



THE *FLASH* OF TALENT

April 28, 1999

An update from City Administration, Planning, Public Works, Police and Fire Departments. Vol. 2 No. 4

NATIONAL COMPOSTING WEEK

May 2-8, 1999

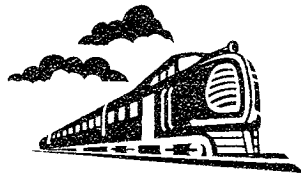
Composting is an inexpensive way to fertilize your plants and vegetables, reduce your garbage bill, and do something great for the environment. Basically, anything that was once alive will naturally decompose, such as flowers, grass clippings, or leaves. Some things you do not want to compost are diseased plants, weeds with seeds, or invasive weeds like quack grass and morning glory. All organic materials contain carbon and nitrogen in varying ratios. Carbon in brown leaves and woody wastes provides energy, while nitrogen in green grass and vegetable scraps provides protein for cell development. Alternating layers of brown and green materials can be a useful way to add materials to a pile, but a complete mixing of ingredients is preferable for the composting process.

Talent Enhancement Month and National Composting Week will both be celebrated on Saturday, May 8, 1999. Talent residents Jill Iles and Don Graham will be displaying their composting system at 1707 Talent Avenue from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m., and will answer your composting questions. And, if you are interested in purchasing a composting bin, contact Talent Ace Hardware at 535-2522 and the staff will provide you with a list of available vendors who design composting bins.

For additional information on composting, you can attend composting classes being held at Ashland Recycling Center. For upcoming dates and times, give them a call at 482-1471.

(Information in this article was provided by the City of Eugene)

The Train Depot is now under construction!



Ground *finally* broke last Thursday (April 22nd) for the Talent Train Depot Project. The current phase consists of partial sitework, including the completion of a bus turn-around area. Future planned phases will include a re-creation of the historic train depot, development of a park-n-ride, and landscaping. The current phase of the project is being funded by the Talent Urban Renewal Agency and an Oregon State Lottery grant, and should be completed within 30 days.

We owe a huge thanks to Marla Cates for her vision of the Train Depot and her grant-writing skills that secured the funding. She is truly the driving force behind this project.

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

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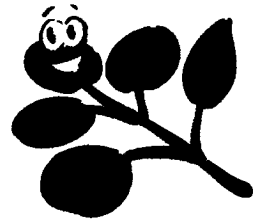
Conserve Water Outdoors

In the summer, each of us uses about **250 gallons of water a day** – that's more than twice what we use in the winter. And research suggests much of that extra use is simply wasted.

Water conservation is not just for emergencies. Water conservation today can save you money on your next water bill, reduces the cost for developing new supplies, and leaves more water in the rivers for fish and recreation. Even if you're not connected to public water and sewer services, conservation is a good idea. You'll save money on water pumping and heating, extend the life of your well and septic system, and avoid depleting groundwater supplies.

Choose the Right Plants

- When landscaping, buy plants that are low water-users. A good nursery will be able to help you make the right choices.
- Consider replacing turf with ground covers such as junipers or heathers.
- Group high-water use plants and water them together by area.



Use the Right Equipment

- A good stationary sprinkler or soil soaker will water a large area evenly. Avoid oscillating sprinklers since they tend to over-water at the ends when they reverse direction.
- Check hoses for leaks and replace washers in hose connectors. Leaks will cost you money and distribute water unevenly.
- Use a hand-held sprayer to water shrubs and special plantings so you can control where the water goes.

Take Care of Your Lawn

- Keep your lawn in good shape. Keep weeds down – they rob your lawn and plants of nutrients and water.
- Mow your lawn regularly to the height recommended for the type of grass you have. Leave the clippings on the lawn as mulch if they aren't thick and matted.
- Start a new lawn in early fall to take advantage of autumn rains and moderate temperatures.



Maintain Planted Beds

- Cultivate the soil regularly so water can penetrate and develop a good root system.
- Use mulch in rows and around plants to retain moisture.
- Keep weeds down so they do not compete for water and nutrients.
- If you have a large garden, consider using a soaker hose or drip irrigation system instead of a sprinkler. These methods also help prevent evaporation of water from leaves and upper parts of plants.

Learn How Much is Enough

- Depending on the weather, it's generally better to water about once a week and provide 1 to 1 1/2 inches of water.
- Water early in the morning before 10 a.m. Watering in the heat of the day allows the water to evaporate and watering late in the day may promote fungus and other lawn diseases.
- Don't overwater. Puddles and runoff definitely indicate too much water.
- You can put off watering another day if there is heavy dew on the grass.

(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.)

Census 2000

The U.S. Census Bureau is gearing up for Census 2000 with an aggressive campaign to obtain a "complete count". What does this mean to you? An accurate census is vital to our community in that it determines the apportionment of seats in the United States House of Representatives and our state's legislature. It is also the basis for the allocation of billions of dollars of federal, state and county funds for social and other programs.

Participating in the census is in everyone's best interest. The billions of dollars of Federal, State and local funds will be spent on thousands of projects across our nation. How and where the money is spent depends on the census numbers. For example, decisions about education, healthcare, job training, and business are based on the information about children, the elderly, the unemployed or underemployed. The best way to make sure that people like yourself are represented in the census is to complete your census questionnaire and encourage others to do so. Census 2000 is your chance to make sure that the new century begins with an accurate and complete picture of our community.

Confidentiality is a priority. By law, the Census Bureau cannot share your answers with others, including welfare agencies, Immigration and Naturalization Service, the Internal Revenue Service, courts, police and military.

The City-Wide Yard Sale

Don't forget to mark your calendars for Saturday, May 8, 1999, for the city-wide yard sale! Get yourself on the map of yard sale locations by calling Nancy Slocum at 535-4119 by May 5th. Yard sale flags will be available for 50 cents each at City Hall one week prior to the sale.



Check out Talent's Skatepark!

Yes, we have a skatepark! Thanks to the hard work of Geth Noble, Mike Swim, Dave Bobb, Sam McCrary, Eric Dawkins, and community volunteers who have pitched in to lend a hand.

The skating area of the Downtown Park is really taking shape. If you haven't been out there in awhile, stop by and take a look around. It is totally impressive! Most importantly, it provides a safe environment that is popular with the kids.



Fundraising efforts, however, are ongoing. We are still selling bricks for \$25 and we are also accepting cash donations. If you would like to buy a brick or make a donation to the Downtown Park Project, please contact Allison at City Hall, 535-1566, or send checks payable to: City of Talent, P.O. Box 445, Talent, OR 97540. Together we are making a difference!

City Council Agenda Items

May 5, 1999 at 6:30 p.m.

New Business:

The City Council will review a proposed Master Plan for Chuck Roberts Park as prepared by the Parks Commission. Council will also review an agreement with the United States of America relating to water storage in Lost Creek Lake. The Council will meet in Executive Session in accordance with ORS 192.660(1)(a) to consider the employment of a City Administrator/Recorder.



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

Individual Preparation for Y2K

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 to buy fire insurance, nor that you will have an 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.

What to do when the electricity goes off (courtesy of FEMA)

- First, use perishable food and foods from the refrigerator
- Then use the foods from the freezer. To minimize the number of times you open the freezer door, post a list of its contents on it. In a well-filled, well-insulated freezer, foods will usually still have ice crystals in their centers (meaning foods are safe to eat) for at least three days.
- Finally, begin to use non-perishable foods and staples.

Long term food supplies (courtesy of FEMA)

The best approach is to store large amounts of staples along with a variety of canned and dried foods. Bulk quantities of wheat, corn, beans, and salt are inexpensive and have nearly unlimited shelf life.

Stock the following amounts per person, per month:



Brown rice or whole wheat – 20 pounds

Powdered milk* - 20 pounds

Corn – 20 pounds

Iodized salt – 1 pound

Soybeans – 10 pounds

Vitamin C** - 15 grams



* Buy in nitrogen-packed cans. For babies and infants, mother's milk is best if possible.

** Rotate every two years

(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.)

An update from the Emergency Preparedness Committee

The Emergency Preparedness Committee is continuing its efforts to be ready for *any* emergency. Recently, several committee members attended an earthquake preparedness exercise at Southern Oregon University. From the exercise, we learned that Talent is pretty well prepared for a city of our size. But we were also reminded that there are some basic services that we need to be prepared to provide for ourselves in the case of a regional disaster, such as a major flood or earthquake, that may cut us off from other areas for a period of time. If you are interested in becoming a volunteer, we encourage you to contact the Talent Police Department (535-1253) so we'll know what you are willing and able to do if needed. We especially need to know of any doctors or engineers living and/or working in the area that would be available to respond to an emergency in Talent. Also, our emergency response team is in need of a structural engineer who could evaluate the safety of buildings, etc. after an earthquake or major flood.

