



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 recently attended the 2014 Oregon Mayors Conference in Pendleton, Oregon. There are a number of important seminars associated with this conference but the most valuable aspect for



me is the ability to talk and interact with other Mayors from around the State. I like to think that Talent has unique challenges, but in reality our challenges are pretty much what other cities, both big and small, are experiencing. (Bummer, I like to think we are special). One Mayor from a bedroom community of about 5000 was telling me the only grocery store in town just closed. This community is located about ten miles from a larger city where most people work and shop. Sound familiar? I talked with another Mayor from a City of about 3500 that has a robust business community with a successful Chamber of Commerce. The difference between the two communities is that the city of 3500 has a port on the Columbia River that employs many of the city's residents. In the city of 5000, most of the residents work and shop in a nearby larger city. This reinforces my belief that to improve the retail business in Talent, we need to bring in more business with living wage jobs. Retail will follow. Brammo's manufacturing facility and Shakespeare Festival's production facility locating in Talent is a great start, but we must continue to solicit new business that provides living wage jobs. You can find my "Strategy for Economic Development" on the City Web Site under "News from the Mayor". You will find this strategy focuses on making land available and creating City policies to facilitate economic development. I have appointed Councilor Stricker and Councilor Pederson to head up the City's Economic Development effort. I urge you to contact them if you have ideas or would like to take part in this great effort to move our City into the future. You can find their contact information on the City Web Site.

I hope you all will take part and support my vision to see the City of Talent progress from a bedroom community to a sustainable City where our citizens can live, work, and play.

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



TALENT HARVEST FESTIVAL FUN OCTOBER 4, 2014

Now in its 45th year, the Talent Harvest Festival is one of the region's liveliest and most popular outdoor fall events. Come one come all and save the date for **October 4th** to join the community as we come together for this seasonal celebration of Harvest Hometown Fun!

Adults and children of all ages are welcome and there is no admission fee. The Festival features fine arts and crafts, community exhibits, a wide selection of local foods, local beer and wine, apple cider pressing and much more. For the kids there will be a Rock Climbing Wall, Face Painting, petting zoo, Jugglers, the Harvest Home, Farmers Market and crafts area near the Talent Library.

The day starts off with the Talent Chamber of Commerce's \$5 pancake breakfast (**7 am-11 am**), Harvest Festival 5K and 10K fun runs (**8 am**), and the Talent Parade (**10:00 am startup**). The Festivities will continue with **extended hours this year until 6:00 PM**.

There will be plenty of live music by several favorite local bands as well as other entertainment throughout the day. Just to name a few performing there will be:

Djangoholics, H'aena, LEFT, Mariachi Centella, Thor Polson, Maestro and the Captian's Flat, Rewind, ScienceWorks, Ballet Folklorico and a clown show by Jill & Darrell -Clowning around!

Back by popular demand is the Dunk Tank which will feature Phoenix Talent Little League and some surprise guests....!

As we strive to reach **zero waste** we encourage bringing your own water bottle as we will have the Water On Wheels (WOW) Station where you can fill your own water. This year we will also be selling our very own Harvest Festival Water Bottles which you can purchase near the WOW station.

MANY THANKS TO OUR COMMUNITY PARTNER PROVIDENCE MEDICAL GROUP!

You can be a part of this event in many ways such as: Arts and Crafts Vendor, Food Vendor, Sponsor, Parade Participant and by joining the Fun Run/Walk. **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED.** If you would like an application for any of these or for more information please visit the city website: www.cityoftalent.org or contact Melissa Huhtala at 541-535-1566 melissa@cityoftalent.org



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From the Parks and Recreation Commission

Dogwood Donor: Thank you, Bonnie Yates, for donating four dogwoods to the dog park. These trees will produce beautiful flowers for years to come, and will eventually provide lots of shade for park users. The Commission accepts donations year-round, cash or otherwise, for the enhancement of our parks.

Weed Team: Did you know that two of our City Parks—Old Town and Talent Commons—are herbicide-free? But to keep this no-spray experiment going, volunteers are needed to pull weeds. Interested in joining the Weed Team?

Contact us at: ParksComm@cityoftalent.org

News from Talent PD By Chief Mike Moran

School is back in session and we want to remind you of a couple of key safety issues: school zones and school buses. Most of the traffic citations we write for speeding in the school zones, not yielding to pedestrians in crosswalks and for not stopping for school buses flashing red lights begin with inattention of the driver. Drivers get into a zone when driving familiar routes and are not alert to changing factors on the roads. Some of this is caused by those who continue to drive while illegally using cell phones.

Please make it a conscious point when you get behind the wheel to treat the operation of your vehicle as the most important thing you have to do. It is the most important task as long as your vehicle is on the road.

I support my officers making traffic safety a high priority.

This month I'd like to thank Officer Lencin Carnighan for his special efforts in protecting you and your property. At night when he sees a garage door left open, Officer Carnighan contacts the home owner to let them know as often people forget to shut the big door on the garage before going to bed. It is actually a good idea to keep the garage doors shut not only at night but also during the day. There have been several brazen criminals who have entered open garages and then entered the door into the house and

stolen items while the residents were home. Today's thieves have become more willing to take risks to commit their crimes. So we have to take extra effort to protect our homes.

Graffiti involving gangs is on the increase. There are at least two groups of gangs who like to commit the crime of criminal mischief by spray-painting their logos and names on other people's property. We arrested three juveniles this summer for vandalizing a public park area in daylight. Talent PD has a crew to remove graffiti on public property. A city ordinance requires property owners to remove graffiti on their property. It is a good idea to remove graffiti ASAP as it is unsightly, sends a message we don't tolerate gang activity in Talent, and we as a community take pride in our city.

With the assistance of the Medford Area Drug Gang Enforcement (MADGE) unit we actively pursue gang related crimes in Talent.

Thank you from Together for Talent

A big "Thank-You!" goes out to Bill Elliott, who gets busy early on Thursday mornings, hand-weeding the garden in front of City Hall. Because this area has been designated a pesticide/herbicide-free zone, it requires weekly hand-weeding. If you would like to help Bill, or just bring him a cup of coffee, stop by Talent City Hall, Thursdays 7:30 - 9:30 a.m.

FORUM: PLANTS FOR OUR POLLINATORS

When: Saturday, September 6th
10:00-12:00

Where: Talent Public Library

What: Forum on Plants for Our Pollinators. Learn what plants pollinators like and how to prepare your gardens and yards for them.

Bee a part of the solution.

Sponsored by: Together for Talent Committee, Talent Garden Club, Bee City USA – Talent, and the Pollinator Project of Rogue Valley.

Presenters: **Kristi Mergenthaler**, Native Plant Botanist, Land Steward with the Southern Oregon Land Conservancy and board member of the Siskiyou Chapter of the Native Plant Society of Oregon, will discuss creating habitat for pollinators and their favorite plants, including general design guidelines, pollination ecology, and native plants for the garden.

Bradley Wilson, Talent resident and student of organic gardening, permaculture, and biodynamic farming, as well as a member of the Pollinator Project of Rogue Valley, will discuss, among other things, his work of preparing a list of plants including native plants that attract pollinators and his experience of designing a home garden using the list.

Jamie Hickner, Talent resident and member of the Pollinator Project of Rogue Valley, will discuss the organization's efforts to create a pollinator paradise in the Rogue Valley, including the Talent Elementary Pollinator Project, strategies to reduce pesticides, crafty projects that nurture pollinators, and collaborations to create pollinator pathways.

Refreshments will be served by the Together for Talent Committee and the Garden Club.

The public is invited to this forum. Look for Bee City signs located in City of Talent coming soon!!

Contact: Dolly Warden, 541-897-9965 dolly.warden17@gmail.com

PUBLIC IS INVITED

News from Community Development

Did you know that something as seemingly innocuous as pressure washing vehicles and impervious surfaces can lead to polluted streams? For example, vehicle residuals from driveways such as: oil, grease and antifreeze from leaking vehicles are all highly toxic. When rinsed into storm drains, this stormwater pollution enters waterways such as Wagner and Bear Creek untreated. Once there, the pollution poses a substantial hazard to both humans and aquatic life.

There are environmentally responsible ways to pressure wash, it just requires a little forethought. The safest way to wash a car for instance, is to do so on some type of permeable surface such as gravel or grass, where the water will percolate into the ground – use little to no soap, or look for phosphate-free and biodegradable soaps. For impervious surfaces, many professional car washes use recycled water and trap the wastewater using towels, sponges, or a plumbing system to keep the water on site.

The Rogue Valley Council of Governments also offers a Car Wash Kit to non-profit fundraising groups. For information on how to obtain the kit for your next big fundraiser, visit www.rvcog.org.

For more information contact Community Development Director Zac Moody at (541) 535-7401 ext.1010 or email: zmoody@cityoftalent.org

Urban Renewal News

For more information contact Executive Director Marla Cates, 541-535-6170 or execdir@talenturbanrenewal.com

On Tuesday, September 2, 2014, the Talent Urban Renewal Agency was pleased to host a ribbon cutting ceremony to open the long-awaited West Valley View Roundabout to through traffic.

With the roundabout opening, this means the Talent Avenue/Main Street intersection will become a 4-way stop. Please use caution when using this intersection for the near future. The existing stop sign at Talent Avenue and West Valley View (near Funky Fashions & Simply Sassy) will be removed.

The roundabout is part of the overall West Valley View project originally conceived in 2004 and adopted to the City's Comprehensive Plan in 2006. The master plan was designed under the guidance of Fregonese & Associates using an extensive public input process. Previous mini-phases of this project were built in 2011 (Seiber Street, behind Camelot Theatre) and in 2012 (the extension of Main Street). The final mini-phase – plaza area and parking – is planned for summer of 2016. A drawing of the entire Phase I design is attached. Project engineer is ZCS Engineering and landscape is designed by Laurie Sager & Associates.

Our general contractor, Pilot Rock Excavation, began work on this mini-phase in mid-July. They are doing a great job building this project while creating as little disruption as possible, and they will continue to work during September to finish off final details. There may be additional full or partial road closures in September to allow for striping of center lanes, bike lanes and parking spaces to be laid down.

Thank you for your support over the years – TURA hopes you enjoy the new roundabout!