

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

**In this Issue...*Bus Service Changes...Fire Chief Applicants...
...New Charter Ahead? ...City Council Goals ...Nose News(?)***

Bus Route changed. Changed again.

Monday, April 13, The Rogue Valley Transit District announced in the newspapers its decision to move the #10 bus route off of Talent Avenue, south of West Valley View. Riders would have to catch the busses along Highway 99.

This news came as a double shock to the city because earlier in April the city thought it had reached an agreement with the transit system about road repairs needed on Talent Avenue, and complete resurfacing from Rapp Rd. to Alpine Ln. begins May 15.

The City of Talent also thought there was an understanding with RVRTD about communicating with the City Administrator before making decisions that affect the city's bus riders.

It's the Mayor and City Council's position that forcing riders to cross Hwy. 99 on foot is an unacceptable safety risk. Walking along Rapp, Arnos and Creel Roads, because there's no sidewalks or shoulders, add to that danger.

That message was communicated to the RVRTD's management and board promptly, but without any affect for more than a week.

The transit district's management, board chair and vice-chair maintained that the wear and tear busses suffer on Talent Ave., between Creel and Rapp Rd., plus discomfort to the bus drivers, outweigh the danger posed to passengers crossing the highway on foot.

After many discussions RVRTD finally accepted a compromise offered by the city. They agreed that southbound busses will stay on Talent Avenue to Rapp Rd. Northbound busses will re-enter town via Rapp Rd.

Automobile speeds along Hwy. 99 south of Rapp Rd. often exceed 55 MPH and the terrain drops sharply south of Creel Rd., limiting sight distance.

The Talent Police Department recommends walking to Rapp Rd. and Talent Ave. to catch the bus rather than risk crossing Highway 99 on foot.

City Council Setting Goals

The City Council met last week for fiscal year 98/99 goal setting. First list is:

1. Pursue a stable water supply.
2. Accelerate Comprehensive Plan review.
3. Increase training opportunities.
4. Coordinate downtown planning.
5. Prepare for post-moratorium growth.
6. Improve disaster-emergency planning.
7. Instill community pride, spirit and trust.
8. Improve flow of information from staff to council.

There will be more public discussion and input before the goals are adopted.

Write or call City Hall with your input or for discussion dates.

English Heritage Gardens missed the deadline for the Talent Enhancement Month Flyer but wants to extend a 10% discount on perennials. Call 535-1761 for more May specials.



Thanks to all
Talent
Enhancement
Month
sponsors and volunteers

FIRE CHIEF APPLICANTS LOOKING GOOD.

More than 20 applicants for Fire Chief made the deadline. The City Administrator and Council were heartened by the number of qualified finalists who have at least four years experience managing both volunteer and paid fire fighters. The applicants who meet minimum qualifications will be interviewed by a board of Fire Chiefs. Fire District Five's chief, Dan Marshall, is setting up that board of experts for second round elimination interviews. Candidates who the board recommends will then be interviewed by the Mayor and City Council for final selections. If there is clear agreement on a candidate, that person will be offered the job after passing a thorough police background check and drug test.

Talent Police Reserve Officer's Nose Knows the Trouble She's Seen

Christy Willard suffered a fractured nose accompanied by eye bruising and lots of teasing after a training session accident

Christy says she had not lost her balance and was not falling backwards during a staged attack by another officer. Her pseudo attacker, who is also a Talent Reserve Officer, thought Christy was falling backwards, and he reached out to catch her.

This is a good time to explain that her attacker, known as RED MAN, is wrapped up pretty good in layers of red plastic. That's because Christy, and other officers, were being trained in the use of an ASP telescoping baton, which is also cushioned during these training sessions.

So Christy, who allegedly was not falling, pulled herself upright just as the bubble-wrap-shrouded RED MAN reached out to allegedly rescue her. Hand and nose made contact.



Ice was applied to Officer Willard's proboscis after which she finished the exercise and received her certification. She says one reason she was able to take the accident in stride is because this is the second time her nose was broken.

Officer Willard works part time as a Community Service Officer in the City of Medford. She's been a Talent Reserve Officer since January of this year. Her career goals are to not break her nose any more and to become a full-time law enforcement officer.

A Flood Plan



is being created. Completion of the plan by January 1999 is a FEMA requirement. It's part of the agreement for grant funds that paid for the two home sites on Joseph Dr. after the 1997 New Years Day flood destroyed one house and undermined the other so severely it had to be moved. When the Flood Mitigation plan is complete, the city will receive five-thousand dollars to carry it out. The advisory group for this project is the Emergency Preparedness Committee.