



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 love the holiday season. It begins in November by giving thanks for what we have, and ends on December 31st with a hope for the future. It is a season for giving to those less fortunate than ourselves, for family, friends and forgiveness (and lots and lots of cookies).



There are so many ways to experience the holiday spirit in Talent. For a number of years Talent city employees along with Fire District 5 have provided a Christmas dinner and presents for at least seven less fortunate families in Talent. This is an all volunteer effort in the true spirit of the holiday season. If you would like to take part in this year's spirit of giving, you can pick up a list of gifts and items needed from the tree at City Hall. The more of us who become involved, the more these families can experience a truly wonderful holiday season. Contact Coleen or Leslea at City Hall for more information (541)535-1566.

Another great way to celebrate the holiday season in Talent is to attend the **Tree Lighting and Holiday Party at the Community Center on December 11th at 6:00pm.** This is a true small town holiday celebration with lots of caroling, music, refreshments and lots and lots of cookies. Hey kids -- I have it from a reliable source that Santa may be attending this year's Tree Lighting Celebration! I personally think it was the promise of lots of cookies that convinced Santa to visit our community at this busy time of the year.

Talent is truly an oasis of small town life surrounded by urban lifestyles. Each holiday season I reflect on how thankful I am to live in such a wonderful community and how proud I am to be your Mayor. My wish for each of you is that you have a wonderful small town holiday season with family and friends, lots of good food, and lots and lots of cookies.

Bill Cecil, Mayor, 541-535-1566

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 sex, 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 drop boxes 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 14th.**

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!

Citizen of the Year Award & Citizen Recognition Awards

On December 19th at 6:45 pm, following a short Council meeting, there will be a short reception to announce the recipient of the 2nd 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.

If you would like to make a nomination for Citizen of the Year please submit a brief paragraph as to why you feel this Citizen should receive the award to Melissa Huhtala at: melissa@cityoftalent.org or you can drop it off at City Hall 110 East Main Street. **Submissions are due December 7th.**

Leaf Disposal Options

It is that time of year when the disposal of leaves becomes an issue. Burning of leaves in Talent is prohibited by **Talent Ordinance #565.** Also, blowing leaves into the street from your property is not proper disposal. Leaves in the gutters block drainage of water and leaves are not routinely picked up by city crews. Please bag your leaves and arrange for disposal of them. Here are some other options for your leaf disposal.

Leaf Exchange Program – Jackson County Air Quality: The Leaf Exchange Program gives residents an alternative to burning leaves, which contributes to particulate matter and other pollutants in the air. Jackson County Air Quality compiles a contact list of people who have leaves to dispose of, and another list of those who are looking for leaves to make compost. Leaf donors and leaf recipients can then contact each other to arrange for pick up and delivery of the leaves. To add your name to the list, contact Jackson County Air Quality, 541.774.8207.

Recology Ashland Sanitary Service Free Leaf Drop-off Days: Sundays, Nov 11 and Dec 2 & 16 only, 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. RASS will accept leaves for free drop-off at the recycling center, corner of Water and VanNess Streets in Ashland. Plastic bags will need to be emptied and taken away. Branches and other yard debris are not accepted. 541.482.1471.

Cities of Ashland & Talent Leaf

Collection Program: Purchase 5 pre-paid bags for \$14.50 at the Recology Ashland Sanitary Service office, 170 Oak Street. Leaves only; branches and other yard debris are not accepted. On trash collection day, during a green debris/recycle week, place bags at the curb. Leftover bags may be used next year. There is 35 lb limit on bags. 541.482.1471.

City of Phoenix Leaf Collection

Day: Mon, Dec 10 only; collection by Rogue Disposal. Bagged leaves only; bags with branches, garbage or any other debris will not be collected. Bags should be placed at the curb by 7:00 a.m. Bags must weigh less than 40 lbs. and should be tied closed. For more information, call Theresa at Phoenix Public Works, 541.535.2226.

Compost in Your Own Backyard:

Year-round. Composting is easy, inexpensive and fun. Watch your leaves and grass clippings become a useful soil amendment for your garden, lawn or houseplants. Abundant instructions are available on the internet, or contact Jackson County Recycling Partnership, www.jcrecycle.org. 541.494.5488.

From the Parks and Recreation Commission Lynn Newbry Park

The salmon viewing at Lynn Newbry Park was spectacular in October. And here's even more good news: The city will now play an active role in operating this park, after signing a land-use agreement with the state of Oregon, which owns the property. The lease is for five years with an option for twenty more. Previously, the city had been in charge of maintaining the park, but not operating it.

The Parks and Rec Commission, which gave its unanimous support for the agreement, is excited by the opportunity to bring new life to this unique public space along Bear Creek and the Greenway.

Talent PD News By Chief Mike Moran

Criminals continually come up with new ways to separate you from your belongings. It is too bad their criminal behavior can't be channeled into something good. But that is the choice they make.

Meanwhile we must continually remain aware and take preventative steps to make it harder for criminals to steal from us.

A recent trend is daytime burglaries in nearby cities. Suspects are entering unlocked homes during daytime and stealing things when people are sleeping inside. Another recent case from Medford involved suspects entering unlocked cars and using garage door openers to enter homes, again, while the residents were home. Even during the day, secure your cars and house.

The on-line criminals continue to be creative too. Here are some tips on being a smart cyber-shopper.

1. Don't take shortcut links sent to you via email. Type in the name of the site you want to shop at yourself to connect.

2. If you are dealing with a reputable website it will have a lock icon and will start with "https" versus just "http." These are secure sites.

3. On line retailers don't need your birthdate or social security card number to do business with you. If

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they are asked for, consider it a major red-flag and don't give it.

4. Using Wi-fi hotspots to shop may be tempting as you can get some things done while having a meal or coffee. However, if the Wi-fi is not secure, and most public place ones are not, cyber-criminals can hack and obtain your private info.

This time of year the disposal of leaves becomes an issue. Burning of leaves in Talent is prohibited by Talent Ordinance #565. Also, blowing leaves into the street from your property is not proper disposal.

The Jackson County Gang Task Force has conducted several community resident and parent forums as part of a community-wide gang assessment model through the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention. The next Community and Parent Forum is scheduled for December 12th from 5:30 pm to 6:30 pm at the Talent Library located directly behind Community Hall and City Hall. The primary reason for gathering information is to determine how community members and parents view gang activity and how they believe gangs affect their community.

Participants will be provided a brief description of the project, the purpose, and the contact information for the lead researcher. Participants will be asked to complete a community member questionnaire and if a parent, an additional parent questionnaire, regarding their own experience or beliefs about gangs and gang activity in their community. Participation in the study is completely voluntary and all submitted answers will be completely anonymous. The questionnaires will take approximately 20-30 minutes to complete.

The completion of a county-wide gang assessment will assist the task force in determining the community needs and provide for the ability to apply for federal grants relating to gang activity.

On-line Utility Bill Payments Soon!!

The City of Talent is going green! We are currently in the process of launching iTalent on our website, www.cityoftalent.org. Through iTalent we will be offering the opportunity to have your monthly utility bill sent to your email account instead of receiving a paper bill through the mail. We will

also be introducing the new AutoPay option. With AutoPay, you just fill out the form and return it to us and we will deduct your month utility bill directly from your checking or savings account each month. Both of the authorization forms for these new services are available to download in the iTalent section of our webpage with services beginning in January. In addition, we will be launching online access to your utility account, including: view utility bills, account history and an option to pay your utility bill online. Look out for this new service coming in January. Please visit www.cityoftalent.org for more information and watch for updates in the Flash.

The Talent Public Arts Committee presents: *Transitions*

With Local Artists: Joan Franklin, Vincent Leandro, Pamela Queen, Ron Hodgdon, Roberto Bufalari, and Annette Trujillo.

On view from October 15th-December, 2012

8 am- 5pm Monday – Friday
At the Talent City Hall Gallery

Special opening on Dec. 14th from 5-8pm for the Talent Arts and Music Festival. Join the artists to help us celebrate the season!

Don't miss the runway show put on by Art Committee Member Joe Dunbar, held at the Talent Community Center: 206 East Main Street from 6 to 7pm on December 14th as part of the art and music festival!!

To be on the committee, to participate in future exhibitions, to make a donation, or for more information please contact the Talent Public Arts Committee through City Hall or on the web at TPAC@CityofTalent.org

URBAN RENEWAL NEWS

Board Applications Due December 14: Applications are now being accepted from individuals interested in serving on the Talent Urban Renewal Board of Directors. The board meets once a month, on third Tuesdays, at 6:00 p.m. Agendas at this time are fairly light, as the Agency is entering its last four years of existence and is mid-way through its last project (West Valley View). To apply, contact Executive Director Marla Cates at 541 535 6170 for more information and an application. Applicants must either live or own a business within the city limits. Applications must be received by December 14, as the Board will interview applicants on Tuesday, December 18. The Board will then send a recommendation to the City Council, which will appoint on Wednesday, January 2. The Board of Directors consists of seven members, four of whom are citizen/business representatives and three of whom are city council representatives.

Second Phase Completed on West Valley View Project: The second phase of the West Valley View project has been completed. The improvements include re-aligning LaPree Street, reconstructing the Main & Talent roadway intersection, replacing old concrete crosswalks with newer striped crossings, extending Main Street through to Seiber Street, adding pedestrian-scale lighting, and installing additional intersection lighting at the Main and Talent intersection. Landscaping is the next work to occur, followed by the full extension of Main Street to future West Valley View roundabout, and then the plaza construction. Note that while TURA will finish the entire project in phases by 2016, the actual dates for each new phase have not yet been set. A large 4'x8' map of these construction phases can be seen at the intersection of Main and Seiber streets. When dates are selected for each phase, dates will be added to the

map.

Main and Talent Avenue Intersection: Please note that the original "offset" 4-way stop still remains on Talent Avenue. The "offset" means that the intersection begins at the West Valley View intersection (two original stop signs) and ends at the Main Street intersection (2 original stop signs). Cars entering from the new section of Main Street recently built next to Camelot Theater have a stop sign also. The City wishes to keep the offset configuration in place until TURA can fully extend Main Street through to the future roundabout, at which time Main and Talent will become a traditional 4-way stop. In the meantime, since it may be confusing for newcomers to downtown – both drivers and pedestrians – so please use courtesy when driving this intersection.

PUBLIC WORKS

Important Winter Weather Water Tips

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.