



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

Happy New Year Talent. 2016 brings new goals, new challenges and the next phase of work in progress. I would like to look back at the progress on promises I made during the Mayoral campaign in November of 2014.



I stated that Talent would do the following during the term of office of 4 years:

Appoint an economic development group to plan for small-town appropriate businesses with living wage jobs. An active economic development group formed early in 2015. The group completed a business needs survey in 2015 to discover how to better serve small business to keep our down town vital. Talent will conduct an Economic Opportunity Survey, assessing future needs. Both surveys will serve to guide Talent's leadership in the immediate and future planning.

Plan to reduce our reliance on the user fees added to your water bill. Fees found on the water bill pay for City services vital to our quality of life. City costs continue to rise, especially in the past few years. We will do what we always do and run a lean budget. However, in 2016 we will need to discuss the rising costs, to find new ways to meet demands. Reducing reliance on fees will likely mean increases that are as low as possible and still meet the needs of essential services. We will discuss these concerns in 2016. Please submit your ideas or solutions.

Continue the effort for better water contracts, to contain rising water costs. It is well known that Medford Water Commission attempted a 41% increase to our water. With tough minded negotiations, Talent reduced those increases in half.

Stand by our community on local environmental issues. Talent has volunteers that clean Wagner Creek, weed our parks for spray free zones and we have actively engaged in the protection of the Bear Creek area near the Asphalt Plant. We are pursuing alternative energy solutions for City buildings as well as supporting a plan to reduce power usage throughout Talent. This work in progress will show results in 2016 and 2017.

Improve communication between city, committees, and volunteers for a shared vision.

Support citizens engaging



with the city with concerns or questions because transparency and information sharing improves Talent. Talent has installed policies that improve communication, appointments for Commissions and Committees, as well as building a volunteer management system that will support citizen participation. We continue to improve on public noticing and communication.

The State of the City speech is scheduled for February 3, 2016.

Your City Council and Staff are working hard to deliver quality of life. Please join the effort. Commission/Committee openings can be found on the City of Talent website. We always want to hear from you. Council meets at 6:45PM, the first and third Wednesday of each month.

**Grateful to serve
Mayor Darby Stricker**

News From Fire District 5

The holidays are winding down and there's one last thing to do and that's to make that unattainable New Year Resolution.

How about making on that "you can and will accomplish"- "Map Your Neighborhood".

Map Your Neighborhood (MYN) is a 9-step response plan that begins with you and your home and then reaches throughout your neighborhood. It teaches you what to do in the "Golden Hour" or the first hour following a disaster.

In addition to MYN, Ashland Fire and Rescue is teaming up with the City of Talent and Jackson County Fire District 5 to create a Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) base in the Talent area. The City of Ashland has had a very successful CERT program for many years. They have agreed to coordinate developing a successful program in our community. For training information please contact Kittie Harrison at kittieh@jcf5.com

Please see the attached upcoming joint training announcement! See the city website for more information: www.cityoftalent.org

News From Public Works

For years Talent has contracted with the City of Phoenix for the sweeping of city streets. In late June, City staff was notified that Phoenix would no longer be able to provide this service, due to budgetary and staffing issues. This was bad news for a few reasons. One being cosmetics, the collection of leaves, waste and other debris in the gutters of our roadways. Second was the contaminants that make their way into the storm drainage system, and ultimately our creeks and waterways.

The City is required through intergovernmental agreement, in cooperation with Rogue Valley Sewer Services and DEQ, to sweep City streets on a regular basis. This is the most effective way to remove contaminants before they enter our waterways.

Staff immediately began cleaning gutters manually while searching for alternative solutions for providing this service. Contracts with other public and private agencies were considered. The cost for this was very expensive, and staff began to look at cost to purchase a machine.

After research it was clear that purchasing a Street Sweeper was the best option. City Council approved the purchase of a Tymo 600 regenerative air sweeper, and it arrived soon after. There is training scheduled for Staff the first week in January. Soon Talents Street Sweeper will be seen on a regular basis throughout town.

Thank You Judy Casad!

As the leadership advisor for 27 years at the middle school, Judy has lead the club in service to the community of Talent. Every year, the residents of Patio Village have been treated to the students' caroling at Christmas, and a Valentine's Party in February. Several years ago, the club started a Senior's Night, which was an activity filled evening out for the Patio Village residents. They were supplied a free bus ride to the school where they could play board games, do crafts, work on the computers, and enjoy some snacks while visiting with the young students.

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In the past few years for Veterans Day, the club has begun to honor veterans at the school by inviting them to an evening of dinner, conversation and a short program held in the school's library.

Judy has had her leadership kids participate in every Harvest Festival Parade. This is especially impressive when you consider that the parade is held shortly after school begins in the fall when her club is in it's infancy with new sixth graders joining the mix. Even when her kids were out of school she remained committed to her 4H Club for more than a decade.

Not only has Talent Middle School been enriched by her presence and involvement, but the entire school district and the community have benefitted from Judy's commitment to service and passion for her role as a model for young people.

What a great asset to the Community!! Thank you for all you do Judy Casad!!

From the Parks and Recreation Commission

2015 Recap: The splash pad in Chuck Roberts Park was the most exciting addition to our parks in a long time, not just 2015. The water flowed from June to early September, providing kids and their families with a new place to gather and play. The Family Movie Night in August was a huge success, too. Other 2015 parks highlights included the renewal of the herbicide-free policy in our two downtown parks, and improvements to Wagner Creek Park, such as the removal of evasive flora and the planting of native vegetation along the creek.

Contact Parks and Recreation at: Parkscomm@cityoftalent.org with questions or comments.

News From Talent PD By Chief Moran

I would like to start the New Year off by thanking my fellow members of the Talent Police Department for their commitment to duty and their hard work over the last year. We had a



Food & Friends

The Meals on Wheels and Senior Meals Program
Bringing Meals to Seniors

**COME JOIN US FOR LUNCH ON A WEDNESDAY IN
JANUARY OR FEBRUARY AND
ENJOY A COMPLIMENTARY MEAL!**

This coupon valid at our New Talent Community Center meal site on Wednesdays ONLY. Must be age 60 years or older. Original coupons only, one coupon per client, good only on Wednesdays in January and February 2016. No cash value.

couple of very high profile complicated cases that were investigated by our department and the work of your Talent PD investigators was very professional. In January we had a horrific attack on a woman in her home that resulted in two suspects going to prison. In July there was a theft of a motorcycle valued at a quarter million dollars that was recovered and the case is pending adjudication. Around those two cases were over 3900 other calls for service handled by TPD.

One new thing that has been going on for a while is the return of trains to Talent. The Siskiyou line over the mountains to California is open again to freight trains. We will see more train traffic through town. Fortunately 3 of 4 crossings in or adjacent to town are covered by crossing guard bars. But the one by the post office is not. Please stop at the signs and look for trains when crossing there. Another tip is trains really move a lot faster than you think. Please do NOT use the tracks as a play area or a travel path. Train tracks are not public property. They are railroad property and walking or riding on them is not allowed and it really is not safe.

Stryrofoam Ban in Talent

On Wednesday, January 20th the Talent City Council will be holding a Public Hearing to discuss the banning of Styrofoam in Talent.

The meeting will be held at Talent Town Hall, 206 East Main Street at 6:45 PM

Adopt a Family for the Holidays Thank You!

The City of Talent and Fire District 5 would like to thank everyone who helped in making this year's "Adopt a Family for the Holidays" program such a tremendous success! Below are just a few names of the many of this year's sponsors. Thank you to everyone who participated!

- Phoenix/Talent Head Start
- Leslea Heiken
- Coleen Bradley
- Fire Chief Darren Welburn & crew
- Recology Ashland Sanitary
- Firebird Bikes
- Mike Strickland
- Shelley Ludwig

City Hall will be closed on January 18th for Martin Luther King Day

News From Community Development

Wetland and riparian vegetation management

Many landscapers and gardeners find winter and early spring the ideal time to prune and maintain dormant

vegetation. Although the City of Talent encourages proper maintenance and care for vegetation, the unauthorized removal or disturbance of vegetation in wetland or riparian setback areas is not permitted (City of Talent Ord. 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 tourism and recreation opportunities.

There are some instances where vegetation management in wetlands and riparian areas may be authorized through the City of Talent. Residents may obtain permits for the replacement of non-native plants with native plants. Vegetation may also be removed for *approved* development purposes, or if it has been officially declared hazardous. For additional wetland and riparian vegetation management guidance, please contact Community Development Director Zac Moody by phone: 541-535-7401 or email: zmoody@cityoftalent.org.

The Talent City Council will be holding a Public Hearing on January 20th to establish a water rate recovery from 2002.

Background:

The Medford Water Commission has approved a water rate increase effective January 1, 2016. The estimated impact of this rate increase to the City of Talent is approximately \$30,000 annually based on the City's current water consumption. Along with the increase from the Medford Water Commission, the City anticipates capital maintenance expenditures for the TAP Intertie of \$95,000 over the next ten years. The Medford Water Commission's rate history is presented below.

MEDFORD WATER COMMISSION OTHER CITIES WHOLESAL WATER RATES							
	1-Mar-06	1-Mar-07	1-Mar-08	1-Mar-11	1-Mar-12	1-Mar-15	1-Jan-16
10" TAP Master Meter	406.78	411.16	489.02	523.85	656.90	689.74	782.65

The City of Talent's rate history is below:

CITY OF TALENT INSIDE CITY CUSTOMER WATER RATE SCHEDULE			
		15-May-02	20-Jul-07
Number of Customers by Meter Size	Meter Size	Monthly Base Rate	
1,808	3/4" to 5/8"	\$16.14	\$12.00
90	1"	\$35.64	\$30.00
23	1 1/2"	\$68.14	\$60.00
39	2"	\$143.00	\$96.00
2	3"	\$247.00	\$192.00
0	4"	\$364.00	\$300.00
1	6"	\$689.00	\$600.00
Per 1,000 gallons			
	3001 - 6000 gallons	\$4.04	\$4.05
	6001 - 9000 gallons	\$4.44	\$4.45
	Over 9,000 gallons	\$4.84	\$4.85