



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

I promised to communicate well the business of your city government. My intent is to be informative. I hope you find my news a real page turner!



January accomplishments...

Council made 2 appointments to the Planning Commission, Daniel Milan and Allison French. We re-appointed Janet Chose, Carl Shauger and Gordon Mobley to the Parks Commission and more applications are in the pipeline. Momentum made possible by good Talent volunteers. Thank you, we appreciate you!

Staff and Council took Risk Management training to lower our insurance premiums. A riveting experience, yielding welcomed savings!

We installed a policy on Committee/Commission appointments. Herald! Every citizen has equal access to volunteer opportunity. A copy is on the City website, on Mayor's News link.

We discussed the inevitable water rate changes, as we must assess the increased water costs imposed by the Medford Water Commission, who treats and delivers our water.

In February there is more to do.

We will begin the work of budgeting fiscal year 2015/2016.

The City Charter is the rule book established by Talent voters, which guides the principles and actions of your city government. It must give clear direction and be current. We will begin to assess our Charter, for potential corrections and updates.

The State of the City presentation was delayed until 2/4/15, in order to allow full input from City Staff.

Goal setting will commence in February. The process will be to evaluate the goals of 2014 in progress, and build on them.

Staff is scheduling a joint session with the Talent Urban Renewal Agency to discuss several options to finalize the agency's business cycle. We will discuss the projects and assess their future, including the roundabout.

Council meetings are the 1st and 3rd Wednesday, 6:30PM at the Community Center. Please join us on any city matter, we want to hear from YOU!

Serving Talent is made enjoyable, because Talent citizens are involved. Please join us. Find volunteer opportunities listed on the city website at www.cityoftalent.org

Mayor Stricker



Sharon Anderson and Jesse Hodgdon of Talent are two of Jackson County's most active Master Recyclers.

Jackson County Recycling Partnership Seeks Talent Residents to Become Master Recyclers

Since 2008, nearly 200 volunteers have become waste prevention ambassadors in Jackson County, with several from Talent. Two of Jackson County Master Recyclers' most active volunteers, Sharon Anderson and Jesse Hodgdon are from Talent and joined the program in 2010. Both recently won awards for their exceptional commitments of time, energy and talent to preventing waste here in our community, such as Talent Harvest Festival, Father's Day Lumberjack Breakfast, Rogue Valley Earth Day and Plastic Round-up. Sharon, who was also Talent's 2011 Citizen of the Year, was presented with Master Recyclers' Outstanding Local Leadership award, and Jesse was named the 2014 Master Recycler of the Year.

To keep their programs growing strong, Jackson County Recycling Partnership is seeking Talent residents and business representatives to take part in the annual Master Recycler training and volunteer service program. Participants gain a broad understanding of home waste prevention strategies, the local solid waste infrastructure, hazardous waste avoidance, composting, plastics, e-waste and much more. They use their knowledge to make positive change in their homes, workplaces, schools and neighborhoods, volunteering 40 service hours to become a Master Recycler.

The annual course offers an extensive training manual, discussion-based classes, presentations from regional experts, and field trips to the regional landfill, waste-to-energy plant, and composting facilities. Weekly classes will take place on Tuesday evenings, March 10 – May 19, 5:30–8:30 pm at the Rogue Disposal & Recycling HQ at One West Main in downtown Medford. Enroll online today to reserve your space www.jcmasterrecyclers.org. For more information, call 541.494.5488.

From the Parks and Recreation Commission

A Huge Thank-you: Southern Oregon Runners, sponsors of our Harvest Festival 5K/10K, has donated the proceeds from the 2014 race to our parks. Specifically, this money will be used towards constructing the walking/jogging trail in Chuck Roberts Park. Last fall, our grant application for the trail just missed being approved by the State of Oregon, who ranked it 27th out of 60 in our category—the top 25 applications were awarded. As the City now looks into funding the trail without grant support, we thank Southern Oregon Runners for giving this project a huge boost, and we invite other community donors to step forth. Any amount helps!

Contact: ParksComm@cityoftalent.org

News from Talent PD

By Chief Mike Moran

You no doubt are aware of a very serious crime that occurred in Talent early in January. A woman was seriously injured in an attack at her home. I can't discuss the case details but there is an important piece of this story I would like to share.

When the badly injured victim ran outside yelling for help, her neighbors responded. One young man, Kody Petersen, at risk to his personal safety ran outside to check on the woman who said she had been stabbed. He found her to be seriously wounded and quickly called to his fiancé, Kiley Dyer, to assist him. Kiley happens to be a nursing student. Both provided security, comfort and medical attention until law enforcement and medical personnel could arrive. This is one of the greatest examples of Talent citizens helping each other I know of. I plan to further recognize the heroism of these two courageous people at a later time. For now I want to just thank them for their heroism.

In 2014 Talent PD handled 3890 calls for service. This is roughly similar to past years: 2013, 3947 calls for service; 2012 being an exceptionally busy year at 4225 calls and 2011 3830 calls. I hope to have more specific numbers of specific crimes in the near future.

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110 East Main Street,
P.O. Box 445, Talent,
Oregon 97540

Edited by
Melissa Huhtala
City Website:
www.cityoftalent.org
Telephone:
(541) 535-1566
E-mail:
melissa@cityoftalent.org

News from Fire District 5

By Chief Welburn

Fire District 5 would like to remind residents that we cannot help you if we cannot find you. Take a moment to make sure your address signs are visible from the roadway so we don't have to search for you in an emergency.

Recent fires in the district have me thinking of a couple of safety tips I would like to pass along to you. The first is to please use caution when using heat lamps to keep your farm animals and pets warm. You should only use U.L. approved cords and lamps. They should be firmly attached to a solid base and all combustibles should be removed from the immediate area. A heat lamp related fire recently destroyed a chicken coop and its occupants.

The next safety tip is to be sure to adequately maintain your clothes dryer. Your lint trap should be emptied after each load. In addition, you should regularly check your vent hose to make sure it has not become plugged over time. If clothes are not drying like they should, then that is a good indication of inadequate air flow. Two recent fires in district resulted in destroyed clothes dryers and smoke damage to both residences. Since we are talking about damaged residences and personal property, have you checked your insurance coverage lately? We often find residents have become under insured over time or renters who have not purchased rental insurance for their belongings. Take a look around your residence, if you cannot afford to replace everything out of pocket then you should probably evaluate the need to update or purchase insurance coverage. Please feel free to give us a call at 541-535-4222 if you have any questions. Remember, at Fire District 5 **"We Still Make House Calls"**.

Save Those Tiny Trees!

Talent's **Friends of Trees** is collecting tree seedlings and saplings to give away at the Arbor Day celebration in early April. Help boost the tree nursery's stock by saving those feisty volunteers that come up in your yard unbidden. **Friends of**

Trees can use them!

Here's what to do to be a Tree Saver:

- 1) Dig up your unwanted tree, saving as much of the root as possible.
 - 2) Put sapling in a pot with earth covering the roots.
 - 3) Bring it to the Talent Tree Nursery, at the City's Public Works (Rte 99 to Suncrest, turn R. on Clearview and immediately L. on Wintersage. A dirt path will take you to the tree nursery.) Leave your tree in the nursery so Friends of Trees can find it a new home. Thank you!
- Questions? Call Sharon: 541-535-9055

WANTED- COMMITTEE & COMMISSIONER MEMBERS!

Parks and Recreation Commission

Currently there are two vacant seats on the Parks Commission just waiting to be filled by someone like you, who loves our parks and understands the vital role they play in creating a vibrant community. As a Commissioner, you will be involved in setting goals for our parks, prioritizing budget requests, and planning the summer recreation program. Commissioners also deal with any park-related issues that arise, and report maintenance concerns to the city manager. The Commission meets the 2nd Wednesday of every month.

Planning Commission

Currently there is one vacant seat for a Planning Commissioner and one vacancy as an Alternate. Regular meetings of the commission shall be held on the fourth Thursday of each month at the hour of 6:30 PM. For more information regarding the responsibilities as a Commissioner and upcoming projects please contact Community Development Director Zac Moody by phone at: 541-535-7401 or email: zmoody@cityoftalent.org.

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

Talent Public Art Committee (TPAC)

Currently TPAC is looking for 3-4 volunteers for specific projects in this exciting new year and/or to become TPAC members to enjoy a greater hands-on involvement in developing the arts in Talent. So whether you're just interested, ready to go or you're looking to support the arts with your time or just financially, give us a call. **Call Ron Hodgdon at 541.535.1620 or email: hodg1027@mind.net.** Please specify your name, contact information and TPAC related interest to be contacted.

Urban Renewal Board of Directors

If you are interested in urban renewal projects, consider applying for a seat on the Board of Directors. The current opening is for a citizen/business representative seat with a term ending fiscal year 2016-17. An application and interview with the Talent Urban Renewal Agency is required. The Board of Directors is a policy setting body consisting of seven (7) citizens, business owners and representatives from the City Council. Monthly meetings are usually the 3rd Tuesday of the month. **For more information contact Executive Director Marla Cates, execdir@talenturbanrenewal.com 541.535.6170**

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. There are no term limits for this Committee. Meetings are every 2nd Tuesday of the month at 3:00 PM in the City Hall Conference Room.

Bee City USA

Education on Pollination. Meeting dates and times to be determined. For more information contact Dolly Warden at 541-897-0065 or email: dolly.warden17@gmail.com

Budget Committee

Currently there is 1 opening for the Budget Committee. Members serve 3 year terms and meet primarily in April

and May each year.

ADHOC Committee for Talents City Charter

The City of Talent is looking for 2 Citizens to review the City Charter. The City Charter is a legal document that establishes a municipality. Meeting dates and times to be determined.

For other questions regarding the 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

Disaster Recovery and Emergency Preparedness Forum Talent Library Committee Meeting Room, 101 Home Street, Talent, Oregon February 28, 2015, from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m.

As the *Jackson County Emergency Preparedness Plan for Families* states, "Southern Oregon is a beautiful place to live, but nonetheless we are vulnerable to fires, floods, severe storms, earthquakes, landslides, and hazardous spills." To help everyone in the area prepare, Together For Talent (an all-volunteer committee of the Talent city government) is sponsoring this forum on February 28 in the Talent Library Committee Meeting Room, from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Presenters at the forum include Jackson County District 5 Fire Chief, Darin Welburn; Jackson County Emergency Preparedness Projects Coordinator, Jenny Hall; and American Red Cross Medford Chapter Instructor, Wendy LaRue.

- Topics to be covered will include:**
- Steps to Disaster Planning
 - Disaster Supplies and Preparations
 - Residential and Wildland Fires
 - Floods and Earthquakes
 - Winter Storms and Extreme Cold
 - Power Outages
 - Hazardous Material Accidents

News from Community Development Department Riparian Vegetation Management

Many landscapers and gardeners find late winter and early spring the ideal time to prune their deciduous ornamental and fruit trees. Although the City of Talent encourages proper

maintenance and care for vegetation, the removal or disturbance of vegetation in wetland or riparian setback areas is not permitted (City Ordinance 10-857).

Vegetation located along wetland and riparian areas provides erosion prevention and sediment control, captures pollutants and agricultural runoff, and offers a critically important habitat for local wildlife. The shade provided by this vegetation reduces the temperature of streams, which benefits temperature-sensitive native fish species such as the Chinook and Coho salmon. These important wildlife corridors encourage a thriving local economy through opportunities such as tourism and recreation.

There are some exceptions to this rule, including replacing non-native plants with native plants; the Himalayan Blackberry is a common creekside invasive (non-native and detrimental) species. Vegetation may also be removed for approved development purposes, or if a tree is deemed a hazard once certain criteria has been established. For additional guidance on riparian vegetation management, go to www.stream-smart.com and select the City of Talent's page for specific ordinances and guidelines.

News from the Talent Historical Society By Councilor Pederson

The Historical Society will have 300 Talent Tomato plants available at the end of April or early May. The solid date will be circulated once it is set. There will be 200 tomatoes in 4 inch pots and 100 in gallon-size. The Talent tomato is a large-growing variation of the Medford tomato that was originally grown for the cannery here in Talent - one of the things that puts Talent 'on the map!' This is a fun and delicious way to celebrate the history of Talent. I haven't been able to grow one yet myself, but I'm told they flourish in our particular climate, have some extra leaves to protect the fruit from the hot summer sun, and grow a bit bigger than Big Boy tomatoes. The last time the event was held, the tomatoes sold out quickly, so we recommend reserving one (or more) with the Historical Society, or watching for the date and coming in early!

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