

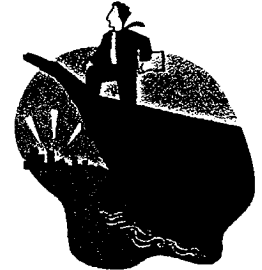


THE *FLASH* OF TALENT

February 24, 1999

An update from City Administration, Planning, Public Works, Police and Fire Departments. Vol. 1 No. 24

VINCE MAZZI ...Talent's newest City Council member!!! Welcome aboard!



Vince Mazzi was appointed as the City Council's newest member, and when asked what he is looking forward to in his new position, he replied, "I am interested in addressing the issues faced by the city of Talent from a sustainable growth point of view." He admits to not being a politician, but his willingness to take an active part in the community prompted him to apply for City Council. "I am happy to contribute to the community," Vince added.

Vince spends a lot of his free time practicing Aikido, a defensive martial art. In fact, it was through an Aikido seminar that Vince came to Southern Oregon. "About a year ago, I came down for a seminar and was impressed by the valley's good people, mild weather, and picturesque mountains." Vince moved to Talent from Eugene in July of 1998. Vince is an avid reader (Richard Bach is his favorite author). When he is not practicing Aikido or in the middle of a good book, you will find him in his garage working on his motorcycle. We would like to welcome Vince Mazzi to Talent's City Council. If you would like to greet our new City Councilor or contact him for any reason in the future, send e-mail to: vmazzi@yahoo.com



Attention Library Users!

This is your chance to get involved with the future design of your library! Have you ever walked into a library and thought, "I wish there was more room to sit? To look at books? To browse the aisles?" Well, here's your chance to share those ideas.



Architects, who will design Jackson County Libraries for the 21st century, want to hear from you. They are conducting 15 public meetings, including one here in Talent. They would like citizens to become involved to help address community needs. One of the meetings will be held at Talent's Community Hall, March 4, 1999, at 7 p.m. If you have any ideas, comments, or suggestions on how to improve our libraries, you are encouraged to attend. Don't let your great ideas go unheard - get involved with the future of our libraries.

The *FLASH* of Talent is published by the City of Talent

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A Helicopter Patrolling Talent?

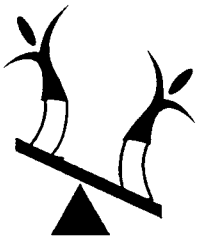


Yes, it's true and the proof is in the sky. Talent is one of six cities in the Rogue Valley that will be using a helicopter for law enforcement assistance. The helicopter was generously donated by a Talent Police Reserve Officer. Police Chief Smith said; "It's another tool in the arsenal of keeping our community safe. The helicopter will be used to track cars, locate lost people or missing children, and serve as an excellent method of obtaining aerial photography for crime scenes. It comes equipped with an infrared camera and video system, which will only be used in an actual investigation of a crime for a case." Each participating city will donate an officer to this program called *Metro Air One*. The officer chosen will be a flight observer and run the cameras, etc. "The helicopter is already on patrol and will be a valuable addition to our law enforcement community," said Police Chief Smith.

News from the Downtown Planning Meetings



On the evening of February 19, 1999, the Community Center was abuzz with excitement over a new downtown for Talent. A consensus workshop, featuring Genasci and Associates (a consulting team from Portland), facilitated a goal setting process with city council members, city staff, local merchants, and concerned citizens. As a result of the workshop, a set of goals and strategies were developed to guide the downtown redevelopment process. The following morning, after a short recap, a set of priorities were determined by the participants. This information helped to produce some innovative plans and designs for the future of downtown Talent. As a result of this community effort Genasci and Associates will compile all of the designs and comments into a set of design standards that will guide the future development of downtown. However, as one participant remarked, "It's the **people** that will make the downtown a success." That statement sums up the collective momentum of the weekend and the spirit of Talent.



The Downtown Redevelopment process is being funded by a Transportation Growth Management (TGM) grant, a joint program developed by the Department of Land Conservation and Development (DLCD) and the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT). If you would like more information on the Downtown Redevelopment process, please call City Hall's Community Development Department at 535-7401.



How does the City of Talent *measure up?*

Look for a report card enclosed in your water bill – we want to hear from you! We will be sending out a survey that allows you to tell us how we're doing. **All** citizens will have the chance to evaluate the general performance of **all** City departments – it's our report and we want you to grade us. Please take the time to fill it out – your comments and concerns are important to us. We are looking forward to suggestions on how we can better serve our community.

Coming Soon.....

the City of Talent's very own **web site!** Construction is underway – stay tuned to the ***FLASH*** for more details!



Don't let the lights fool you!

Most residents want to be alerted if an intruder comes on or near their property. They install flood lights to discourage intruders and make themselves feel safe. But what happens when yard lights fail? In a recent issue of PARADE, David Crawford of the Dark Sky Association asked yard light owners to perform an experiment at night. "Ask someone to stand in a dark place against the wall of your home, at the edge of the lighted area. Now walk along the sidewalk past your house. Can you spot the 'intruder'? If you can't, then your yard light is actually helping to conceal him!" What can you do to protect your property? "Install a shielded lamp so it only directs light where it is needed. To reduce glare and save energy costs, high-and low-pressure sodium lamps work better than traditional mercury-vapor lights," said Crawford. The purpose of a yard light is to light up a large area, but not so brightly that someone could hide in the shadows. Try this experiment and see how effective your yard lights are.



A few things everyone should know about **WOODSMOKE**

Woodsmoke is basically fuel from your firewood that doesn't burn and becomes air pollution. Complete combustion gives off light, heat, carbon dioxide, and water vapor. Smoke contains these gases and tiny particles known as PM10. PM10 stands for "Particulate Matter less than 10 Microns in Diameter," (the period at the end of this sentence is about 500 microns across).

PM10s are so small that the body's natural defense mechanisms can't keep them from entering deep into the lungs where they can damage and change the structure of lung tissue, which can lead to serious respiratory problems.

By far the biggest contributor to the PM10 pollution problem is woodsmoke. The reason is, so many people heat with wood.

Smoke hangs around in winter.

In Oregon, many communities have what is known as an "inversion problem." On cold nights, with little wind, layers of warm air act as a lid over the cold air in the valleys, trapping smoke and other pollution close to the ground. These stagnant conditions can last

for days. When that air is overloaded with woodsmoke, it can cause serious health problems for many families in your community. Children and the elderly are especially at risk from PM10 pollution.

What can we do to help?

If a wood-burning device is your sole source of heat, you will need to equip your home with a secondary source of heat by April 3, 2000. If you are renting or leasing a home, you should contact your landowner to discuss the requirement for a secondary heat source other than a wood-burning device. The City Council adopted these regulations in April of 1998 in an effort to improve the air quality of the Rogue Valley. The regulations provide homeowners with two years to install a secondary heating source. Some exemptions to these regulations are available based upon economic and special need. For information about these regulations, including exemptions, contact Leahnette York by calling 535-1566 or send e-mail: talent@cityoftalent.org.



♦ **Some of the information supplied in this article comes from the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ). For more information about woodstoves, you can contact DEQ directly at (503) 229-5177.**

Y2K - Y for year, 2 for two, and K for thousand - and YOU!



Y2K is not just a simple computer problem as some people seem to think. It is a systems problem caused when "00" indicates a year in software used by computer chips throughout the world. Only 5 percent of an estimated 20-60 billion of these computer chips contain the year problem. However, we don't know where this 5 percent is located. Do you remember what happened to the old set of Christmas tree lights when one of the bulbs burned out? You had to test each one of the bulbs to find the one bulb that was bad. Well, consider doing this with 20-60 billion chips!

The City of Talent, like so many other government agencies, public utilities, and private businesses, small and large, across the nation and throughout the world, is in the process of locating and testing its chips (looking for that burned out Christmas bulb).

Because this problem is so complex, it is important for the city, and each citizen, to prepare for possible interruptions in service. Whether or not there are service interruptions as a result of Y2K, preparations will certainly come in handy for other unexpected incidents. Take for example, the New Year's flood of 1997, or a heavy snow (we've had quite a bit lately), an earthquake, or a power outage (San Francisco recently came to a halt when human error caused a citywide power outage). Some simple and reasonable preparations will make incidents of this nature easier for each and every one of us to deal with.

Each upcoming issue of the *Flash* will contain helpful household preparation tips for you to share with your friends, family, neighbors, and co-workers, as well as continuing updates about the City's progress as it prepares for Y2K. If you have any questions please contact Leahnette York, City Administrator, by phone at 535-1566 or e-mail her at talent@cityoftalent.org.

(Some of the information contained in this article was taken from a section of the Y2K Citizen's Action Guide. The book is available online at www.utne.com/y2k).



City Council Agenda

March 3, 1999 - 6:30 p.m.

Public hearings:

- To hear testimony, discuss and consider action on the matter of establishing a moratorium on construction and land development in the city of Talent.
 - To consider the adoption of an ordinance authorizing the City of Talent to borrow moneys from the Safe Drinking Water Revolving Loan Fund by entering into a loan contract with the Oregon Economic Development Department to help finance the costs of the TAP Intertie and Water Improvements Project.
- New business:**
- An ordinance of the City of Talent authorizing the Safe Drinking Water Loan.
 - An Ordinance establishing a Moratorium.
 - Selection of new reservoir site.
 - Consideration of proposal received from Montgomery Watson to evaluate City of Talent's Water Treatment Plants.
 - Review and discussion of proposals received from the development of Storm Drain System Development Charges and a completion of a Feasibility Study to examine Storm Water and Street Utility Fees.
 - Review and discussion of proposed City Council goals for fiscal year.