



# 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

The Talent City Council is working harder than ever. We function as both the City Council and the Talent Urban Renewal Agency Board. Our meetings have been many, with full agendas!



Talent is re-codifying City Ordinances resulting in better sequenced reference numbers. The goal is to improve citizen access to the City's enacting documents, making it easier to find what you are looking for.

Great news! Council awarded a contract to add new sidewalks on Second Street leading to Talent schools. The contractor said he will have them done near the start of school, so we can use them throughout the school year!

City staff members attended the first of two study sessions at the Medford Water Commission. They were prepared to ask the tough questions about how the MWC will justify a 41% increase to our water rates. The next session in 9/12/15 and you can bet Talent will be in attendance.

The City of Talent partnered with Rogue Climate Talent and five other regional agencies to hold the "Making Energy Work for Rural Oregon Workshop on Oct. 24, 2015 at Town Hall. Speakers from the Lake County Resource Initiative and Rogue Climate will present to local leadership, opportunities to develop renewable energy, and share successful strategies of other communities.

Rogue Climate Talent and Together for Talent will be at the Talent Evening Market on Sept. 11, 2015 where attendees can learn about energy cost savings and cleaner energy. Local residents will talk about real solutions to save on energy costs.

Find the Green standards designed into the new Community Center on [www.cityoftalent.org](http://www.cityoftalent.org).

Council directed staff to draft an Ordinance banning the use of Styrofoam for to-go containers. Read about Sam Becker's senior project online, to improve the environment by working with local government to ban Styrofoam. Google: "Sam Becker Medford". First Medford, Talent and then...

The Harvest Festival needs additional event volunteers for the Festival. Please consider supporting Talent at this amazing event! Call Melissa at 541-535-1566.

Grateful to serve,  
Mayor Darby Stricker



## News from Talent PD By Chief Moran

This past month the Talent Police Department received an exceptionally nice letter from the CEO of Brammo Inc., Craig Bramscher. He wrote to commend the highly professional work of our Talent PD officers regarding the burglary of Brammo and the theft of a \$250,000 motorcycle. The suspect, a local Talent resident, stole the motorcycle and hid it in his bedroom in his house in Talent. The suspect was in the process of taking apart the motorcycle when the investigation lead to him and prevented further damage to this unique machine and it resulted in the arrest of the suspect.

Mr. Bramscher commended Officer Bill May, the lead investigator. He also expressed appreciation for the team assistance of Sgt. Jennifer Snook, Officer Dave Lorenz, Officer Lencin Carnighan, Officer Dan Moulin and Officer Bernard Rogers. In addition he noted the assistance of the Phoenix Police Department and the Ashland Police Department. All of these law enforcement professionals teamed up to solve this criminal investigation. They deserve all the thanks and praise received.

Our sidewalks and streets will be filled with our community's children heading to and from school each day. We will be running radar in school areas. Familiarize yourself with routes you take every day as to where you need to slow down to 20 MPH. Beyond that, realistically, why not slow down anytime you see kids in or near the streets and be prepared to brake.

I want to give you a phone number again that is the best one to call if you don't have a 911 level call. I mention this as we have found calls on our message system hours and days, over long weekends, after someone calls in to report something. Our office line at TPD is open during business hours only. However our dispatch center Emergency Communications of Southern Oregon (ECISO) is open 24/7 and they will connect you with a police officer either in an emergency or for other reports or questions. That number is 541-776-7206

## News from Community Development Department TALENT FLOOD INSURANCE RATES TO DECREASE BY 5%

Residents in the City of Talent can expect their flood insurance rates to decrease by 5% as a result of Talent's successful verification of compliance with the National Flood Insurance Program's (NFIP) Community Rating System (CRS). CRS is a voluntary incentive program that recognizes and encourages community floodplain management activities that exceed the minimum NFIP requirements. Talent's recent verification improved the City's rating from a Class 9 to a Class 8, increasing the discount from 5% to 10%. Changes in rates will take effect in the spring of 2016.

During the verification process, the City worked closely with representatives from Insurance Services Office, Inc. (ISO) to evaluate the City's flood management program. Flood insurance premium rates are discounted to reflect the reduced flood risk resulting from the community actions meeting the three goals of the CRS; 1.Reduce flood damage to insurable property, 2.Strengthen and support the insurance aspects of the NFIP, and 3.Encourage a comprehensive approach to floodplain management.

For CRS participating communities, flood insurance premium rates are discounted in increments of 5%. The CRS classes for local communities are based on 18 creditable activities, organized under four categories; 1.Public Information, 2.Mapping and Regulations, 3.Flood Damage Reduction, and 4.Flood Preparedness.

If you would like to learn more about the CRS program, you can visit the City's website at [www.cityoftalent.org](http://www.cityoftalent.org) or [www.fema.gov](http://www.fema.gov) or contact Zac Moody, Community Development Director at 541-535-7401.

### Map Your Neighborhood Designed to improve disaster readiness at the neighborhood level.

Teaches neighbors to rely on each other during the hours or days before fire, medical, police, or utility responders arrive.

Takes just one person to begin this process.

Map Your Neighborhood (MYN) is a 9-step response plan that begins at home and then reaches throughout the neighborhood. It teaches what to do in the "Golden Hour" after a disaster happens.

Jackson County Fire District #5 and Kittie Harrison, Talent's "Map Your Neighborhood" representative are working together to help you and your neighbor's better prepare in advance for disasters.

Please contact the Jackson County Fire District #5 at 541-535-4222 or [Office@jcf5.com](mailto:Office@jcf5.com) and request a Map Your Neighborhood – the most important emergency preparedness activity.

Remember – "In a disaster, your most immediate source of help are the neighbors living around you."

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## Urban Renewal News

For more information contact [execdir@talenturbanrenewal.com](mailto:execdir@talenturbanrenewal.com) or [urbanrenewal@cityoftalent.org](mailto:urbanrenewal@cityoftalent.org)

Native Plant Pollinator Garden: On August 19, the Board of Directors approved the concept of a native plant pollinator garden to be installed on TURA land near the roundabout and adjacent to the fence behind Best Friends Animal Clinic and Talent Liquor. Local volunteer Bradley Wilson has spearheaded the details on this project, including designing and researching a plant list and collecting plants for transplanting or seeds. Plant Oregon will do the installation this fall. The goal is to provide 3-season food for pollinators, showcase native plants, and provide an educational element for people of all ages. Going forward, there will be a need for volunteers to take on the maintenance of this site. If you would like to help with maintenance, please give your name to the City of Talent.

Civic Center Alley: The parking lot improvements around the historic Town Hall (former Community Center) are nearing completion, following a few weeks delay due to unforeseen circumstances. Paving is scheduled for August 31, after which time the parking lot can be used (except when striping and signage is being installed). New planter beds will be filled with topsoil, so please walk around rather than through the beds as the soil is still "fluffy" and will not provide stable footing for several months. The power poles will come down mid-September. A lamp post will be installed for additional lighting sometime this fall.

West Valley View Phase 1D "Plaza" Phase to Begin: Knife River of Medford will begin construction the first week of September, removing asphalt from the section of old roadway between the roundabout and Talent Avenue, replacing curbs and gutters, resurfacing the on-street parking area, adding additional parking stalls, building landscape beds to contain new trees and shrubs, and finally installing the plaza. The plaza was designed with extensive citizen input in 2010 and approved in concept by the city

council and other city bodies Citizens wanted something that would be simple and low key, in harmony with Talent's small town, rural past, and able to grow and change as Talent's needs grow and change in the future. Key design elements include medium-toned variegated pavers, areas of decomposed granite, custom concrete seating walls in varying shapes and sizes, bike parking, and large trees that when mature will provide considerable shade. Existing trees running along TID's fence line will be removed; they are liquid ambers which drop sharp seed pods and will eventually lift the pavers in the plaza. At this time, work is expected to be completed around mid-October, with another few weeks to finish up final details. One of the last items to be installed will be a new style of pedestrian lighting for the plaza area, featuring a graceful new design to complement the existing Old Town lampposts. They will also allow the City to "dim" the lights late at night.

**Staff Transition:** As many of you know from previous announcements, Executive Director Marla Cates is retiring – after 13 ½ years -- from TURA on October 1. In July, the process of planning a transition to city staff began, aiming to formally transfer administrative and financial operations to city staff in September. Effective September 1, Tom Corrigan officially becomes the new Executive Director, Denise Woodman will oversee financial administrative, and Melissa Huhtala will oversee all other administrative duties. During September, Cates will assist the new staff in ensuring a smooth transition and will serve as project manager for the Plaza construction project; she can be reached at [execdir@talenturbanrenewal.com](mailto:execdir@talenturbanrenewal.com)

### Talent and Bees

by Dolly Warden

On August 11, Talent Police Department received reports that there was a swarm of bees flying in the air near Rapp Road. Around 6:30 pm, a family stopped its car at the intersection of Rapp Road and Highway 99. A swarm of bees entered the car through the opened windows. The family had a baby, and one of its members was allergic to bee stings. The family immediately vacated the car and called police. Sgt. Jennifer Snook of the Talent Police Department responded to their call for help. Phone calls were made to seek help from local beekeepers. Additional officers did traffic control until the bees eventually left the car on their own accord about an hour later.

Talent is the second Bee City USA in the nation, and a few months ago the City Council approved a Swarm Procedure. The procedure reminds us that that Talent is committed to saving the lives of these pollinators which are essential to our food supply. Swarms are clusters of bees seeking a new home; as such they are less likely to sting especially since they are so filled with honey for their journey.

### News from Fire District 5

By Chief Welburn

The National Fire Protection Association Fire Prevention Theme for 2015 is:

"Hear the Beep Where You Sleep, Every Bedroom Needs a Working Smoke Alarm"

Half of home fire deaths result from fires reported between 11 p.m. and 7 a.m. when most people are asleep. We would like to stress the importance

of having working smoke alarms in every bedroom, outside each sleeping area, and on every level of the home, including the basement.

Please join us for our annual open house on Wednesday October 7, 2015, at our Headquarters Station at 5811 South Pacific Hwy. We will have many displays, free hotdogs, and activities for the kids.

**Wildfire update:** We recently joined other Southern Oregon Fire Agencies in sending crews to Eastern Oregon to help provide structural protection on the Canyon Creek Complex near John Day. Our crews spent a week on the fire lines clearing brush and preparing homes for the approaching fire. As the threat to structures was reduced, our crews returned home on Thursday August 20<sup>th</sup>, 2015. We would like to thank our local community for being fire safe and minimizing human caused fires.

Remember, at Jackson County Fire District 5, **"we still make house calls!"**

### From the Library

**Come visit your Talent Library in September for its Activities along with the many Books, movie DVDs, music CDs and high speed computers for your use.**

**September is celebrating Ginger Roger month** at the free movies & refreshment every Wednesdays at 2:PM at the Library. **Sept.2<sup>nd</sup> Swing Time**, **Sept.9<sup>th</sup> Stage Door**, **Sept.16<sup>th</sup> Bachelor Mother**, **Sept.23<sup>rd</sup> the Major and the Minor**, **Sept.30<sup>th</sup> Storm Warning**.

Every **Monday, Wednesday and Fridays** from 8:30 to 9:30 is a free Strong Women Strength Training.

On **Fridays** at 2 to 4:00 pm free computer classes are offered. .

On **Saturdays** 12:00 to 4:00 pm Scrabble is played.

**Other:** the Jane Austen Society and Talent Garden Club meet (Check for dates/times)

**For more information about your local Library call 541-535-41633**

Mark your calendar for Saturday **October the 3<sup>rd</sup>** for your Libraries wonderful **Book Sale**. There will be great bargains' on books, DVDs and CDs. An event not to be missed which helps supports your local Library's many programs. The Sale will be put on by the Talent Library Club.

**Help support your local Talent Library with its many programs and activities by joining the Talent Library Club which meets the 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday of every month at 1:00pm. Pick up a flyer about our club at the Library's deck and check out our Facebook at [www.facebook.com/talentlibrary](http://www.facebook.com/talentlibrary)**

### From the Parks and Recreation Commission

**Summer Program a Success:** A crowd of 75+ enjoyed a Movie in the Park on August 21, capping a very successful Summer Recreation Program for 2015. Events began in May with a Beach Volleyball Exhibition at Chuck Roberts Park, and also included the Splash Pad Grand Opening and a Family Bike Ride. If you participated in this year's program, or have ideas for next year, we'd love to hear your comments. **Also, be sure to visit our booth at the Harvest Festival for parks updates;** we'll be stationed by one of our newly acquired **disc-golf goals** with details on how you can rent these for free.

**Contact Parks and Rec** at [Parkscomm@cityoftalent.org](mailto:Parkscomm@cityoftalent.org)

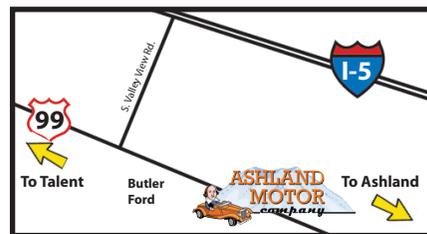


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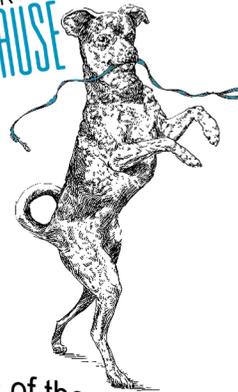
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**[www.AshlandMotorCompany.com](http://www.AshlandMotorCompany.com)**

**BRING YOUR DOG AND JOIN US FOR THE FUN!**

**Sunday, September 20 • Registration: 9:30 AM**

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