

THE *FLASH* OF TALENT

July 26, 2000

An update from City Administration, Planning, Public Works, and Police Departments.
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Speed reduction on Highway 99

Good news for citizens concerned with the excessive speed on Highway 99 - the Oregon Transportation Commission recently approved a reduction in the speed limit on Highway 99! The signs have been ordered and will be posted in the next 2-3 weeks. The speed limit will be reduced 5-10 mph along Highway 99 through Talent.

Don't miss Talent's Harvest Festival!

The festival happens every year on the second Saturday in September. This year, the City of Talent and Jackson County Fire District No. 5 will be hosting the 27th annual Harvest Festival on Saturday, September 9th. It is a city-wide celebration starting the day with a run and parade, followed by park activities, food booths, vendor booths, live music, etc. Our theme for this year's festival is "Community First" and it's guaranteed to be fun for the whole family! This year, we'll be showing off the progress to our Downtown Park as well.

If you'd like to participate in the parade or reserve a vendor booth, it's not too late. Please contact Allison at the City of Talent, 535-1566, or write to P.O. Box 445, Talent, OR 97540. Applications must be returned to City Hall by August 20, 2000.

If you would like to participate in the run, stop by City Hall, 204 East Main Street, to pick up a registration form.

Mark this event on your calendar and plan to attend. Bring a friend and share the fun!

What's new with Jackson County Fire District No. 5?

You're looking at them! Pictured on the left is a **2000 Ford F-350**, equipped with a 250 gallon water tank and high pressure pump. Pictured on the right is a **2000 International Fire Engine**, capable of pumping 1,500 gallons of water per minute! The Ford has been in service since December of 1999 while the fire engine just went on-line July 14, 2000. The engine is fully loaded and sports the Fire District's motto, "*We still make house calls.*"

Fire Chief Dan Marshall reported that this year's fire season is the busiest fire season they have had in the past five years. Due to the hot and dry weather, firefighters have been kept busy with small brush and grass fires. That is why it is important for home and property owners to keep yards and fields of weeds, grass, and brush cut down. Chief Marshall advises equipping your home with working smoke detectors and recommends changing the batteries when you

Abandoned vehicles

The Talent Police Department is seeing a rise in abandoned vehicles around town. Police Chief Elmer Kammel reports, "Many times we find an abandoned vehicle sitting on the side of the road.

Sometimes they just break down while being driven or sometimes they are pushed into the roadway in hopes they will be towed away. In years past, a tow company *would* pick up an abandoned vehicle for free because it was worth a small amount in scrap. But with scrap prices at an all time low, it is not cost effective for tow companies or wrecking yards to respond to pick up abandoned vehicles. If your vehicle breaks down, you have an obligation to retrieve it as soon as possible. If it is a hazard, the police may have it picked up even sooner. If you have a vehicle on your property and want to dispose of it, call a local tow company or wrecking yard. They can give you advice on how to dispose of your vehicle, including paying a small fee to have someone dispose of it for you."

For advice and/or estimates on discarding used vehicles, call a tow company or wrecking yard of your choice. For additional information or to report an abandoned vehicle, please call the Talent Police Department at 535-1253.

City Council Agenda Items August 2, 2000 - 6:45 p.m.

New business:

- Tree Ordinance;
- Swearing in of an officer;
- Three liquor license renewals

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

Water Conservation - Indoor Water Use

Most people use 70 to 90 gallons of water per day indoors. While it may 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 can save money on your water, sewer and energy bill and help conserve a vital resource.

The following tips are provided to help you conserve water:

Showers and Baths

A 5-minute shower uses from 15 to 40 gallons of water. A low-volume showerhead, however, uses only 12 to 15 gallons for a 5-minute shower. Low volume showerheads are inexpensive and can pay for themselves in water, sewer and energy savings in less than

change your clocks (twice a year). Performing monthly tests are a good idea, especially during the hot and dry summer months.

If you haven't already developed a fire escape plan, sit down with each member of your family and make a plan today! Once you have mapped out your home, plan an easy way out *and* a second way out. Next, pick an outside place in front of your home where everyone will meet after they've escaped. Practice your plan so everyone will know what to do in the event of a fire.

In rural areas, Chief Marshall says it is important to make sure your address is properly displayed.

This way, fire and rescue vehicles can easily identify your property in the event of a medical emergency (without smoke to guide them). If you need help addressing your property, stop by Fire District No. 5, 716 South Pacific Highway - they'll make an address sign for you (free of charge). The numbers will be reflective so they'll be easily spotted in the dark. There is also a video for loan that you can check out on how to fire proof your home in case of a wildfire.

If you have any questions or would like more information on fire safety, please contact Fire District No. 5 at 535-4222.

hot meal site re-opens in Talent

After the closure of the Loaves and Fishes meal site on Highway 99, two senior citizens, Barbara Smith and Colleen Rynne, approached the City Council requesting the use of the Community Center as a new site to host the program. After Council consideration, permission was granted and a senior committee was formed. The committee comprised of volunteers whose goal was to re-establish the Loaves and Fishes program in Talent. After months of preparation and training, the meal site is "open for business!" Skip Stieg and Gene Altman, two members of the senior committee, have been trained as food handlers by the Jackson County Health Department and will start serving meals on Tuesday, August, 1, 2000. The meal site will be open every Tuesday and Thursday, and lunch will be served from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

The Loaves and Fishes program provides a hot meal to seniors over 60 years of age. If you are under 60 and would like to stop in for lunch, the cost is \$4. Donations will be accepted and greatly appreciated. If you would like to be part of the volunteer staff, contact Skip Stieg at 535-3845 or Gene Altman at 512-0454.

So, you want to run for City Council?

Now is your chance! Complete election packets are available for pick up at City Hall, 204 East Main Street. Packets including verified signatures must be filed no later than August 24, 2000. The following positions are subject to election: City Council Seat No. 1 (2 year term), City Council Seat No. 2 (4 year term), City Council Seat No. 4 (4 year term) and City Council Seat No. 6 (4 year term). All candidates must be registered to vote

year.

Shower or bath? It depends on how long you stand in the shower and how you fill the 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 the toilet for discarding tissue, gum wrappers, cigarette butts, spiders and so on.

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 toilets for leaks. Drop a dye tablet or a teaspoon of food coloring in the tank. If the color appears in the bowl after 15 minutes without flushing, replace the flapper valve.

Shaving/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. For most dishwashers, you do not need to rinse the dishes first – just scrape them clean.

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.

Keep a jug of water in the refrigerator for drinking so you don't need to let the faucet run while waiting for the water to get colder.

When waiting for hot water from the faucet, save the cool water for other uses.

When preparing vegetables and foods, put a stopper in the sink instead of letting the faucet run.

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.

Save hot water and energy by using detergents formulated for cold water washing. Cold water is gentler on synthetics and delicate fabrics.

(Information in this article comes from *Water Conservation, Indoor Water Use: A Guide to Water Conservation*. Pamphlets are available at City

within the city of Talent and reside within city
limits as well.

Hall, 204 East Main Street)