



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

Happy New Year!

I think that 2014 will be a banner year for the City of Talent. Two of the biggest projects to look for in the coming year are the completion of the West Valley View Road project and a new



Community Center. Both projects will change the face of Talent for years to come. And the best thing about these projects is that they will not place additional long-term debt on the citizens of Talent. When I look back at 2013, I realize how good a year it was for the City of Talent. Brammo Motorcycles, Oregon Shakespeare Festival, and Asante Health Care all located new facilities in Talent. Residential construction, which has been dead for a number of years, took a leap forward in 2013. All this new construction and new business is an indicator of how desirable the city of Talent is to live and do business. At least, this is how I see it.

I hope you all have a healthy and prosperous 2014.

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

News From Talent PD
 By Chief Mike Moran

Happy New Year and best wishes for a great 2014 from the Talent Police Department.

This January some new laws will be going into effect. The one I want to highlight this month is a higher fine for cell phone violations. Violations of the 2010 state laws against texting and use of handheld communications devices will be upgraded to class C status. The new fine will be \$250 plus fees for texting violations.

Oregon distracted driving laws:

- Oregon prohibits use of mobile communications devices by all drivers. Cell phones with hands-free attachments are allowable only for those over 18 years of age. Text messaging banned for all drivers.

- Please note that the cost of a hands free device is far less than a fine for texting or talking on you cell phone.

- Drivers under the age of 18 with learner's permits or intermediate licenses are prohibited from using cell phones or text messaging while driving. The ban applies to all cell phone use, regardless of whether a hands-free device is employed.

This time of year especially with the extreme weather we have already had,

there are some safety tips that are good to recall:

- Don't leave your car outside warming up. Several cars have been stolen in the valley already this winter.
- Clear your windows of frost completely so that you can see out of your car. I see people driving with small portholes in their front window. You need side windows and front cleared to be safe. It also never hurts to see what's behind you too.

Be safe and have a great 2014!

WANTED- COMMITTEE & COMMISSIONER MEMBERS!

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 a better place.

Currently Together for Talent has created a Suggestion Box asking citizens what they like about Talent and what suggestions they have. There has already been great feedback and we would love to hear more. The suggestion box is located in the lobby of the Talent Library and at Rays Food Place.

Traffic Safety & Transportation Commission
 Currently the Traffic Safety & Transportation Commission has an opening for a Talent Resident! The Commission meets as needed every 2nd Tuesday every other month during the day. If interested you can get an application at City Hall or the City website: www.cityoftalent.org

Budget Committee
 Currently there are 3 openings for the Budget Committee. Members serve 3 year terms and meet primarily in April and May each year.

Planning Commission
 There is currently Alternate Planning Commission vacancies. The Commission meets every 4th Thursday.

Parks and Recreation Commission
 There is currently 1 vacancy for a Parks Commissioner and 2 vacancies for alternates. The Commission meets the 2nd Wednesday of every month.

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 Thank You!

The City of Talent and Fire District 5 have a great time each year helping local families and would like to thank everyone who helped in making this year's "Adopt a Family for Christmas" 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 Dan Marshall
- Recology Ashland Sanitary
- The Pit Stop



Protect your pipes this winter!

HELPFUL TIPS for the WINTER MONTHS

As our temperature drops, please check the pipes in your home. Outside hose taps as well as water supply lines can freeze up and affect your water supply. During this last snow and record cold temps, our Public Works crew responded to 14 calls of City meters being frozen only to discover that it was actually frozen in the person's home. If you do have an after-hours emergency, please call our Public Works number at 541-535-3828 and press 9. This will automatically route your message to our on-call person.

*Here are some tips for getting your home in order to handle a winter storm:

- Clean out gutters, disconnect and drain all outside hoses. If possible, shut off outside water valves.
- Insulate walls and attics, and caulk and weather-strip doors and windows.
- Repair roof leaks and remove tree branches that could become weighted down with ice or snow and fall on your house or your neighbor's house.
- Wrap water pipes in your basement or crawl spaces with insulation sleeves to slow heat transfer.
- Consider an insulated blanket for your hot water heater.
- If you have a fireplace, keep the flue closed when you're not using it.
- Have a contractor check your roof to see if it would sustain the weight of a heavy snowfall.
- Make sure your furniture isn't blocking your home's heating vents.
- During cold spells, keep cabinet doors open to allow warm air to circulate around pipes, particularly those in the kitchen and bathroom.
- Keep a slow trickle of water flowing through faucets connected to pipes that run through unheated or unprotected spaces.
- If your house will be unattended during cold periods, consider draining the water system.
- Avoid ice dams by keep water from melted snow from refreezing in the gutters and seeping under the roof and soaking interior walls. Here's how:
 - Ventilate your attic. The colder it is, the less melting and refreezing on the roof.
 - Insulate the attic floor well to minimize the amount of heat rising through the attic from within the house.
 - Consider having a water-repellent

December, 2013
 Volume 15/Issue 1
 Official
 Newsletter of the City of
 Talent
 110 East Main Street,
 P.O. Box 445, Talent,
 Oregon 97540

Edited by
 Melissa Huhtala
 City Website:
www.cityoftalent.org
 Telephone:
 (541) 535-1566
 E-mail:
melissa@cityoftalent.org

membrane installed under your roof covering.

* Courtesy Nationwide Insurance

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to the Mayor's 2013 Citizen of the Year: **Ron Hodgdon!** You will always see Ron helping out with City of Talent events and doing so under the radar. He is an active member of the Talent Public Art Committee. With his passion for art and the help of the Art Committee the Talent City Hall now displays local artist's artwork in the lobby for Citizens to enjoy. You can count on some of Ron's beautiful art sprucing up the place. Over the last year many artists have been able to contribute their artwork at City Hall and although there have been many different themes Ron's artwork has been a name that can be found in almost everything! He is also actively involved in the Talent Harvest Festival, Talent Art/Music Walk and the Talent Chamber! The City of Talent would like to thank him for his hard work and continuous dedication to the Community.

Congratulations to the 2013 Citizen Volunteer Appreciation

Award winners:
 Cecil Gore
 Sharon Anderson
 Ron & Jesse Hodgdon
 Karen Rycheck
 Elizabeth Zwick
 Peter Christofferson
 Robert Casebeer
 Steve Olsen
 Melissa Wagy
 Dave Kauke
 Dave Sullivan

Thank you all for the hard work you do for the City of Talent your dedication and involvement is greatly appreciated!!

From the Planning Department

Flood Insurance - Don't

Be Left Unprotected!

The City of Talent participates in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) that makes available federally backed flood insurance for all structures, whether or not they are located within the floodplain. More than 25 percent of NFIP claims are filed by properties located within the 100-year floodplain, also known as the Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA). Following the purchase of flood insurance, NFIP imposes a 30-day waiting period, so residents should purchase insurance before the onset of the rainy season to ensure coverage during the flooding season. Please be aware that standard homeowner or renter insurance policies do not cover losses due to flooding. Before a person can receive a loan or other financial assistance, there must be a check to see if the building is in a Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA). The SFHA is the base (100-year) floodplain mapped on a Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM). It is shown as one or more zones that begin with the letter "A" or "V". Copies of the FIRM are available for review in the City's Community Development office. Many lenders and insurance agents also have copies and residents can access them electronically on FEMA's website at www.msc.fema.gov. It is the agency's or the lender's responsibility to check the FIRM to determine if the building is in an SFHA, although the City will provide assistance. Please contact Zac Moody, Community Development Director at 541-535-7401 for any specific questions or visit the City's website at www.cityoftalent.org for floodplain FAQs.

From the Parks and Recreation Commission

Please Support the Heritage Trail

Next spring, the city will be submitting a grant application to the state of Oregon to help fund a one-mile walking/jogging trail in Chuck Roberts Park, called the Heritage Trail. Our application needs community support. If just 50 people pledged \$50 to the trail project, it would send a clear message to the state that the Talent community wants this trail to happen! E-mail your pledge (any amount helps) to ParksComm@cityoftalent.org. Donors will be acknowledged at the trail dedication ceremony.

To find a description of the proposed trail: Go to the City website, click on "Departments," and then on "Parks." Finally, click on "Proposed Walking Trail" in the left column of the Parks page.

News From the Talent Public Art Committee

Now on Display at the Talent City Hall Gallery: "Celebrating Textiles and Fashion".

Sharon Lilly Bowes, Carol Christofferson, Lucy DeFranco, Caroline Dignes, Deborah Dryden, Joe Dunbar, Diane Ericson, Kathy Fennell, Carol Harvey, Yelena Joy, Thalia Keple, Diane Lea, Jo Ann Manzone, and Elaine Plaisance.

This remarkable show encompasses a huge variety of art representing fiber, textile, and the world of fashion and costume design. Fourteen fabulous artists of the Rogue Valley are sharing their talents with us in this first of its kind invitational exhibit in Talent. Please come explore the variety of felting, weaving, jewelry, clothing and costume design, and out of the box thinking of these masters of their

crafts. All works are for sale (except where noted) through the artists, with a 10% commission going back into Talent Public Arts. Consider checking this display out for unique one of a kind gifts that support the arts in our community!

In addition, **New Works by Wataru Sugiyama** a master ceramic sculptor formerly of the 111 Studios in Talent, and now represented by Hanson Howard Gallery, will be on display from Nov. 25, 2013 – Jan. 10th 2014. Please don't miss this wonderful artist's work!

Open M-F 8:30am-5pm, Nov 13th-Jan 10th, 2013 at 110 E. Main St. in Talent, OR.

Coming in Mid January:

The Talent Public Arts Committee is proud to present: **"The Works of Betty LaDuke"**. Come explore the vibrant artistry of this local yet internationally recognized painter who will be creating Talent's next mural "Celebrating Local Agriculture".

In addition, **Ceramic Works by Phoenix artist Penelope Dews** and **Ceramic Whimsy by Talent artist Claire Barr-Wilson** will be on show in our sculpture cabinets! All works are for sale (except where noted) by contacting the artists, with a 10% commission going back into Talent Public Arts. Consider checking this display out for unique one of a kind gifts that support the arts in our community!

On view from Jan. 14th - March 7th, 2014, 8:30-5 M-F at the Talent City Hall Gallery- 110 E. Main St. Talent, OR.

Art Opening At Talent City Hall Gallery

Join us in celebrating Betty LaDuke and her upcoming new mural work: *Celebrating Local Agriculture* during this opening sponsored by the TPAC. Works from Betty's collection will be shown, along with works by Phoenix ceramic artist Penelope Dews and Talent ceramic artist Claire Barr-Wilson. Betty will be on hand as well as a little food, a little drink, and a lot of great conversation! We hope you'll join us to support this great show. (Date and time To be determined) at the Talent City Hall- 110 E. Main St. Talent, OR. Keep a look out for fliers about this event in Mid January!

Utility Billing News

Starting in January 2014, a late fee will be assessed to all utility accounts that are not paid in full by the due date. Utility customers now have the following service options available for paying their monthly utility bill:

- Monthly AutoPay option- Forms available at Talent City Hall
- Online Payment option- www.cityoftalent.org click on GovTeller link
- Credit Card over the Phone Payment
- Counter Payment at City Hall 110 E. Main St Talent
- Post Office Box 445 Talent, OR 97540
- Drop Box at City Hall 110 E. Main St Talent
- Drop Box Medicap Pharmacy 205 N Pacific Hwy Talent

We hope these payment options make it easier for you to pay your utility bill each month. Watch for additional changes to come as we continue to improve our utility billing process. If you have questions, please call Utility Billing at 541-535-1566