



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

The first of the year is a time of hope for the coming year. Before we look forward, please join me in thanking Bill Cecil for his dedicated service as Mayor. Mayor Cecil recently received a plaque in gratitude, for which he humbly remarked "I hope I have left a mark on our community, now let's all eat cake!" Well done sir!



Looking Forward, I am excited about rejoining seasoned greats, Councilors EJ McManus and Theresa Cooke with whom I have worked for many years. Also, Councilors Joan Dean and Ryan Pederson, who were just elected after serving very well their respective appointments. It will be grand to reunite with newly elected Councilor Daniel Wise; we served together for years on the Planning Commission. I also join newly appointed Councilor Anthony Abshire, who is clearly very skilled. These great Councilors, along with our dedicated Staff, selfless Commissioners, Committee members and volunteers, all work hard to realize a vision for Talent. I am honored to rejoin them, in my new role as Mayor.

In the first quarter, we will review the agenda items that I represented during the campaign, which Talent elected. We will discuss how the Council wishes to insert those items into our future goals. I will soon present the State of the City, with input from City Manager Tom Corrigan. We will work to fill vacancies on Committees and Commissions. Along with the great leadership of Council liaisons, Commission and Committee chairs; we will soon have a summit meeting to share our goals, skills and momentum.

As we finalize the goals of 2014 and look toward the promise of new goals in 2015, I will work hard, communicate well and earn your confidence. I am truly grateful for your trust.

In closing, a quote from Talent's 2014 citizen of the year, "Talent is easy to love because it is easy to take part in," Elizabeth Zwick.

Darby Stricker, Mayor of Talent
mayor@cityoftalent.org

For Committee/Commission openings visit <http://www.cityoftalent.org/> or call (541)535-1566

News from the Public Works Department



In an effort to help citizens on those freezing weather days, Talent Public Works has just begun spreading sand over some of our icy streets early in the morning. Jackson County will still do the plowing, however it will be great to see those blinking lights out there helping our citizens to be safer. The truck was refurbished after being donated by Avista Gas Utility. If you see the sander coming your way please stay back a safe distance of 100 ft.

If you have any questions or comments please contact Bret Marshall at 541-535-3828 or email: bmarshall@cityoftalent.org

Welcome Chief Welburn



On behalf of Jackson County Fire District 5 I would like to wish everyone a Happy New Year! As many of you know, Chief Dan Marshall has retired after 44 years in the fire service, with the past 30 years as Fire Chief at Fire District 5. We wish him a happy retirement! Additionally, I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself, Darin Welburn, as the new Fire Chief. I have been in the fire service for over 33 years, with 27 of those years with Fire District 5. I grew up in Talent and attended Phoenix High School. I went on to graduate from Southern Oregon State College in 1986 with a Bachelor of Science in Education. I was hired at the Fire District in 1987. I received a Bachelors in Fire Service Administration in 1996 and was promoted to Division Chief of Operations and Training the

same year. It has been an honor and pleasure to serve our community for most of my adult life and I enjoy the friendships that I have made with so many of you. I look forward to the opportunities and challenges that will come as Fire Chief and want to thank the community for the support they have shown to the Fire District throughout the years. If you have questions don't hesitate to contact us here at the Fire District anytime.

Thank you
Darin Welburn FireChief

News from Community Development

Gutter & storm drain check

According to the Western Regional Climate Center, the Rogue Valley receives on average, the

most snowfall throughout the month of January. With this abundance of snowfall and freezing

conditions comes an increased risk of property damage due to extra weight being added to gutters and roofing. A backup in the gutters could result in structural damage, localized flooding, and hefty repair bills. Residents are encouraged to check their gutters and roofing for adequate drainage. This could be accomplished at the same time holiday lights are being taken down for the year, sparing an additional trip up the ladder.

Fallen leaves and debris also pose a risk to the efficacy of storm drains. Blockages to these

systems could result in property damage as well. Residents are asked to occasionally check nearby storm drains and clear away material that could potentially obstruct these systems. If a substantial drain obstruction is observed, or flooding occurs call **Talent Public Works at:**

541-535-3828. Additionally, if a spill, or the introduction of anything other than rainwater into the stormwater system is observed, call: **Rogue Valley Sewer Services at: 541-779-4144, 24 Hour Emergency Phone: 541-664-6300.**

News from TPAC

The next art show at City Hall (beginning in mid-January) will begin a semi-permanent exhibition and sampling of a wide range of local 2D and 3D work, representing many local artists. This first show will invite back many of the fine artists we've shown over the years as well as new artists. Thank you for your interest and support. ~TPAC

News from Talent PD By Chief Mike Moran

I hope your new year is a great one for you. The Talent Police Department appreciates the community support we receive. We work to provide excellent protection and service to you and we will continue to in 2015.

As I was writing this article on a very

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frozen morning, three cars were stolen in about one hour within about 5 miles of each other from South Medford to Phoenix. They were stolen because people left their cars running to warm up unattended. Not only is this a really bad idea, this also is a violation of Oregon Revised Statue 811.585, Failure to secure motor vehicle, which says in part:

A person commits the offense of failure to secure a motor vehicle if the person is driving or is in charge of a motor vehicle and the person permits the vehicle to stand unattended on a highway without first doing all of the following: Stopping the engine, locking the ignition, removing the key from the ignition.

When you leave your vehicle running outside it not only may be stolen, it sets up a serious threat to public safety if the thief decides to drive recklessly and elude the police. That occurred in one of the cases this morning. It is only common sense to not leave cars running unattended, even in your own driveway.

A Talent resident brought in a copy of a new email scam. Criminals, posing as the Parking Violations Bureau of San Jose, California sent an email about \$40 owed on a parking ticket. There was a link to click on to see the ticket. Fortunately our citizen did not do that as it likely would have been a virus of some sort. Secondly he called San Jose to confirm there was no such parking ticket. Remember: if you owe money for a criminal matter or a traffic ticket you will be contacted by official mail. Never click on any links within suspicious emails. If you have questions look up the number for the agency yourself and call them. Don't call the number given in the email.

URBAN RENEWAL NEWS

For more information contact
Executive Director Marla Cates,
execdir@talenturbanrenewal.com
541.535.6170

West Valley View Project: Due

to holiday scheduling, a few final items anticipated to be completed in December on Phase 1C construction have been extended into January. The general contractor will be visiting various parts of the construction site doing additional concrete, gravel, grading work, and clean up. TID will have its front gate relocated and its rear gate improved. Residences on West Valley View will receive underground utilities in early January. After that, Pacific Power can remove the extra power poles in the sidewalk near Talent Liquor Store, hook up the remaining street lights, and the remaining sections of sidewalk around the removed poles will be installed. At the same time, our engineers and landscape architect will begin work on the final drawings, bid documents, estimates and scheduling for Phase 1D – the installation in FY 15-16 of the plaza, landscaping and on-street parking for the segment of West Valley View between the roundabout and Talent Avenue.

The landscape concept for Phase 1D was developed during Winter 2010 with the help of over 50 community members, who envisioned the “public open space” as being low key and complimentary to Talent’s agricultural and small town atmosphere. While a variety of hardscape and water features were discussed by the community, the concept that ultimately resonated with people was one of simplicity: pavers, curved “seating walls” that serve as retaining walls for meadow mounds as well as ledges for sitting, large shade trees, boulders and benches for seating, and lighting that can be dimmed at night. The “edges” of the plaza will be fluid; adjacent property owners will be free to install different types of fences, hedges and plantings... or install no barrier at all...to suit their own needs for privacy or openness. Metal bollards – now bright yellow – will be painted to blend in with the landscape. While several people have asked if TURA will be installing public art, the answer at this time is no. Our focus is on construction and building projects that provide for infrastructure and long term needs of the downtown area. However, the plaza is designed with the idea that public art or historical features could be added in the future. Also planned is a different style of bench and lamppost to differentiate the plaza from other areas of downtown.

Three potential locations for the northbound bus stop were reviewed and evaluated by the City’s Transportation Safety Commission. After much consideration over a period of several weeks, the Commission determined that the new “bump out” at the corner of Talent Avenue and West Valley View would be the best location for loading and unloading of passengers. This location will not take up any on-street parking spaces and provides a central location.

Pictures of the master plan can be viewed on the City Website: www.cityoftalent.org

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

Currently there are two vacant seats on the Parks Commission just wait-

ing 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

Currently there is one vacant seat for a Planning Commissioner and one vacancy as an Alternate. 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.

Talent Public Art Committee (TPAC)

Currently TPAC is looking for 3-4 volunteers for specific projects in this exciting new year 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.

Urban Renewal Board of Directors

If you are interested in urban renewal projects, consider applying for a seat on the Board of Directors. The current opening is for a citizen/business representative seat with a term ending fiscal year 2016-17. An application and interview with the Talent Urban Renewal Agency is required. The Board of Directors is a policy setting body consisting of seven (7) citizens, business owners and representatives from the City Council. Monthly meetings are usually the 3rd Tuesday of the month. **For more information contact Executive Director Marla Cates, execdir@talenturbanrenewal.com 541.535.6170**

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

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to the Mayor’s 2014 Citizen of the Year: **Elizabeth Zwick!!** Elizabeth is a behind the scenes worker but her hard work does not go unnoticed. She has established the Weed Team, created the Rock Garden, initiated the Children’s Gift Shop. She has also worked very hard on the tree nursery and the Chuck Roberts Park proposed trail. Elizabeth has been involved in a number of volunteer projects in the City of Talent for at least the last 6 years. Much of her work has been a low profile effort directed at making things happen. She has been a driving force behind Together for Talent’s trail projects, gardening projects, cleanup projects, tree planting, tree nursery, Harvest Festival, etc. She is presently Together

for Talent’s liaison with the Parks Commission. Thank you Elizabeth for all your dedication and hard work all year round.

Congratulations to the 2014

Citizen Volunteer Appreciation

Award winners:

Anthony Sprague

Bobby Townsend

Bradley Wilson

Chuck Burr

Dolly Warden

Janet Chose

Jesse Hodgdon

Jim Bradley

Jim Larsen & Crew

Kristi Mergenthaler

Meadowsweet Levi

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