



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

"So how's the City doing" is a question I get asked numerous times each week. My stock answer is "the City's doing great". There have been a number of unexpected expenses that have put a strain on the



budget, but the City Manager assures me we will make it through the year without any noticeable cuts to city services. One of the big challenges for local government today is how to deal with escalating legal costs. Today, we may have to spend more on attorney's fees each month than we did in a whole year a decade ago. Since we live in a very litigious society, I can see no change in this pattern in the foreseeable future. Attorney costs will be a significant factor in next year's budget.

Other significant issues that will be debated by City Council within the next year are:

Medical Marijuana. We have taken the position that we need to see what the State is requiring before spending too much time discussing the issue. To ensure we are not too far behind the curve, I have asked the City Manager inform the City Council some options.

Herbicides. There are a number of citizens who would like the City to ban the use of all herbicides and pesticides on City property. Although this seems like a minor issue, it could have a significant impact on City budgets and staffing. Before making a decision, City Council will need to understand and debate both sides if this issue.

Libraries. At this time libraries are a County issue that will be on the May ballot. If the library measure fails, then we as a community will need to debate how, or if, to keep the Talent Library open. In any event, the library surcharge will go away if the measure fails. If the measure passes, the surcharge may need to be re-authorized by the City Council if needed to support increased hours or services.

I will be delivering my State of The City address to the City Council on February 19, 2014. I will be discussing the above and other issues in detail along with a recap of how we as a City are doing in providing essential services. I invite you all to attend this Council meeting.

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

News From Together for Talent Committee

The Together for Talent Committee is exploring having Talent meet the criteria to become a Bee City USA. The T4T Committee is looking for beekeepers and other Talenteers to attend a meeting on Tuesday, February 18 at 5:30 at the Talent Library. For more information, please contact Dolly Warden, T4T member, at 541 897 0065.

Green Up and Clean up week is coming soon. For more information please contact: Sharon Anderson at: scanderson1@charter.net or Charles Roome at: charlesroome@gmail.com

From the Parks and Recreation Commission

Please go check out the Parks website: www.cityoftalent.org/parks

With the cold weather forcing everyone to spend more time indoors, now would be a great time for you to check out the Parks and Recreation web page. Over the last year or so, it has really come together. It's packed with information about the city's parks, including answers to Frequently Asked Questions, and it features some great photos. To find it, go to the city website, click on "Departments," and then on "Parks."

News From Talent Police Department By Chief Mike Moran

Talent recently was the scene of a rash of unauthorized motor vehicle entries and theft from vehicle cases. This happens occasionally but the number of unlocked cars in one neighborhood was a bit shocking. Over 24 cars were entered by the suspects. There were two suspects; we know this thanks to a surveillance camera, who went from car to car just trying doors. The number of items actually stolen was small although the victim of a stolen wallet has to do a lot of preventative work to be sure no one uses the stolen ID and cards. **Please lock your cars and homes.**

We received a "robo-call" at the police department from an alarm company from out of the area. They said something about the "FBI" and then referenced "local police" and our thoughts on alarms. The Talent PD does not endorse any company or their products. If you get that impression from a sales person, take a closer look at what the sales pitch is. Alarms are a tool that some citizens wish to use and that is great. However, we don't require alarms nor endorse specific products.

Don't forget, cell phone fines have increased and TPD will be looking for violators as we have been. The cost of a hands free device is less than the cost of the fine. We have heard every excuse for being on the phone but none of them are mentioned in the law as legitimate reasons for driving while

distracted. Please don't text or talk while driving unless you have a hands free set.

In January former Talent Police Chief Dale Kinnan passed away. Dale was a friendly and outgoing man who served the City from 1987 to 1997. Chief Kinnan was the second longest serving Talent police chief. He was Chief when the first police station separate from City Hall was constructed in 1990 at our current location on Talent Ave. Dale will be missed.

Phoenix-Talent Little League

Phoenix-Talent Little League still accepting registrations for the 2014 season till 2/15 please go online at www.ptlleague.com for more information.

Talent Public Works Street Sweeping

Street sweeping plays a vital role in the City's attempt to minimize debris and material that would otherwise enter the storm drain system and eventually discharge into Bear Creek. Please remember that leaves, yard debris and pet waste should not be swept into the street for removal. The intent of the City is to minimize the debris that makes its way to the local water bodies. The City of Talent contracts with the City of Phoenix to sweep the Streets within the City of Talent. The streets within the City are generally swept early in the morning on the 1st and 3rd Friday of each month with occasional increases in days when leaf volume is at its highest. If any residents are concerned with their respective road frontage being swept please do not park on the street the above listed days. The majority of the town is swept once per month on one or the other of these days. It is **not** a requirement that cars are not parked on the street these days. If you have any questions regarding street sweeping in the City please feel free to call Talent Public Works at 541-535-5531.

Utility Bill News

Equal Payment Enrollment

It is that time of year again! Water utility customers with one year of usage history have the opportunity to enroll in our "Equal Payment Plan" program. This has been a popular program that allows customers to equalize their monthly payments for water usage over a 12 month period. Monthly payments will be calculated using your previous year's usage.

Current equal payment plan customer – Current equal payment accounts will be re-evaluated at the end of February. Customers will receive a new equal payment agreement in the mail at the beginning of March. This form will need to be signed and returned to the Utility Billing Department no later than March 25,

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2014 to continue equal payments.

Not a current equal payment plan customer- To participate in the equal payment program please contact the Utility Billing Department, no later than February 24, 2014 to receive your equal payment calculation. You can call (541) 535-1566, email ub@cityoftalent.org, or stop by City Hall at 110 East Main St.

Convenient Ways to Pay

Want paperless billing? The City offers EBilling and AutoPay options for our customer's convenience. EBilling customers receive their monthly bill as an email attachment. With AutoPay, your payment amount will be withdrawn from your bank account each month on the due date. Having both the Equal Payment option and AutoPay provides ease in budgeting. The same amount is deducted from your account each month. Sign up for all three of these great services today! Visit our website, www.cityoftalent.org for details and the authorization forms.

Full Size Bill

The Utility Billing Department is making some big changes. Your utility bill will look a little different this month when you receive it in the mail. The City has changed to a full sheet (8 1/2x 11) bill. You will be receiving your bill around the same time you did in the past but make sure you look for an envelope instead of the postcard.

Late Fees

Just a reminder, please make sure your account is paid in full by the due date. A \$10.00 late fee will be assessed to accounts with an outstanding balance after the due date. If you are unable to make your payment by the due date, contact the Utility Billing Clerk @ 541-535-1566 for deferred payment arrangement options.

**Become a Master Recycler
in 2014**

Enroll now through February 28

for Spring Training Course

Jackson County residents and business representatives are invited to become Master Recyclers, gaining a broad understanding of waste prevention, recycling, the local solid waste infrastructure, hazardous waste avoidance, and composting. Master Recyclers give 40 service hours to support and expand local waste diversion programs and projects. Weekly classes will take place on Wednesday evenings, March 5 – May 14, 5:30–8:30 pm at the Jackson County Expo Mace Building. Enroll by Friday Feb 28 online at: www.jcmasterrecyclers.org For more information, call Jackson County Recycling Partnership at 541-494-5488.

WANTED- COMMITTEE & COMMISSIONER MEMBERS!

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

Currently there are 5 openings for the Budget Committee. Members serve 3 year terms and meet primarily in April and May each year.

Planning Commission

There is currently Alternate Planning Commission vacancies. 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.

Together For Talent Committee

Interested in becoming a **Talenter**? 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.

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

News from Talent Urban Renewal Agency (TURA)

For more information contact Marla Cates, Executive Director, execdir@talenturbanrenewal.com

Landscaping on Seiber Street & Main Street:

We hope you are enjoying the new trees, shrubs and ornamental grasses along Seiber Street and the extension of Main Street. Mountain View Landscaping did a great job, as did Laurie Sager & Associates who designed the landscape plan. We are waiting until Spring to see if the severe freeze damaged any of the plantings. If so, they will be replaced.

TURA's new front garden: Take a look at TURA's office at 102 Home Street, just behind City Hall and Talent Library. Dirty Boots Landscaping installed a fresh new look with new pathway, fence and plantings (also just before the freeze!).

West Valley View Site Clearing:

In December we cut down the elm trees at 111 W. Valley View, which completes the site clearing process for the now-vacant lot next to Talent Liquor.

Roundabout Construction

Planned: Preparations are being made to go to bid toward the end of February for Phase 1C construction of West Valley View. This phase will finish the extension of Main Street into a new roundabout on West Valley View, and cap it off with street trees, bioswales, and a beautiful little park on the site we just cleared at 111 W. Valley View.

Façade Grant for Farmers

Insurance: The Board of Directors recently approved a façade grant to help transform the current Talent Lube into the new location for Farmers Insurance, which is relocating from across the highway. Grant funds will assist in establishing a more commercial looking building, with front entry, awning, lighting, signage, and paint scheme.

Currently on show in the Talent City Hall Gallery:

Betty LaDuke From Talent to Talent: 1964-2014

This special retrospective exhibit of Betty LaDuke's artwork examines her travels from Talent around the world and back to Talent. Betty is generously offering to donate 40% of all sales during this show to the next Talent mural project featuring her work, and an additional 10% to the TPAC for continued work in the public arts in Talent.

In addition, the ceramics of Penelope Dews, Julia Janeway, Marian Telerski, and Karen Rycheck are on display in the sculpture cabinets.

All sales are to be made through the artists- their contact information is available at City Hall alongside their displays.

These exhibits are on show now at the Talent City Hall -110 E. Main St. in Talent, OR Jan. 13-March 7th, 2014 from 8:30 am - 5 pm Monday-Friday