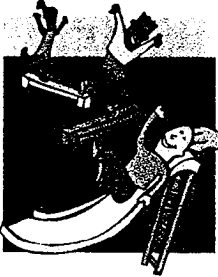




THE FLASH OF TALENT
November 10, 1999
 An update from City Administration, Planning, Public Works, and Police Departments. Vol. 2 No. 17

Chuck Robert's Park Playground



The Talent Parks and Recreation Commission announced the arrival of the new playground equipment for Chuck Robert's Park! They are ready to move forward on this project and would like to invite you to get involved. They are hosting a discussion dedicated to the status and future plans of this project, and also upcoming fundraisers and volunteer opportunities. Join them at 7 p.m., Wednesday, November 17, 1999, at the Talent Community Center. Child care will be provided.



Volunteers Needed for Community Tree Inventory

As a step towards attaining Tree City U.S.A. status, the City of Talent is conducting a community tree inventory. Community tree inventories of publicly managed parks and right-of-ways are a first step towards good management of tree resources. Tree inventories determine maintenance needs, identify hazard trees, and suggest priorities to assure balance and diversity.

The City of Talent received a grant from the Oregon Department of Forestry to conduct a tree inventory. The project will involve *Upper Limb-it*, a local arborist company, and an intern from Southern Oregon University. The inventory will include finding species information, size, condition, and maintenance needs. The City will create a database of this information and will also develop a Geographical Information Systems (GIS) map of the trees within the city. The first component of the project is to determine what trees to include in the inventory. The City will be mapping trees to include in the inventory tentatively on November 19 and 20, 1999. If you are interested in volunteering with the mapping, or any phase of the community tree inventory project, please contact Matthew Mattia, Assistant City Planner, at 535-1566.



The FLASH of Talent is published by the City of Talent
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Police Reserve Academy in Talent

The Talent Police Department is sponsoring a Jackson County Reserve Academy for all police municipalities in the Rogue Valley – all agencies are welcome to send new recruit reserves to the academy. The reserve academy is tentatively scheduled to start the first week of January 2000, from 8:00 a.m. to 5 p.m. and continue through August. There is a project goal to get the academy certified through the Department Public Safety Standards and Training and the training will involve an intense 18-week state standardized field evaluation training program. The Police Department will formally request the use of the Community Hall at the next City Council meeting and an exact location will be announced thereafter. For more information, contact the Talent Police Department at 535-1253.

Upgrades to Library Park and to Talent's Community Hall

Our Public Works Department has been kept busy with maintenance and refurbishment work during the last several months. Some of the changes you may notice start at Library Park. The covered picnic table has been rebuilt and painted, the bandstand has been opened-up by removing the railing on the South side, new access stairs have been built, and the bandstand has been painted and lighting has been added. The trees have also seen the attention of an arborist for the second year now and the park restrooms have been cleaned, painted and new toilet seats have been installed.

The Community Hall has seen many improvements during the summer months as well. The Community Center Restoration Commission, volunteers and the Public Works crew have worked wonders over the past months. The interior of the entire hall was painted, including the great hall, bathrooms, kitchen, front stairs, and rear doors. Insulation was blown into the attic and two 5-ton central heating units have been installed. New replica stairs were constructed in the front of the building, and two new replica doors and a covered entrance were constructed around back. The hall has been wired for Y2K emergencies and now has a dedicated generator for emergency power.

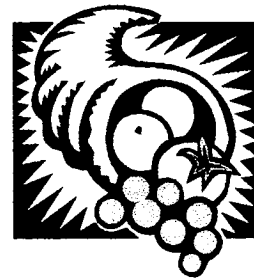
City Council Agenda

November 17, 1999 – 6:45 p.m.

New Business:

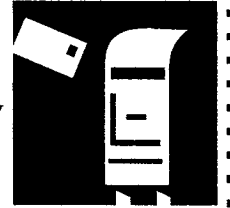
- Council will consider adopting a new flood damage prevention ordinance.
- Review City's wellness program, subject to adoption.
- Request from Talent Police Department for extended use of Community Hall.
- Review of the TAP Intertie Project
- Report of speed control for Highway 99.
- Review of lease for the Historical Society.
- Proclamation for Solutions to Hunger Day.

(Complete agenda packets available for review at City Hall, 204 E. Main Street)



*The City of
Talent wishes
you and yours
a very Happy
Thanksgiving!*

Monthly *water bills* take on a new look



Beginning in the month of December, water customers will notice a new “look” in their water bills. In order for our water billing department to become Y2K compliant, the utility software used to print and maintain customer accounts had to be upgraded. The upgrading process has been in the works for several months and is near completion. While the new bills will still be on a postcard, some of the information will be located in different places. Within the parameters of the new software, we have tried to make the new bill as easy to read as possible.

Annual Testing of Backflow Devices



On August 6, 1998, the City of Talent enacted Ordinance No. 98-649-O to protect the municipal water supply from contamination due to cross connections. City water coming into your home or business is pure, but contamination can occur within your own piping system. The potential for this type of contamination is known as “cross connection.” We must be certain that all potential cross connection hazards are identified within the city water system and that appropriate action is taken to eliminate these hazards.

The City of Talent has contracted with Southern Oregon Backflow Service to accomplish this goal in the most cost-effective way possible for both the City and our water customers. As agent for the City of Talent, Bruce Bateman, owner of Southern Oregon Backflow Service, will inspect every home and business obtaining water from the City of Talent to determine the possible need of backflow prevention devices. A report of each inspection will be filed with our Public Work Department and a copy will be given to the property owner.

If it is determined that cross-connection potential does exist, the property owner will be informed of this fact and what action will be necessary to bring the property’s water system into compliance. Mr. Bateman will also inspect properties where one or more devices are already installed, to certify that each device in service is one which is approved by the Oregon Department of Health, is properly installed, and can be reasonably accessed for testing or repairs. The rules governing installation of backflow prevention devices are mandated by law, through the Department of Health Division’s Drinking Water Program.

Under the terms of our agreement with Southern Oregon Backflow Service, the property owner will pay that firm \$25 for each backflow prevention device inspected. No charge will be made for the inspection on property where no backflow prevention device is installed and no potential for cross-connection is found in the property’s water system.

Where a backflow prevention device is installed and is in compliance, the inspection will also act as the annual backflow prevention device test. Talent Ordinance No. 98-649-O states that all backflow prevention devices within our water system must have annual testing.

Water customers will be receiving a letter from Southern Oregon Backflow Service in the near future listing a date and time for the inspection. If you need to make changes to your scheduled time, contact Southern Oregon Backflow Service at 779-8927.

An update from our Planning Department

Over the last couple of years you've seen quite a few articles in the *FLASH* about grants and meetings for planning projects. But the physical signs of what these plans accomplish are sometimes not apparent. A year of staff work and committee meetings may result in a 20 page ordinance or report that few members of the public will ever see. So it is not surprising when folks do not understand what planners do.



Planners work with their communities to establish a vision for the future. We help citizens and local decision makers to set goals and objectives. Planners have to stay informed about state and federal regulations and agency programs that help the city, or that limit the city's ability, to achieve those goals. Then we figure out what we can do locally to meet those goals and objectives through fair regulations and through public review of development proposals.

The document that articulates the City's vision for the future is the Comprehensive Plan. A good comprehensive plan includes a thorough review of current conditions. It considers the priorities of citizens and decision makers and it spells out goals. Implementation strategies are included that give direction to staff and future decision makers for actions to be taken to achieve the goals over time. Most plans are developed with a twenty-year planning horizon.

Talent is currently in the middle of Periodic Review, a state-required review of our twenty-year-old comprehensive plan and implementing ordinances. So far for periodic review we have adopted new comprehensive plan elements for Historic Preservation; Parks, Recreation and Open Space; and Natural Hazards. Other periodic review work has been completed including preliminary studies of buildable lands, and employment and population projections. Our new Wetland and Riparian protection ordinance and the Public Facilities Strategy that replaced our moratorium ordinance are also periodic review items.

The Transportation System Plan we worked on earlier this year will soon be adopted as a Transportation Element. Our new Downtown Plan will be incorporated into the Economic Element of the Comprehensive Plan. Our new RARE participant, Matthew Mattia is working on that element. A Public Facilities Element will be developed next year based upon new facility plans that are already completed. Still to be done as part of periodic review are a Housing Element, a review of our Urban Growth Boundary, and implementing ordinances for subdivisions and site development standards.

Other Comprehensive Plan amendments will be needed outside of our periodic review work program to provide the city with a completely updated plan. These will include a new Urbanization Agreement with the Jackson County, a glossary of terms used in the plan, and an updated introduction that will include discussions of the community's visioning work of the last several years and citizen involvement.

Citizen involvement is a key component of the planning process. Plans are only viable if they are representative of actual community values. We have had a healthy level of citizen involvement for most of our planning projects over the last few years, but we always encourage citizens to get involved. If you would like to be notified by mail of future opportunities to get involved, please contact Nancy Kincaid at 535-1566 or nancy@cityoftalent.org.