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 would like to take this opportunity to update the citizens of Talent on what I consider a major issue that will be facing the voters of Jackson County this spring -- that is the fate of the County-wide library system.

On October 16, 2013 the Talent City Council voted to adopt a resolution to include the City of Talent in a county wide initiative to establish an independent library district governed by a five-member elected board of directors. The proposed initiative also gives this Board of Directors the authorization to assess a levee of no more than sixty cents per thousand of assessed valuation. This equates to about $100 per year for the average household. It was the consensus of City Council that the citizens of Talent should have the opportunity to voice their opinion and vote on a county-wide library district. If the initiative fails in the May election, then the satellite libraries, including Talent, will close on June 1, 2014. The Medford Library will continue to operate until June 30, 2015.

Here is my response to some of the concerns I have heard from a number of our citizens.

First, the voters will be asked to approve the Library District as well as the five-member board of directors on the same ballot. This is placing a lot of trust in the directors' hands to establish management policies that serve the entire library system, and not become polarized around specific libraries. I know there are many of you who have concerns the Board of Directors will all come from the major population centers and that the smaller communities will not be represented. I, on the other hand, trust the voters to elect the most qualified individuals who I hope will manage the entire Library system. However, in a nut shell, we will be asked to vote for a pig in a poke. We won't know what we get until we open the bag.

Many of you have asked if the Talent Library surcharge will go away if the Library District is approved. This will depend on the level the new board funds the Talent Library and to what level the citizens of Talent want the Library open. Presently the County funds the Library for 16 hrs per week and the surcharge allows us to fund an additional 20 hours per week.

Some of you are in favor of a South Valley Library District that would include Ashland, Talent and a few other cities that support libraries. This would no doubt be easier to get voter approval, but I am not sure the Talent Library would be better off than with a County-wide District. Some of the same issues and concerns expressed above for the County-wide District would also apply to the smaller district.

I believe that the Talent Library is a key part of our community and that free libraries are a key part of a democratic society. I hope we can all keep an open mind when assessing the pros and cons of the issue that will be before us this spring.

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

Adopt a Family for Christmas

The Christmas tree will be up at the Talent City Hall on November 26th. 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 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.

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!

Adopt a Free Tree scheme takes root

The first free tree giveaway, organized by Talent's Friends of Trees, got off to a successful start on Saturday October 19. Happy customers took away 30 trees in total, to add beauty and shade to their yards. A wide variety of potted saplings was on offer, and among the most popular were manzanitas, maples, and evergreens such as cedar, fir and pine.

Friends of Trees (a subcommittee of Together for Talent) has been planning and working toward this tree giveaway for a little over a year, building up a nursery on land donated by the City of Talent. The group's goal is to increase the population of trees in Talent, on both private and public land, and to encourage understanding and appreciation of these magnificent plants that enhance our lives in so many ways.

Now is a perfect time to plant, just as trees go dormant but before the ground hardens. **It's not too late to choose a tree!** Also, you can help add to the nursery by volunteering an hour or so of time each month and/or by digging up and donating trees that "volunteer" on your property in the wrong place. While they may be a nuisance to you, they could be a treasure to someone else.

Questions? Call Sharon Anderson, 541-535-9055.

Citizen of the Year Award Nominations

Each year the Mayor recognizes one person for their dedication and contribution to community building programs that have made a significant and positive impact to the quality of life in Talent. **You can nominate an individual for the 2013 Mayor's Citizen of the Year award by sending their name along with a brief description of why they should be the Citizen of the Year to Melissa Huhtala at City Hall.** Nominations can be delivered in person to Melissa at City Hall, by mail to P.O. Box 445 Talent, Oregon, or email to Melissa@cityoftalent.org.

A committee comprised of one member of City Council, one member of the Talent Chamber of Commerce and one member of the media will make the final selection. The Mayor will present the "Mayor's Citizen of the Year Award" at an annual awards ceremony on December 4, 2013.

HOLIDAY CELEBRATION

Mark your calendars for the Talent Tree Lighting Celebration on December 10, 2013. Along with the tree lighting there will be entertainment and refreshments. The festivities will begin at 6:00 pm at the Community Center.

Those Falling Leaves

They are beautiful but what do you do with all of them once they are all over your yard and drive? You can't burn them but you can use them yourself or recycle them. Here are some options for you this fall:

Compost or use them for **mulch**

Give them to someone who wants more. Yes, there are some of those people!

Do you have extra leaves, or are you someone who can't get enough? Contact Jackson County Air Quality at (541) 774-8207 about their Leaf Exchange Program. Each fall they send out the names of both to interested parties who then contact each other to make arrangements for pick up.

Bag them

Purchase special leaf bags at the Recology office at 170 Oak St in Ashland. The pre-paid bags cost $10 for 5 bags. They will be picked up from your curb in November and December on green debris pickup days. If you don't have green debris service, call their office at 541-482-1471 for their schedule or more information. The City of Talent has made them available for this discounted price.

Drop them off

Leaves can also be dropped off free of charge at the Recology Recycling Center, on Water and Van Ness St in Ashland from 9-4 pm on November 17, and December 15 where they will be used for compost.

From the Parks and Recreation Commission

Please Support the Heritage Trail

At the Harvest Festival in October, the Commission unveiled its plan for a one-mile walking/jogging trail in Chuck Roberts Park, called the Heritage Trail. If you were unable to visit our booth, you can find a diagram and description of the trail on the city website. Just follow the Parks and Recreation link.

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Next spring, the city will be submitting a grant application to the state of Oregon to help fund the 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.

News from Talent PD

By Chief Mike Moran

We continue to receive several reports each month about Internet based scams and bad behaviors. We have addressed scams before but this time let me offer a simple rule to avoid being victimized. Do not open or respond to emails from unknown persons or from companies soliciting information from you in any manner. A legitimate company will already have your information and will not email asking you to confirm anything. Just delete the items.

The second item is on-line bad behavior. There are many elements to this category but the one I'd like to mention is social media and kids. First of all, if you have children and they want to use social media, there are minimum ages to have an account. Their accounts should be actively monitored. Social media is often used to communicate hurtful and harassing messages and can lead to escalating problems. It is likely children are far more computer savvy than many adults. However, keeping it simple, open access, should mitigate many of the issues.

Speaking of social media, adults need to also use common sense as to what they post on line and should be aware of the security settings of their social media. Posting that you will be gone from you home at any point is an invitation to burglars. Even if you trust all who may read the post, you can't control how that info is shared. Also, please be cautious to not post birth dates. Many social networks ask for this but there is no reason to provide it.

One last crime prevention tip, if you happen to see a street light out in your neighborhood, please let the city know the location and the light number to help us keep lights operating.

News from the Community Development Department

Volunteers Needed

The City is looking to fill a vacancy on the Talent Planning Commission. Except during the holidays the Planning Commission meets on the 4th Thursday of the month at 6:30 p.m. at the Community Center. Civic participation can be very rewarding and educational. Please contact Zac Moody at 535-7401 or Melissa Huhtala at 535-1566 for any specific questions. We look forward to hearing from you.

Home Occupations in Residential Zones

The zoning code allows people to conduct certain types of businesses in residential zones provided they are not disruptive to the residential character of the neighborhood. Prospective business owners should contact the planning department for more information and for a Home Occupation application form. If approved, you also need to get a City business license, which is dependent on the home occupation approval. Disruptions include excessive non-residential traffic and noise. Retail businesses are not allowed, but offices are. The occupation is to be carried on within a residential building and only by members of the family occupying the dwelling. For more information, see Article 22 of the Talent Zoning Ordinance, which can also be viewed on-line. If you have a specific request or need more information, please feel free to contact Community Development at 541-535-7401 or via e-mail to zmoody@cityoftalent.org.

Currently on show in the Talent City Hall Gallery: "*Abundance*"

Come see the work of four talented artists from our valley. Eve Withrow, Stephanie Thomson, Meri Walker, and Ron Hodgdon create their own versions of abundance in collage, watercolor, computer graphic work, and iPhone artworks. On view now **Mon-Friday from 8:30-5pm through November 8th, 2013.**

Coming next in the Talent City Hall Gallery: "*Celebrating Textiles and Fashion*"

Sharon Lilly Bowes, Carol Christofferson, Lucy DeFranco, Caroline Dignes, Deborah Dryden, Joe Dunbar, Diane Ericson, Kathy Fennell, Carol Harvey, Yelena Joy, Thalia Keple, Diane Lea, Jo Ann Manzone, and Elaine Plaisance.

This remarkable show encompasses a huge variety of art representing fiber, textile, and the world of fashion and costume design. Fourteen fabulous artists of the Rogue Valley are sharing their talents with us in this first of its kind invitational exhibit in Talent. Please come explore the variety of felting, weaving, jewelry, clothing and costume design, and out of the box thinking of these masters of their crafts. All works are for sale through the artists, with a 10% commission going back into the Talent Public Arts. Consider checking this display out for unique one of a kind Holiday gifts that support the arts in our community! **Open M-F 8:30am-5pm, Nov 13th-Jan 10th, 2013.**

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Talent Harvest Festival 2013

The 2013 Harvest Festival was a true success! Great weather, entertainment, vendors and delicious food.

To create an event like the Harvest Festival it takes a great deal of dedication from the Committee members and support from our Talentians.

Many thanks to those who provided goods, services and support. Thank you Talent Harvest Festival Committee, City Staff, City Council, Police Department, Public Works Department and Fire District 5!!

Thank you to Ray's Food Place and Angelos Pizza for sponsoring the Friday night vendor/volunteer appreciation night it was enjoyable for all!

Thank you to all of our wonderful vendors, entertainment, parade entrants, volunteers and generous sponsors! Your support is always greatly appreciated!! I would like to thank the Community as a whole for all the support and look forward to continued growth to the Annual Talent Harvest Festival for years to come!

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