

## THE *FLASH* OF TALENT

July 11, 2001

An update from City Administration, Planning, Public Works, and Police Departments.  
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### **Welcome Kevin Cronin - Talent's new City Planner**

Kevin Cronin has just been hired as the new City Planner. He recently graduated with a Master's Degree in Community and Regional Planning from the University of Oregon in Eugene. He focused his studies on traditional town planning, the New Urbanism, regionalism, and incorporating service-learning projects as a tool for building social capital in communities.

Kevin is no stranger to the City of Talent. In 1998, he participated in the Resource Assistance for Rural Environments (RARE) program and served as Talent's Assistant Planner for almost a year. Some of the projects that Kevin worked on include: increasing citizen involvement; restoring the Bear Creek watershed, and developing a new parks, recreation, open space, urban forestry, and natural hazards element for the Comprehensive Plan. He also developed a smart development handbook, wrote and secured over \$30,000 in grants, and initiated an urban forestry program.

Kevin's dedication to community service has stemmed from his service as an AmeriCorps volunteer participating in various projects including the restoration of inner-city parks in Baltimore, Maryland, and Portland, Maine, fighting forest fires in Idaho, teaching a first grade in Maryland, conducting outreach activities as a recycling coordinator, and delivering meals to HIV/AIDS clients in Washington D.C. In his spare time, Kevin enjoys going to the movies or outdoor activities like hiking, biking, and backcountry camping.

The City of Talent would like to extend a warm welcome to Kevin in his new position.

### **K9 Unit Scores Big in Idaho**

Toward the end of May, Talent's K9 team (Officer Lenhardt and Igor) joined with six other K9 teams for a week of advanced training in Sun Valley, Idaho.

For the first couple of days, K9 teams learned advanced tracking techniques. They were taught a new method of approach to any kind of track and were taught what to do if their canine lost the scent. Talent's K9 team ran 5 tracks in two days and took first place in this portion of the training.

Day three consisted of Armed Encounters for K9 Officers. Five scenarios were run for each team. The basics entailed a scenario where a K9 team is called to track an armed suspect. Somewhere along the track, the team loses its cover officers. The K9 team continues the track and is later ambushed by the suspect, using paintball weapons. Once again, Talent's K9 team took first place by locating and terminating the suspect in four of the five scenarios. The fifth scenario was rated a possible hit by the suspect although no paint was ever found on the team.

The final two days of training were dedicated to problem solving and trouble shooting.

Overall, Talent's K9 Team had an excellent week and Igor proved to be Talent's "Top Dog."

### **Talent asks water customers to conserve**

The City of Talent has recently enacted the first level of its water curtailment plan. This is a voluntary conservation effort by Talent's water users. We would like to thank our water customers who have, and continue to, conserve water at this time.

## Draft of Greenway Master Plan available

The Community Development Department is pleased to announce that a draft of Talent's Greenway Master Plan is available for review. Interested citizens can review the plan at City Hall, 204 East Main Street. All comments are welcome and must be submitted by July 31, 2001.

A joint meeting between the Parks and Recreation Commission and the Planning Commission will be held on July 26, 2001, at 7:00 p.m. at Talent's Community Center, 206 East Main Street (next to City Hall). Both commissions will be reviewing the document before it is submitted to the City Council for final review and adoption.

If you have any questions pertaining to the Greenway Master Plan, please call Meghan Mac Kenzie, Assistant City Planner, at 535-7401.

## Talent Skatepark and Park Rules

Summer vacation has brought out park users of all ages and skill levels. The facility is open from dawn 'til dusk and caters to skateboarders, inline skaters and BMX bikers. Because it is so crowded, it is important that park users obey the posted rules and recommendations.

All persons using the facility are required to wear a helmet. Protective gear, such as knee pads and elbow pads, is highly recommended. BMX bikes must have protective covering on both the **pegs and handlebars**, and riders must also wear a helmet.

Be safe, take turns, and above all, have fun!

## "Cop Talk"

By Officer Shane Wilson

With construction underway on Highway 99 and in many areas around the Rogue Valley, I feel it is important to remind drivers to be courteous and obey flaggers. ORS 811.232 states, "A person commits the offense of refusing to obey a flagger if the person intentionally and unreasonably disobeys a lawful order by a flagger relating to driving a motor vehicle in a highway work zone." A highway work zone is defined as an area identified by advanced warning where road construction, repair, or maintenance work is being done by highway workers, on or adjacent to a highway, regardless of whether or not highway workers are actually present. In addition to the obvious danger, there is a large fine associated with this violation. Together, we can keep our work crews safe. Slow down in and around construction zones and obey flaggers – they are out there for a reason.

If you have any questions you would like me to answer, write or send me an e-mail. My address is Officer Wilson, c/o the Talent Police Department, P. O. Box 445, Talent, OR 97540, or [wilsontpd@hotmail.com](mailto:wilsontpd@hotmail.com).

## Playground Equipment for Library Park!

The City's Public Works Department has been busy with the installation of new playground equipment for Library Park (located behind City Hall). The old equipment was removed at the beginning of July to make way for a safe and fun play structure for kids.

## Electrical Safety Tips

Electricity provides many conveniences we all take for granted. But, electricity can be dangerous if not handled properly. The folks at Pacific Power take the safety of their employees and customers very seriously, and encourage you to read the following information so you too can help prevent electricity-related accidents.

### *Safety tips*

Always assume a downed wire is dangerous and that the line is energized. Touching a live line or anything near it, like a fence or a puddle, can cause electricity to flow through your body, resulting in serious injury or even death. Stay safe; stay away.

### *Follow the Ten-Foot Rule*

Keep yourself, including anything you are handling, at least 10 feet away from power lines.

### *Safety at home*

Yard work can be dangerous if you don't stay alert while you're outside. Always check for power lines in trees before digging, trimming, or pruning branches. Remember, don't use metal pruning tools or ladders near power lines. And *never* try to remove a branch that is tangled or lying across power lines. Instead, call Pacific Power – they'll be happy to remove it for you.

Make sure you "Call Before You Dig" when putting in fence posts, planting trees, or excavating for new construction- there may be underground lines present. Call 1-888-221-7070 to find out more about their Call Before You Dig service.

make way for a safe and fun play structure for kids. The equipment was purchased with funds donated to the City for this specific purpose. Acting Public Works Director, Lester Naught, estimates the project will be completed by the first of August, 2001.

## **City Council Agenda Items July 18, 2001 – 6:45 p.m.**

### **New Business:**

Presentation by Al Densmore, President of Greenway Foundation Board, regarding the Bear Creek Greenway.

Presentation by Michael Cavallaro, Director of the Rogue Valley Council of Governments, regarding the Regional Problem Solving Process.

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

Be cautious when using ladders, painting, pruning or cleaning near your home's meter. The wires at this location can often be brittle and cracked, exposing you to electrical contact.

Be sure outlets near water sources have Ground Fault Circuit Interrupters (GFCIs) to shut off power in time to prevent serious injury. GFCIs should be used in bathrooms, garages, near kitchen sinks and outdoors. If your outlet has a red and black "test" and "reset" buttons, it has a GFCI.

If an electric line falls on your car and you're inside it, **stay inside** until help arrives. You are safe from electrical shock as long as you're inside the vehicle. If you must escape, leap from the open vehicle with both feet together, (and continue to hop away with both feet together) taking care to never touch the car once you're in contact with the ground. Warn others to stay clear of the vehicle until the power company officials arrive.

### ***Safety at play***

For kids: Don't climb power poles, transmission towers or substation fences; don't build forts or climb in trees near power lines; don't fly kites around power lines. If a kite does get caught, release the string at once.

**(Information in this article comes from  
[www.pacificorp.com](http://www.pacificorp.com))**