



THE *FLASH* OF TALENT

May 26, 1999

An update from City Administration, Planning, Public Works, Police and Fire Departments. Vol. 2 No. 6

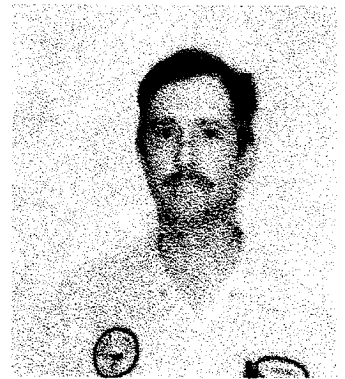
Welcome aboard Farrien Jensen!

Farrien is our newest Public Works employee.

He was born and raised in Medford and still lives right here in the Rogue Valley with his wife and his youngest of four children. He shares his property with some dogs, cats, birds, and ...a cow!



Farrien likes to play softball, but has a passion for water sports. He has spent the last 13 years working for the Talent Irrigation District as a ditchrider. "Since coming to Talent, I have done some work in the parks (ie: replacing old sprinkler heads), and also getting to know the water treatment systems. In the short



future, I will be helping to replace a water line on Lani Way. I'm looking forward to my new position with the City of Talent and helping with the growing pains the city will experience in the coming years." We'd like to extend a giant welcome to Farrien – a nice addition to the City of Talent.

Bring your ideas to the *Public Hearing!*

On Wednesday, May 26, 1999 at 7:00 p.m., the Talent Planning Commission will be holding the first of several public hearings on the matter of a new element to the comprehensive plan: "Parks, Recreation, Open Space, and Urban Forestry." The purpose of this document is to establish policies and implementation strategies for parks, recreation, open space, and other environmental resources in Talent. The document contains sections pertaining to definitions, a short history of parks, and five policy statements: preservation, conservation, recreation, interagency involvement, and urban forestry. The policy statements are then followed by a section of findings and implementation strategies. A copy of the document is available for public review at City Hall, 204 East Main Street, and copies can be obtained for the cost of copying. Requests for mailed or faxed copies will be subject to the cost of mailing and staff time to process.



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

P. O. Box 445, Talent, OR 97540

Telephone (541) 535-1566

e-mail: talent@cityoftalent.org

Fax (541) 535-7423

Down by the Riverside - A Tidal Wave of Success

On Saturday May 22, 1999 a group of twenty-nine volunteers, including Talent residents, players from the Southern Oregon University football team, and members of Oregon Trout, participated in a cleanup of Bear and Wagner Creeks. Volunteers painted the Lynn Newbry Park entrance sign, planted native riparian trees, and scoured the area for litter and trash. **Over 1,300 pounds of trash were hauled out!** A big thank you goes out to the volunteers who gave their time to be a part of this community event. The City of Talent would also like to thank Stop Oregon Litter and Vandalism (SOLV), Oregon Trout, Rogue Valley Council of Government's Water Resources Program, Safeway, and Wal-Mart for their support of this community-based project. If you weren't able to participate in the cleanup, you can still help by keeping Bear and Wagner Creek Greenways clean and litter-free. If you would like to be on a mailing list for future projects, please contact Kevin Cronin at 535-7401 or kevin@cityoftalent.org.



The City makes progress on flood issues!

No other city or county in the state has adopted a Flood Hazard Mitigation Plan that meets the standards of the National Flood Insurance Program, Community Rating System (CRS), but Talent has! Our Flood Hazard Mitigation Plan was developed by City Planner Nancy Kincaid with the support and practical knowledge of Dave Russell, Marshall Cuffe, and Colin Mills-Cannon. They made up a Citizen Advisory Committee that met periodically as the plan was developed over a period of about eight months. We also had help from three SOU Geology students who did a field assessment of flood damage after the 1997 flood.



In mid-May, Nancy received a call from regional flood insurance specialist Rob Flaner advising her of the City's accomplishment, and inviting the City to join the CRS program. A successful CRS application will result in at least a 5% reduction in flood insurance rates after April 1, 2000. When we account for other work we have been doing to reduce flood risks in the city, such as new stormwater management regulations and regular maintenance of storm drains, we may be able to qualify for a 10% reduction. The more citizens we have who participate in the National Flood Insurance Program, the easier it will be to justify the City's administrative costs for participating in the CRS program.

The Flood Plan includes an assessment of the types of risks we face, including the possibility of high water, high velocity, and dam failure events. This information serves as the basis for proposed projects to reduce future risks to life and property. Several of the proposed projects have already been accomplished, including the stormwater design standards, and better preservation of open space and riparian vegetation. The plan also encourages the promotion of the National Flood Insurance Program for all properties in floodplains and high water table areas. Answering questions about the Flood Hazard Mitigation Plan, and flood plain maps and regulations is a free service of the Community Development Department. You can call 535-7401 or stop by 204 East Main Street.

THE HEAT IS ON!

The warm weather is upon us and we would like to remind all water users that the new rates are in effect. As of March 1, 1999, the water rates in Talent have increased 5%, making summer usage costly for some users. What does this mean to you? Well, water usage is usually much higher in the summer months and research suggests that much of that extra use is simply wasted. Being aware of your personal water usage and reading your meter periodically can save you money. Here are a few tips to help you conserve water indoors and out:



- Check every faucet in your home for leaks. Just a slow drip 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 turning any water on, then check the meter again. If the reading has changed, you have a leak.
- Replace existing showerheads with low-volume showerheads.
- Flush toilets only when needed. Do not use the toilet for discarding tissue, gum wrappers, cigarette butts, spiders and so on.
- Leave the water off when brushing your teeth or shaving.
- Only run full loads when operating the dishwasher or washing machine.
- When landscaping, buy plants that are low water-users.
- Keep weeds down so they don't compete for water and nutrients.
- Use mulch in rows and around plants to retain moisture.
- Check hoses for leaks and replace washers in hose connectors.
- 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.

For more information on water conservation, please contact the State of Oregon Water Resources Department, 3850 Portland Road NE, Salem, OR 97310, (503) 378-3739. Pamphlets on water conservation are also available at City Hall, 204 East Main Street in Talent.



Let your ideas be heard at the Downtown Skateboard Park meeting!

Persons of all ages are encouraged to attend the Downtown Skateboard Park meeting scheduled for Tuesday, June 1, 1999, at 5:30 p.m. in the Talent City Hall Council chambers. The meeting will be facilitated by members of the Parks Commission who need your input on how to make this a fun summer for everyone. Topics of discussion will include park concessions and events, rules and regulations, and any ideas you bring to the meeting. *Everyone* is invited and encouraged to share comments and suggestions.



Talent Clean-Up Day!

The Garden Club and Talent's Historical Society are sponsoring a Clean-up Day in Talent on Saturday, June 5, 1999. Volunteers are needed to help clean-up City Hall, the Community Hall, and the Talent Post Office. Bring shovels, digging forks, clippers, and pick axes (if available). If you are interested in lending a hand to help beautify the grounds of our municipal buildings, please mark your calendars for June 5th and plan to meet at 9:00 a.m. on the steps in front of the Community Hall.

CITY COUNCIL AGENDA ITEMS

JUNE 2, 1999 - 6:30 P.M.



City Council meeting activity:

- Presentation of Certificate of Appreciation to Bruce Yi for his service on the Parks Commission.
- Appointment of Joi Riley to the Urban Renewal Agency of the City of Talent.
- Review the draft Stormwater System Development Charge Study Report prepared by Bill Ryan of CH2MHill.
- Meet in Executive Session in accordance with ORS 192.660 (1)(h) to consult with legal counsel concerning litigation likely to be filed.

City Council will consider:

- Adopting criteria for the Paint Your Heart Out Program.
 - Entering into a Communications System Agreement with Motorola, Inc. relating to the purchase of telemetry for the water treatment system.
 - Entering into an Enhancement Program Agreement with the Oregon Department of Transportation relating to improvements on Talent Avenue.
 - Adopting a resolution authorizing a transfer of funds within the Fire Emergency Services Fund during the fiscal year beginning July 1, 1998.
 - Adopting a Resolution amending the City's Fixed Asset and Capitalization Policy.
 - Adopting a Resolution amending the City's Purchasing Policy.
 - Adopting a Resolution regarding workers' compensation coverage for volunteers and community service workers.
 - Adopting a Resolution amending the City's Five-Year Capital Improvement Plan for fiscal year 1999-00.
 - Adopting an Ordinance amending the procedures for Local Improvement Districts.
 - Consider a recommendation from the Budget Committee regarding an adjustment of employee salary ranges.
 - Consider employee promotion recommendations from the City Administrator/Recorder.
- (Complete agenda packets are available for review at City Hall, 204 E. Main Street)**