviews each one of the "Equal Payment Plan" accounts and adjusts the monthly payment to reflect the previous year usage as well as any balances on the account. If the monthly payments are not made then the City will terminate the agreement and place the customer back on a regular billing that requires full payment each month. Please call Coleen at City Hall (541) 535-1566 for more information about this program.

'Firelines' The Chief's Report

Dan Marshall, Fire Chief
Jackson County Fire District # 5

Budget Planning FY 2012-2013

The Jackson County Fire District # 5 Budget Committee's first meeting is scheduled for February 6, 2012, 7pm, Station 1, at 5811 South Pacific Highway, Phoenix, Oregon. The public is invited to attend.

The Budget Committee is comprised of five Board of Directors (elected officials) and five community members appointed by the Board. During the budget process, the Budget Committee will review areas such as the fire district's mission, organizational chart, strategic plan, staffing levels, resource deployment and apparatus and equipment replacement.

The fire chief/budget officer will provide budget requests for personal services, materials and services and capital outlay. The budget also includes funding for existing debt and a contingency fund for unforeseen expenditures.

Strategic Plan 2012

In addition to having a sound fiscal plan, it is imperative to have a clear and strong strategic plan that focuses on customer service, summarizes and prioritizes key strategies, and identifies goals and objectives the fire district intends to accomplish in the future.

During the next few months the strategic planning group will evaluate

fire district operations and delivery of service by conducting a SWOT analysis (strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, threats) and complete a strategic plan which will provide direction, vision and measurable goals and objectives to monitor organizational effectiveness and efficiency.

Jackson County Fire District # 5 “We Still Make Housecalls”

Bark Park Tree Donation Thank Yous!

The City of Talent would like to thank Jan Acord and the Talent Garden Club for their tree donations for the Bark Park.

News From the Planning Department

RVTD Extended Hours

The Rogue Valley Transportation District Board of Directors will consider extending transportation service hours for a three year period on weekdays and Saturdays. The extended hours during the weekdays for Phoenix, Talent and Ashland will be 7:00 p.m., 7:30 p.m., 8:00 p.m. and 8:30 p.m. The extended hours on Saturdays for Phoenix, Talent and Ashland will be 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. (once per hour). The extended hours are being provided through operating grants, matching funds, passenger fares, and revenue carryover. The Rogue Valley Transportation District Board of Directors will hold public hearings on January 25th and February 22nd at 5:30. If approved, it's expected the new schedule will begin on April 2, 2012.

Wal-Mart

During its January 4th, 2012 public hearing, the City Council unanimously agreed that City staff and three members of the City Council should actively discuss with Wal-Mart representatives their future plans for their building located at 300 W. Valley View once it is vacated in the fall of 2012. The purpose of the decision was to assist Wal-Mart where possible in refilling the space and to ensure the site's landscaping, building maintenance and site security remains a priority during any extended vacancy period. However, since the Council's meeting, staff has received numerous calls from some very promising businesses that desire to relocate to Talent. All inquiries have been forwarded to Wal-Mart's Real Estate Division as well as Business Oregon and Southern Oregon Regional Economic Development, Inc. who have also agreed to assist in this endeavor.

Current Planning Activities

It's expected the Downtown Coffee House, located on the corner of Wagner Street and Talent Avenue, will soon begin its expansion plans. The expansion will consist of 1,112 square feet and occur along the building's southwest (rear) side and provide much needed space for a kitchen, office and expanded seating area.

In January, the City's Planning Commission will continue to discuss a new ordinance relating to drive-up uses. The Planning Commission will forward their recommendation to the City Council for final approval. The draft drive-up ordinance identifies preferred locations and design standards in order to ensure community identity.

SHELTER FROM THE STORM

It CAN happen, even in Talent -

flood, fire, storm, earthquake , power outages, roads closed and damaged buildings. What would we do?

Find out how the City of Talent will respond and learn how you can take charge of your own safety and be ready to assist your neighbors.

Together for Talent will hold a community forum on emergency preparedness **SHELTER FROM THE STORM** Saturday, February 25th from 10 am to noon at the Talent Public Library.

News From Public Works Department



Welcome citizens. Currently the Water Dept. is starting the annual water valve maintenance program. This program involves a two to three man crew, a service truck, and vacuum trailer. The crewmen acquire a Comprehensive Water Map of the City's Water Distribution System. This information tells the operator where the water valves are located and the size of each valve. The operator will actually vacuum the debris out of the valve box and then exercise the water valve.

One of the most frequently asked questions is why the City performs water valve maintenance. The answer is to insure that the valve is in the open position, that it actually works, and most importantly, that the City can count on it when needed.

Every water system has valves – devices that regulate, stop, or start the flow of water in the distribution lines. Being able to operate these valves at a moment's notice is extremely important. In an emergency, sections of a distribution system may need to be shut down without delay. However, if a valve is not used over a period of time it can seize-up from corrosion and get stuck, making the valve inoperable. This maintenance procedure is one of the most important ones that we perform. The American Water Works Association recommends that water system valves are exercised annually when the crew finds a water valve that is in need of repair, we schedule it as a priority. The City of Talent Water Distribution System has well over 400 water valves.

In addition to the water valve maintenance, the City of Talent performs tests on the

Water supply to ensure compliance from DHS and the EPA. City of Talent is publishes each year and is available to all residents. This report can be read online by clicking

Water Quality Report 2010. After June 30 2011, the Talent water report will also be

available at City Hall located at 110 East Main Street.

Feedback and Question from the citizens of our town are welcomed. Please feel free

*To contact Lester Naught,
Superintendent of Public Works 535-3828*