



THE *FLASH* OF TALENT

March 31, 1999

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

Water Rates and Conservation



As of March 1, 1999, water rates increased 5% within the city limits of Talent. The increase is due to the \$2 million grant and \$6.1 million in low-interest loans we received to complete the TAP Intertie Project. The current rate increase is a requirement of that funding package, and the rate structure will also change somewhat because the new minimum monthly billing will vary depending upon your meter size.

Now is the time to conserve and we are here to help. If you have not done so already, please stop by City Hall, 204 E. Main Street, to pick up your free water conservation kit. The kits are available to all Talent water users, but supplies are limited. Each kit contains: a low-flow shower head, a low-flow faucet restrictor, water displacement bags for each toilet tank in your home, and leak detection dye strips. We also have brochures and pamphlets available with helpful conservation and meter reading information.

If you have any questions on the new rates or would like more information on water conservation, please call City Hall, 535-1566, and look for conservation tips in the next issue of the *FLASH*.



Arbor Day Celebration



The first week of April is Arbor Week, an observance and celebration of trees in our community and across the state of Oregon. Talent Elementary School and the City of Talent will be planting a tree on school grounds to commemorate the event. With a \$250.00 grant from Stop Oregon and Litter and Vandalism (SOLV), a state-wide non-profit organization devoted to cleaning up Oregon communities, the Community Development Department will be able to purchase new trees and supplies for the school.

Trees are a wonderful natural resource in all communities. They not only provide habitat for birds and filter air pollutants while producing oxygen for us to breathe, but they beautify the streets and parks of Talent. As part of the celebration, Arbor Day volunteers will put together a short play to help students learn about the importance of trees.

Also, the Parks and Recreation Commission is developing a tree donation program to benefit our City parks. If you would like more information on the donation program and what types of trees are acceptable, or if you would like to get involved with future tree planting projects in Talent, please contact Kevin Cronin, Assistant Planner, at 535-7401 or e-mail kevin@cityoftalent.org.

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

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The Downtown Workshop



The second Downtown Workshop is scheduled for April 17, 1999, from 10:00 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Talent Elementary School's gymnasium. The first workshop was held on February 19, 1999, to facilitate a goal setting process with city councilors, city staff, local merchants, and concerned citizens. As a result of the workshop a set of goals and strategies were developed from the City's Strategic Plan, Downtown Goals, and a stakeholder analysis to guide the downtown redevelopment process. Genasci and Associates, a consulting team from Portland, have compiled the results of the February workshop and will unveil the first draft of design standards for the downtown study area. Past participants are encouraged to attend to provide a degree of continuity, but new individuals are also welcome to attend. (New participants may want to review the work completed by previous work sessions.) This event will be a community potluck, so bring a favorite dish to share with your neighbors and new acquaintances.

The Downtown Redevelopment process is 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 redevelopment of downtown, please contact the Community Development Department at 535-7401 or e-mail: kevin@cityoftalent.org.

City Council Agenda Items

April 7, 1999 – 6:30 p.m.



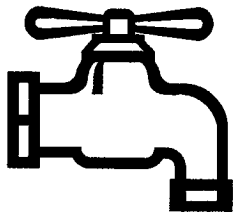
Public Hearings:

- To receive public testimony regarding the proposed Public Facility Strategy to prevent over-allocation of available municipal water, suspending the issuance of some types of land use applications and construction permits, and declaring an emergency. To meet economic development needs, the ordinance allows construction for new commercial and industrial development for which site development plan review was accepted and approved prior to the effective date of the Public Facilities Strategy. The strategy also considers the City's comprehensive plan obligations to meet housing needs. It does not effect land divisions, planning applications that do not involve new construction, home occupations, or permits for improvements or additions to existing buildings unless an occupancy change would occur that would increase the required water meter size.
- To consider testimony regarding the proposed Five-Year Capital Improvements Plan, which identifies and describes all of the City's planned capital projects.

The City Council will also consider approval of the following:

- Equipment Sale Agreement with Jackson County Fire District No. 5.
- A transfer of funds within the General, Park, Street and Water Funds.
- Adopting the City of Talent Flood Hazard Mitigation Plan.
- Establishing subscription fees for certain mailings from the City of Talent.
- Water reservoir type selection.
- Appointment of person designated to negotiate the purchase of property for the City of Talent.
- Adopting the Public Facility Strategy.
- Adopting the Five-Year Capital Improvements Plan.

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



Water Conservation Tips

Most people use 70 to 90 gallons of water per day indoors. While it may be difficult to imagine how all that water is used, a quick look often shows that much is wasted due to leaks or careless habits. From the kitchen to the bathroom to the laundry room, changing your habits may save money on your water, sewer, and energy bill and help conserve a vital resource.

The key to using water efficiently is knowing your water use habits. Do you take long, hot showers? Do you leave the water running while brushing your teeth? Do you have a plumbing leak? Water conservation actions involve both changing habits and replacing old inefficient plumbing fixtures.

Leaks

- Check every faucet in your home for leaks. A slow drip alone can waste **15 to 20 gallons a day!**
- Check for hidden leaks in your water system. Turn off all faucets in and around your house, then locate your water meter and check the reading. Wait one hour without using any water, then check the meter again. If the reading has changed, you have a leak.

Showers and Baths

- A 5-minute shower uses from 15 to 40 gallons of water. A low-flow showerhead, however, uses only 12 to 15 gallons for a 5-minute shower.
- Shower or bath? It depends on how long you stand in the shower and how you fill a tub. A partially filled tub uses far less water than a long shower...and a short shower uses less than a full tub.

Toilets

- Flush only when needed. Do not use toilet for discarding tissue, gum wrappers, cigarettes, etc.
- Put a water displacement device inside the tank of every toilet. You can make one with a plastic bottle of water weighted down with pebbles.
- Check your toilet for leaks. Drop a dye tablet in the tank – do not flush. If a color appears in the bowl after 15 minutes, replace the “flapper” valve.



Laundry

- A washing machine can use 40 gallons of water or more – whether you wash a full load or one sock! Use water more efficiently by washing full loads.

Shaving and Toothbrushing

- Leave the water off when brushing your teeth or shaving. Turn it on again to rinse. A faucet left running wide open puts about **3 to 5 gallons a minute** down the drain.

Kitchen

- Make sure the dishwasher is full before you turn it on.
- When you wash dishes by hand, don't leave the water running. Use a sink or dish pan full of wash water and one of rinse water.
- When preparing vegetables and foods, put a stopper in the sink instead of letting the faucet run.



(Information in this article came from the State of Oregon Water Resources Department. Pamphlets containing this information are available at City Hall, 204 E. Main Street.)

Individual Preparation for Y2K



No one knows for sure what will happen at the start of the next century. Unfortunately, there are no hard facts or concrete data that can tell us what to expect from Y2K. At this point, all we can do is take precautions. When it comes to health and safety, it is better to err on the side of caution and skepticism, and take appropriate steps to safeguard our families, friends and neighbors. The following information is based on worst-case Y2K scenarios to help you better prepare for...anything!

Safety – Do everything you can to prevent accidents, injuries, and fires in your home.

Check for frayed or loose rugs, unnecessary objects on stairs, halls and walkways, and protruding objects on walls (that may be bumped into in the dark), and other hazards. Common-sense safety precautions become doubly important when emergency services are uncertain.

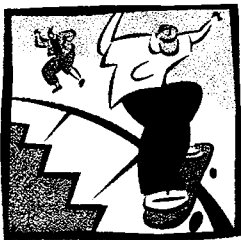
Preventing Accidents

- If you use candles, place them in a safe place away from flammable material.
- Never leave children alone with matches or near an open flame.
- Keep clutter away from stove while cooking.
- Have your chimney cleaned and flue checked before using.
- Buy a battery-operated smoke detector. If you already have one, be sure to test and clean it.
- Practice home fire drills: designate two exits from every room, make sure all family members are aware of an outside meeting place, and get out quickly.
- Never go back into a burning building to retrieve belongings or pets.



(The above information comes from the *Y2K Citizen's Action Guide*. The book is available online at www.utne.com/y2k. If you would like more information about Y2K and what the City is doing to prepare, please give us a call at 535-1566.)

Money for the Skatepark from Pacific Power!



On behalf of Pacific Power, Claudia Steinbroner presented the City Council with a check for \$7,500! She said that she was glad to support this project

because she believes all kids should have a place to have fun.

We are still in the first phase of the Downtown Park Project, but will start making strides toward completion now that the weather is clearing up. Our plans to move ahead also call for additional funding and we were thrilled to accept the check from Pacific Power. Thank you, thank you!

Place yourself on the map for the city-wide yard sale!

The City of Talent is hosting a city-wide yard sale on May 8, 1999. This is your chance to bring out your used items and hold your own yard sale, a multi-family sale, or a neighborhood sale. If you decide to participate in the event, make sure to get your sale identified on the yard sale map. All you have to do is call Nancy Slocum at 535-4119 by May 5th and she'll add you to the map showing locations of yard sales around the city. Stop by City Hall one week prior to the event so you can pick up a yard sale flag for only \$.50. The day of the event maps will be available at Talent Hardware, Rick's Market and the bulletin board in front of City Hall.

