



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

This month I want to cover a very, very exciting topic -- **Budget**. Doesn't that just want to make you keep reading? Probably not, but it should. What I am talking about is how the City spends your money. Oregon



Budget Law directs the process that local governments must follow when preparing and approving their budgets. This process includes the review and approval of the proposed budget by a Budget Committee comprised of an equal number of City Councilors and Citizens. It also requires adoption of the budget by City Council. Both the Budget Committee and City Council will hold public hearings to solicit public input on the proposed budget. There are those who will contend that testifying at a budget hearing is a waste of time. That is just not the case. I have seen a number of adjustments to a Budget based on citizen testimony at Budget Committee Public Hearings. The paving of David Way and a number of other lesser used city streets is a good example. The Budget Committee will receive the proposed budget from the City Manager at a Budget Committee meeting on May 2, 2013. This will be the first time the proposed City Budget will be made public. A copy of this Budget will be available for public review at City Hall. The Budget Committee will conduct a public hearing on May 9, 2013.

I hope I can count on you to participate in the City of Talent Budget Process by volunteering as a member of the Budget Committee, or by making your thoughts known at the Budget Hearing on May 9th. We are still short of Budget Committee members. I encourage you to consider taking part in your local government by volunteering for this very important position. You can do this by contacting City Recorder Melissa Huhtala at 541-535-1566.

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

ANNUAL TALENT GREEN UP AND CLEAN UP

Together for Talent is coordinating activities to help our community look greener and cleaner on **May 11th**. Along with the City-wide Yard Sale and the Spring Plant Sale, would you, your neighborhood or business want to take on a related project in the community? How about planting some trees on your street, cleaning up a vacant field, helping a neighbor spruce up their yard, or weeding your favorite public gathering spot? If you, your neighborhood, organization, or business is interested, contact Sharon

at 535-9055.

Community Conversation

"Wonderful Library!"

"Garden of the Month?"

"The good things are that Talent has a slower pace than Ashland, it is affordable, and has a wonderful library. Thanks for asking."

"The library is a great place to do homework."

There were concerns expressed about bullying, some neglected yards, and also cigarette butts on the sidewalk.

Add your voice to this conversation. Drop a constructive comment into the box in the library lobby, or email to Melissa@cityoftalent.org

Traffic Safety & Transportation Commission Openings

Currently the Traffic Safety & Transportation Commission has 2 openings. The Commission meets as needed every 2nd Tuesday every other month during the day. If interested you can get an application at City Hall or the City website: www.cityoftalent.org

'Firelines'- "Change Your Clock, Change Your Battery"

The National Fire Prevention slogan "Change Your Clock, Change Your Battery" (March 10, daylight savings time) may not apply to all residents who have purchased new smoke alarms. For example, ionization only smoke alarms that are solely battery powered come equipped with a hush feature and a 10 year battery. Also, other types of smoke alarms are being sold with either a long-life lithium battery or standard-life battery.

We are reminding everyone to make sure you have working smoke alarms on every level of your home, in each bedroom and outside each sleeping area. To check your smoke alarms properly we recommend the following:

1. Push the test button to make sure the battery is working.
2. Vacuum the outside of your alarms to rid them of dust and cobwebs.
3. Inspect your alarm to determine if it is 10 years old or older. Replace any smoke alarm 10 years or older.
4. Retest the alarm after installing a new battery.
5. Replace any alarm that fails to operate after installing a new battery.

For more smoke alarm information feel free to stop by or give us a call at 541-535-4222.

Remember at Jackson County Fire District # 5 "We Still Make House Calls" and "Working Smoke Alarms Save Lives"

- **Dan Marshall, Fire Chief**
Jackson County Fire District #5

From the Parks and Recreation Commission Little League Fields

A group of volunteers gathered at our little league fields on Saturday, March 18. By the time they left, the dugouts and bleachers were wearing

new coats of paint, and progress had been made towards upgrading and grooming the playing fields. Thanks to the Home Depot for donating paint, rollers, and volunteers from its Phoenix store. Thanks, too, to Bill's Backhoe Service for hauling 40 yards of dirt to the fields for free. The volunteer effort was coordinated by the new, energetic leaders of Phoenix-Talent Little League, who have high hopes for a great season and a long future at the Talent fields.

Chuck Roberts Parking Lot

The new parking lot at Chuck Roberts Park is on schedule to be completed in April. The project is being funded by a grant through ODOT, using CMAQ (Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality) funds.

New Commissioners

The Commission welcomes its newest member, Shane Chokey. Also, Gordon Mobley, our longest-serving Commissioner, has returned for another two-year term. Vacancies still exist for two Alternate Commissioner positions. Pick up an application at City Hall or on the City's Website if you are interested in serving.

News from Talent PD

By Chief Mike Moran

With the arrival of Spring I'd like to remind you about some Ordinances in the city that come up often this time of year.

Yard sale signs are prohibited from being posted on poles or in public right of ways such as at intersections. The signs unfortunately never seem to get removed after the event and it looks poor. You can put a sign at the location of the event in your own yard but having a trail of signs to the location is not allowed. The main premise to that is something an old judge used to tell people in his court. "There are two types of property, yours and someone else's." If it is not your property, placing a sign there without permission is both un-neighborly and illegal.

I find that putting an ad on websites such as Craigslist or in the paper gets the message out very well. If you put in your address the customer puts that in to a GPS or smart phone and they find you easily.

Talent Police officers continue to receive reports of dogs at large. During spring weather more citizens take their dogs for walks. It is important to have your dogs on a leash. It protects your dog by keeping it from entering traffic while chasing something. Being on a leash protects other animals and other people. Some people we stop to warn about the leash laws tell us their dog is under their verbal control. That does not meet the requirements of the law. If your animal hurts someone you may face civil liability. According to the City of Talent Ordinance #749 the fine for violation of the rules is \$500. The Ordinance can be found at: www.cityoftalent.org

Pictures of Talent Wanted

The City of Talent is in the process of re-vamping the City Website. If you have any pictures of Talent/Talent Parks/Historical Talent, please send them to: Melissa@cityoftalent.org

APRIL, 2013

Volume 14/Issue 4

Official

Newsletter of the City of

Talent

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Celebrating Talent's Trees
Diana Reynolds Roome



Arbor Day on **Saturday, April 13** brings a great opportunity to celebrate Talent's remarkable tree heritage and to think about ways to make our trees flourish even more. Many interesting events have been planned, so be sure to come and enjoy them. Encourage your neighbors and friends to come -- and bring the children for a morning of fun, learning and activity! The festivities will be from 10-12 a.m. in front of City Hall.

Some of the activities will be:
How to plant a tree demonstration with an expert from **Plant Oregon**. The chosen tree will be planted right behind the library on an empty corner. While you are there, visit the **library** to see the new exhibit to honor **Oregon Arbor month**. The exhibit will be there for the entire month of April, starting **April 1**, for patrons to enjoy and learn about trees in general, and trees in Talent in particular.

There will also be **Live music** from local musicians: Allen Crutcher and Robin Mink on guitar and percussion. They'll play their own original folksy blues songs and love music -- love for trees, of course!

View a map of **Talent's special trees**. We have many! You can access the map on the **Talent Friends of Trees Facebook** page. We will be joined by **Wild Life Images** which will be bringing three beautiful live birds as inspiration to artists to paint, draw and photograph them.

Come enjoy light Refreshments and Olive Oil Tasting. Meanwhile your children can visit the **Art table** to draw and paint different things they love about trees. There will be **Games for children -- with prizes!**

Meet members of the **Talent Friends of Trees** committee -- they are working

to make trees a more valued part of our neighborhoods, though education, recognition, and planting of trees in our community. Their new enterprise is a tree nursery, where donated tree saplings will be made available later this year to anyone who would like another tree in their yard. So don't throw out that oak or catalpa volunteer that took root in your flowerbed. Dig it up carefully, put it in a pot with some earth, and bring it along for someone else to enjoy! Find out more about how to **donate a tree**, or call Sharon Anderson for information: 541-535-9055

URBAN RENEWAL NEWS

West Valley View Project – Landscaping in 2013!: By now, most citizens should be aware the Agency is entering the last four years of its existence, and we are scheduled to sunset the current urban renewal downtown district in December 2016. Between now and then, we will be working each year on small phases of the West Valley View roadway project, and will have Phase 1 (roundabout and plaza) completed by the time we sunset. Occasionally, citizens ask us why the construction can't happen faster, and why we have to finish it in such small steps. The most important reason is that we have to work within our financial means, like everyone else. Years ago, when the Agency was younger, we could borrow large sums of money to complete our capital projects. This is because urban renewal agencies, unlike cities, have the luxury of paying back what they borrow over the lifespan of the agency and our principal and interest payments are spread out over a long period. Now that we are nearing our termination, we can't borrow these large sums of money, and so we must work with what tax revenue we receive each year. Some people think urban renewal is funded through state or federal dollars. This is not true. Urban renewal is actually funded through a portion of local property taxes and, as everyone knows, the economic recession's impact has affected jobs and property values on which those property taxes are based. So, just like everyone else, the Agency must work within its financial abilities and do our construction in small steps under a pay-as-you-go greatly scenario. We can afford to complete Phase 1 of the West Valley View project, we just must do it in small steps as our finances allow.

To date, 50% of Phase 1 of our West Valley View project has been completed. This includes the successful relocation of the Camelot Theatre building, the creation of Seiber Street (behind Camelot), the re-alignment of LaPree Street, and the partial extension of Main Street, which all took a considerable amount of time and money. This coming Fall 2013, we will focus on planting

trees and landscape in the newly built areas. Fall is always a great time to plant, as it gives plants an opportunity to build a healthy root system during the winter, which in turn lets them flourish. The roundabout will be built the following year, in 2014. The plaza "open space" is scheduled for 2015. When the plaza is completed, urban renewal will have invested 11 years and close to \$4 million (\$1 million coming from a state grant) in the West Valley View project.

If you have any questions about the West Valley View project or urban renewal in general, please contact: **Marla Cates, Executive Director** execdir@talenturbanrenewal.com **cell: 541 840 3418 office: 541 535 6170**

City of Talent Chamber of Commerce

Small town, big dreams, bright future!
We welcome our newest members! As part of our advocacy for existing business in this small community we call home, the Talent Chamber of Commerce and its Board want to thank our existing members for their support.

Jackson House: Assisted Living Residence
300 Suncrest Rd. Talent, OR 97540

(541) 512-9474
D T Service: Bookkeeping Service
530 Bell Rd., Talent, OR 97540

(541) 535-4374
Zach Bartlett: American Family Insurance: Insurance Agency
663 A St., Ashland, OR 97520

(541) 488-0301
Butler Ford: Automotive Sales, Service & Body Shop
1977 Hwy 99 North, Ashland, OR 97520
(541) 482-2521

To get involved in the Chamber, get additional information or help fund any of the Talent Chambers local programs contact the Chamber office at 541-535-3837 or stop in from 9 to 11am daily at 206 E, Main St. / Talent. Thank you *Talent News and Review* for your on-going Chamber and community support.

-Chamber Board of Directors

**Friday & Saturday
April 5 & 6, 2013
9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
Jackson County Expo**

**Spring 2013
Plastic
Round-up**

Save Your Plastic for Recycling!

Items NOT Accepted:
You will be asked to HAUL AWAY any unacceptable items

- NO dirty plastic
- NO Styrofoam blocks, peanuts, food trays or egg cartons
- NO "compostable" plastic or #PLA 7
- NO PVC pipe
- NO vinyl
- NO above ground swimming pools/liners
- NO food contaminated plastic
- NO foam or rubber
- NO plastic with metal or electronics with metal springs- remove spring)
- NO containers with any chemical residue – triple rinsed only
- NO Latex, Nitrile or rubber gloves
- NO coolers

Acceptable Items:
SORT CLEAN & DRY plastics into these categories:
Soft Plastic, Hard Plastic, Nursery Pots/Trays
Find a longer list of items at www.jcrecycle.org

Soft Plastic

- dry cleaning bags
- grocery bags
- shrink & bubble wrap
- freezer & zip lock bags
- Mylar & Visquene
- cereal liners & chip bags
- six pack rings
- tarps – remove grommets
- greenhouse film
- fertilizer & seed bags
- drip tape
- woven landscape fabric

Hard Plastic

- all plastics with numbers
- baling twine
- plastic strapping – no metal
- buckets – no metal handles

\$5.00 FEE
per household
Businesses & large loads:
\$5.00 per yard

Nursery Plastics

- nursery potting trays/flats
- nursery pots of all sizes
- potting 4-packs & 6-packs

**JACKSON COUNTY
SMARTWORKS
MASTER RECYCLERS**

For more information: www.jcrecycle.org