



# 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

Talent city parks are the jewels of our community. Our city parks provide essential recreational opportunities for our citizens and visibly define the pride we take in our community. One of the first impressions a



visitor to Talent may make will be based on how they view our city parks. To provide a parks system that meets the changing needs of our community requires planning, leadership and direction. The Talent Parks Commission takes on this role for the City of Talent. The City Public Works crew provides maintenance and construction support for our city parks. Two of the most recent successes of our parks program have been to establish a summer recreation program and construct a new dog park.

As successful as our parks program is, I need your help keeping our parks program moving forward. We are having a difficult time filling all seven of our volunteer Parks Commission Positions. Presently we have a need for 2 Commissioner Positions and two alternate Commissioner Positions. I know everyone is busy, but it is so important to the health of our City to have a fully functional Parks Commission. The Parks Commission meets on the second Wednesday of each month at 6:30 PM. If you have an interest in our City Parks Program, I urge you to apply for one of these positions. You will be doing your community a great service. To apply for a Parks Commissioner position, contact Melissa at City Hall, (541) 535-1566.

Finally, I want to take this opportunity to thank all of our volunteers for helping to make Talent the best place to live in the Rogue Valley.

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

### Urban Renewal News

For more information contact Executive Director Marla Cates, 535 6170 or [execdir@talenturbanrenewal.com](mailto:execdir@talenturbanrenewal.com).

### West Valley View – Going to Bid for 2012 and 2013 Construction:

The Agency is going to bid early May for the next two years' worth of road construction. As of this writing, bids are scheduled to be opened June 6 and a contract awarded by June 15. The contractor will be allowed to begin mobilization in June, and begin construction in July. The road construction will be done in phases: this summer and early fall, LaPree Street will be re-aligned slightly to the

north, where the current bus shelter is located, and Main Street will be extended from Talent Avenue east to Seiber Street resulting in a complete roadway connection around Camelot Theater. The following year, Main Street will be extended to the planned West Valley View roundabout. The Agency will go to bid mid-summer for fall landscape installation in the Seiber and Main Street areas. The plaza construction is scheduled for 2014.

### Kudos for Front Street:

In the last edition of the FLASH, a resident commented on how much she enjoyed the natural landscaping and pathway next to the railroad tracks along Front Street...and wondered who she should thank! The Agency is pleased to report this was an urban renewal project done in 2005. We purchased railroad land, came up with the concept of a rural meadow feel for this area to complement the residential neighborhood, sought public input on the design concept, and planted it with native plants that are now thriving. Kerry KenCairn was the landscape architect on this project. It is heartwarming to get feedback from the community on this project, and the Agency is glad to know you enjoy it!

### 2012 Refunding Bond:

On April 11, the Agency finalized a 2012 Refunding Bond with Wedbush Bank which pays off existing 2002, 2006 and 2007 urban renewal bonds within the next several weeks, and will ultimately save the Agency approximately \$225,000 in interest costs between now and when the Agency sunsets in 2016. In December 2015, the Agency will pay off the 2012 bond and any urban renewal tax revenue received but not used for the final payment will be distributed among other taxing districts including the City of Talent and Fire District #5.

### 'Firelines'-Apparatus and Equipment Financing

Submitted by  
Dan Marshall, Fire Chief  
Jackson County Fire District # 5

The Jackson County Fire District #5 Board of Directors is considering whether to seek voter approval for a long-term General Obligation Bond Levy for Apparatus and Equipment at the November 2012 General Election. The objective of the bond levy would be to improve, replace, standardize and provide functional, efficient and cost effective apparatus and equipment to provide outstanding fire and emergency services for our customers.

Historically, the fire district purchases lower cost vehicles such as staff, ambulance and grass/brush units with cash from the general fund budget. More expensive vehicles such as engines and water tenders are typically financed utilizing 10-year low interest loans. A bond levy would allow us to purchase more than one vehicle at a time, replace outdated apparatus and equipment immediately and ultimately allow for standardization at the three fire station locations in the Phoenix, Talent and Ashland area.

Apparatus and equipment replacement priorities are based on criteria identified in the fire districts' apparatus and equipment replacement program. For example, grass/brush units are targeted for

15 year replacement, engines 20 year replacement and water tenders 20 year replacement. Additional criteria including cost of operation, reliability, capability to meet standards, job performance and cost of repair are also outlined in the program.

The fire district's aging fleet of apparatus and units targeted for replacement includes 2-1980 Mack Engines, 1-1992 Western States Engine, 1-2000 Ford Rescue Unit, 1-1973 Chevrolet Utility Truck, and 2-2000 Ford Staff Vehicles (to be replaced in fiscal year 2012-2013 with general fund dollars). In addition to the outdated vehicles identified for replacement, 1-new Water Tender for Emigrant Lake Fire Station 2 would be added to the fleet and specialized equipment such as self-contained breathing apparatus, vehicle extrication equipment ('jaws of life') heart defibrillators' and protective clothing would be deployed throughout the fire district.

A bond levy would increase taxes. Currently, our tax rate is \$3.19/ thousand dollars of assessed value. A bond levy to finance the identified apparatus and equipment could cost up to an additional 15-18 cents per thousand of assessed value for 10 years. For example, the estimated homeowner cost for the bond levy based on a home assessed at \$155,000 (average assessed value within the fire district) would be \$30.00 per year above the permanent tax rate.

Finally, I want to emphasize there has not been a decision regarding a bond levy election. If you have questions or concerns feel free to contact me at 541-535-4222 or e-mail [chiefdan@jcf5.com](mailto:chiefdan@jcf5.com). Also, our monthly Board Meetings are scheduled the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of each month, 3:30 pm at Station 1, 5811 South Pacific Highway, Phoenix, Or.

Remember at Jackson County Fire District # 5 "We Still Make House Calls."

### Household Hazardous Waste Collection Days

On May 4th and 5th from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. you can bring your household hazardous waste to Rogue Disposal Transfer Station: 8001 Table Rock Road, Medford, OR 97501. There is a minimum \$5.00 charge which includes the first cubic yard of hazardous waste - a volume equal to six 32-gallon trash cans filled level. If you have more than one cubic yard of hazardous waste your charge will increase accordingly. Businesses are by application and appointment only and are charged by item and volume. The re-use table will be offered free of charge. For more information please visit [www.jcrecycle.org](http://www.jcrecycle.org) or call (541) 779-4161

### CITY CELEBRATES ARBOR DAY WITH A SPECIAL POEM BY 4<sup>TH</sup> GRADER, RIEGER SAYRE

Tuesday, April 3, the city's Arbor Day Celebration was held at Talent's Great Green Garden where Rieger's winning poem about trees highlighted the annual event. You can read the winning poem at the city's website [www.cityoftalent.org](http://www.cityoftalent.org)

Sherman Lamb, City Council President, standing in for Mayor Bill

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Cecil, read the mayoral proclamation and the city was presented with a flag in recognition of our 12<sup>th</sup> year as a Tree City USA by Ashley Dubrey from the Oregon Department of Forestry. Three almond trees were added to the garden in recognition of the event which will shade the school building and provide food in years to come.

**Special thanks to Brad Linnell**, State Farm Insurance agent in Talent, for his generosity in providing pine tree seedlings to the elementary school in honor of Arbor Day.

This year's event was coordinated by the Friends of Trees in Talent, a sub-committee of the Together for Talent Committee. Anyone interested in joining in the effort can contact Sharon Anderson at 541-535-9055.

### News from the Parks and Recreation Commission

**Wagner Creek Trail**  
Two benches have been installed along the Wagner Creek Trail (adjacent to Old Bridge Village). South Valley Bank generously donated one of them. The former Pennies for Parks program funded the other. Check them out while taking a break by the creek.

**Dog Park**  
The water has been turned back on at the dog park.

A Bark Park group is forming. If you have ideas about how the park can be improved, you are invited to join this group, which will communicate suggestions to the Talent Parks Commission.

If you are interested, please contact Parks Commissioner Janet Chose at [tandjchose@charter.net](mailto:tandjchose@charter.net)

### Talent PD News By Chief Mike Moran

The Talent Police Department is charged with the role of traffic enforcement in our city. Enforcement is one of the 3 "E's" that provides safety on our streets. Engineering and Education are the other two. The Police also provide Education with warnings and traffic safety talks. Enforcement of the laws is critical for the safety of our town.

Some folks have suggested only giving warnings or that we enforce only certain violations. If that were the case



would it be expected that other agencies only do that while in our town? Would that work? No. The officer observing the violation is given the responsibility and discretion on how best to proceed.

One of our biggest complaints is regarding traffic problems. The complaints often are in residential areas and the biggest offenders are often the people who live in that area.

A concern that the fines are too high has also been mentioned to me. The amounts on the citations are set by the Oregon Legislature. Recently, fines were generally lowered. While our department is empathetic to the fact that no one really can "afford" a citation, it is our job to enforce traffic.

Speaking of why we enforce traffic I received the following information from Oregon Department of Transportation I would like to share:

"Warmer weather and longer days naturally bring out more walkers, so the Oregon Department of Transportation is encouraging both pedestrians and motorists to be on the lookout for one another. After a long stormy winter, they may not be accustomed to traveling around each other, but it is each individual's responsibility to be safe – on foot or behind the wheel.

So far this year (as of April 11), 20 pedestrians have died in vehicle-related crashes. That's up 25 percent over this time last year. A review of recent "springtime" vehicle/pedestrian crashes (April – June of both 2010 and 2011) finds a total of 24 fatalities in 23 crashes.

"The data show a mix of reasons for crashes and the pedestrian fatalities," said Julie Yip, Bicycle/Pedestrian Safety Program manager for ODOT. "But a large percentage – about 70 percent – of the crashes show some action of the pedestrian was a contributing factor, so we want to remind walkers how important it is to be alert, be seen and follow the law."

In 16 of the 23 crashes from these two periods, the pedestrian was illegally in the roadway, such as crossing between intersections or not yielding right of way to the vehicle that struck them. Seven of the 24 pedestrians killed wore dark clothing that made them not visible to the driver. About 58 percent of the pedestrians who died had some level of alcohol in their systems, with 42 percent of those having a blood alcohol content of .08 or greater, Oregon's minimum legal limit for impaired driving.

Overall, Oregon is down slightly in vehicle-related fatalities for 2012 (74 deaths so far compared to 76 at this time in 2011). Safety advocates want to see that downward trend continue – and hope it includes fewer pedestrian fatalities.

The current pedestrian safety campaign theme is "See and Be Seen," and it asks both drivers and pedestrians to be aware of each other.

Drivers—

- Remember, under Oregon law there is a crosswalk at every intersection; stop and stay stopped for pedestrians in crosswalks.

- Do not pass a vehicle stopped at a crosswalk; a stopped car may be a clue that a pedestrian is crossing.

- When stopping for a crosswalk between intersections on a multi-lane road, you should stop about 30 feet before the crosswalk so you don't block visibility to a driver in a second lane.

- When stopping at an intersection, do not block the crosswalk.

- Pedestrians move at different speeds. Be alert for children who may suddenly dart into the street. Be patient with older adults who take extra time to cross the street.

Pedestrians—

- Use the route, path, sidewalk, tunnel or crosswalk designated for pedestrians; avoid interactions with vehicles – no matter who is responsible pedestrians generally lose out in confrontations with vehicles.

- Before crossing a street, look "left-right-left" for traffic in all directions. Keep looking as you cross the street. With a growing number of electric vehicles on our roads, we can no longer rely on hearing an oncoming vehicle – always be alert!

- If there are no sidewalks or designated pedestrian routes, walk close to the edge of the road and out of the way of traffic. Walk facing traffic so you can see approaching cars.

- At intersections, wait for a walk signal to tell you it's your turn to cross the street. Look before you go to make sure drivers see you and have stopped.

- Be visible. Wear bright or reflective material, even in daylight, so you can't be overlooked

### Talent City Hall Art Gallery

Now showing "The Wild Life" exhibit, featuring local artists Judy Benson LaNier, Ron Hodgdon, Vincent Leandro, Joshua Weigang, Janice Rosenburg, Eva Thiemann, Elizabeth Zwick and their wildlife related art work. Paintings, drawings, photography and more. All original works! Come view all the beautiful art it will be on display until June 6<sup>th</sup>! Don't miss the Talent Art & Music Festival on May 11<sup>th</sup> and be sure to drop by Talent City Hall to view the art display. Refreshments will be served from 5-8 pm

### News from the Public Works Department

#### Puncture Vine

Puncture vine is listed by the STATE as "noxious vegetation" that must be cut down or destroyed as needed by the owner or person in charge of the property.

With current soil moisture and sunny days, the noxious weed known as puncture vine or goat head is growing and new plants will appear from spring until fall. Public Works is asking that everyone check their parking strips and properties and take steps to control the spread of this weed.

Puncture vine is a low, mounding annual plant that can spread as much and ten feet in diameter from a central base. Flowers are yellow with five petals, and leaves are composed of 4 to 8 pairs of leaflets. Its simple taproot has fine rootlets that allow it to obtain moisture for growth under conditions unfavorable for most other plants and to survive in drought conditions. It generally prefers dry, sandy or gravelly sites, and has become common along roads and highways Oregon.

According to the Oregon State University Extension Services, "The best method of controlling puncture vine is to prevent establishment by destroying the first plants found in an area before burs begin to form. If green burs carrying seed are present, dispose of the plants properly, preferably by burning." Because the seeds mature continually from May to October and remain viable for years in the soil, puncture vine is best controlled by pulling the plants, bagging them and burning them in a safe place before the seeds harden and drop off. Check with Jackson County Fire Dist. 5 for burn permits and fire restrictions. Loose seed pods should also be vacuumed or raked up for burning.

Chemical control with contact or soil-applied herbicides must be well-planned, as the plants begin producing viable seeds within 4 weeks, and spraying a mature plant will only increase the infestation when the seed heads drop to the ground and are spread. For more information on chemical control of puncture vine, contact the Oregon State University Extension Service.

Puncture vine is considered to be noxious vegetation, as one might expect of a plant whose genus name comes from the Latin word *tribo*, "to tear," and whose family name, *Caltrop*, is defined

as a medieval spiked metal device used to slow advancing armies. The seed pods (goatheads) of puncture vine have long woody spines arranged at different angles, so that no matter how the seed falls, at least one spine points upward. Less than 10% of the seeds sprout the first year, with the rest lying dormant in the soil for 4 to 5 years. Seedlings tend to emerge in flushes following rainfall or irrigation, with flowers forming within 3 weeks and viable seeds 1 to 2 weeks later. The sharp spines easily penetrate

leather, rubber tires and skin and can puncture bicycle tires.

The City is making a concerted effort to control puncture vine on city property and public right-of-way under its jurisdiction, as are other local agencies including Jackson County. Public Works is asking that everyone check their properties and take steps to control the spread of this weed.

Please help us in the control of puncture vine.

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