



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

You have all heard me say time and time again that I believe that Talent is the best place in the Rogue Valley to live. We are so fortunate to live in a community that provides a quiet, small town, slow paced



lifestyle that is conducive to family life. What we don't have, however, is a vibrant business community where Talentonians can live, work, and shop without leaving town. I guess you can say we are a true bedroom community. For Talent to become a vibrant and sustainable community, we need to encourage businesses that provide living wage jobs, which in turn promotes more retail, more services, and more service organizations -- all the hallmarks of a successful city. Think what it would be like to be able to do most all of your everyday shopping without leaving town.

To transform Talent from a bedroom community to a sustainable community while maintaining a small town lifestyle will require a great deal of creative thinking and the willingness by all of us to take on new and innovative action. I, along with the City Manager and Councilor Stricker, have enlisted the help of Southern Oregon Regional Economic Development Inc. (SOREDI), Oregon Business, and the Homebuilders Association to help us develop a workable framework from which to build a viable economic development program. I believe these contacts have been extremely productive. Within the next couple of weeks I will post an outline of our economic development program on the City website. I encourage you to take a look at this program and give me your thoughts. It will take a commitment from all of us to build Talent into a sustainable community while protecting the small town values we all love.

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

News from Utilities

For our customer's convenience, the city has partnered with a third-party credit card processor to offer an online payment option. Starting in September, customers will be able to login to our website, www.cityoftalent.org, to pay Talent utility bills, water deposits, business licenses, municipal court payments, traffic citations, recreation registration

fees, Community Center rental fees and other miscellaneous fees. Also starting in September, there will be a small convenience fee of 2.49% paid to the third-party credit card processor for all card transactions both online and at the counter. If you have any question please call us at 541-535-1566.

TALENT HARVEST FESTIVAL FUN OCTOBER 5, 2013

Now in its 44th year, the Talent Harvest Festival is one of the region's liveliest and most popular outdoor fall events. Adults and children of all ages are welcome and there is no admission fee. The Festival features fine arts and crafts, community exhibits, a wide selection of local foods, local beer and wine, apple cider pressing and much more. For the kids there will be a Rock Climbing Wall, Bounce House, Pony Rides, Face Painting, Jugglers, the Harvest Home, Farmers Market and crafts area near the Talent Library.

The day starts off with the Talent Chamber of Commerce's \$5 pancake breakfast (7 am-11 am), Harvest Festival 5K and 10K fun runs (8 am), and the Talent Parade (10:00 am startup). The Festivities will continue with extended hours this year until 6:00 PM. There will be plenty of live music by several favorite local bands as well as other entertainment throughout the day.

Back by popular demand is the Dunk Tank which will feature Talent City Officials, Staff and other dignitaries!

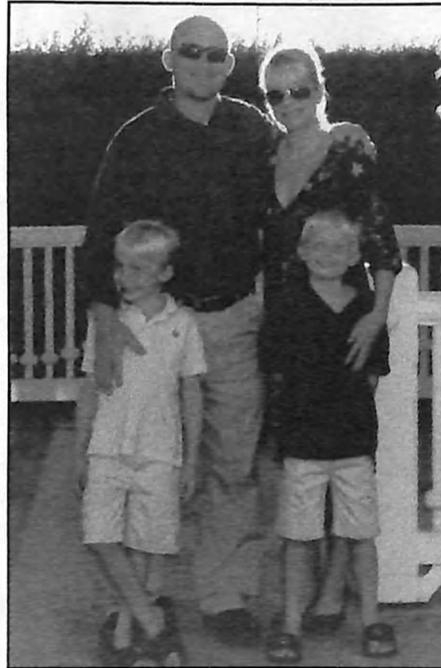
Come one come all and save the date for October 5th to join the community as we come together for this seasonal celebration of Harvest Hometown Fun!

You can be a part of this event in many ways such as: Arts and Crafts Vendor, Food Vendor, Sponsor, Parade Participant and by joining the Fun Run/Walk. If you would like an application for any of these or for more information please visit the city website: www.cityoftalent.org or contact Melissa Huhtala at 541-535-1566 melissa@cityoftalent.org

2013 Harvest Festival Scarecrows

Scarecrows are back again! This was a fun activity last year and is a great opportunity to let Talent represent their own friendly or funny "talent" in creating scarecrows for the festival! On Oct. 5th, hand-crafted scarecrows will be a part of the annual parade. We invite everyone to participate and come up with their own interesting creation! Entry is FREE and you will be able to put the name of your group, friends, business, or neighborhood next to your talented design. The possibilities are endless and the guidelines are simple. Best of all...you'll have a beautiful decoration in time for Fall or Halloween parties! For rules and sign-up, please contact EJ at councilor6@cityoftalent.org or call Melissa at 541-535-1566.

Welcome New City Planner Zac Moody to the City!



Hello Talent! Here is a little bit about myself:

I am a graduate of Southern Oregon University with my degree in Geography and have spent the past 1 ½ years working as a Senior Planner with Jackson County Development Services. During that time, I worked primarily on long range planning projects, including the Governor's Executive Order (a study of resource lands in Jackson County), the Agricultural Task Force which was part of the Regional Problem Solving (RPS) project and worked to modify the Jackson County Enterprise Zone to include the City of Talent, Ashland and Eagle Point.

Prior to my work at the County, I worked for the City of Veneta, a small rural community west of Eugene. As Veneta's Associate Planner, I was responsible for overseeing all Planning and Urban Renewal activities, including working with large residential developments and the City's economic development and master plans. It was during that time that I worked on the development of a new community swimming complex.

My other planning experiences include working as a private Land Use Consultant processing land use applications for large ranches and farms and as a Geographic Information System (GIS) Analyst for Avista Utilities.

In 2005, I held a seat on the City of Talent's Urban Renewal Board of Directors and worked on many urban renewal projects including the West Valley View Redevelopment project.

I am also very active with local volunteer organizations. I currently serve as a Board member for the Talent Food Project and the Phoenix-Talent Little League. In 2009, I completed the Ford Institute Leadership Program; leadership development training consisting of 48 class hours that focused on developing community leaders and increasing leadership capacity of individuals.

I also enjoy playing soccer, softball, kickball and baseball with my two boys. I coach both Little League

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and for the first time this year will be coaching soccer at the YMCA. I also enjoy hiking, gardening and watching college football and basketball.

I am excited to start my new venture in Talent and looking forward to working with and meeting all of you!

Goodbye Lester Naught

After 32 years of dedicated service Public Works Superintendent Lester Naught has retired. After contemplating this decision for a year he finally took the plunge.

Lester truly dedicated his life to the City and was always there to lend a helping hand to co-workers as well as citizens. He will be missed!

On behalf of the City of Talent we would like to thank Lester for his hard work and wish him a happy, healthy and relaxing retirement!

News From Recology

Please Keep Leaves out of the landfill & from clogging the storm drains to our streams. Take advantage of these programs:

FREE LEAF DROP - OFF Sundays November 17th & December 15th

Bring your leaves to the Ashland Recycle Center on Water ST. between 9am - 4pm.

PRE-PAID LEAF BAG PROGRAM - November and December only- Come to the Recology Ashland Sanitary Service office at 170 Oak St. to purchase (5) Pre-paid bags for \$14.50. Ashland & Talent residents have limited discount on bags 10/28 - 11/11 Thanks to the Cities of Talent & Ashland Public Works.

From the Parks and Recreation Commission

Relief from the Heat—Next Year

The city has purchased equipment for a splash pad in Chuck Roberts Park. By next summer, it should be installed, providing kids with a wet place to play when the heat in the valley soars. Something to look forward to!

Two commissioner seats, as well as

two alternate commissioner seats, are vacant on the Parks and Recreation Commission. Applications are available at City Hall or the city website, if you are interested in serving.

Do you have ideas or questions about our parks? We'd love to hear from you: ParksComm@cityoftalent.org. For parks maintenance issues, contact the city manager: Tcorrigan@cityoftalent.org.

Talent PD News

By Police Chief, Mike Moran

As part of my efforts to recognize excellent service by members of Talent Police, I want to share a story about our two Records Section clerks. Recently a woman came in with a letter from a Federal Government agency that had some directions on things that her father needed to do in order to have some discontinued military benefits restored. This veteran honorably served America for over 30 years. Through some baffling mistake, he had not received his earned benefits for well over a year.

TPD's Melisa Hansson helped explain the directions on the letter and offered information on how to most easily comply with them. Also she offered to expedite the part Talent PD needed to play. When this woman and her father came back in Melisa went to extra lengths to get the paperwork on its way to the appropriate agency to restore the benefits.

Our part time clerk, Amanda Rogers, fortunately was also in the office that day. She went to the lobby and told them about the Jackson County Veterans Service Department. Amanda is also a military veteran and she wanted to be sure this gentleman would be assisted in the future if he had problems or questions relating to veterans benefits.

The concern and kindness of Melisa and Amanda made a great difference in the lives of this honored veteran and his daughter.

This is my annual reminder that school is back in session. Please **SLOW DOWN**. Just because 25 is the residential posted speed or 20 is the speed near schools, does not mean you have to drive that fast. When kids are present it does not hurt to go a bit slower.

Other things that pose a grave danger to pedestrians and bicyclists, young and old, are distracted drivers. We recently conducted enforcement operations related to pedestrian safety and the cell phone violators are the most prevalent of the offenses we have seen. Very soon, the fine for cell phone violations will be doubled. Talking on the cell phone is dangerous enough but those who think they can text and drive are recklessly endangering lives. **"Just Hang Up and Drive!"**

School is back in session, the weather will turn stormier, and as hours of daylight decrease, Talent PD will emphasize our traffic enforcement.

News From Talent Public

Art Committee

Talent Arts Forum

Share your vision for Public Art in Talent on Sept. 11th at 6pm at the Downtowne Coffeehouse.

Find out what the Talent Public Arts Committee has been doing and what might be possible **with your input.**

Share your vision with a 2 minute statement including your thoughts on how to make your vision a reality (fundraising, grants, in-kind

donations, etc.). All Talent artists and serious supporters of the arts are welcome to join us for this first of its kind arts forum. We would greatly appreciate your input and support.

A light meal of soup and salad will be served to our guests at our own: **Downtown Coffeehouse** 200 Talent Ave./Talent (corner of Talent Ave and Wagner St.)

Please RSVP by Sept. 6th to join us: TPAC@cityoftalent.org or call Karen at 541-621-6239.

Let's exchange ideas, explore your interests, and see how you can participate in bringing the arts forward into our community.

Sponsored by the Talent Public Arts Committee (TPAC)

The Talent Public Arts Committee is proud to present: *Abundance* with local artists Meri Aaron Walker, Brooks Garten Hauschild, Eve Margo Withrow, Stephanie Thomson, and Ron Hodgdon.

On view from Sept. 9th- Nov. 8th, 2013 from 8:30am-5pm Monday-Friday at the Talent City Hall Gallery - 110 E. Main St. in Talent, OR.

A special opening with the artists and light fare will be held from 5pm to 8pm on Friday September 13th during the Talent Arts and Music Festival. Please join us and see what we do to make Talent a more creative place to live!

URBAN RENEWAL NEWS

For more information, contact Executive Director Marla Cates 541-535-6170

BOARD VACANCY: Are you interested in urban renewal? There is one Citizen/Business Representative seat available, term expires in four years. Applications deadline is Thursday, September 12. An application and interview are required, contact Executive Director Marla Cates for details.

WEST VALLEY VIEW PROJECT UPDATE: Empty planter beds along Seiber Street and the extension of Main Street will have their landscape installed this coming Fall. The house located at 111 W. Valley View was recently demolished to clear the site for the future roundabout and make it easier for weed management. TURA purchased this property a few years ago, and allowed the residents to stay until they could be relocated to a new home that met their needs. Belfor Environmental did an excellent job with the demolition, and left a very clean site. There are trees left standing on the property which will be removed sometime in the next several months to make way for the future roundabout and a pocket park. Normally, TURA prefers to have trees professionally pruned and left as part of the landscape. However, these particular trees are not desirable near public right of way, and their suckers and seeds are invasive. Instead, a lovely little park has been designed for this area with a path, bench, shrubs and new trees. The park will be built along with the roundabout Summer-Fall 2014.

TURA Office Garden Landscaping: Plans are in the works to begin re-designing the front garden of TURA's office at 102 Home Street, behind the library and City Hall. By Winter, the former ivy bed and elm suckers should be gone and new landscaping on its way to be installed. Assistance from a landscape professional will be sought to produce a new design