



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

Well, this is it, my last hurrah, end of the line, last stand, etc.

You guessed it--this, my last Flash article as your Mayor. It has been a true pleasure for me to have served the City of Talent for the last 16 years,

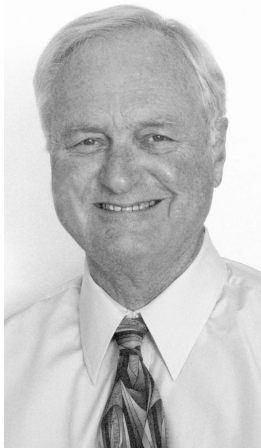
the last four as your Mayor. My hope is that I have planted a couple of seeds during my time with the City that will continue to grow. The first is that Talent can be more than just a bedroom community, but a community where citizens participate to improve the quality of life, making Talent a City we are all proud to call home. Secondly, I hope that I have left a glimpse of how diplomacy and compromise is much more effective than confrontational politics.

One of my last official duties as your Mayor is to sign a Water Service Agreement with the Medford Water Commission. This is something I have worked on in various forms for a number of years. As some of you may know, I refused to sign a recent proposed Water Service Agreement as it did not provide adequate safeguards for the City of Talent. Medford Water Commission responded positively to our concerns and we now have an agreement that I can sign. Much of the credit for negotiating this agreement can be attributed to Tom Corrigan who developed a working relationship with the Medford Water Commission staff.

The last thing I would like to do before I sail off into the sunset is to thank Tom Corrigan and all the City Staff for doing so much with so little. I have put a lot of additional pressure on City Staff (particularly Melissa Huhtala) over the last four years to help me initiate a number of new programs to help build community and to move our City into the future. City Staff have not only responded to my requests but have also continued to provide excellent City Services. They are truly a remarkable group of dedicated individuals who serve our City well. Please join me in thanking them for a job well done.

I will continue to serve as your Mayor until December 31, 2014.

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



'Firelines'-'This Is So Coool, Who's Got It Better Than Us?'

It's time to write my final Firelines article. You know what they say 'time flies when you're having fun'. Yeah, yeah, yeah...whatever! But, what happens to 'time' if you're not having fun? Well, like I always say, if you're not having fun 'you better be learning something' or it's going to be a long day, a long career, a long life! Without question, I have been having fun and truly enjoyed the ride, especially my fire engine ride in the 2014 Talent Harvest Festival Parade!

As some of you know, I am retiring after 44 years in the fire service and 30 years as Fire Chief at Fire District 5. And again without question or pause, it has been a distinct honor and privilege to serve such a wonderful and supportive community.

This past October, Melissa Huhtala, Harvest Festival Chair informed me I was selected by the Harvest Festival Committee to be the Grand Marshal in the City of Talent's Harvest Festival Parade. Wow, talk about makin' it to the big time, Grand Marshal Marshall!! Truthfully, we had just returned from my sisters' funeral in Northern California and I really wasn't looking forward to it, just another obligation or duty that got in the way of a Saturday morning round of golf...or so I thought. Surprise... surprise..., something very special happened that day.

On the way to the parade my wife Shereen continued to remind me 'don't miss the blessing Dan'.... Once we arrived at the Talent Middle School staging area we jumped in the fire districts' restored 1947 Chevrolet fire engine along with several members of the city council. We headed out, leading the parade, with my main firefighter Brian Morris driving the 'old engine', through downtown Talent we traveled 'code 3' (red lights and siren), waving and throwing candy to the kids, making eye contact with so many friends and well-wishers and finally stopping in front of City Hall to be recognized and applauded for our many years of service (wow). We were both overwhelmed with feelings of pride, community and accomplishment. It suddenly hit Shereen and I at the same time, we looked at each other (I'm pretty sure she had a tear running down her cheek) and said "this is so coool, who's got it better than us?"

"Who's got it better than us? Nobooooody. Thank you Mayor Cecil, Talent City Council, City Manager Tom Corrigan, City Recorder Melissa Huhtala and all of the others responsible for reminding me of the 'who's got it better than us' attitude! And thank you to all of the residents of our fire district for the opportunity to serve as your Fire Chief for the past 30 years. It has truly been 'so coool'.

Be safe, have fun and remember "we still make house calls"
Chief Dan Marshal

Mark your Calendars!

On Wednesday, December 3rd after a brief Council Meeting there will be the annual Citizen of the Year & Citizen Recognition Award Ceremony in the Community Center. We anticipate to start the ceremony

at about 6:45 PM. Light refreshments will be served. This is a great time to thank the citizens who help make Talent the great Community it is.

On Tuesday, December 9th there will be the Annual Holiday Tree Lighting. This will begin at 6:00 PM. Come on down and meet Santa, sing some carols and enjoy some light refreshments.

FAREWELL

On behalf of the City of Talent, we would like to thank Mayor Cecil and Fire Chief Dan Marshal for their many years of service. Mayor Cecil served the City of Talent for 16 years in Committees, Commissions, Council and finally as Mayor.

Fire Chief Dan Marshal is retiring with 44 years of fire service and 30 of those as Fire Chief. We wish you all the best and you will truly be missed.

From the Parks and Recreation Commission

Please Consider Serving: 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. Applications are available at City Hall and the city website.

Contact: ParksComm@cityoftalent.org.

News From Talent PD By Chief Mike Moran

Talent Police Department wishes you happy holidays this December and we want to offer a few tips on keeping you happy and safe.

The weather this time of year leads some folks to taking a couple of safety shortcuts that really are a recipe for disaster. The first one is trying to drive without fully defrosting windows on your car. We see drivers driving and looking through what amount to port holes in the frost on their windshields. This can result in a citation and if your inability to see clearly leads to a crash, your day will turn for the worse.

Please take a few minutes to scrape your windows all around the car. Some time-saving but costly tricks regarding frosted windows include those who leave cars running in their driveways or on the street. There have already been cars stolen this season that were left running while the driver went in the house. It is really a bad feeling to find your car is missing. Crime occurs 24/7/365 and it occurs in small cities and large.

This time of year you will receive many requests for donations to some very worthy sounding causes. Please donate to only charities that you know are legitimate. There are telephonic scams, emergency fundraiser scams, and even getting fake bills for things you do not owe that are making the rounds. The pushiest of these scammers will try to browbeat you into giving. No worthy cause does that. If you are contacted by rude

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people demanding your money, hang up on them or shut the door without comment. If you have someone that threatens you or intimidates you, call us.

Bikes are a great gift this time of year. Please contact Talent PD to get a bike registration form for any new bike you give or receive this year. You can complete the form at home where it is easier to find those serial numbers. Then bring us the form and we will enter the information into our bike registry and give you a bike licenses sticker to place on the bike. It may deter a criminal from taking it in the first place. But for sure it will be easier to return the bike to you if we recover it. Best of all the bike licenses are FREE.

URBAN RENEWAL NEWS Phase 1C Wraps Up on West Valley View Project

The contractor for the West Valley View project (Phase 1C) will wrap up final construction details between now and December 15. This includes installation of the underground utility lines to the three houses on West Valley View, powering up the new streetlamps on the Main Street extension, and relocating TID's front gate in anticipation of future phases. There will be some grading/clean-up of the gravel parking area near Porto Gelato, new curbing installed near the vacant green building on Talent Avenue and the removal of the double pole near Talent Liquor. A section of the new concrete "bump outs" at the Talent Ave and West Valley View intersection needed to be replaced, as the concrete scoring pattern did not meet the City's needs. Pacific Power will install new LED cobra head lights on power poles along West Valley View which will provide illumination from the roundabout to Talent Avenue. The City's Traffic Safety Commission is studying different options for locating the bus stop, but as of this writing a decision has not been made.

The West Valley View project was first conceived in 2004 and designed during a series of public meetings with the help of over 60 citizens and business owners. The City adopted the design to the transportation element of the City's Comprehensive Plan in 2006 following public hearings

of the Planning Commission and City Council. In 2010, another public process involved over 40 citizens and business owners in the development of the “public open space” between the roundabout and Talent Avenue, and this design concept was approved by the Parks Commission. Half of this “public open space” will be turned into a plaza area (nearest the roundabout) and the other half (nearest downtown) will make up a traditional “grid” style road pattern allowing for on-street parking and low speed auto, pedestrian and bicycle transportation. The plan is to have the landscape finished and the plaza and on-street parking constructed next year.

To get a better handle on the scale and phasing of this long-range project, please take a look at the large 4'x8' construction sign currently located near the roundabout (it may soon be moved closer to Talent Avenue). The sign displays a map of the various phases of construction, and will eventually display visual illustrations for the plaza area that were approved by citizens. You can see these same visuals in the City Hall lobby and also by clicking on the “urban renewal” tab on the website: www.cityoftalent.org

For more information on urban renewal projects, contact Executive Director Marla Cates, execdir@talenturbanrenewal.com or 541 535 6170

WANTED- COMMITTEE & COMMISSIONER MEMBERS!

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.

Parks and Recreation Commission

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 Commissions

The future of our community depends on its people getting involved, taking their turn to volunteer time. Being on the Planning Commission keeps you on your toes and you will learn a lot about the City and what is happening in the future.

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.

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

Adopt a Family for Christmas

The Christmas tree is up at the Talent City Hall and Christmas is just right around the corner! 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 that will include the sex, age 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. There will also be drop boxes located at Fire District #5 in Talent for non-perishable foods for those who would like to contribute in this way.

These families will be receiving a Christmas dinner basket containing a turkey and several non perishable food items. All gifts and dinner baskets will be hand delivered on a fire truck by Fire District #5 and Santa Claus the week of Christmas.

All gifts will need to be turned in, unwrapped or in an open gift bag with the original gift tag attached to it at City Hall no later than 5pm on Friday, December 12th.

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 and Happy Holidays!

Christmas Tree Recycling

Phoenix-Talent BSA Troop 535 will be picking up Christmas Trees on Saturday, **January 10**. Please leave your tree at the curb by **9am**. A courteous scout will come and take it to be recycled. Donations are appreciated. If you have any questions please call Robert Crawford 541-535-8286.

FROM PUBLIC WORKS

Important Winter Weather Water Tips

With winter upon us, now is the time to prepare for the possibility of an extreme winter season. Here are some tips that may prevent costly emergency repairs:

Insulate your plumbing (hot water pipes too) in areas that are not heated such as crawl spaces, garages and outside.

Temporarily seal off crawl space holes during winter with foam or cardboard pieces.

Disconnect garden hoses before freezing temperatures arrive. Place insulated caps on all of your hose bibs.

Before leaving on trips, do not set your thermostats lower than 55*.

During Freezing Weather

Maintain heat in any room that has plumbing fixtures, especially ones with plumbing located on outside walls. Open up cabinet doors under sinks to let the heat in.

Keep a VERY Small trickle of water (during EXTREME cold times only). It is harder for flowing water to freeze. This is most helpful for faucets that are farther away from where your water enters the house.

If your pipes freeze, NEVER try to thaw with an open flame. Use a hair dryer or space heater to do the job.

If you are going to be away, ask a friend or neighbor to check your house during cold spells. If something breaks, they can act before it causes too much damage.

WINTERIZE YOUR SPRINKLER SYSTEM

This may be one of the most important winter preparations.

If you need to shut your water off at the meter, please call:

Public Works during Business Hours: (541) 535-3828 or After Business Hours: (541) 535-2322 City Hall (541) 535-1566

Please do not tamper with the water meter yourself as you are liable for damages.