

# THE FLASH OF TALENT

January 26, 2000

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

Vol. 3 No. 2

## "It's a Girl!"

Margot McDonald is the Talent Police Department's newest officer. Margot moved to the Rogue Valley in August of 1997 from Lodi, California, where she worked as a student officer for the San Joaquin Delta College Police Department. She was employed by Southern Oregon Training and Rehabilitation Services, but took a year off to help her daughter recover from the loss of a close friend.

Margot became a reserve officer for the City of Talent in Sept of 1999, and was sworn into the position of Police Officer at the January 19, 2000 meeting of the City Council. She comes from a line of law enforcement – her father supervised DEA agents in Holland and her grandfather was a police officer in California. She's pleased to announce that her parents and her two brothers are moving from Holland to the United States this summer.

Margot loves to ride horses! She currently has five and is getting ready to buy another. She said her passion for horses extends from her childhood and added, "I love the peace I feel when I'm riding."

Officer McDonald is looking forward to her work with Talent's Police Department. When asked what she wants others to know about her, she replied, "I'm fair, firm, and consistent."

## Planning Department sends out Economic Survey

The City's Planning Department will be sending out a survey to better understand what the City can do to help local businesses succeed. They hope to learn from local business owners what community services and new infrastructure projects they would find most valuable, what types of training opportunities would be most helpful, and what new types of businesses coming into the community would be most attractive. The results of this survey will be included in the Economic Element of the City of Talent's Comprehensive Plan. The Economic Element will describe important goals and strategies to guide commercial and industrial development for the next twenty-year period.

The Planning Department is also interested in the perspective of non-business owners. What types of new businesses would you like to see come to Talent? What community development services and City infrastructure are most important to you? If you'd like to respond to these questions or would like to be contacted about future meetings and/or workshops, please contact Matthew Mattia, Assistant Planner, at 535-1566.

## Trees and Power Lines

Pacific Power will be in our area trimming trees that are in conflict with power lines.

The following is a message from Bill Harrington, Pacific Power's Senior Area Forester:

"Pacific Power is committed to providing safe and reliable electric service that customers value. However, the presence of trees around overhead and underground power lines sometimes threatens that commitment. Trees growing too close to power lines can cause outages to you and your neighbors, especially during periods of severe storms, ice, or snow. Pacific Power protects against tree-caused outages through periodic tree maintenance. Because these activities can have a profound effect on the

## Transportation and Storm Drain Utility Fees

The old saying that there never seems to be enough time and money to do everything, may become a thing of the past (as far as the future of pot holes and the over-burdened storm drains are concerned). The Council recently enacted a Transportation and Storm Drain Utility Fee Ordinance to provide a much needed resource to maintain the City's streets and storm drains. However, this is **NOT** a tax – it is a fee to provide necessary maintenance to existing infrastructure by the people who use them or benefit from their use. The city has 12 miles of underground storm drain pipes. Half of city streets have curb, gutter, and underground storm drains, while the other half are open ditches and

appearance of trees, the value customers place on high-quality electric service will sometimes conflict with the value they place on community trees. That's why it is important to let you know how we perform this job.

#### **How do we trim?**

Our crews are professionally trained in modern tree trimming techniques and safe work practices. Limbs are pruned away from wires using techniques set by the National Arborists Association. These techniques are also recommended by the International Society of Arboriculture. Limbs are trimmed back to lateral branches, directing growth away from powerlines. Tree trimming for line clearance does not always improve a trees appearance, but these pruning methods do help protect the health of the tree and minimize regrowth toward the line.

#### **How much do we trim?**

Before beginning work, tree-trimming crews consider the species, location, and growth rate of the tree, as well as the voltage of the powerline nearby. Trees are trimmed enough so the powerlines are free of tree contact until the next trimming. Generally, crews provide a 10-foot clearance around primary power lines. After completion, limbs are cleaned up and chipped. Homeowners may request wood chips if crews are working in their neighborhood.

#### **Tree removal**

Sometimes the best solution to tree and power line conflicts is tree removal. Pacific Power removes hazardous trees that pose a threat to you and your neighbors electric service. Pacific Power seeks the property owners written permission prior to tree removal. Crews remove branches, but leave large wood for the homeowners. Stumps may be treated with an approved herbicide to prevent re-sprouting.

Never climb trees or build tree houses near powerlines, and never climb a utility pole for any reason. When working outside with antennas, ladders and other long handled tools, remember to always look up to see if powerlines are near. Never trim limbs or remove trees around power lines. Call Pacific Power for assistance.

Our goal is to maintain a balance between safe and reliable electric service and the health of your trees. This service is provided at no cost to you. Thank you for your cooperation and the opportunity to serve you."

While the streets are open streets, and there are many underdeveloped areas in need of control of water runoff. Whatever the case may be, all of them need routine maintenance and this is where the Storm Drain User Fee will be spent.

The streets are yet another issue that is obvious to frequent drivers as well as pedestrians using the cross walks. The user fee dollars will **not** be spent to construct new streets, but rather to maintain the ones we have.

The City Council adopted the following fee schedules to take effect **March 1, 2000:**

#### **Storm Drains**

##### **(1) Residential Uses/EDU/Charge per month**

Single-family dwelling/1.0/ \$1.98  
Apartment/0.66/\$1.31  
Mobile home in park/0.50/\$0.99  
Senior housing unit/0.25/\$0.49

##### **(2) All other uses**

An equivalent dwelling unit (EDU) equals 3,000 square feet of impervious area. Non-residential uses shall be charged a fee calculated on the impervious area under roof or pavement on the lot or parcel so that the storm drain utility fee shall be \$1.98 per month for each 3,000 square feet of impervious area rounded to the nearest 100 square feet. The minimum charge for developed nonresidential lots shall be \$0.49 month. Undeveloped lots without a roofed building nor paving shall not be charged a storm drain utility fee.

#### **Transportation System**

##### **(A) Monthly Charge: as noted in Schedule "A" of Resolution No. 00-552-R**

Single Family \$2.79/month  
Multi-Family \$1.93  
Mobile Home Park \$1.39  
Senior Housing \$0.58

(all others use the following formula)

##### **(1) Formula for transportation utility fee:**

Monthly Fee = Number of Units x Chargeable Daily Trip-Ends x Rate per Trip.  
Chargeable Daily Trip-Ends adjusts for *passby* trips and trip length.

The minimum charge for developed nonresidential lots shall be \$0.49 per month. Undeveloped lots without a building generating traffic nor paving shall not be charged a transportation utility fee.

## Creating a New "Smart Development" Ordinance

Last year two citizen committees worked for six months on a Transportation System Plan and a Downtown Redevelopment Plan. To put these plans into action, we now need to adopt new development ordinances that will encourage and/or require the kinds of development and transportation improvements that were prioritized in those plans. An important project necessary to implement these plans is the adoption of a new ordinance regulating subdivision design.

The State Transportation Growth Management program has granted the City about \$16,000 of direct consulting services for our new **Subdivision, Planned Development, and Land Partition Ordinance**. The draft ordinance will be developed over the next six months by OTAK, a multi-disciplinary planning firm in Portland. The City is asking for volunteers to serve on a citizen committee that will meet with the consultants three or four times over the next six months to discuss local priorities, and to comment on the draft ordinance as it is developed. For more information, or to volunteer, call Nancy Kincaid at 535-1566.

### ***Street sweeping in Talent!***

The City, in conjunction with Jackson County Street Department, has developed a street-sweeping program. This program is already in effect and city streets are being swept on the 3rd Tuesday of each month. Tim Dedrick, Director of Public Works, is requesting citizens to move their vehicles on the Monday prior to street sweeping to enable the sweeper to have complete access to the gutter line. He added, "Each time the sweeper cleans Talent's streets approximately 15 cubic yards of silt, sand, and gravel is picked up which would otherwise end up in the storm drain system or as particulate matter in the air. We thank you for your help in keeping the City clean."

## **Water Rates Increase**

In accordance with Resolution No. 98-518-R, the City of Talent will be increasing the water rates as of **March 1, 2000**. It is the second of two previously approved rate increases and the new fees are reflected in the table below. If you would like a copy of the new water rates, please stop by City Hall, 204 East Main Street. If you any questions, please call us at 535-1566.

(within City limits)

### **Meter Size (inches)/Minimum Billing Rate**

3/4 -5/8 / \$11.55

1 / 28.88

1 1/2 / 57.75

2 / 92.40

3 / 184.80

4 / 288.50

6 / 577.50

and, \$2.89 for each 1,000 gallons, or fraction thereof, for the next 3,000 gallons, and

\$3.18 for each 1,000 gallons, or fraction thereof, for the next 3,000 gallons, and

\$3.47 for each 1,000 gallons, or fraction thereof, for all additional gallons.