

An update from administration, planning, public works, police and fire departments.

In this Issue...*Officer Osborn...Public Works Superintendent Dedrick...Fire Department's Fate...Strategic Planning...*



Talent's New Public Works Super Tim Dedrick

Tim Dedrick is on the job, and already proving himself to be a quick thinking, fast worker.

Tim got a patching crew right to work when RVTD pulled their busses out of the city due to the poor quality of Talent Avenue.

At the same time, City Administrator Leahnette York contacted the bus system manager about the repairs.

This combined effort kept busses on route, through town.

Tim and his wife Samantha live in Talent. They moved to the valley from Yreka sixteen years ago when they married.

They have four daughters in Talent Schools.

Samantha must really love young people because she also teaches elementary school.

Tim's degree is from SOSC and his work experience

includes engineering, public works, forestry survey work, fire fighting, and FEMA Disaster assistance during last year's flood.

We stole him from BCVSA.



Start Training for Talent's Future

A United States Forest Service Grant for 20-thousand dollars is paying the freight for long term strategic planning and it's time to get on board.

The destination is a five to twenty year plan for Talent's development; economic, cultural and physical.

It's information that fuels this train, information gathered from and by the people most affected...us.

The engineers for our trip into the future are the Rogue Valley Council of Governments.

We're the sixth community they've kept on track for this fateful journey, but they're only driving the train.

We have to tell them where Talent wants to go.

What is needed *now* is at least eight people who are willing to talk to at least ten people each.

Those conversations can be with friends, family, strangers in the check out line at Rick's Market or wrong numbers on the telephone.

The fieldwork doesn't require probing questions or filling out long forms.

If you can ask a few simple questions, listen carefully to what people say and then write it down in their own words then you can help run the train.

Kathy Helmer, RVCOG, says that most people find it fun and interesting and end up talking to many more than 10 people. That, she says, is even better! Her number is 779-6785.

She'll tell you more about this adventure and about the first

**Training for
information
gatherers. It's
Monday evening,
March 30, 7-8:15 at
Talent Elementary
School.**

Got Questions?

If you have questions about ongoing city activities or plans you can mail or e-mail them to Administrator Leahnette York. If your question is specific to you she'll get back to you promptly. If your question affects others as well look for the answer in the **Flash** of Talent.

Fire Department Question Asked on May Ballot

Talent will be asked to fund a five year levy for fire services in the May election.

That will add about 98-cents per thousand to property tax bills within the city.

The other choice was to ask citizens to become part of Fire District Five. That move would cost an additional \$3.19 per thousand to property taxes.

The council's Fire Committee met many times with District Five managers.

The council received written and verbal opinions at three meetings; a Saturday Town Hall meeting, a meeting at Mountain View Estates for its residents and then held a public hearing at council work study.

At the next council meeting 12 volunteer police reservist were sworn in, bringing the number of Police Department

volunteers reserve officers to twenty-three.

The council remembered the Talent Fire Department hadn't been given a real chance to serve the community under full time leadership like the TPD.

And hiring a full time fire chief was the first recommendation of a BPSST study of Talent's Fire Department in 1996.

The council reasoned that if volunteers flock to strong leadership like they have at the police department, we'll have 24 hour fire protection and for less money plus we get to keep our fire department.

The council thinks that those two things, which residents seemed to want the most, are not mutually exclusive.

And that's why the council chose this levy option which will pay for

- a full time Fire Chief,
 - three full time firefighters,
 - three student firefighters
 - and the volunteer program.
- It would also cover costs for
- replacement equipment,
 - needed new equipment and set aside money for expanded future needs, which are expected soon after the building moratorium is lifted.

Clean Fill Dirt Needed for BMX Park - 535-1566

Flash Focus: Officer Osborn Reserve Officer is integral part of the solution; 18 burglaries and 9 arrests.

Darren Osborn began his career with the Talent Police Department five years ago.



Darren Osborne

During that time he gave ten to twenty hours of volunteer time every week and worked full time in retail investigation.

Darren's work in the Talent Police Department is noted for undercover work in Newbry Park, apprehending drug sellers and users.

His theft investigations have recovered thousands of dollars in stolen merchandise.

Because of his commitment and service Officer Darren Osborn was offered, and accepted, a promotion to part-time paid Talent Police officer on Dec. 17, 1997.