



# THE *FLASH* OF TALENT

*March 10, 1999*

An update from City Administration, Planning, Public Works, Police and Fire Departments. Vol. 2 No. 1

## **Talent Avenue gets sidewalks and more! with assistance from a federal grant**



Talent is the recipient of federal funding in the amount of \$682,266 from the Transportation Enhancement Grant program! So what does this mean? It means that approximately 2600 linear feet of Talent Avenue, between Wagner Creek and Arnos Street, will become bike and pedestrian friendly with the addition of bike lanes, sidewalks, and storm drainage! The project includes landscaping, which will result in a "streetscape" that invites transit, pedestrian, and bicycle use in a rural setting while maintaining the town's character. The historic Wagner Creek bridge will be rehabilitated and will be improved with a bike/pedestrian bridge addition. It also includes the installation of bus turn outs, which are designed to alleviate traffic congestion. Each bus turn out area will include the construction of a covered shelter, benches, and street lamps for the convenience and safety of passengers. The total project cost is \$785,266, and the additional \$103,00 is funded with \$52,000 from the City of Talent, \$32,000 from the Urban Renewal District, and \$19,000 from RVTD. If you are interested in participating in the design of this project, watch for upcoming public meeting announcements. The project is scheduled to begin in January, 2000. We owe a huge "thanks" to **Nancy Kincaid**, City Planner, and **Tim Dedrick**, Public Works Superintendent for their efforts in developing this grant proposal, and making these much-needed improvements a reality for the citizens of Talent.



## **Jim Johnson - thanks for caring!**

If you were wondering who has been taking care of the large planter box in front of the Talent Police Department, you can thank this man right here. His name is Jim Johnson and he is the volunteer groundskeeper for the Police Department. He has been a Rogue Valley resident his entire life and is enjoying his volunteer work at the station. "All the roses are pruned and looking good," he smiled. Police Chief C.W. Smith loves having Jim around, "He does an outstanding job by helping to beautify Talent."

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

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# The Flood Hazard Mitigation Plan



A Draft Flood Hazard Mitigation Plan has been developed for the City of Talent. Completion of this plan was a condition of approval for approximately \$212,000.00 in grant money that the City received from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) after the 1997 Flood. The grant funds were used for two projects to purchase the two most seriously damaged residential properties on Wagner Creek and revert them to permanent open space. A third grant project allowed the City to develop a Stormwater Master Plan and Stormwater System Design Standards. All of the grant projects have been completed. This hazard mitigation plan is the last step in closing out the three grants. The City will receive an administrative reimbursement of about \$5,000.00 upon completion of this plan.

The draft can be reviewed at Talent City Hall, 204 E. Main Street, or a copy can be ordered for \$7.75. Comments on the draft that are received by **March 16, 1999**, will be considered in development of the final plan to be adopted by the City Council in April. For more information, contact Nancy Kincaid, City Planner, at 535-1566.

## An Update from the Wagner Creek Canvass

On February 27, 1999, Oregon Trout held a volunteer training at the Community Center in Talent. One week later, volunteers from Talent joined with Oregon Trout volunteers and public officials to conduct a "canvass" (survey) of homeowners on Wagner Creek. Many of the landowners who participated in the canvass remarked how they used to see fish all the time in the creek, but now they hardly see any. Wagner Creek is not only designated as sensitive fish habitat, but is also a primary source of drinking water and floodplain management for Talent. Ashley Henry, Southwest Field Coordinator for Oregon Trout, stated the importance of public involvement, "We must do everything to save the fish, but it requires everyone to participate and make sacrifices for a



common goal of seeing a larger number of anadromous fish in Bear Creek."

The community is invited to participate in a Public Forum at the Talent Middle School Library/Media Center, **Wednesday, March 10, 1999**. Wagner Creek landowners and community members will have an opportunity to review the survey results and consult with local experts who work on restoring and managing Wagner Creek. The meeting will be informal and refreshments will be served. If you would like more information, or if you would like to participate in future restoration activities, such as tree planting, non-native vegetation removal, or property tax incentive programs, please call Kevin Cronin with City Hall's Community Development Department at 535-7401 or Ashley Henry with Oregon Trout at 772-7988.



## Recycling benefits more than just the environment

The Talent Lion's Club has purchased a recycle bin for your newspapers. All the proceeds from your recycled paper will be donated to the Lion's Sight and Hearing Center in Medford. If you are not familiar with the Lion's Club, they are a non-profit organization that has had a Talent chapter since 1948. There are currently 25 members and, over the years, they have donated thousands of dollars to charitable causes. The organization focuses most of their attention on the sight or hearing impaired, including providing eyeglasses to persons of all ages. The new recycle bin is at Chuck Robert's Park – just a short drive for a good cause.

## Prepare your Home for the year 2000

Preparing for the worst doesn't mean you believe it will happen, it means only that you accept that the possibility exists. You don't need proof that your house will burn down before you buy fire insurance, nor that you will have an automobile accident to purchase car insurance. In the same way, you do not need to believe worst-case Y2K scenarios will happen to take out another kind of insurance - emergency preparedness.

The following is a list of basic supplies you may want to consider as you prepare your home for **any** possible emergency. Obviously, some of these items will be appropriate for your home, and some of them won't. You might want to store your emergency items in large covered plastic storage bins until needed.



### Supplies:

- ✓ Mess kits, or paper cups, plates and plastic utensils (to avoid wasting water and/or power to wash dishes)
- ✓ Disposable baby bottle liners
- ✓ Flashlight and extra batteries
- ✓ Manual can opener, utility knife
- ✓ Matches (a waterproof container is useful as well)
- ✓ Aluminum foil (better than dirtying pans)
- ✓ Plastic storage containers
- ✓ Needles, thread
- ✓ Medicine dropper
- ✓ Shut-off wrench (to turn off household gas or water)
- ✓ Candles, lamps and lamp oil
- ✓ Battery operated smoke alarm
- ✓ Plastic sheeting (in case of leaks, etc.)

### Pet Owners:

- ✓ Food (canned and dried)
- ✓ Chew toys
- ✓ Vitamins
- ✓ Litter
- ✓ Bedding



### Sanitation:

- ✓ Toilet paper, towelettes
- ✓ Soap, liquid detergent (antibacterial soap that doesn't use water is available)
- ✓ Feminine supplies
- ✓ Personal hygiene items (deodorant, toothpaste, etc.)
- ✓ Baby needs (diapers, ointments, etc.)
- ✓ Contact lenses and solution
- ✓ Denture needs
- ✓ Extra eyeglasses
- ✓ Plastic garbage bags, ties, various sizes
- ✓ Plastic buckets with tight lids
- ✓ Disinfectant
- ✓ Household chlorine bleach
- ✓ Room deodorizer (spray or solid, not wall plug-ins)

**Future issues of The Flash will contain additional home preparation tips.**

*Most of the information contained in this article was taken from a section of the Y2K Citizen's Action Guide, Individual Preparation for Y2K, written by Paloma O'Riley of The Cassandra Project, a nonprofit whose focus is Y2K public health and safety related issues, and community preparedness. The Y2K Citizen's Action Guide is available online at [www.utne.com/y2k](http://www.utne.com/y2k).*

# A certified woodstove *can* make a difference

Did you know woodstoves that **are not** certified waste up to 60 percent of the wood burned in them? If your wood stove is more than five years old, it probably doesn't burn as cleanly and efficiently as new certified stoves for sale today. As a long-term strategy to improve air quality the State of Oregon established smoke emission standards for all new woodstoves sold. More than 175 woodstoves have been certified to meet these standards. If you own an old inefficient stove, you might want to think about replacing it with a new, cleaner heating system. You can obtain a list of certified models from stove dealers or the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality at 1-800-452-4011. A better source of heat and less emissions are good for both the consumer and the environment. Here are a few tips for operating your woodstove:

## Build small, hot fires

The first 30 minutes in a burn cycle (after reloading fuel) is the period of greatest air pollution. A hot fire will heat the stove up enough to burn the wood completely and cleanly. It will also reduce creosote buildup in the chimney and help avoid chimney fires.



## Don't burn at night

Don't try to burn at night! Warm your house in the evening and start the fire again in the morning. Nighttime fires are a major cause of air pollution, waste fuel and create a fire hazard. Always follow the manufacturer's instructions that come with your stove.

## Burn cleanly

To burn as cleanly as possible, check the smoke coming from the chimney, viewing it against a dark background if possible. The less smoke coming out of the stack, the better.

## Don't burn garbage

Materials other than wood can release toxic fumes in your house and around your neighborhood as well as damage your woodstove. Never burn garbage, plastic, or treated wood.

## Don't burn on poor air quality days

On poor air quality days, avoid using your woodstove or fireplace if possible. Use an alternative heat source, if you have one available, until the air quality improves.



**IF WOOD BURNING IS YOUR ONLY SOURCE OF HEAT, please contact Talent City Hall, 535-1566, to discuss the wood burning regulations and how they affect you!**

## City Council Agenda Items



### Unfinished Business:

Council will review a draft Resolution adopting the policy goals and objectives of the City Council and the City of Talent for the fiscal year 1999-00.

### New Business:

- Council will meet in Executive Session to discuss potential litigation.
- Council will meet in Executive Session to interview potential auditors.
- Council will select a consultant to develop Storm Drain System Development Charges and conduct a Feasibility Study to examine Storm Water and Street Utility Fee needs.
- Bea Berry of Wellness 2000 will present the annual report relating to the City's wellness program.

**(A complete agenda packet is available for review at City Hall, 204 E. Main Street, Talent)**