



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

News from the Mayor's Office

Momentum in Talent!

The back parking lot at City Hall is temporarily closed due to construction. Sorry for our dust.

Council goals were adopted

and can be found on www.cityoftalent.org under News from the Mayor or copies are at City Hall.

Councilor Abshire will lead an effort to find a good budget training to refresh City Budget Committee members on best practices. Trained committees provide better service and transparency for Talent.

Economic Development efforts are under way. Councilors McManus, Councilor Pederson and myself, as well as Talent business professionals Wendy Siporen and Ian Bagshaw have joined forces to brainstorm ideas to move Talent's economy forward. Councilor Pederson will present the plan at the City Council meeting on 3/4/15.

Please join me in thanking these newly appointed members. Parks Commissioners Ian Hammons, Lynda Heerema and Alternate Kittie Harrison. Talent Budget Committee Member Larry Chase. Talent Urban Renewal Agency Director Medhi Ghavam. Planning Commissioner David Pastizzo and Alternate Joi Riley. Charter Review Committee Members Don Steyskal, Sherman Lamb, Marguerite Schellentragher, Tonia Moro and Joi Riley. I speak for many when I say, we are grateful to have these generous citizens represent our City.

Rogue Valley Transit District responded to Talent citizens expressing concerns about the safety of the proposed new route. RVTD revised the proposal for improved safety. Thank you RVTD.

Doggy stations around Talent are open for business. Please do the right thing and use them. Too often there is a mess on the sidewalk that others need to avoid.

Talent citizen Emily Berlant of Pacific Power's Blue Sky Renewable Energy Program reports that by the end of 2014, Talent was the number one participating City in the Rogue Valley, and fifth in the state. This is definitely something to be proud of and a great way to show that people in Talent are taking action to support a transition to cleaner energy.

Grateful to serve,
Mayor Darby Stricker
Please find Commission/Committee openings on www.cityoftalent.org.



Ground breaking ceremony for the new Talent Community Center!

News from the Historical Society

The Talent Tomatoes are growing now, and will be available from 8am-noon (or while they last!) on Saturday, May 9, the day of the City Wide Yard Sale. Pre-order yours today at the THS museum, or come early on May 9th. You can also show your support with a Talent Tomato t-shirt! Follow Talent Historical Society on Facebook for the latest news on the Talent Tomatoes and other fun events, as well as a daily look into life in early Talent with the Beeson diaries.

From the Parks and Recreation Commission

New Summer Program: The summer recreation program will have a new look this year, with family-oriented events in our parks replacing the old model of classes for kids. The plan is to have at least one day or night per month, May through August, of family fun. A sand volleyball exhibition/clinic (Thursday evening, May 14) and a family bike ride (Saturday morning, July 25) are already on the schedule. Tentatively, dates in June and August will feature the grand opening of the splash pad, in addition to sports/games, crafts, a dog fashion show, and a movie after dark. The full schedule will be posted on the city website once it is available.

Parks and Rec contact: parkscomm@cityoftalent.org.

News from Talent PD By Chief Moran

Recently Talent PD took delivery of two new cars. We were able to do this via use of a lease option. Our fleet had been aging for quite some time and the mileage on some of our cars was at the point they are a concern. The vehicles will modernize our fleet and it will be a safer fleet. It will also be a thriftier fleet. They are safer vehicles, and fuel cost savings with these engines will save money. Plus being new cars, our warranties will fix most things and our repair bills will be lowered.

The new vehicles look nice and some might say expensive, but they really are a good financial move and were needed.

On a safety note, you have possibly seen the construction zone to the rear of City Hall. Currently the back section of the parking lot is closed until such time as the pad is poured and the construction crew stops moving heavy equipment.

Plant a Tree, Get One Free!

Come celebrate Talent's 15th Arbor Day on **April 11, 2 - 4 p.m.** with a special tree planting near the new roundabout at W. Valley View. Mayor Darby Stricker will speak and a representative from the Department of Forestry will proclaim Talent a Tree City USA for the fifteenth consecutive year.

This to be followed by live music, refreshments, games and crafts, and a display of cool tree insects from BUGS R US! Free starter trees will be available for adoption. Also this month, look out for a new display of tree-inspired art and crafts at Talent library.

Talent Community Center

What you see behind that fence and blue screen at the back of City Hall is your new Community Center!

It is funded by a full \$1.5 million grant from CDBG, through the Infrastructure Finance Authority. It was designed by ORW and is being built by Adroit. The Center features enough rooms for a private gathering, a committee meeting, food service, and a non-profit group all at the same time.

The Center has modern fire suppression systems, a patio, a commercial kitchen, and all ADA access.

Come join us for a tour during Harvest Festival!

News from TURA

For more information contact:
Marla Cates, Executive Director,
541-535-6170,
execdir@talenturbanrenewal.com

April Planting for Roundabout

Area: TURA recently received bids from three highly reputable firms to install landscaping near the roundabout area. Carol's Colors of Ashland was awarded a contract for \$34,984 to perform the work, which is expected

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to be completed in April, weather permitting. As part of this, TURA has purchased two eastern redbud trees to be temporarily installed by volunteers during an Arbor Day Celebration on Saturday, April 11. The trees will then be permanently installed by the landscape contractor.

Designated Area for Pollinator-Friendly Plants:

Last Fall, local volunteers with expertise in pollinator-friendly plants offered TURA suggestions for extra plant species to help provide year-round food for bees and other pollinators. As a result, TURA has come up with the idea of creating a specially designated area -- a section of field grass area near the roundabout and liquor store parking lot -- that could be devoted exclusively to year-round pollinator-friendly plants. These plants could be grouped together as a "wild" area, to take advantage of similar culture, irrigation and maintenance needs. If volunteers are willing to install the plants and maintain them throughout the year TURA will connect it to the Main Street irrigation system and purchase plants.

Pesticide & Herbicide Practices:

TURA's approach to landscape maintenance has always been to use hand weeding and avoid using pesticides and herbicides whenever possible. In general, the plant species we select are native and/or pest-tolerant, so artificial control is not necessary. However, we sometimes use pre-emergent for new landscape installations and we also use Round-Up in two limited instances: 1) to remove invasive weeds prior to installing a new landscape, and 2) occasionally in late winter or early spring, if a warm/rainy weather cycle occurs and the weeds spring up faster than hand weeding can control.

At-Large Budget Committee

Members Needed: TURA still has some seats available on the Budget Committee. If you enjoy what urban renewal is accomplishing in the downtown area and want to get more involved, this is a great opportunity to

do so. The commitment is very brief – just one meeting in May. If interested, contact the Executive Director for more details.

DON'T TRASH THEM, SAVE THEM!

Because on Saturday, May 9 there will be drop off stations around City Hall:

Electronic devices (i.e., computer, radio, cables, etc.)

Metals including appliances--sorry no refrigerators or freezers

Household batteries--no rechargeables please

Compact fluorescent bulbs
Your used (but still useful)

household items

Check the *City of Talent website* for more details on the 2nd annual **Round it up, Turn it in...Talent Recycle Drop off**. Organized by the City of Talent's Together for Talent Committee. For additional information on this event or to volunteer, contact Sharon Anderson at 541-535-9055 or Julie Allemand at 541-531-7187.

NEWS FROM TOGETHER FOR TALENT COMMITTEE BEE CITY USA – TALENT SUBCOMMITTEE

The Bee City USA – Talent Subcommittee was able to gain four new people to volunteer for helping to see to it that the City of Talent completes the annual requirements so that the City retains its designation as a pollinator friendly and protector city. These new people are: Lorraine Eileen Petro, Helga Motley-Tschinke, Shannon Davis, and Jim Thompson. If you would like to volunteer for this committee, please contact Dolly Warden at 541 897 9965. There are a few openings left.

If you have any Bee Swarms that need to be picked up contact Dave Compton at 541-840-8216 to make arrangements.

News From Fire District 5 By Chief Welburn

Fire District 5 is anticipating another dry summer locally. We would like to remind residents to make the exterior of their homes fire safe with some good spring cleaning. Removal of dead and woody debris can reduce the risk of fire spread outside your home. These items can be taken to the landfill or biomass for disposal. Roof tops and gutters should have all dead leaves and pine needles removed so sparks cannot have a spot to ignite. General clutter outside should be assessed and removed if it can contribute to fire growth. Grass should be cut short and maintained to discourage fire spread.

Whether fire, flood, or natural disaster, we encourage residents to sign up for emergency alerts.

To get emergency information quickly you can go to www.jacksoncounty.org/alert and sign up for citizen alert. By signing up online you can be notified of developing events by mobile phone, work phone, email, or text message. Land line telephones included in the 911 database are already registered. If you don't have computer access you can call 541-608-1210 for assistance.

Remember at Fire District 5 "We still make house calls."

Be Safe!

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IT'S GREEN UP AND CLEAN UP MONTH IN TALENT!

It's that time of the year to weed, plant, clean up debris, anything you choose to do to make for a more beautiful and sustainable surroundings. Several related events are planned for Talent with details on the calendar below including a few nearby including the annual Earth Day Event in Ashland. Please check them out and join in where you want even taking on your own neighborhood project.

Green Up and Clean Up month is organized by the City of Talent's Together for Talent Committee. For information, contact Sharon Anderson 541-535-9055 or Sandra Duncan 541-630-0436

SATURDAY APRIL 4

10-12:30 pm Restricting the Pesticide Footprint, A Pollinator Forum at the Library Community Room.

2-3 pm Identifying Healing Herbs, a guided wild herb walk meet in front of the library

SATURDAY April 11

2-4 pm Arbor Day Celebration of our 15th year as a Tree City USA at the Roundabout with a tree planting and distribution of tree seedlings, music, children's activities, inset display and refreshments.

SATURDAY APRIL 18

10-12 pm Great Green Garden Spring Work Party, Potluck and Seed Exchange at the School Community Garden behind Talent Elementary. Wear gloves and bring seeds to share and a dish of your choice for a potluck at noon.

9:30-12 pm Rain Garden Workshop presented by RogueValley Sewer Services at the Town Hall

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