



# THE FLASH OF TALENT

December 29, 1999

An update from City Administration, Planning, Public Works, and Police Departments. Vol. 2 No. 20

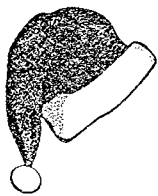
## Welcome Robert Leonard – Talent’s newest Police Officer!



Robert Leonard started as a police reserve for the City of Talent in March of 1999 and, eight months later, was hired as a full-time officer with the Talent Police Department. Robert Leonard was sworn in as Police Officer at the November 17, 1999 meeting of the City Council. In high school, Robert was an athlete – participating in cross-country, swimming and track. He continued his education at Portland State University and Rogue Community College, and started his law enforcement career as a Reserve Deputy for the Josephine County Sheriff’s Office. Less than two years later, he was hired as a Corrections Deputy, moved onto the patrol division, then went on to attend the basic police academy in Monmouth. Robert will be one of the police officers coordinating the Talent reserve training in January.

Police Chief C.W. Smith said, “Officer Leonard is doing a fine job and I’m very proud of him. Officer Leonard makes a nice addition to the Talent Police Department.”

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### Making Miracles Happen...



At the beginning of this holiday season, the City’s Court Clerk Coleen Bradley was busy locating families for the City of Talent to adopt for Christmas. In cooperation with CERVS and Access, Inc., Coleen found three families in need of some holiday cheer. Once the family members were identified, it was time to shop! City staff, employees of Jackson County Fire District No. 5 and even a few Talent residents pitched in to make our shopping list complete. The best day of the year comes when employees from the City of Talent gather for a potluck and gift wrapping party in the Council Chambers of City Hall. You’d be surprised how much wrapping goes on! In just a few short hours, everything is ready for Santa. When he arrives, he takes all the gifts, toys and food baskets, and delivers them personally. We’d like to send huge thanks to Santa and all his helpers for making this season special for our adopted families.

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The FLASH of Talent is published by the City of Talent  
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# Tips for Phone and Internet Users

With New Year's Eve and New Year's Day expected to be one of the busiest calling periods in history, U S WEST is suggesting some tips to help telephone and Internet users avoid getting caught in a communications traffic jam around the New Year. "We want everyone to have a great time when the new millennium arrives. Part of the fun will be sharing the occasion with friends and relatives, in person and by phone," said William White, U S West's Executive Director of Y2K Preparedness. "We've spent the past three years preparing the phone network for the year 2000 - and it's now Y2K ready. But just as freeways get crowded during rush hour, we may see network congestion that will mean delays during peak calling times on New Year's Eve and New Year's Day."

To reduce delays, U S WEST has joined telecommunications companies across the nation encouraging customers to minimize phone and Internet usage during peak calling periods. The two hours surrounding midnight on New Year's Eve, and again from 8 a.m. through noon on January 1, are expected to be the busiest times for phone calls and Internet usage. People can minimize delays by placing calls and logging onto the Internet at other times. If callers don't get a dial tone right away when they pick up the phone, they should hang up and wait at least 20 seconds. The delay in dial tone means the telephone network is extremely busy.

If callers get a busy signal or "all circuits are busy" message when they place a call, they should hang-up and wait at least 20 seconds. This will help keep network congestion to a minimum. The same advice applies if users have trouble connecting to their Internet service provider.

Above all, people shouldn't call 9-1-1 just to see if it works. Such calls could block emergency calls and result in the unneeded dispatch of emergency aid to the caller's location. It is always a good idea to have a list of the seven or 10-digit local non-emergency phone numbers for police, fire and medical services by the phone in case 9-1-1 is unavailable. Having a list of these numbers by the phone on January 1 could be a lifesaver if calling volumes result in delays in reaching 9-1-1. As the result of an extensive three-year, \$250 million effort, U S WEST's telecommunications network is now ready for the Y2K date rollover.

For more information on Y2K readiness, visit U S West on the Internet at [www.uswest.com](http://www.uswest.com).

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# Pets and cold weather

The Southern Oregon Humane Society would like to remind citizens that pets are people too. Ideally, the society likes to promote pets as family. In other words, pets stay inside as part of the household. If this is not an option with your pet, here are a few tips to keep in mind this winter.



Watch for signs of frostbite.

Check areas with less hair such as ears, feet, and stomach for signs of extreme cold. Watch for signs like pale skin that is cool to the touch or a decrease in sensation to a certain area. If you suspect anything to be "not normal," contact your veterinarian as soon as possible. If you have a dog house, it should be a few inches off the ground to prevent dampness. The outside should be waterproof and draft resistant and just large enough for your dog to go in and sit down, with just a little head room. You don't want your dog house to be too "roomy" because your dog's body heat will escape. A good idea is to lay down fresh straw, hay or cedar chips, and remember to change the groundcover periodically.

The society suggests to use common sense and treat your pet as you would treat a human. Outside pets should have some place to go that is dry and draft-proof to escape the elements. Make sure your pets have access to fresh water and that it is not frozen.

Also be aware that if you have outdoor cats, or you live in a neighborhood where there are cats around, it is helpful to know that cats like to curl in warm places. They love the warmth and shelter of cars parked outside and it is not uncommon to find a cat or two sleeping in wheel wells or close to the engine. A good piece of advice, before getting in your car, tap on the hood – hopefully they'll be startled enough to flee from under your vehicle. If you have any questions or concerns regarding the care or protection of your pet, please contact the Southern Oregon Humane Society at 779-3215.

## Christmas Tree

## Recycle Day in Talent

Are you wondering what to do with your Christmas tree after the holidays? Well, Scout Troop 535 has the answer – drag it to the curb and leave it! That's right. Troop 535 will assist in the pick-up of Christmas trees in Talent. The trees will be chipped and the chipped material will be used on park trails and as mulch for plants. Mayor Telerski urges all citizens of the city to set out their trees near the curb on Friday, January 7th to be picked up on January 8th between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. Donations for this community service activity are accepted and greatly appreciated.



### *Vacancy on the Planning Commission*

The Planning Commission is looking for a Talent resident to fill its vacancy. If you are interested in serving on the Commission, please pick up an application at City Hall, 204 East Main Street. The Planning Commission meets on the fourth Wednesday of every month at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers of City Hall.

## HAPPY NEW YEAR



from all of us at  
the  
City of Talent!

# 10 simple steps to reducing your **HEATING** costs

There are many no-cost or inexpensive ways to save energy with our home's existing heating system. Take a look at the following list and you'll see that some of the best heat-saving tips require very little or no money or work – just a little common sense and thought.



1. Rather than turning up the thermostat when you begin to feel cold, wear warmer clothes inside your home and add another blanket at night.
2. Don't heat empty rooms; close doors and heating vents (this tip is NOT recommended with a heat pump; it can damage compressors and reduce the system's efficiency).
3. If you have a fireplace, close the damper if a fire isn't burning.
4. Lower thermostats to the lowest possible comfortable level – 68° or lower during the day and 60° or lower at night. This tip isn't recommended without Intelligent Recovery Thermostats (IRT's).
5. Make sure the thermostat is not exposed to drafts or other cooling sources; it should be centrally located on an inside wall, away from windows and doors.
6. Use ventilating fans sparingly (especially in the winter) and only until they've done their job. One hour of unnecessary operation can blow away a houseful of heated air.
7. Filters on furnaces or heat pumps cost as little as \$1 apiece and can greatly increase your heating system's efficiency. Inspect at least once a year during cold weather and clean or replace as needed.
8. Registers, baseboards, radiators and cold air returns should be kept clean and clear of furniture, drapes and other objects. Air must circulate through and around them for maximum efficiency.
9. Heating system ducts and pipes – especially those passing through unheated areas – should be insulated and sealed against leaks. Improperly sealed and uninsulated ducts can waste up to 25% of your system's heat.
10. Install gaskets behind outlets to reduce heat loss through and around them.

**(Information in this article comes from Managing Your Home's Energy Bill. For additional information, contact the folks at Pacific Power.)**

## City Council Agenda Items

January 5, 1999 - 6:45 p.m.

### **Public Hearing:**

To hear comments on the Talent Transportation and Storm Drain Utility Fee.

### **Unfinished Business:**

Update from ODOT – John Vial will update the Council.

Discussion of interim financing.

### **New Business:**

Motion to adopt the Talent Transportation and Storm Drain Utility Fee.

**(Agenda packets available for review at City Hall, 204 East Main Street, or check out our website at [www.cityoftalent.org](http://www.cityoftalent.org).)**

