



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 would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a Happy New Year, and to say that I think 2013 will be a banner year for the City of Talent.

On January 3rd, the City Council made an historic decision to approve a three-lane design concept for the section of Highway 99 from Rapp Road to Creel Road. A recent "Talent Area Road Diet Analysis" prepared for the Oregon Department of Transportation by a private consultant indicates that a three-lane concept will provide some key safety features while handling the projected traffic load for at least the next twenty years. It will also be considerably less expensive than a five-lane concept. This project has been a long time in coming, and I must say that without the help from Art Anderson and the Oregon Department of Transportation putting together a funding package, this project would still be just a dream. The next step will be to start the design process which of course will include a lot of public input. We could see construction start as soon as 2015. Contact City Hall if you would like to see the "Talent Area Road Diet Analysis".

Another key decision the City Council made on January 3rd was to make the final approval for a zone change on the old Wal-Mart property. This decision will allow Brammo, an electric motorcycle manufacturer, to proceed with the renovation process for this facility. I think I can speak for most everyone in Talent by saying -- Welcome Brammo to our community. We are looking forward to a long and prosperous relationship.

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

CALL TO ARTISTS

The Talent Public Arts Committee proudly presents: Matters of the Heart, a show about the love and passion of the artist. With local artists **Ron Hodgdon, Meri Walters, Andrea Young, Dana Feagin, and Bill Whitlock** On show from Jan. 7th-March 8th, 2013 at the Talent City Hall Gallery 110 E. Main St. in Talent.

NEXT SHOW:

Bits and Pieces: Abstractions in Art

Deadline for this application is Feb. 13th, 2013

The Talent Public Arts Committee is now taking submissions for our next show- **Bits and Pieces: Abstractions**



in Art. We welcome all 2-D work as well as 3-D pieces no larger than 14" in depth or 30" in width, and heights up to 24". **Submissions deadline is Feb. 13th, 2013 at 5pm.**

Please Note: Temporarily we are unable to upload your photos/form via the "Call to Artist Application". Please fill out the entire form, (except for uploading) then title your jpeg files with: Your last name and the # that corresponds to it in the application i.e. Dunbar 5.jpg

Email the photos and form to us at TPAC@cityoftalent.org with the subject line: Bits and Pieces Submission (NOT Transitions)

For questions please call Karen at 541-621-6239 or email us at TPAC@cityoftalent.org

Budget Committee Openings

There are 5 vacancies 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.

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to the Mayor's Citizen of the Year: **Ron Ridgway!** He has been an active supporter of the community in so many areas -- Talent Urban Renewal, Talent Chamber of Commerce, pancake breakfasts, spaghetti feeds, Art & Music Festival, Harvest Festival, Tree Lighting, Talent Boys & Girls Club. He has been generous and a visionary for Talent. He takes pride in the community and encourages other to get involved. This individual had a vision for Talent and he deserves the recognition we are giving him here tonight and a huge Thank You, Ron Ridgway for all that you have done for Talent.

Congratulations to the 2012 Citizen Volunteer Appreciation

Award winners:

**Cecil Gore
Felicia Hazel
Darby Stricker
Sharon Anderson
Ron & Jesse Hodgdon
Cheri Browne
Karen Rychek
Matt Lubic
Cynthia Care
Sherman Lamb
Kierstin Brown
Laurel Prchal
Elizabeth Zwick
Tina Decorte
Megan Headley**

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

From the Planning Department

Dogs make wonderful companions. They help keep us warm on the cold winter nights, they are always excited to see us when we get home and their constant need for walks keeps us healthy. With all of these benefits who could see a downside to this companionship? Most people are responsible and courteous enough to clean up after their canine companion while in public spaces, but recently there have been a few incidents that have been brought to my attention about this particular issue. I thought this would be a great way to remind everyone that the City of Talent does have a nuisance Ordinance addressing this situation and it states the following:

Any person, with the exception of a sightless person, responsible for any dog, shall be in possession of tools for the removal of and shall remove, excrement deposited by the dog in any public area not designated to receive those wastes, including but not limited to streets, sidewalks, parking strips, trails or roads paralleling ditches, swales, culverts, canals, railroad tracks or similar facilities.

So let's all be courteous and clean

JANUARY, 2013
Volume 15/Issue 1
Official
Newsletter of the City of Talent
110 East Main Street,
P.O. Box 445, Talent,
Oregon 97540

Edited by
Melissa Huhtala
City Website:
www.cityoftalent.org
Telephone:
(541) 535-1566
E-mail:
melissa@cityoftalent.org

up after our canine companions so others do not have to do the two-step while out enjoying their walk. If you have questions or comments about Talent specific Codes or Ordinances? Contact Dave Maynard at dmaynard@cityoftalent.org or call 541-535-7401

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
Access Food
Recology Ashland Sanitary
The Grotto Pizzeria
Central Neighborhood Church

Talent PD News By Chief Mike Moran

December was a very wet month and this information will be very useful if the heavy rains continue and the creeks rise. In an emergency you must be responsible to assure your own safety. In a large scale emergency, help may not be able to reach you. If you have taken some steps to prepare, you are way ahead of whatever disaster comes. Hurricane Sandy was an extreme, but flooding in your neighborhood or living with no utilities for a few days can be frightening and must be prepared for.

Ultimately, your safety depends on your willingness to be ready and take action when disaster strikes.

When you hear warnings of a potential disaster, having a "Ready to Go Kit" prepared will give you a head start on evacuating quickly. The kit should include any medications and supplements you will need if you must

leave your home for a few ours or a few days. Other personal care items ready to go are a good idea too.

Have your phones, extra keys, wallets and important documents in a central place ready to quickly go with you.

Most importantly, if emergency personnel advise you to evacuate, do so. The reports of people who ignored warnings and lost their lives during Hurricane Sandy were unsettling. Resources will be stretched thin and those who chose to remain in hazardous situations during a major emergency will potentially not be reached.

If you will have difficulty evacuating, plan now and register with the Jackson County Disaster Registry. This is a different program than the Jackson County Citizen Alert which I will discuss below. For those who will require extra assistance, call 541-664-6676 ext. 379 for more information on this. They can alert emergency personnel that you will need extra aid. It is also a good idea to meet ahead of time with neighbors and collaborate on helping each other. Having a pre-arranged support system for getting



you and your pets to safety is crucial.

For everyone, please think about having extra water in your home before there is a need. Also, consider having food that can be stored and that can be prepared in the event utilities are cut off.

Plus, if you have not signed up for Citizen Alert is a program to be able to alert you via cell phone, work phone, E-mail or text of warnings issued for your area. Landlines are already included in this 911 database. For more information on how this is a benefit to you, go to www.jacksoncounty.org/alert

On another topic, I continue to receive calls about dogs not on a leash. If you are a person walking a dog anywhere in the city on streets, sidewalks vacant lots, school yards and especially city parks, except inside the fence at the dog park, your dog must be on a leash. Being on "verbal command" does not meet the requirement of being on a leash. The leash also must be no longer than 6 feet. The Police Department has given out many warnings on this but be aware that you can receive a citation for this without a prior warning. Please keep your dog on a leash for everyone's safety.

Here is a parking tip. Please do not park in your driveway across the sidewalk. We have so many kids who walk to school, dog walkers and runners who use the sidewalk but have to detour into the street if the side walk is blocked. It is a safety issue

and it is a violation of city code and state law. If the citation is a parking ticket the cost is \$20. If it is written on a regular ticket issued to your vehicle, it is a \$110 fine. Either can be issued.

Young Artists of the Rogue Valley

Young Artists of the Rogue Valley is a program that offers Jackson County public and private school students the opportunity to display their art at the Rogue Valley Mall Macy's Home Court. Phoenix-Talent School District will be featured January 28 thru February 4. Featured at a February 2 reception will be Talent Middle School principal Aaron Santi who will provide words of congratulations and encouragement to the student artists and their families and friends. Also featured will be pianist Ash Williams, a student at Talent Elementary, who will play a medley of his favorite piano pieces. Everyone is invited to attend the reception which begins at 2 pm in the Macy's Home Court.

Delta Kappa Gamma International, a society of women educators, sponsors the event in collaboration with the Rogue Valley Mall.

For more information contact Jane Dow, YARV Chair at: dow@mind.net or 541-727-2614.

From the Parks and Recreation Commission Summer Recreation Survey

If your child participated in the 2012 Summer Recreation Program, then you should have received a survey in the mail recently. Please remember to complete this survey and send it to City Hall. The results are important, because they will help the Commission determine what improvements need to be made for the 2013 program. The survey is also available on the City of Talent website (www.cityoftalent.org). Click on "Parks and Recreation Class Survey."

Master Plan Update

For the past few months, the Commission has been working towards revising the City of Talent's Master Plan for Parks. Soon the Commission will begin assessing each park, one at a time. Public input is crucial. The Commission meets on the second Wednesday of every month at 6:30 in the Community Center. We would love to hear from individuals or even entire neighborhoods. In addition to making a public comment at a meeting, you may drop off your ideas or suggestions for our parks at City Hall.

Commission Vacancies

The Commission will begin 2013 with one full position and two alternate positions open. Please consider serving on the Commission in one of these capacities. Applications are available at City Hall. Our parks need you!

Utility Billing News

The City is now offering new utility billing options. Save paper and receive your monthly utility bill electronically via email. You can also enjoy the convenience of AutoPay and have your utility payment automatically deducted from your checking or savings account each month. To sign up for these services, simply complete the authorization forms available at City Hall or on our website at www.cityoftalent.org. Return the completed forms to the City of Talent Utility Billing Department P.O. Box 445, Talent OR 97540 or drop off at City Hall.