

THE *FLASH* OF TALENT

August 9, 2000

An update from City Administration, Planning, Public Works, and Police Departments.
Vol. 3 No. 15

TAP Project bids were opened

Construction bids for the Talent Ashland Phoenix (TAP) Project were opened Friday afternoon, August 4, 2000, in the Council chambers of Phoenix's City Hall. A total of four bids were received, ranging from \$8,833,105 to \$9,489,827. The City's engineers are currently reviewing all bids, checking them for accuracy and making sure pre-qualification requirements were met. City Council will receive the engineer's recommendation no later than the City Council meeting on September 6, 2000. Actual construction is anticipated to begin in early October.

Thanks for curtailing water usage!

Talent's City Council recently initiated the first level of the City's Water Curtailment Plan. The first level of curtailment is voluntary, and thanks to the tremendous efforts by Talent residents, the Council will look into lifting this curtailment at their next meeting on August 16, 2000. It has been reported that both reservoirs are full and preventative maintenance to the Bear Creek treatment plant has been accomplished. The City sends huge thanks to its water customers for their conservation efforts!

Public Hearing on Economic Element

Talent's City Council will be receiving public comment on the new draft Economic Element of the City's Comprehensive Plan. The Public Hearing will be held on Wednesday, August 16, 2000, at 6:45 p.m. in the City Council Chambers of City Hall.

The Economic Element provides an analysis of national, state, and local employment and economic trends. It also includes an inventory of developable land within the city limits and urban growth boundary (currently designated for commercial or industrial development), and examines future commercial/industrial land needs for the next twenty-year period. The final section outlines the City's economic goals and policies that will guide the city through the next planning period. To receive a copy of the draft Economic Element, please contact Matthew Mattia, Assistant Planner, at 535-7401.

Greenway Master Plan Inventory

The City will be requesting citizen input when it presents the preliminary results of the Greenway Master Plan Inventory on Wednesday, August 30, 2000 at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers of City Hall. The inventory is part of a larger project to develop a Greenway Master Plan for the flood plain area of Bear and Wagner Creeks located within the city limits of Talent. The Master Plan will include the results of the inventory, an assessment of opportunities to mitigate stormwater impacts on the creeks, a revegetation plan, a land acquisition plan, and a multi-jurisdictional plan to develop park improvements.

Information pertaining to the Greenway Master Plan will also be available at the Talent Harvest Festival on Saturday, September, 9, 2000. To find out more about the Greenway Master Plan, contact the Talent Community Development office at 535-7401.

How to use your water meter to test for a leak

A water meter measures the amount of water that enters your plumbing system. It is usually located near the street in front of your residence under a concrete lid. The lid is hinged and can be lifted by using a screwdriver, pencil, etc. Under the lid, there is a meter dial that looks much like a car's odometer. The sweep hand is like the second hand on a clock and measures each gallon of water, up to 10 gallons. The first number on the right is a stationary zero. The example shown reads four hundred seventy nine thousand six hundred **eighty** gallons.

To check for a leak, take a meter reading and then do not use any water for at least one hour. Take another meter reading at the end of the hour to see if the numbers have changed. If they **have** changed (even slightly), there is water going through your meter which means you have a leak. The first place to check for a leak is in the toilet. Put a few drops

New Subdivision Ordinance Taking Shape

The City recently formed a Subdivision Committee comprised of interested citizens to consider how best to regulate future land divisions. The committee is reviewing a new ordinance that covers subdivisions, land partitions, lot line adjustments and planned developments. They will also be considering how best to provide for the preservation of open space, pedestrian facilities, and mixed residential and commercial uses in some areas. The City encourages you to become involved in planning for the future of Talent. Mark your calendar for the next Subdivision Committee meeting on Thursday, August 17, 2000 at 7:00 p.m. at City Hall.

A draft of the proposed ordinance is available for review at City Hall, and can be purchased for \$5.00. If you have any questions, please contact Nancy Kincaid, City Planner, at 535-7401.

of food coloring in the toilet tank. If color appears in the bowl (without flushing), you have found your leak and may need to make some repairs.

Another common source of leaks is sprinkler systems. Sometimes leaks are only apparent when the sprinkler system is operating due to increased pressure in the lines. A plumber with leak detecting equipment can assist you in locating leaks.

If you need assistance locating your water meter, please contact the City's Public Works Department at 535-3828.

City Council Agenda Items August 16, 2000 – 6:45 p.m.

Public Hearing:

To receive comments on the Economic Element of the Comprehensive Plan

New Business:

Pump station maintenance agreement with the Medford Water Commission

Proposed Tree Ordinance

Review enactment of the first level of the City's Water Curtailment Plan

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

Bike and Pedestrian Project for Main Street and Wagner Creek Road

The City's Public Works Department reported Phase II of the Bike and Pedestrian Project will consist of construction of curb/gutter, 6 foot bike lanes, sidewalks and wheel chair ramps. The project starts on the corner of the Boys and Girls Club and extends to Schoolhouse Road then up to Christian Street. Construction should be complete by August 31, 2000.

The City asks that you please observe the speed limit when entering the construction area and, remember, traffic fines double in work zones.

Yard sale signs and advertising

As the weather gets warmer, yard sales become more popular. In the City of Talent, there are a few things you must know before advertising a garage or yard sale. For example, someone might not know they are in violation of city ordinance when they nail signs to trees, tape them to light posts or use sandwich boards to direct traffic to the correct address. Yes, it is true, all of these are in violation of City Ordinance No. 523 Section 84. The ordinance addresses notices and advertisements and it states the following: 1) No person shall attach or cause to be attached a placard, bill, advertisement or poster upon real or personal property, without first securing permission from the owner or person in control of the property; 2) No person shall attach a placard, bill, advertisement or poster upon any City property, to include light poles, trees, telephone poles or similar structures, at other than designated places at anytime; 3) Any person posting the above descriptive signs in any lawful manner shall be required to remove same within 24 hours after the event for which the notice was posted; 4) This section shall not be construed as an amendment to or a repeal of any City regulation of the use and location of signs.

There is something else to be aware of when addressing city ordinances – garage sales can be held at the same location for no longer than four days during any 30 day period, according to Ordinance No. 471 Section III. This means that you need to have a business license if you wish to hold a garage sale for more than four days in any one month.

Violators of these ordinances could be cited into Talent's municipal court.

What is a riparian area?

Riparian (rye-PAIR-ian) areas are the green borders found along streams, lakes and wetlands. They are made up of water-loving plants such as alders, willows, cottonwoods and sedges.

Riparian areas make up less than 5% of the landscape, yet contain much of the plant and animal diversity by providing food, water and shelter. In eastern Oregon, 74% of the wildlife depend on riparian zones and, in western Oregon, 94% of the wildlife use riparian zones. Leaving these areas in a healthy condition will protect benefits we all enjoy.

A healthy riparian area tends to be over 30 feet wide with mature trees and very few interruptions. Interruptions include roads, dams, and areas of patchy vegetation. A healthy riparian area is the key to a healthy stream system. Lush and diverse riparian and wetland vegetation along the water's edge will:

Slow flood flows and reduce erosion and property loss.

Secure cover for fish, birds, and other wildlife.

Keep water cooler in the summer.

Reduce water pollution by filtering out sediment, chemicals, and nutrient from runoff.

Provide important breeding habitat for birds.

Hold more water in the soil, slowly releasing it for longer season streamflows and groundwater recharge.

Talent Harvest Festival

Plan on attending the Talent Harvest Festival, Saturday, September 9, 2000! The City of Talent and Fire District No. 5 will be hosting this year's event in the downtown core area of Talent. Lots of fun, food, activities, and entertainment await! Our theme for this year's festival is "Community First" and it's guaranteed to be fun for the whole family.

If you would like to participate in the Harvest Festival as a vendor or parade participant, please contact Allison at the City of Talent at 535-1566.

The City of Talent has organized several riparian restoration projects with the most recent being a tree planting of over 250 seedlings in riparian areas along Bear and Wagner Creeks. If you would like more information concerning local riparian restoration efforts, contact the Talent Community Development office at 535-7401.

(Information in this article came from *Tips on Land and Water Management for Small Acreages in Oregon.*)