

THE *FLASH* OF TALENT

March 29, 2000

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

Vol. 3 No. 6

Talent welcomes its new City Administrator Kelly Madding

Kelly Madding comes to the City of Talent from the City of Rogue River where she served as City Administrator for almost three years. Before her time in Rogue River, she was an Associate Planner for the City of Ashland.

Kelly's first day in Talent was March 10, 2000, and she's spent the past few weeks getting acquainted with...everything! She been introduced to staff, City Council members, appointed volunteers, and she's getting familiar with projects that the City has underway. Her goals for the City of Talent? "My goals are to implement the council's goal and directives, and maintain and/or enhance levels of service within the city." She added, "My door is always open. If anyone has any issues, comments or questions, I am always available."

Mountain View Estates Social Club ...to the rescue!

The Mountain View Estates Social Club has donated \$200 to Talent's Police Department for the purchase of bicycle helmets! In the last issue of the *FLASH*, the Police Department asked for donations of new or used (in good condition) bicycle helmets. The social club responded to their need by making a cash contribution. We are pleased to report that 35 helmets have been ordered and are on their way. The City extends a huge thank you to all members of the Mountain View Estates Social Club!

The lights are coming down!

The lights on the cell tower on Highway 99 are being removed. The cell tower was approved by Jackson County and the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), but neither approval included the installation of lights. Councilor Riley brought the issue to the attention of the FAA and, as a direct result, the FAA has requested the lights be removed.

Parks and Recreation Commission

The Talent Parks and Recreation Commission will start their next meeting at 6:30 p.m. instead of 7 p.m. on Wednesday, April 12, 2000. They will be discussing the recommended procedures for the naming of parks and the procedure to follow when someone donates a tree, etc. They will also be announcing upcoming park events in Talent.

Vandalism costs money

As you may already know, the skatepark was tagged with graffiti just days before spring break. The City closed the facility while our Public Works crew worked for hours to clean it up. The cost of clean up ranges from \$500 to \$1,000 each time it is vandalized and, because the park is closed, kids are without a place to skate. Keep your eyes open and if you see anything, or anyone, suspicious at the skatepark, please call the police. The bottom line is that the City *will* clean up vandalism each and every time it happens but the cost to tax payers is unnecessary. Think before you spray and let's put our money to better use.

Current status of the TAP Project

The design engineering phase of the TAP Intertie and Water Improvements Project is almost complete. When the design is finished, the project will go to bid and actual construction will begin in Spring of 2000. The Intertie is scheduled for completion in September of 2001.

Talent's city-wide yard sale!

The City's annual yard sale is set for Saturday, May 6, 2000. Residents have already been calling City Hall in anticipation of the big event. We'll have more information available in the *FLASH* as the time gets closer.

Water Rates and Utility Fees reminder

A friendly reminder to water customers that the new rates and utility fees will appear on March's water bills, which customers will receive in April. The water rate increase is the last of two increases required by the agency funding the TAP Intertie Project. The Transportation and Storm Drain Utility fees are the result of an ordinance adopted by City Council in January of 2000. These new fees provide a much needed resource to maintain

Census 2000

By now you should have received your Census 2000 survey in the mail. Census 2000 will be the most comprehensive census ever taken and its overall outcome depends on you. Please take the time to fill out your survey. If you need assistance, help is available right here in Talent. A Census representative will be at the Community Center, Monday through Friday, 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. until April 14, 2000.

The census, taken only once every ten years, will

the City's streets and storm drains. Both the new water rates and utility fees became effective as of March 1, 2000.

determine federal, state, and local funding levels of all population based programs as well as infrastructure funding such as highways and sewer. If you have any questions, please call City Hall at 535-1566.

Storm Drains

The picture to the right is a "storm drain" or "catch basin". There are thousands of these drains located throughout the state of Oregon, including those in our city. Their purpose is to collect rain and melted snow that drain off exposed surfaces such as roads, parking lots, and driveways.

Do you know where it leads to?

Many of these basins empty into underground storm sewer systems. Their contents are quickly discharged into nearby streams, which are important habitats for trout and salmon.

Unlike domestic wastes collected by sanitary sewers, the contents of many storm sewers are not treated at sewage treatment plants prior to their discharge into a stream.

What can you do?

Please don't dump hazardous household products into storm drains. Some products, such as used motor oil, are recyclable locally. Other products must undergo special processing to render them harmless. For more information on local recycling and disposal facilities, contact your local sanitation service.

Are you polluting a stream?

Many people don't realize that hazardous household waste products that they wash or dump into these drains go right into their neighborhood streams. Oils, detergents, paint compounds and solvents, pesticides, and many other common household products often end up in streams via the storm sewers. Most of these contain chemicals that are toxic to fish, and many small discharges from thousands of households can poison many miles of neighborhood streams.

Can you do more to protect a neighborhood stream?

Yes, you can, by becoming involved in the Storm Drain Marking Program! In Talent, the program will start up again in mid April. City staff will team up with students from Talent Middle School to mark a white fish symbol beside storm drains that discharge into local streams.

This fish symbol reminds neighborhood residents that if they permit toxic substances to enter marked storm drains they may be poisoning fish in a nearby stream.

They may also be committing a crime! It is a violation of state law to dump toxic substances into Oregon waters. To report pollution and hazardous spills, contact the Department of Environmental Quality at 1-800-452-4011.

If you would like more information on the Storm Drain Marking Program, please contact Matt Mattia, Assistant City Planner, at 535-7401.

(Information in this article was provided by the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, Salmon Trout Enhancement Program)

Yard sale signs and advertising

As the weather gets warmer, yard sales become more popular. In the City of Talent, there are a few things you must know before advertising a garage sale. For example, someone might not know they are in violation of city ordinance when they nail signs to trees, tape them to light posts or use sandwich boards to direct traffic to the correct address. Yes, it is true, all of these are in violation of City Ordinance No. 523 Section 84. The ordinance addresses notices and advertisements and it states the following: 1) No person shall attach or cause to be attached a placard, bill, advertisement or poster upon real or personal property, without first securing permission from the owner or person in control of the property; 2) No person shall attach a placard, bill, advertisement or poster upon any City property, to include light poles, trees, telephone poles or similar structures, at other than designated places at anytime; 3) Any person posting the above descriptive signs in any lawful manner shall be required to remove same within 24 hours after the event for which the notice was posted; 4) This section shall not be construed as an amendment to or a repeal of any City regulation of the use and location of signs.

There is something else to be aware of when addressing city ordinances – garage sales can only be held at the same location for no longer than four days during any thirty (30) day period, according to Ordinance No. 471 Section III. This means that you need to have a business license if you wish to hold a garage sale for more than four days in any one month.

Violators of these ordinances could be cited into Talent's municipal court.

City Council Agenda Items April 5, 2000 – 6:45 p.m.

New Business:

Policy on skatepark use

Policy on Community Hall use.

Resolution authorizing issuance of a bond anticipation note in an amount not to exceed \$3,808,650 to fund the TAP Project.

Floodplain ordinance amendments.

Appointment of committee to review Greenway Master Plan proposals.

(Agenda packets available for review at City Hall, 204 East Main Street)