THE FLASH City of Talent

An update from City Administration, Planning, Public Works and Police Departments

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Official
Newsletter of the City of Talent
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

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

In 2011, shortly after I became Mayor, I wrote a Flash article beginning with a quote from President John Kennedy, *"Ask not what your Country can do for you, ask what you can do for your Country".* This was President Kennedy's call for volunteers. At the time I wrote this article, the City of Talent was having a difficult time finding volunteers to keep our Committees and Commissions functioning at a basic level. Today, our Committees and Commissions are functioning with a cadre of highly motivated volunteers. You can see the fruits of their labor in our City Parks, or in a number of community enhancement projects such as trail building, tree planting and community beautification. In the near future you will see Talent's first *Parklet*, (or pocket park) across from the library. The City will do some of the heavy work for this *Parklet* but design and landscaping will be a volunteer effort. Hopefully this will be the first of many such projects in Talent. I have said it before and I will say it again, and again – What makes Talent such a great place to live is not City Government, but the willingness of our citizens to volunteer and work together to make Talent the best place in the Rogue Valley to live. City Government can build and maintain infrastructure, but it takes the citizens involvement to build a vibrant and livable community.

If you would like to be one of the many volunteers working to make Talent a better place to live and work, contact Melissa Huhtala at 541-535-1566, or email to melissa@cityoftalent.org.

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

Arbor Day Celebration

When: Saturday, April 13 - 10am to 12pm
Where: In front of the City Hall
What: Children's games with tree seedling give away, children's art opportunities, live music, olive oil tasting, tree plannting education, map and walk to see Talent's special trees

Budget Committee Openings

There are four vacancies for the Budget Committee. Budget Committees members serve 3 year terms and work is done primarily in April and May each year. For more information contact Melissa Huhtala: melissa@cityoftalent.org or call 541-535-1566. Applications can be found on the City's website: www.cityoftalent.org or can be picked up at City Hall.

Chuck Roberts Park

Construction of a new parking lot will begin at Chuck Roberts Park starting the last week in February. This project is being funded through Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality funding administered through the Oregon Department of Transportation combined with limited City funding. The construction of the project is scheduled to be completed around the end April, weather permitting. During the project construction there will be a slight inconvenience accessing the park, but access will be permitted throughout the length of the project. The project is being completed in two halves allowing parking and access to one side or the other throughout the duration of the project. The only time that parking will not be allowed in the parking lot will be the day that paving operations are being completed and residents will be notified in future flash articles as the time nears. This project is an exciting addition to the City's largest park that will include improvements such as porous pavement and grass parking for the use of the citizens along with improved landscaping and curb appeal.

Community Conversation

Community Conversation, it's a good thing! Add your constructive comments via the suggestion box in the library lobby, or via email at melissa@cityoftalent.org

Tell your fellow Talent citizens what you like about Talent, and what you›d like to see in Talent's future.

Here are a few of the comments we have received so far:

"I love Talent because it›s beautiful and is the best, especially the ice cream at Ray's!"

"(We'd like) more access to hiking up into the hills from Talent Avenue."

"Bicyclists on the Greenway need to be more considerate of pedestrians."

"Talent is walkable, has great art and local businesses, lots of trees!"

"Skatepark."

"It has friendly neighbors, rural feel."

"I'd like to see a city pool."

"More dancing!"

"Thanks for the herbicide-free lawn area."

"We love the Strong Women exercise group at the library."

'Firelines' Strategic Plan 2013-15

Dan Marshall, Fire Chief
Jackson County Fire District# 5

During the past several months the fire district has been involved in a strategic and operational planning process including review of our Mission, Vision, Values, management/leadership philosophy, organizational effectiveness, and strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats of the organization. The purpose of the planning process is to update our existing Strategic Plan 2007-2012.

Strategic Planning has proven to be a very effective management tool and allows us to set initial goals and objectives, measure successes, re-evaluate areas we need to improve upon and provide a comprehensive evaluation of fire district operations.

Strategic Plan 2013-2015 is driven by our Mission 'to provide customer-centered fire and emergency medical services that save lives and property,' and ultimately drafted by 'what's best for our customer and how can we serve our customer better?

Strategic Planning Goals Include:

1. Maintain Fiscal Stability To Provide Excellent Service.
2. Promote Employee Excellence By Recruiting, Hiring, And Developing Our People.
3. Provide Customer Service That Satisfies and Delights Our Customers.
4. Maintain Highly Functional and Efficient Apparatus and Equipment.
5. Maintain Functional, Effective and Strategically Located Fire Stations.

Objectives have been established in each area along with assignment of authority and responsibility which allows us to measure outcomes and improve efficiencies.

Strategic Plan 2013-15 summarizes and prioritizes key strategies, highlights goals and objectives and will serve as a road map for success for the future.

From the Parks and Recreation Commission

Summer Recreation Program

Although Spring has not even arrived yet, we are already looking ahead to this year's Summer Recreation Program. Here's how you can help make the 2013 Program a success:

Teach a Class—The Program offers an array of sports, outdoors, educational, and arts and crafts classes for our youth. New ideas for classes are always welcome.

Donate to the Scholarship Fund— Your contribution will go towards covering the enrollment fee for deserving children.

Contact director Brian McKinnis at brian@cityoftalent.org.

News From Talent PD

By Chief Mike Moran

The Talent Police Department is committed to protecting people and property. A couple of recent things proved that our efforts are successful.

Part of our commitment is providing 365/24/7 police coverage. This is attained because our officers use very little sick time and they come to work even when not feeling 100%. When coverage is needed, the officers adjust and adapt their schedules to be sure we are covered.

In mid-February Officer Bill May was patrolling when he saw a car run a red light. He attempted to make a stop but the vehicle began driving recklessly and Officer May backed off after obtaining a good description. With help from Ashland PD, Phoenix PD and Jackson County Sheriff's, the car was later found at a motel outside of Ashland. A search warrant was served on the motel and three suspects were taken into custody for mail theft and identity theft related charges. The US Postal Inspectors are now assisting on the case along with Medford PD. It is believed there are over 500 victims of these suspects.

This brings up some tips I have mentioned before:

1. Do not leave mail in unsecure mailboxes.
2. Get a locking mailbox.
3. Check your credit rating to see if any credit cards have been opened up without your knowledge.

Another item of interest is traffic related. Our officers enforce traffic laws to make our streets safer. Recently we received word that our efforts are working.

Talent has the distinction of having the lowest 4-year vehicular injury rate of all jurisdictions in the Jackson County Metropolitan Planning Organization area at .003 injuries per capita. The next lowest is Eagle Point at .004. The highest is the rural area at .036. The MPO as a whole is at .020 injuries per capita. The statistics indicate that the streets in Talent are pretty safe, which could be a reflection of the Talent Traffic Safety &Transportation Committee involvement, the enforcement of traffic laws, the operation and maintenance of the street system, the relatively high pedestrian and bicycle use in Talent, and other factors.

As the above information indicates,

there are 3 main factors that make streets safe including enforcement, engineering and education.

The one that seems to have the least effect is education. Here is one glaring example. There has been voluminous information put out about the dangers and illegality of talking or texting on a cell phone while driving. Yet, a very high number of drivers continue to do so with impunity. They also become quite irate when cited. The danger is the distraction of the phone. It is not just young people. I recently observed a woman in her 80's drive for several miles talking on the cell phone and swerving all over her lane, the other lane and the bike path. Unfortunately, I was off duty.

In the next few weeks Talent PD will increase traffic patrol to target cell phone violations. They are a serious violation because the driver commits other violations while using the cell phone such as failure to maintain a lane, running stop lights, failing to yield to pedestrians and a myriad of other dangerous violations. Please, just hang up and drive.

The Talent Police Department has a portable radar reader board on a trailer that is placed on the streets of Talent three days a week. This is a large screen board that gives the speed of oncoming cars with a built in warning for cars that go over a set speed. If you are experiencing speeding cars on your street and would like the radar trailer set up in your neighborhood, call the Talent Police Dept at 541-535-1253 and contact Officer Schweizer at ext #1109.

Pictures of Talent Wanted

The City of Talent is in the process of re-vamping the City Website. If you have any beautiful or historical pictures of Talent that can be used for the City Website please send them to: Melissa@cityoftalent.org

Call to Artists: Now accepting applications for "Works in Photography: CLICK!"

Show runs May 6 - July 5, 2013.

All 2-D media accepted for submission.

3-D media must meet these size requirements:

No wider than 30", no deeper than 16", and no taller than 36".

Deadline for submissions is April 10th at 5pm.

Information can be found at www.cityoftalent.org, go to the Public Arts page, click on Guidelines/Application before going to the Call to Artists. For additional information, try emailing us at TPAC@cityoftalent.org or call Karen at 541-621-6239.

To be on the committee, to participate in future exhibitions, to make a donation, or for more information please contact the Talent Public Arts Committee through City Hall or on the web at TPAC@CityofTalent.org.

The Talent Public Arts Committee presents: "Bits and Pieces: Abstractions in Art"

On show from March 12th through May 3rd at the City Hall Gallery. 110 E. Main St. Talent, OR.

Hours are from 8:30 am-5 pm, M-F.

Come experience some great works by local artists for FREE!

HARVEST FESTIVAL COMMITTEE

Do you want to be part of one of the most exciting events in Talent? If so please come and join the Harvest Festival Committee. The Committee meets once or twice a month as needed beginning in March through September.

We would love any members who have free time to help provide creative ideas and who are motivated and willing to get actively involved. The Harvest Festival takes a lot of work and it is a great opportunity to come together as a Community to put on a memorable event for all.

If you wish to join us in the fun please contact Melissa Huhtala at 535-1566 or email: melissa@cityoftalent.org.

City of Talent
March Calendar of Events

Monday	March 4	Court	3:00pm	Comm.
Wednesday	March 6	City Council	6:30pm	Comm. Center
Tuesday	March 12	Together for Talent	3:00pm	City Hall
		Historical Society	4:00pm	Museum
Wednesday	March 13	Parks	6:30pm	Comm. Center
Monday	March 18	Court	6:00pm	Comm. Center
Tuesday	March 19	Urban Renewal Agency	6:00pm	102 Home St.
		Architectural Review Committee	6:00pm	City Hall
Wednesday	March 20	City Council	6:30pm	Comm. Center
Thursday	March 21	Public Arts Committee	6:00pm	Comm. Center
Thursday	March 28	Planning Commission	6:30pm	Comm. Center

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CITY OF TALENT
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
Small Town, Big Dreams, Bright Future!

As part of our advocacy for existing business in this small community we call home, the Talent Chamber of Commerce and its board want to thank our existing members for their support and ask that you welcome our newest members into the Chamber family.

NEW MEMBERS

The Total Picture:
Custom framing, art gallery & fashion design.
201 Talent Ave. – Talent, OR 97540 – (541) 535-5039

Video Quick:
DVD & Blu-ray rentals & retail sales.
102 S. Pacific Hwy. – Talent, OR 97540 – (541) 535-5941

Evolve Health & Wellness:
Acupuncture, chiropractic & massage.
9964 Wagner Creek Rd. – Talent, OR 97540 – (541) 535-3202

Toast Masters of Jackson County:
An organization focused on improving public speaking skills.
Talent Library Community Room, Thursdays 6:30pm – 8:00pm
(510) 468-8995

Darby Stricker

NEW BOARD MEMBERS

The chamber also thanks our past and present Board members and welcomes our newest additions to the Board: Joe Dunbar, Darby Stricker and Danielle Bell. Congratulations!