

# THE *FLASH* OF TALENT

November 29, 2000

An update from City Administration, Planning, Public Works, and Police Departments.  
Vol. 3 No. 22

## ***Watch for pedestrians***

The Talent Police Department will be enforcing the speed limit along East Main Street and Talent Avenue. These are heavily traveled streets with lots of pedestrians and bicycle traffic. Please slow down when traveling where pedestrians and bicyclists are present. And, if you see someone in the crosswalk, please stop your vehicle behind the designated area and allow them to cross safely, especially elderly citizens and children who may need a little extra time. Be courteous to those waiting to cross the street as well. Stopping to let someone cross is not a crime. Let's all work together to help keep our citizens safe.

## **Crossing guards needed!**

Community Service Officer Frank Falsarella reports that the schools are in need of crossing guards. Crossing guards play an important role in ensuring a child's safety as they make their way to school. If you have morning hours available and would like to become a crossing guard, please contact Frank Falsarella at 944-0243. He is looking for individuals to assist at the schools' crosswalks from 7:30 a.m. to 8:30 a.m., Tuesday through Friday, or from 9:00 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. on Mondays.

## **How to save on energy costs during winter**

The following are some tips that can help you save on heating your home this winter.

### ***Control your thermostat***

Thermostats should be set and then forgotten. The more you change the setting during the day, the more likely you are to waste energy.

Try setting the thermostat at or below 68°F in the winter.

Turn down your thermostat by 5 to 10 degrees when leaving home for the day and when going to bed.

Cut up to three percent from your heating costs for every degree you set your thermostat back over an 8-hour period.

Remember that setting the dial to a high temperature won't heat your home quicker and leaving it there can waste a lot of energy.

### ***Heating tips***

There are many no-cost or inexpensive ways to save energy with your home's heating system. Here are a few to get you started:

Pay attention to the thermostat. Keeping the temperature a few degrees cooler can lower your heating bill and still keep you comfortable. During the day, keep the thermostat between 65°F and 68°F (18° to 20°C).

## **Lights for Life Campaign**

The Ashland Community Hospital Foundation will kick off its 2000 "Lights for Life" Campaign in Talent at the annual tree lighting ceremony on Wednesday, December 6, 2000. The ceremony starts at 6:30 p.m. in front of City Hall and everyone is invited to attend.

The goal for this year's campaign is to raise \$35,000 between the cities of Ashland and Talent. The foundation is urging citizens to join together in recognizing the importance of having a strong and healthy hospital serving the community. The annual campaign allows residents to contribute to the well-being of the community by honoring or memorializing family members and friends through donations which are symbolized by colored lights on the "Lights for Life" tree (in front of City Hall). Lights on the tree indicate donation amounts: white for \$10, blue for \$25, red for \$50, twinkle for \$100, star for \$500, and angel for \$1,000. The money raised during this campaign will be used to purchase rescue equipment for the Ashland Fire Department and Jackson County Fire District No. 5.

For more information on Lights for Life, contact the Ashland Community Hospital Foundation office at 482-7744.

## **Protect yourself this holiday season!**

Check forced air furnace filters regularly and clean or replace them as needed to keep efficient airflow through the system. Shake reusable filters outside or spray them with a garden hose. Be sure they're dry before replacing.

Close chimney dampers since warm air rises quickly up and out open chimneys. Close your damper as soon as you're certain the fire is completely out.

On cloudy days, keep drapes and blinds closed. Drapes add an extra layer of insulation. Mini-blinds also insulate, but not as much. On sunny days, open up the drapes and blinds to let in the sun's free heat.

Don't block registers, baseboards, radiators or cold air returns. Air must circulate through and around them for maximum efficiency.

Seal heating ducts and insulate those that run through unheated spaces.

### ***While You are Out***

Even when you're away, your home is still using electricity. If you are leaving for more than a few days, here are some things you can do to keep energy use down:

Lower your thermostat to 50°F - 60°F. If you turn it lower than 50°F you run the risk of frozen pipes in cold weather.

Turn off your water heater if you'll be away for more than three days. Turn an electric water heater off at the circuit-breaker panel, or set a gas heater to "pilot" or "low." You'll need a few hours to heat the tank when you return.

Unplug your waterbed heater, or lower the thermostat to 70°F when away from home seven days or more. Like water heaters, waterbeds will take time to warm up.

Unplug electrical equipment such as TVs, VCRs and computers, because they can draw power even when not in use. These appliances should be hooked up to surge protectors.

**(The above information was provided by PacifiCorp. You can visit their website at [www.pacificorp.com](http://www.pacificorp.com))**

The holidays are right around the corner and the Talent Police Department would like to advise citizens to use caution when driving, shopping, or vacationing away from home. Here are a few tips to help protect yourself, your valuables, and your home during this holiday season.

When shopping, cover items left in your vehicle from prior purchases, hold on tight to your purse or wallet and never leave valuables in your cart while shopping. When walking to or from your car, be aware of your surroundings. Look around – do not give anyone an opportunity to follow you. Try to park under or near street lamps and avoid parking in poorly lit areas. Unfortunately, there are a "select few" who take advantage of holiday shoppers.

When leaving your home for any reason, make it look like someone is still inside – leave on a few lights or maybe even a television or radio. If you're going on vacation or leaving for an extended period of time, tell a trusted neighbor when you will be gone and when you plan to return. Have somebody collect your newspapers and mail and even do a little yard work if necessary. Basically, have your home look like it's lived in.

Police Chief Elmer Kammel would also like to remind citizens that officers will perform vacation checks on your home if you register your vacation plans with the Talent Police Department. There is no cost for this service.

Simply stop by the station at 604 Talent Avenue to register your vacation plans.

Officers will then know when you are leaving and when you will be returning and can make periodic checks on your home.

Chief Kammel adds, "It is always a good idea to be suspicious. If someone or something doesn't look right to you, call the police department at 535-1253 or in an emergency call 911. We'll check it out – that's what we're here for. Let's work together this holiday season to make this a safe time of year for everyone."

## **City Council Agenda Items**

**December 6, 2000 – 6:45 p.m.**

### **New Business:**

Swearing in of Police Officer  
Shane Wilson.

Proclamation – Christmas tree  
recycle day

Review Resolution No. 00-577-R  
authorizing the transfer of funds  
within the Street Fund in the year  
beginning July 1, 2000. Subject to

adoption.

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