

THE *FLASH* OF TALENT

June 27, 2001

An update from City Administration, Planning, Public Works, and Police Departments.
Vol. 4 No. 12

Main Street Improvements

Construction on the Main Street Improvement Project will begin the first week of July. This project will involve Main Street from the railroad tracks to Wagner Creek Road. Throughout the month of July, this part of Main Street will be closed to through traffic, with the exception of residents who live in the construction area. All other traffic will be detoured.

The Main Street Improvement Project consists of adding bicycle lanes to both sides of the street and a new sidewalk on the north side of Main Street. In addition, new curb, gutter and storm drains will be constructed. The projected completion date is August 1, 2001. This project is funded by both the City of Talent and the Oregon Department of Transportation.

For more information, please contact Kelly Madding, City Administrator, at 535-1566. Also, stay tuned to the *FLASH* for project updates.

Urban Renewal Agency Presentation

Donald Burt, Director of the Medford Urban Renewal Agency, will be making a presentation to Talent's Urban Renewal Agency on the evening of Tuesday, July 17, 2001, at 7:00 p.m. Mr. Burt will be discussing the benefits of an Urban Renewal Agency and will share his experience with successful Urban Renewal projects.

20 Ways to Prevent Water Waste Save water in the bathroom

1. Check your toilets for leaks. Put a few drops of food coloring in your toilet tank. If, **without flushing**, the color begins to appear in the bowl, you have a leak that should be repaired immediately.
2. Stop using the toilet as an ashtray or wastebasket. Every time you flush a cigarette butt, facial tissue, or other small bit of trash, you waste five to seven gallons of water.
3. Put plastic bottles in your toilet tank. Fill two plastic bottles with water and put them in your toilet tank, safely away from operating mechanisms. In an average home, the bottles may displace and save ten of more gallons of water a day.
4. Take shorter showers. Long, hot showers can waste five to ten gallons every minute.
5. Install water-saving shower heads or flow restrictors. Your local hardware or plumbing supply store stocks inexpensive water-saving shower heads or restrictors that are easy to install.
6. Take baths. A bath in a partially filled tub uses less water than even the shortest of showers.
7. Turn off the water after you wet your toothbrush. Set a glass of water aside for rinsing your mouth after brushing.
8. Rinse your razor in the sink. Fill the bottom of the sink with a few inches of warm water. This will rinse your blade just as well as running water.
9. Check faucets and pipes for leaks. Even the smallest drip from a worn washer can waste 20 or more gallons

Keep Talent Safe from Fire

We at the City of Talent are asking residents to refrain from using fireworks over the 4th of July holiday. We are experiencing very dry conditions and the threat of fire caused by fireworks is real. In 2000, there were more than 250 fires in Oregon caused by fireworks. If you must use fireworks over the Fourth, please use them carefully and remember to:

Have a hose or bucket of water handy for emergencies and douse misfired and spent fireworks.

Only purchase fireworks from vendors with an approved Oregon license.

Never allow children to use or play with matches or lighters, and always have an adult present when using fireworks.

It is illegal to use fireworks on the Bear Creek Greenway and U.S. Forest Service lands, but there are several places in the Rogue Valley where you can watch fireworks for free.

Please help keep Talent safe – refrain from using fireworks and have a safe 4th of July.

"Cop Talk"

By Officer Shane Wilson

In the past, I have received several questions pertaining to stopping for school buses. The most recent comes from a Talent citizen who asks, "On a four lane highway with double yellow lines, such as the old highway between Phoenix & Talent, are we required to stop if a school bus is stopped with red lights and stop sign extended if we are approaching from the opposite direction? I've seen traffic stop or keep going half the time either way."

The answer to your question, if you need stop or not, is **yes** – you do need to stop. In accordance with ORS 811.155, a driver commits the offense of failure to stop for bus safety lights if the driver meets or overtakes from *either direction* any vehicle that is stopped on a roadway and that is operating red bus safety lights.

The Oregon Department of Motor Vehicles Driver's Manual states, "The School Bus Stop Law applies if you are on a roadway with two, three, four or more lanes of traffic. There is one exception to the law. If you are on a divided highway with two roads separated by an unpaved median strip or barrier, you must stop only if you are on the same road as the bus. A painted median strip or center lane used only for left turns does **NOT** create two separate roads. Where this situation exists, **ALL** lanes of traffic must stop."

I hope this information has been helpful. I feel it is important that we clarify this issue because, in the bigger picture, we are all concerned about the safety of our school-aged children. If we all know the rules, we can do *our* part to ensure their safety.

If you have any questions or comments you would like

a day. Larger leaks can waste hundreds.

Save water in the kitchen and laundry

- 10. Use your automatic dishwasher only for full loads.
- 11. Use your automatic washing machine only for full loads.
- 12. If you wash dishes by hand, don't leave the water running for rinsing. If you have two sinks, fill one with soapy water and the other with rinse water. If you have only one sink, gather washed dishes in a disk rack and wash them with a spray device or a panful of hot water.
- 13. Don't let the faucet run while you clean vegetables. Rinse them in a stoppered sink or pan of clean water.
- 14. Keep a bottle of drinking water in the refrigerator. Running water until it is cool is wasteful.

Save water outside

- 15. Water your lawn only when it needs it. To check to see if your lawn needs water, step on it. If it springs back up after you move, it doesn't need water. If it stays flat, fetch the hose.
- 16. Deep-soak your lawn. Water your lawn long enough for the water to soak down to the roots. A light sprinkling can evaporate quickly and tend to encourage a shallow root system.
- 17. Water during the cool parts of the day. Early morning watering is recommended.
- 18. Use a broom instead of a hose to clean driveways and sidewalks.
- 19. Plant drought-resistant trees and plants.
- 20. Put a layer of mulch around trees and plants. Mulch will slow evaporation of moisture and discourage weed growth.

(Information in this article was furnished by the American Water Works Association.)

me to address, please send them to me (Officer Wilson), c/o the Talent Police Department, P. O. Box 445, Talent, OR 97540, 535-1566. Or, send me an e-mail – my address is wilsontpd@hotmail.com.

City Council Agenda Items

July 2, 2001 – 6:45 p.m.

(Due to the Independence Day holiday on Wednesday, July 4th, Council will meet instead on Monday, July 2nd)

New Business:

Review Resolution revising Ordinance No. 272 pertaining to weed abatement.

Review job description for Lieutenant of the Police Department.

Review dues to RVCOG (Rogue Valley Council of Governments).

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