

THE *FLASH* OF TALENT

October 25, 2000

An update from City Administration, Planning, Public Works, and Police Departments.
Vol. 3 No. 20

Talent welcomes Meghan Mac Kenzie – its new RARE participant & Assistant City Planner

Meghan Mac Kenzie comes to the City of Talent through the RARE (Resource Assistance for Rural Economies) program and will be working with the City for one year. She is originally from Newtown, Connecticut, where her father was involved in local politics. She was introduced to the world of community development at an early age and "fell in love with it."

Meghan moved to southern Oregon one year after graduating from Southern Connecticut State University with a Bachelor of Sciences degree in History. As a recent member of REAL Corps (an Americorps program affiliated with Southern Oregon University), she was a crew leader and the Natural Resource Education program coordinator. Some of her accomplishments with the program include riparian area restoration, designing a wetlands curriculum, fuel break maintenance, pre-commercial thinning, prescribed burns, cutting and maintaining trails, and improving fish habitat at Applegate Lake.

When asked what she will be doing here in Talent, Meghan responded, "This year I will be finishing the application for Talent to become a Tree City USA. I will provide the city with an energy and environment element of the Comprehensive Plan and I'll be working on the Wagner Creek Greenway. I am very excited about my new position and I look forward to meeting all of you throughout the year."

Chuck Roberts Playground – in the works!

Installation of the playground equipment at Chuck Roberts Park is underway. Volunteers started the project on Thursday, October 19th (when the sun was shining). Friday's rain slowed progress, but volunteers still plugged away in the foul weather. The City's Public Works crews will now take over the remainder of the installation.

We would like to thank all our volunteers who have contributed so much to this project thus far: (in no particular order) Bill West, Dave Backer, Charles Harlow, Farrien Jensen, Marian Telerski, Don Steyskal, Cybele Grimes, Jodi Riker-Yap, Jerry Yap, Lisa Shapiro, Holly Haviland, Kelly Madding, Tim Dedrick, Randy Seymour, John Halverson, Scott Cantrell, Aaron Dewett, and Lester Naught. Special thanks to **Tark's Market, Figaro's Pizza, Espresso Shack** and **Subway Sandwiches** for keeping our troops "supplied."

Halloween jokes to share with friends

Q. Who won the skeleton beauty contest?
A. No body.

Q. What's a monster's favorite play?
A. Romeo and Ghouliet

Q. Where do ghosts mail their letters?
A. At the ghost office.

Q. What's a ghosts favorite fruit?
A. Booberries.

Q. What do goblins drink when their hot and thirsty?
A. Ghoul-aid.

Q. What does a skeleton order at a restaurant?
A. Spare ribs!!!

Mapping our future

The City's new Comprehensive Plan is nearly complete. After more than four years concentrating on planning for resource conservation and public facilities improvements including parks,

Let's make Halloween safe for kids

Halloween may be a fun time of year for kids, but for parents, trick-or-treat time can be a little tricky. To make Halloween a treat for all, follow these safety tips advised by the National Crime Prevention Council:

Make sure your kids dress up safely

Check that the costumes are flame-retardant so the little ones aren't in danger near burning jack-o-lanterns and other fire hazards.

Keep costumes short to prevent trips, falls, and other bumps in the night.

Try make-up instead of a mask. Masks can be hot and uncomfortable and, more importantly, they can obstruct a child's vision – a dangerous thing when kids are crossing streets and going up and down steps.

Make sure kids wear light colors or put reflective tape on their costumes.

transportation and utilities, it is time to determine how we will accommodate future growth.

The Oregon Planning Goals require cities to have enough land in their Urban Growth Boundaries to provide a twenty year supply of land for growth. Talent must plan for a roughly 2% annual growth rate. The first step to figure out whether we need to expand our growth boundary is to determine how much land is already available for residential development, and then decide how much more land, if any, will be needed.

The state Goals also require cities to provide for a variety of housing types, including low-income, single-family, and multi-family housing. Talent provides low and moderate income housing at a higher rate than most cities in Southern Oregon. We need to agree as a city about what mix of housing types we will need in the future. That will help us understand our land needs for housing, and whether we will need to expand the Urban Growth Boundary (UGB).

Our existing UGB, adopted in 1981, creates a future residential area south and west of the railroad. Our Comprehensive Plan also describes an "Area of Future Growth" west of the designated UGB area. This future growth area made sense when it was established because it is an area with quite a bit of residential development already, and because it fits next to the existing boundary in a way that would create a compact town form. A town form that is more or less square is easier to serve with utilities and streets, and is easier to navigate by foot or bike. Once we determine whether we need additional land for residential growth, we can consider whether the existing future growth area is still our best choice. The state Goals limit our ability to grow into other areas because most of the surrounding area is zoned for farm use, and is protected from development.

A new Housing and Urban Growth Element will be developed in November and submitted to the Planning Commission for review. If you would like to be on our mailing list for this important issue, please contact Nancy Kincaid at City Hall, 535-7401 or nancy@cityoftalent.org.

City Council Agenda Items November 1, 2000 – 6:45 p.m.

New Business:

Review proposal for instituting Pacific Power's Blue Sky program.

Review Resolution for conducting periodic review. Subject to adoption.

Liquor License – AM/PM Mini Market

Review Resolution adopting the City's Stormwater Master Plan. Subject to adoption.

(Complete agenda packet are available for review at City Hall, 204 East Main Street. You can also review a copy of the agenda on line at www.cityoftalent.org)

Trick-or-treaters should always be in groups so they aren't a tempting target for real-life goblins. Parents should accompany young children.

Make trick-or-treating trouble free

Make sure older kids trick-or-treat with friends. Together, map out a safe route so parents know where they'll be. Tell them to stop only at familiar homes where the outside lights are on.

Try to get your kids to trick-or-treat while it's still light out. If it's dark, make sure someone has a flashlight and pick well-lighted streets.

Make sure kids know **not** to enter strange houses or strangers' cars.

Tips on treats

Tell kids to wait until they get home before they eat their treats. One way to keep trick-or-treaters from digging in while they're still out is to feed them a meal or snack beforehand.

Check out all treats at home in a well-lighted place.

Only eat unopened candies and other treats that are in original wrappers. Don't forget to inspect fruit and homemade goodies for anything suspicious.

Consider this

Parents and kids can avoid trick-or-treating troubles entirely by organizing a Halloween costume party with treats, games, contests, music, scary stories, and much more.

Halloween can be a lot of fun for parents and kids alike – if everybody remembers the tricks and the treats of playing it safe. Have a happy Halloween!

Thank you to all our coloring contest participants!

Open seats on the Urban Renewal Agency

Once again there were so many great entries. Wow, such talent here in Talent! We would like to congratulate Lizzy Scott, our first place winner and recipient of a \$20 Wal-Mart gift certificate, Colette Pare-Miller, our second place winner and recipient of a multi-use helmet, and Daniel Kellington, our third place winner and recipient of a pumpkin! Thank you all for participating in our contest.

We would also like to send out huge thanks to Tark's Market and the Talent Parks and Recreation Commission for their prize donations. All drawings will be on display until November 1, 2000 at City Hall, 204 East Main Street.

There are currently two vacancies on the Urban Renewal Agency of the City of Talent. There is one citizen vacancy and one business vacancy. The citizen vacancy can only be filled by a citizen who resides within the city limits of Talent. The business vacancy can be filled by anyone who owns a business within the city limits of Talent. If you are interested in applying for either position, please stop by City Hall, 204 East Main Street.