

## THE *FLASH* OF TALENT

December 13, 2000

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

Vol. 3 No. 23

### Welcome Officer Shane Wilson

Shane Wilson was sworn in as Police Officer at the December 6, 2000 meeting of the City Council. Shane grew up in the Rogue Valley and graduated high school from Crater. He has worked in the implementation of a Loss Prevention program before joining Talent's reserve officer program in 1998. Shane is the newest addition to Talent's Police Department and will soon be attending S.W.A.T. Team training in Klamath Falls with Talent Police Officers Heath Kocina and Robert Leonard.

The City would like to welcome Officer Wilson and congratulate him on his new position.

### Ground breaking of the TAP project

A ground breaking ceremony for the TAP (Talent Ashland Phoenix) Intertie project took place on December 12, 2000. A crowd gathered at the regional pump station site in Medford to take their turn at digging with the "golden shovel." In attendance were Talent's Mayor Marian Telerski, City Councilors Tessa West, Lisa Shapiro, and Don Steyskal, former Mayor Frank Falsarella, City Administrator Kelly Madding, Public Works Director Tim Dedrick, Talent residents Helen Seiber and Katherine Harris and representatives from the cities of Phoenix and Ashland, the Rogue Valley Council of Governments, and J Fowler Construction.

The projected completion date of the Intertie is Spring of 2002.

### Christmas Tree Recycle Day in Talent

Wondering what to do with your Christmas tree after the holidays? Why not drag it out to the curb and forget about it? That's right. All *you* have to do is set your tree curbside and Scout Troop 535 will do the rest! They will be assisting again this year in the pick-up of Christmas trees in Talent. The trees will be chipped and the chipped material will be used on park trails and as mulch for plants. Troop 535 asks citizens of the city to set their trees out near the curb on Friday, January 5th to be picked up on Saturday, January 6th beginning at 9 a.m. Please note that trees placed curbside *after* 9 a.m. will **not** be pick up. Donations for this community service activity are accepted and greatly appreciated.

### Vacancies on the Parks Commission

There are two seats open on Talent's Parks and Recreation Commission. If you are a Talent resident and have an interest in the City's parks, please stop by City Hall, 204 East Main Street, to pick up an application. The Commission meets regularly on the second Wednesday of each month.

### Be safe while shopping with your child

No matter how watchful and careful we all try to be, children can sometimes stray away from us. They can get distracted, wander off, or accidentally get separated from us while shopping. The best thing to do is make sure your children know what to do if they should get lost. First of all, make sure your child knows your full name so you can be paged. Make sure your child knows to stay in one place (rather than trying to find you) and make sure your child knows what to look for to identify a "low risk" adult who can help find you. Examples of "low risk" adults include people who wear name badges, and people who stand behind store cash registers or counters.

The next time you and your child go shopping, make a game of seeing how many people you can find who work at a store. Have your child look for name badges and people behind counters and cash registers. You can also try role-playing at home by pretending you are the child who gets lost and let your child be the parent. Have your child tell you what you should do if you get lost at the mall.

The City of Talent would like to wish you and yours a very happy holiday

## Pennies for Parks

It just takes pennies for you to help restore and maintain our city parks. The program is simply called, "Pennies for Parks," and it was established by the Talent City Council back in 1980. It is strictly a voluntary program designed to allow donations to be given exclusively for the benefit of our parks. Here's how it works: Let's say your water bill was \$16.45. If you wanted, you could write a check for \$17.00 and the difference, 55 cents, would be deposited in the Parks Fund. It's as simple as that – your pennies help our parks! If you have any questions or would like more information on the program, please contact City Hall at 535-1566.

## New maps of the Bear Creek Watershed

Now is your chance to get a brand new, fully detailed and accurate map of the Bear Creek Watershed. The map details canals and irrigation ditches, the reach of Steelhead and Trout, and where your drinking water comes from. They are 4' wide and 3' tall and are being donated to all 40 schools in the watershed. You can purchase your paper map for only \$25 or have it laminated for \$45. All proceeds will go directly to the Bear Creek Watershed Education Partners (the organization responsible for the mapping project). Bear Creek Watershed maps are available at the Northwest Nature Shop in Ashland, and in Medford at Pacific Survey Supply, Neilson Research Labs, or On The Wall.

If you have any further questions, please contact Meghan MacKenzie, Assistant City Planner, at 535-7401 or email Paul Kay at [bearmap@mind.net](mailto:bearmap@mind.net).

## Holiday Safety Tips

The folks at Jackson County Fire District No. 5 have provided the following tips to help ensure holiday safety:

### Christmas trees

Purchase fresh trees that have not begun dropping needles

Water trees often

Dispose of the tree as soon as possible after the holidays

Never dispose of Christmas trees or wrapping paper in your woodstove

### Lights

Make sure the lights are UL approved

Make sure you have good connections at all outlets

Make sure cords are in good shape

### Candles

Never leave candles unattended

Never place on or near combustibles

Keep matches/lighters/candles away from children

Always rest your candles on a fireproof surface, away from drafts.

It is best to keep candles lit for no more than 4 hours at any time.

Before lighting, always trim the wick to ¼ inch to prevent the candle from smoking.

If you see the candle smoking or if the flame grows too large during use, extinguish the candle, trim the wick, and

## An update from Public Works

The City's Public Works crews have been busy in our parks this year. Public Works Director Tim Dedrick recapped his department's progress and what they're working on now.

"The playground at Chuck Roberts Park is coming along – a slide and several overhead bars remain to be constructed. After the assembly of the play structure is complete, the support poles will be cast in concrete. Safety-fill material (bark chips) will be added in addition to a perimeter curb to contain the material. This effort thus far has been made possible with the help of community volunteers, Public Works crews, and work crews from Jackson County Community Corrections.

Public Works has also been working on the construction of a parking area at Lynn Newbry Park for equestrian users and their livestock trailers. An equestrian club has recently constructed a riding trail from Lynn Newbry to Ashland alongside the Bear Creek Greenway. However, there was a lack of parking for trailers and no place to unload horses. With the assistance of the Talent Irrigation District, Public Works crews have been able to construct the new lot, which should be open soon.

A new play structure will be installed at Library Park by Spring of 2001. The Parks and Recreation Commission and a family here in Talent have purchased playground equipment for the site.

re-light.

Keep any wick trimmings out of or away from the candle.

If the flame grows too small during burning, carefully pour off the liquid wax.

Make sure your home has working smoke detectors outside of each sleeping area and on each level.

Fire Chief Marshall and the staff at District 5 would like to extend a fire safe holiday to everyone. "Happy Holidays!"

Public Works crews have completed the reconstruction of the irrigation system at Lynn Newbry Park. This system was washed out during the flood of 1997. The improvements will allow us to once again to irrigate Lynn Newbry Park. In addition, this provides the City the opportunity to minimize our use of City (treated) water for irrigation, which will reduce future water costs.

Pay phones are being installed at the Downtown Park, Chuck Roberts Park, and at Lynn Newbry. The phones will be operational within the next few weeks, adding convenience for park users.

I'd like to thank our volunteers, Jackson County Roads and Parks and Jackson County Community Corrections crews for your support and hard work in improving our parks."