



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

The holiday season is my favorite time of the year. It is the time of the year when families and communities put aside their differences to come together and enjoy the fellowship and wonders of the season. There are several ways you can enhance your holiday experience in Talent.



On **December 4th**, I will be hosting an awards presentation to announce the "**Mayor's Citizen of the Year**" and recognize others who have contributed so much to the City of Talent. Presentation will begin at about **7:15 pm** after a short City Council meeting. Coffee and cake will be served. I hope you all can come to recognize those who have contributed so much to the City of Talent.

On **December 6th** the Talent Boys and Girls Club will be hosting a fundraiser auction and dinner at the Ashland Armory (dinner will be catered by Arbor House). This is a major fundraising event that helps keep our local club operating for the coming year. The Boys and Girls Club is so important to the health of our community. I hope you can take part in this event. Those of us who attended last year had a great time. Contact Melissa Wagy at 541-941-3604 or the Boys and Girls Club at 541-479-5258 for tickets and more information.

If you can attend only one event, this is it -- the Talent Tree Lighting **Tuesday December 10th at 6:00 pm**. This is a good old fashion tree lighting with plenty of refreshments, caroling, Santa Clause, and a Christmas ornament craft table for the kids. You don't want to miss this.

Each year the City employees and Fire District 5 provide several families in need with presents and the fixings for a Christmas dinner. We all can take part in this wonderful spirit of giving by picking up and filling a gift request card from the tree at City Hall. City employees will wrap the gifts and Fire District 5 will deliver them along with all the fixings for a Christmas dinner just before Christmas. There is nothing that embodies the spirit of the holiday season more than helping a family in need have a truly wonderful holiday. This is not a program for Scrooge. Contact Colleen or Leslie at City Hall for more information, 541-535-1566.

I hope that you all have a truly wonderful holiday.

Bill Cecil, Mayor
mayor@cityoftalent.org
 541-535-5863

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 father 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.

Dain 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.

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 13th**.

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!

Christmas Tree Recycling

The Phoenix-Talent Troop 535 will be doing Christmas Tree Recycle in the Phoenix and Talent area this year on **Saturday, Jan. 4**. This is their annual community service as well as a fundraiser for the troop activities. Donations are appreciated.

If you have any questions please contact:

Sara Crawford

Troop 535 Committee Chair

541-535-8286

News from Community Development Department

Building Permit Applications:

What is the procedure for getting building permits?

It sounds a little complicated, but it's not. First, contact the Community

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Development Department staff to make sure you're starting off in the right direction. Typically for a structural permit, Planning issues a "Zoning Permit" to verify all land use code regulations are being met. Second, submit the necessary plans (varies depending on type and size of application, but most permits include a site plan, floor plan, structural plans, etc.) which then are reviewed by the Building Department staff. Finally, after the plans are reviewed and approved, the plans are ready to be issued and construction can begin. At various phases of the construction, inspections are necessary. The last inspection for a new structure will include a "Certificate of Occupancy" inspection in order to finalize the permit.

Building permits require various fees, regulated by the State of Oregon Building Codes Division. Further, other fees, such as System Development Charges or fees from Rogue Valley Sewer. For questions or more information, please call 541-535-7401. **Building plans are accepted and issued Monday through Friday between 8:30 a.m. and 4:00 p.m.**

From the Parks and Recreation Commission

Please Support the Heritage Trail

Next spring, the city will be submitting a grant application to the state of Oregon to help fund a one-mile walking/jogging trail in Chuck Roberts Park, called the Heritage Trail. Our application needs community support. If just 50 people pledged \$50 to the trail project, it would send a clear message to the state that the Talent community wants this trail to happen! E-mail your pledge (any amount helps) to ParksComm@cityoftalent.org. Donors will be acknowledged at the trail dedication ceremony.

To find a description of the proposed trail: Go to the City website, click on "Departments," and then on "Parks." Finally, click on "Proposed Walking Trail" in the left column of the Parks page.

News from Talent Police Department

By Chief Mike Moran

This past month Oregon City Police Reserve Officer Robert Libke was

killed in the line of duty. His death has brought forth some thoughts I think it is important to share with you. Being a reserve , Officer Libke was not paid to put his life on the line in protecting citizens from the armed and violent 88 year old suspect. He paid his expenses for equipment, he donated weeks of his time to be trained and many more months of service were donated to the people of Oregon City. He highly deserves the many accolades he has received for sacrificing himself to protect others.

As part of the tribute paid to him, officers from around the country sent representatives to Portland to be part of his memorial service. Talent PD Officer Dan Moulin represented the citizens of this community and was part of the procession of police vehicles that stretched for nearly an hour.

Our department utilizes a small number of reserve officers. Currently we have one potential reserve candidate in training in the Reserve Officer Law Enforcement Academy. Our most recent two reserves moved from our program to take opportunities with other agencies. Stephen Barrett is an officer with the University of Oregon Public Safety Department. Derek Evans is now with the Central Point PD. We are very proud of them and wish them well in advancing their careers.

In my effort to congratulate and promote the good things my fellow PD employees do, I like to highlight accomplishments. Officer Gail Schweizer recently was recognized by Team Oregon, a group that teaches motorcycle riding and safety to Oregonians. Gail has served for twenty years as an instructor for Team Oregon. Gail is contributing to safer streets through this as well as his work in Talent making our streets safer through traffic enforcement and education.

Here is a tip on a fairly new scam you may not have heard about; rental property scams. This actually occurred in Talent. However, no money was lost.

Criminals post Craigslist ads that mimic actual property listings. They then alter the rental costs and contact information and persuade would-be renters to wire them a deposit or first month's rent. A clue is when there are two different ads on Craigslist with two different prices and two different people to make contact with. But there may just be one phony ad.

In a case in Central Oregon a would-be renter arrived at his new place with a U-Haul, and only then found that he had been scammed.

If you are planning to rent always meet in person to see the home and never send money without meeting the property owner or manager. Even then you may want to ask for identification to know who you are dealing with. Don't wire money!

This Holiday Season, please lock your homes and vehicles to protect yourself from criminals who constantly look for easy targets to steal from. Last month I mentioned extended hours of darkness leads to more crime. I just read a recent study that verifies my observations. This study said that crime goes up when Daylight Savings Time ends. This doesn't apply just to DST versus Standard Time. If you have well-lit driveways and front porches around your house criminals are more likely to scurry away from your home. When you take some time and energy to protect yourself from crime, it pays off.

UTILITY BILLING NEWS

This has been a big year for the City's Utility Billing Department. We have added new utility billing and payment options for our citizens' convenience. Utility customers now have the following service options available for receiving and paying their monthly utility bill:

- Email Utility Bill option
- Monthly AutoPay option
- Online Payment option
- Phone Payment option

To sign up for the email utility bill and monthly autopay options, complete and return the authorization forms available at City Hall or by visiting the Utility Billing page on our website. Email utility bills are sent directly to your email account the first of each month. With AutoPay, we will debit your checking or saving account automatically on the 15th of every month. Utility bills can be paid online by visiting our website, www.cityoftalent.org and clicking on the 'Pay with GovTeller' button. Payments can also be made over the phone at 541-535-1566. And as always, payments can be made at City Hall, our drop box locations or mailed to P.O. Box 445 Talent Oregon. We hope these new options make it easier for you to receive and pay your utility bill each month. Watch for additional changes to come as we continue to improve our utility billing process. Starting in January 2014, a late fee will be assessed to all utility accounts that are not paid in full by the due date. If you have questions, please call Utility Billing at 541-535-1566.

WANTED- COMMITTEE & COMMISSIONER MEMBERS!

Interested in becoming a **Talenteer**?

This is a great Committee to be involved in if you have a passion for trees, trails, forums and want to help make Talent a better place. .

Currently Together for Talent has created a Suggestion Box asking citizens what they like about Talent and what suggestions they have. There has already been great feedback and we would love to hear more. The suggestion box is located in the lobby of the Talent Library and at Rays Food Place.

Traffic Safety & Transportation Commission Openings

Currently the Traffic Safety & Transportation Commission has an opening for a Talent Resident! 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

Budget Committee

Budget Committees members serve 3 year terms and work is done primarily in April and May each year.

Planning Commission

There is currently 1 Alternate Planning Commission vacancy. The Commission meets every 4th Thursday.

Parks and Recreation Commission

There is currently 1 vacancy for a Parks Commissioner and 2 vacancies for alternates. The Commission meets the 2nd Wednesday of every month.

For more information for any of these vacancies please contact Melissa Huhtala at City Hall: 541-535-1566 or email: Melissa@cityoftalent.org. You can stop by City Hall for an application or find one online at www.cityoftalent.org