



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

With meetings every Wednesday, January was a very busy month; your dedicated City Council has hit the ground running!



In our very first council meeting of

2016, Council cast a majority vote to change the zoning on the property that was once the Talent Truck Stop on Valley View Rd. By allowing more commercial uses, the hope of the majority is to stimulate development, rather than remain vacant. Council also discussed the first draft for smoke free parks at that same January 6th meeting.

Council held a special study session on January 12th to discuss the proposed goals for 2016. One idea being proposed is to provide Talent citizens with improved access to Talent's financial information online as part of an overall goal of updating City of Talent's website. We are discussing better directional signage, improving consistency throughout Talent. Proposed is a City Committee, whose first mission is to write a clean energy plan for Talent. Repairs to streets, sidewalks, bike lanes, curbs and gutters were proposed. From Parks is a proposal to continue the work on the Splash Pad to eventually build a water recycling feature. There is so much more being discussed; goal ideas are still coming in. Please watch for the meeting announcements and weigh in as a citizen of Talent.

At the January 20th meeting, Council discussed our water rate recovery proposal. We haven't increased water rates since 2002. In a well intended attempt to keep our rates down over the years, while cost of water has continued to rise, it is past time to pay the piper. Council also adopted the first draft of an Ordinance to ban Styrofoam for commercial use. We re-appointed Paul Hadella to the Parks Commission, appointed Jenica Faye to the Parks Commission and appointed John Harrison to the Budget Committee.

At the January 27th study session, more work on the goals for 2016.

Please check the City website for committee openings.

*Grateful to serve,
Mayor Darby Stricker*

WANTED- COMMITTEE & COMMISSION MEMBERS

Talent Public Art Committee

(TPAC)

Currently TPAC is looking for 3-4 volunteers for specific projects and/or to become TPAC members to enjoy a greater hands-on involvement in developing the arts in Talent. So whether you're just interested, ready to go or you're looking to support the arts with your time or just financially, give us a call. **Call Ron Hodgdon at 541.535.1620 or email: hodg1027@mind.net.** Please specify your name, contact information and TPAC related interest to be contacted.

Together For Talent Committee

Interested in becoming a **Talenteer**? This is a great Committee to be involved in if you have a passion for trees, trails, forums and want to help make Talent an even better place to live and work. There are no term limits for this Committee. Meetings are every 1st Tuesday of the month at 3:00 PM in the City Hall Conference Room.

Harvest Festival Committee

Looking for motivated, enthusiastic Committee members to help create an event that was even better than the last. The Committee meets monthly beginning in February and twice a month or more as we get closer to the event.

Bee City USA

Education on Pollination. Meets the 2nd Tuesday of the month at 6 PM for location and more information contact Dolly Warden at 541-897-0065 or email: dolly.warden17@gmail.com

Architectural Review Committee

To reestablish this committee we need 5 members for the Architectural Review Committee.

This is a 5-person committee with no specified terms. The ARC advises the Planning Commission and City Council on Design Review criteria for the Historic District in Talent. Reviews development applications for new or renovation projects in the Old Town area. Meets every 3rd Tuesday of the month at 6:00 p.m.

Parks Commission

There are currently 2 Commission and 2 Alternate vacancies for the Parks Commission. This is a seven person commission each serving a two year term. The commission advises the City Council on planning and improvements to City parks and provides oversight to the City's Summer Recreation Programs. The commission meets the 2nd Wednesday of each month at 6:30 p.m. at the Community Center. Members are active in raising community awareness of use of City parks and the importance of participation in recreational activities.

For other questions regarding the 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

From the Parks and Recreation Commission

Chuck Roberts Trail: You may have noticed the little flags in the ground at Chuck Roberts Park, between the splash pad and volleyball court. They

are marking a trail that Public Works will begin building soon—the first phase of a trail network envisioned for the park. This initial segment will conform to ADA standards, making it wheelchair accessible.

Photos Wanted: The City is always looking for photos of beautiful Talent for its website, and we at Parks and Rec are especially interested in parks shots. Send your photos to City Manager Tom Corrigan at tcorrigan@cityoftalent.org.

Contact Parks and Rec at Parkscomm@cityoftalent.org

News From Talent PD

By Chief Moran

February is a month full of unique dates. This year is a true leap year on the 29th. The actual election season begins in Iowa and New Hampshire. There is Valentine's Day, Groundhog's Day and February 3, the Day the Music Died as noted in the song American Pie. I mention the uniqueness of the month to segue into my message that there are constantly unique scams that confront us. We must always be alert and face the sad reality that there are so many crooks out there.

The scammers are becoming more believable and insert themselves into even mundane things like Craigslist for sale postings. In that scam, they contact you and offer to send a check for whatever you are selling. You get the check and are asked to deposit it and to please return an excess amount they included for some reason. If you do that, you are out the money you sent them as the original check they sent you is later found to be a forged document. The scammers never come to get your items either.

So if using Craigslist, accept cash only in person. Then closely look at the cash and feel it to see if it looks real. Here is some info I put out previously specifically about Craigslist scams that I think are worth another look:

This is information developed by Craigslist on how to avoid being scammed while using Craigslist and to familiarize you with Internet scams in general.

- **DEAL LOCALLY WITH FOLKS YOU CAN MEET IN PERSON** - follow this one simple rule and you will avoid 99% of the scam attempts on Craigslist.

- **NEVER WIRE FUNDS VIA WESTERN UNION, MONEYGRAM** or any other wire service - anyone who asks you to do so is a scammer. Let me repeat that, any time someone you don't know asks you to send money by Western Union or MoneyGram, it's a scam. You might also be asked to send a check or money order by overnight delivery. Con artists recommend these services so they can steal your money before you realize you've been cheated. Money transfers can be picked up at any service location as long as the thief/recipient has the confirmation number. If you have wired money and it hasn't been picked up yet, call the wire transfer service to cancel the transaction. Once the money has been picked up, there is no way to get it

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back.

- **FAKE CASHIER CHECKS & MONEY ORDERS ARE COMMON, and BANKS WILL CASH THEM AND THEN HOLD YOU RESPONSIBLE when the fake is discovered weeks later.**

- **CRAIGSLIST IS NOT INVOLVED IN ANY TRANSACTION,** and does not handle payments, guarantee transactions, provide escrow services, or offer "buyer protection" or "seller certification"

- **NEVER GIVE OUT FINANCIAL INFORMATION** (bank account number, social security number, eBay/PayPal info, etc.)

- **AVOID DEALS INVOLVING SHIPPING OR ESCROW SERVICES and know that ONLY A SCAMMER WILL "GUARANTEE" YOUR TRANSACTION.**

If you suspect that an item posted for sale on Craigslist may be part of a scam, please email the details to "abuse@craigslist.org". Be sure to include the URL (or 10-digit post ID number) in your message.

Here are some other tips to avoid other scams.

The call or message originates from overseas. However, be aware that technology allows scammers to bypass caller ID systems.

If you get a call from someone claiming to be a relative or friend, always ask callers to identify themselves by name. Ask for information that only you and people close to you would know. Ask for a callback number. The person can't or won't answer questions that only the real person would know. Avoid volunteering information over the phone. A scam artist will not be able to provide a legitimate, working phone number. Using a phone number you know to be genuine, call the friend or relative claiming to need your help to confirm whether the story is true. If you aren't able to contact them, call other friends or family members to confirm the situation. If you're asked to send money quickly – and secretly and not to let others know the secret, it is bad.

Best tip on phone scammers-Just Hang Up.

News from Utility Billing

Effective March 1, 2016 the City will no longer be accepting utility payments at Medicap Pharmacy.

Please use the Utility Payment drop box located in front of City Hall at 110 East Main St.

The following payment options are also available:

- Credit Card over the Phone Payment (541) 535-1566
- Counter Payment at City Hall 110 E. Main St. Talent
- Mail to City of Talent, Post Office Box 445, Talent, OR 97540
- Online Payment. Please visit www.cityoftalent.org
- AutoPay. Fill out the *Monthly AutoPay Request Authorization Agreement* and mail it to or drop it off at City Hall. Please attach a voided check. Your monthly utility bill will be automatically withdrawn from your account around the 15th of each month. This is a free service provided by the City.

CITY BEGINS ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY ANALYSIS

The City of Talent last evaluated economic trends in a comprehensive manner in 2000 using data from the 1990 Census. The information used previously is more than 25 years old and does not account for the inclusion of multiple Urban Reserve Areas recently adopted as part of the regional plan for Southern Oregon or account for recent growth.

The 2000 amendment to the Economy Element of the Comprehensive Plan does not address the current economic environment and provides little in the way of direction for how the inadequacy is to be remedied. There is a considerable amount of underutilized commercial and industrial land within the City's Limits as well as its Urban Growth Boundary.

Recent interest in larger scale industrial development provides the positive economic momentum needed to move the City of Talent forward, and there is clear community support for developing a coordinated economic vision. The City recognizes that now is the time to actively engage with its partners and the community to develop an economic strategy and vision for the community.

In January, the City of Talent hire ECONorthwest to complete an updated economic opportunity analysis consistent with Statewide Planning Goal 9. This analysis will include written reports, maps, and policies that will ultimately be incorporated into the City's Comprehensive Plan.

As part of this analysis, the City will form a Citizen Advisory Committee (CAC) to provide project oversight and to aid in the evaluation of the written reports, maps and proposed policies. If you are interested in participating on the CAC, please contact Zac Moody, Community Development Director at 541-535-7401 or by email at zmoody@cityoftalent.org by February 5, 2016.

Celebration for Volunteers in Talent

Come one come all to celebrate the Citizens of Talent's who volunteer in the Community.

On March 3rd from 6-8 PM at the Talent Community Center there will be a celebration for all the volunteering citizens in our Community. There will be light refreshments from local restaurants, a no host cash only bar from Cathy Dorris of Kindred Spirits and local entertainment.

There are so many that get involved in helping Talent be a great

Community. This will be a celebration to thank all those who volunteer their time and energy to better Talent. We are looking to recognize all citizens who have contributed in volunteering. If you know a group or person that should be recognized please contact Melissa Huhtala at: 541-535-1566 or email: melissa@cityoftalent.org

FORUM ON INTEGRATED PEST MANAGEMENT

There will be a forum co-sponsored by the Talent Garden Club and Bee City USA Talent Sub-Committee. The forum will be on Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Practices to Reduce Toxicity in Your Garden Presentation by Patrick Marcus The public, as well as the Talent City staff, are invited to a presentation by Patrick Marcus on Saturday, March 5, at the Talent Public Library starting at 10:00 am. Patrick is a member of the OSU Master Gardener Association of Jackson County. He teaches classes on Integrated Pest Management, Organic Gardening, Wisteria Pruning and other home horticultural topics. Patrick is a founding member of the Ashland Community Garden and helped make community gardening part of the Ashland Parks infrastructure. He is currently the volunteer garden manager for the Ashland Creek Park Community Garden.

IPM has been used in commercial agriculture since the 1970's. Many of the principles that guide farmers in making pest management decisions can be used by organic gardeners. IPM is a systematic approach to pest management that focuses first on preventing problems. It involves monitoring pest populations identifying pests, and choosing a combination of tactics to keep pest populations at an acceptable level.

We will discuss tactics that include cultural, mechanical, biological, and chemical methods of pest management.

Refreshments will be served. For more information, please contact Dolly Warden, 541-897-9965, dolly.warden17@gmail.com

News from Fire District 5

Currently there are two vacant positions on the Jackson County Fire District No. 5 Budget Committee. The Board of Directors, as governing body, is responsible for selection and appointing citizens to the committee and plans to do so at its regular meeting to be held on Tuesday, February 16, 2016 3:30pm at 5811South Pacific Hwy, Phoenix, OR.

In general the Budget Committee meets one to three times per year, usually on Monday or Tuesday evenings between the months of February and April. Interested applicants must be at least 18 years old and reside or own property within the jurisdictional boundaries of Fire District 5.

You can contact Fire Chief Darin Welburn at 541-535-4222 if you have any questions.

The position receives no salary or other monetary compensation, therefore your willingness to participate in your community's fire life and safety in this manner is appreciated.

Applications are available at 5811South Pacific Highway, Phoenix, Oregon 97535 or at www.jcfd5.com

Completed applications should be returned to Jackson County Fire District No. 5, 5811South Pacific Highway, Phoenix, Oregon 97535 or Faxed to: 541-535-4226. Applications will be accepted until 4pm on February 10, 2016.

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