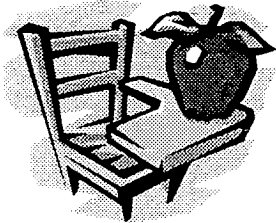




THE FLASH OF TALENT

September 8, 1999

An update from City Administration, Planning, Public Works, and Police Departments. Vol. 2 No. 13



Time to go Back to School

The Talent Police Department would like to remind parents of a few safety tips. Police Chief C.W. Smith advises, "Make sure your kids are wearing their helmets when riding their bicycles. State law requires all riders under the age of 16 wear protective headgear when riding a bicycle on a highway or on premises open to the public. As we move into Fall, it will be getting darker earlier so make sure your child is riding with reflective gear or bike lights. We will also be enforcing the speed limit in and around school zones and, remember, traffic fines are double in school zones. Our goal is to make our community a safe place for kids and we need your help. Please approach school grounds cautiously as young children may be crossing between cars in parking lots. Also, do not attempt to pass a bus that is stopped with its lights on. In fact, traffic in *both* directions must stop until the bus has turned off its lights."

Multi-use helmets are available at City Hall for \$8.95, or free of charge after one hour of community service. The helmets come in five different colors and are more durable and fit tighter than regular bicycle helmets. Come down to City Hall and take a peek (204 East Main Street). And don't forget to register your bicycles! You can register at City Hall or at the Talent Police Department, but remember to bring your bicycle with you.

Paint Your Heart Out with the City of Talent



If you've driven down Talent Avenue recently, then you've probably seen our sign. The Home Selection Committee chose 810 Talent Avenue as the home to be painted for the Paint Your Heart Out program. If you are not familiar with the program, it is an effort in which groups of volunteers get together to prepare and paint the exteriors of homes, **at no cost to the homeowners**. We will be painting on Saturday, September 18, 1999, and we are looking for volunteers. If you would like to lend a hand, please contact Allison at the City of Talent. We would like to extend huge thanks to the friendly folks at **Talent Ace Hardware, Talent Wal-Mart, and Dutch Boy Paints in Grants Pass** for donating all the paint and supplies!

The FLASH of Talent is published by the City of Talent

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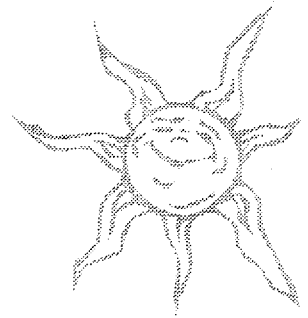
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Efficient Cooling Systems

Even after you've "tightened up" your home, your cooling system may be using too much energy to cool your house. Before you make a huge investment in a new, more energy efficient cooling system, there are several things you can do to reduce your cooling costs.

Ways to reduce your cooling load

- ◆ Seal all air conditioning ducts with mastic, and insulate those that run through unconditioned areas.
- ◆ Provide shade for east and west windows to keep the sun's heat out. Don't plant coniferous (evergreen) trees to the south if you want to take advantage of passive solar heating in the winter.
- ◆ During warm weather, delay heat-producing activities, such as ironing or dishwashing, until evenings.
- ◆ Keep the house closed tight during most of the cooling season to keep out unwanted heat and humidity. Ventilate at night by opening windows and/or using fans.
- ◆ Keep the air conditioners thermostat at 78 degrees or higher when using ceiling fans.



Selecting the most efficient cooling system

If you are looking into upgrading your existing cooling system, there are a few main types to consider:

- ◆ **Room air conditioners** are mounted in windows or in walls, and are designated to cool single rooms. They are a good choice for small houses or to cool only the rooms being used at any given time.
- ◆ **Central air conditioners** cool the entire house. They consist of a compressor outside the house, with coils inside that cool air distributed through ducts into the house.
- ◆ **Heat pumps** are similar to central air conditioners, but they can "reverse" to provide central heat during the winter.
- ◆ **Swamp coolers** work by evaporation; house air is blown over a damp pad, or a fine mist of water is sprayed into the house's air. New models are efficient in many climates.

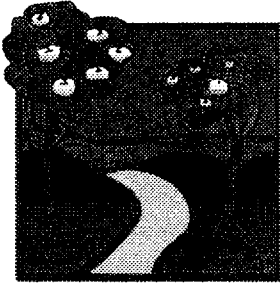
Five steps to efficient cooling

- ◆ Use the "Outside Air" option only when necessary. It costs much less to re-circulate and cool the indoor air than to condition hot new outdoor air.
- ◆ Set the air conditioner's thermostat at 78 degrees or higher, if you're still comfortable. The higher you set the thermostat, the less it will operate unnecessarily.
- ◆ Reduce humidity by using bathroom fans after showers and kitchen fans while cooking, not drying wood in your basement, venting your clothes dryer outside and keeping house plants outside during summer.
- ◆ Clean filters monthly on all air conditioners.
- ◆ Air-conditioning condensers should be professionally cleaned every other year, or once a year in dusty areas.



(Information in this article was taken from the pamphlet *The Right Kind of Comfort: Improving Your Home's Heating and Cooling.*)

Greenway Parks Master Plan project



The City has received approval for a USDA Forest Service Community Assistance Program grant to be used for a master plan for future parks and trails along Wagner and Bear Creeks. City Planner Nancy Kincaid developed a grant proposal this time last year for \$32,000 for the plan. Paul Galloway of the Prospect Range District has been working closely with Nancy to get the City through the grant qualification process. The City will contribute a 20% match of \$8,000 worth of staff time from Nancy, her new RARE assistant, and other city employees who may get involved in various ways.

In early 2000, Nancy will work with area organizations with interest and expertise in the Wagner and Bear Creek watersheds to develop a "scope of work" and a request for proposals to solicit bids on the master plan work. The consultant we hire will need to be a multi-disciplinary team with expertise in parks planning, archaeological and environmental assessment, flood plain and open space preservation, landscape design and, last but not least, facilitating public input. The product of the consultants' work will be a plan that inventories the natural features of the area and demonstrates opportunities for human activities that will improve, or avoid harm, to the environment. The public involvement part of the master plan will be to establish priorities and strategies for accomplishing community goals for the greenway areas.

If you would like to be included on the mailing list for the Greenway Parks Master Plan project, please write or call Nancy Kincaid at City Hall, P.O. Box 445, Talent, OR 97540, 535-1566.



City Council Agenda Items

September 15, 1999 – 6:45 p.m.



Public Hearing:

- To receive public input on the Open Space and Natural Hazards Element of the Comprehensive Plan.

New Business:

- Council will hear citizen's comment regarding public safety on Highway 99.
- Council will consider adopting the Open Space and Natural Hazards Element of the Comprehensive Plan
- Council will review the City of Talent's Emergency plan.
- Council will review the Ordinance pertaining to the use of helmets in city parks.

(Complete agenda packets are available for review at City Hall, 204 East Main Street)

What do you want to know more about?

An update of a certain project? An opportunity to volunteer? We want to hear from you! Write to us at City of Talent, P. O. Box 445, Talent, OR 97540 or e-mail us at talent@cityoftalent.org.

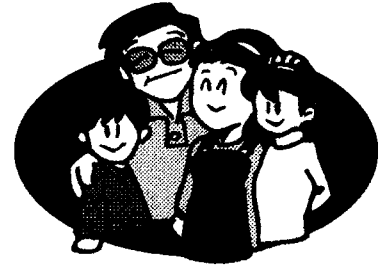
We have vacancies waiting for you!



There are two citizen vacancies and two business vacancies on the Urban Renewal Agency, one vacancy on the Urban Renewal Agency Budget Committee, three vacancies on the City of Talent's Budget Committee, and one vacancy on the Citizen's Advisory Committee. If one of these positions sounds of interest to you, please contact City Hall, 535-1566, or pick up an application at 204 East Main Street.

September is "Be Aware and Prepare" Month

There is no time like the present to get started on planning for an emergency of any kind. The key to being prepared is planning ahead – don't let an emergency catch you without a plan. The Jackson County Emergency Advisory Council recommends that you plan to be on your own for a minimum of 72 hours. The following tips can help you start, practice and maintain your family emergency plan.



- Meet with your family and discuss why you need to prepare for a disaster. Plan to share responsibilities and work together as a team.
- Discuss what to do in an evacuation.
- Ask an out-of-area friend or relative to be your family contact.
- If you are not immediately affected by the disaster, find out what you can do to help elderly or disabled neighbors.
- Find out about the disaster plan at your workplace, your children's school or childcare center and other places your family frequents.
- Make copies of your emergency plan and make sure each family member knows where the plan is located in your home.
- Teach children how to call 911.
- Make sure each capable family member knows how and when to turn off the water, gas and electricity at the main switches.
- Check for adequate insurance coverage and make sure you know the details of your coverage.
- Install an A-B-C-type fire extinguisher in your home, teach each capable family member how to use it and show them where it is kept.
- Install smoke detectors on each level of your home, especially near bedrooms.
- Review your plan every six months so everyone remembers what to do.
- Conduct fire and emergency evacuation drills.
- Test and recharge your fire extinguisher according to manufacturer's instructions.
- Test your smoke detectors monthly. Change the batteries every six months and clean the dust from the detector each time you change the batteries.
- Replace stored water and food every six months.

(The information in this article comes from Jackson County Emergency Management Advisory Council's *Jackson County Emergency Preparedness Plan for Families*. If you did not receive your free copy, please stop by 204 East Main Street – there are still booklets available.)