

THE *FLASH* OF TALENT

September 13, 2000

An update from City Administration, Planning, Public Works, and Police Departments.

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Back to School means Back to Basics

The Talent Police Department would like to remind parents of a few safety tips.

Police Chief Elmer Kammel advises, "Make sure your kids are wearing their helmets when riding their bicycles. State law requires all riders under the age of 16 wear protective headgear when riding a bicycle on a highway or on premises open to the public. As we move into Fall, it will be getting darker earlier so make sure your child is riding with reflective gear or bike lights. We also ask that drivers approach school grounds cautiously as young children may be crossing between cars in parking lots. Please, do not attempt to pass a bus that is stopped with its lights on. In fact, traffic in both directions must stop until the bus has turned off its lights."

The Police Department would also like to remind all drivers to obey the speed limit in and around school zones. In an effort to slow morning traffic, the reader board will be present and the police department has stepped up patrol of the area. Chief Kammel added, "Thank you for helping us make this community a safe place for everyone."

New sidewalks for Wagner Creek Road

The consensus is "WOW!" from those who have seen the new sidewalks and bike lanes on Wagner Creek Road. Dave Willard, Superintendent of Phoenix-Talent School District, came to a recent City Council meeting and expressed his thanks to Public Works Director Tim Detric for having the sidewalks and bike lanes finished in time for the first day of school. Residents and the City's mayor chimed in with thanks and appreciation.

The sidewalks are part of an Oregon Department of Transportation Urban Bicycle and Pedestrian grant program. The City was awarded a \$100,000 grant and matched funds with approximately \$80,000 to make the project happen. So far, Phases I and II are complete with new storm drains, irrigation for schools, curb and gutter, sidewalk and bike lanes for approximately 1,000 feet. Phase III will take place next summer (2001) and will

Don't miss the Talent Lion's Lumberjack Breakfast

The Lion's Club will be hosting their annual Lumberjack Breakfast on Sunday, September 17, 2000, at Talent's Community Center. Breakfast will be served from 7 a.m. to noon. Tickets are \$3 for adults and \$2 for children.

Have you been *scammed?*

The City has recently received calls from residents concerning a can drive to benefit the Downtown Park. We currently are NOT involved in collecting cans and have not received any proceeds from your donations. If you are approached by anyone asking for a donation to benefit the Downtown Park, please call the police. If possible, get a description of the vehicle as well. If you have any information regarding this scam, please contact the Talent Police Department at 535-1253.

Public Hearing for Main and New Streets

The Urban Renewal Agency of the City of Talent will be receiving public comments on their upcoming street improvement projects: Main Street between the railroad tracks and Talent Avenue; and New Street.

If you are interested in the future improvement of these two areas, plan to attend the next Urban Renewal meeting, September 19, 2000 at 7 :00 p.m. in Talent's City Hall.

City Council Agenda Items September 20, 2000 – 6:45 p.m.

New Business:

Resolution establishing a Loss Prevention Program for the City of Talent. Subject to adoption.

Review of TAP (Talent Ashland Phoenix) Agreement between participating cities and the Rogue Valley Council of Governments.

include new storm drains, curb and gutter, bike lanes and sidewalks from the Boys and Girls Club to the railroad tracks.

Public Works would like to thank the citizens of Talent for their patience and cooperation during construction. They would also like to send thanks to Phoenix-Talent School District, Talent Irrigation District, the contractors of LTM, Mountain View Paving, Timber Mountain Construction, and Reed Construction, and the utility companies of Pacific Power, Bear Creek Valley Sanitary Authority, Q-West, and Avista for completion of the projects to date.

First level Water Curtailment still in effect

Talent's City Council made the decision to remain at the first level of the City's Water Curtailment Plan after hearing a recommendation from Public Works Director Tim Dedrick. His reasons for continuing first level curtailment were the warm weather and the flushing of fire hydrants in the city. The Council will review its decision at their next meeting, September 20, 2000. Thank you all for your continued conservation efforts!

September is "Be Aware and Prepare" Month

There is no time like the present to get started on planning for an emergency of any kind. The key to being prepared is planning ahead – don't let an emergency catch you without a plan. The Jackson County Emergency Advisory Council recommends that, in the event of an emergency, you plan to be on your own for a minimum of 72 hours. The following tips can help you start, practice and maintain your family emergency plan.

Meet with your family and discuss why you need to prepare for a disaster. Plan to share responsibilities and work together as a team.

Discuss what to do in an evacuation.

Ask an out-of-area friend or relative to be your family contact.

If you are not immediately affected by the disaster, find out what you can do to help elderly or disabled neighbors.

Find out about the disaster plan at your workplace, your children's school or childcare center and other places your family frequents.

Make copies of your emergency plan

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

Request from Talent Historical Society regarding a Christmas Bazaar in the Community Center.

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

Old Time Fiddlers visit Talent meal site

The Old Time Fiddlers will be performing twice a month at Talent's Community Center. Entertainment starts at 10:45 a.m. on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of each month. Stay for lunch as Food and Friends volunteers serve up a hot meal! If you are under 60 years of age and would like to stop in for lunch, the cost is \$5. Donations will be accepted from seniors over 60.

Editor's note about the Harvest Festival

The Talent Harvest Festival Committee is comprised of (in no particular order) Police Chief Elmer Kammel, Fire Chief Dan Marshall, Public Works Director Tim Dedrick, Police Officer Jennifer Freeman, and myself, Allison Zigich. As Event Coordinator (I drew the shortest straw), I know first hand how much work went into the planning and execution of this year's celebration. In the beginning, we all joked about the Harvest Festival being the "emergency we never had" to test our communication skills, but as time went on, the joke was over. We found ourselves planning for the festival as we would plan for a disaster – making sure everyone had somewhere to be, with something to do, at a certain time. The Harvest Festival was our "drill," putting our communication, coordination and organizational skills to the test. I'd have to say we passed!

It was with pleasure that, on Saturday, September 9, 2000, I watched six months of preparation unfold. I want to thank *everyone* who helped make this year's Talent Harvest Festival a success: Jackson

and make sure each family member knows where the plan is located in your home.

Teach children how to call 911.

Make sure each capable family member knows how and when to turn off the water, gas and electricity at the main switches.

Check for adequate insurance coverage and make sure you know the details of your coverage.

Install an A-B-C-type fire extinguisher in your home, teach each capable family member how to use it and show them where it is kept.

Install smoke detectors on each level of your home, especially near bedrooms.

Review your plan every six months so everyone remembers what to do.

Conduct fire and emergency evacuation drills.

Test and recharge your fire extinguisher according to manufacturer's instructions.

Test your smoke detectors monthly. Change the batteries every six months and clean the dust from the detector each time you change the batteries.

Replace stored water and food every six months.

(The information in this article comes from Jackson County Emergency Management Advisory Council's Jackson County Emergency Preparedness Plan for Families.)

County Fire District No. 5, Talent Police Department, Talent Public Works, District No. 5 volunteers, Talent Police Reserves, Talent Community Service Officers, Phoenix Police Reserves, City staff, City volunteers and the entire community for supporting this event.

From the bottom of my heart, thank you –
Allison.

Become a Community Service Officer for the City of Talent

The Community Service Officer (CSO) program operates under the direction of the Talent Police Department. The program is designed to assist Talent's Police Department with patrols, code enforcement, liaison services, etc. This program offers work experience in law enforcement, public safety, civic affairs, and customer service. Currently, we are seeking interested individuals to apply. You do not have to be a Talent resident to become a CSO, however, you must be a U.S. citizen, at least 18 years of age, and submit to a background check. If you have a flexible schedule and would like to learn more about this opportunity, please contact Frank Falsarella at 944-0243 or for an application, stop by the Talent Police Department at 604 Talent Avenue.

The CSO's primary concern is public safety. Police Chief Kammel reports, "Our CSO's volunteer their time to make streets and crosswalks safe around school zones. They are doing a wonderful job and I ask that you please adhere to their directions. Remember, they are volunteering their time for the safety of us all."