

THE *FLASH* OF TALENT

November 29, 2001

An update from City Administration, Planning, Public Works, and Police Departments.
Vol. 4 No. 21

TAP Project Almost Complete!

We are pleased to announce the entire TAP (Talent-Ashland-Phoenix) project is 95% complete. Currently, they are working on remodeling the pump stations in Talent and Phoenix, and installing the telemetry system at the regional pump station in Medford. Mario Serra, Inspection Engineer for Montgomery Watson Harza, stated, "Completion will be substantial by end of December."

To check status on the project, please visit our website at www.cityoftalent.org.

Good bye and Good Luck to Talent's City Administrator Kelly Madding

Kelly Madding resigned in early November as the City Administrator for the City of Talent. She has accepted the position of Economic and Special Development Director for Jackson County and her last day with the City was November 16th. We would like to extend a heartfelt congratulations to Kelly in her new position.

When asked to comment on Kelly's leaving, Police Chief Elmer Kammel stated, "She has been an exceptional boss to work for. I have found her to be an intelligent and caring person. She will be missed and we wish her luck."

Mike McAlvage Steps in as Interim City Administrator

Mike McAlvage comes to the City of Talent from the City of Oakridge, in which he served as City Administrator for three years. He has extensive work history in Oregon, ranging from the Coos-Curry Council of Governments to the League of Oregon Cities. His family just recently moved back to the Rogue Valley where his wife is Principal at Jefferson Elementary School. His hobbies include fishing, scuba diving, and hand-chipping arrowheads.

Mike said he is looking forward to the road ahead. "Although Talent has come a long way, there is still a lot that needs to be done. The City has many projects on its plate. I'm just glad to be here and I look forward to working with the community."

The City would like to extend a warm welcome to Mike McAlvage in his new position.

The City of Talent would like to wish you and yours a safe and happy holiday season!

News from the Planning Department

The following items are highlights of activity within the Planning Department:

Approved Applications: Conditional Use Permits for Talent Elementary and Middle Schools—The Planning Commission approved additions to existing structures and improvements to vehicular and pedestrian circulation and parking facilities.

Pending Applications: Zone Change on Hwy 99 and West Valley View Road—The City of Talent is proposing to change the zoning map designation of existing Retail/Wholesale (C-3) to Neighborhood Commercial (C-1). The Planning Commission will hold a second public hearing on this matter Thursday, November 29, 2001, at 6:30 p.m.

Adopted Policies: City Council has adopted the last element of the Comprehensive Plan: UGB/Housing Element, which establishes policies and implementation strategies for safe, livable, and mixed types of housing without expanding the urban growth boundary.

Policies Recently Reviewed: City Council held a public hearing on Article 13 - Historic Preservation and the proposed Old Town Design Standards in the Old Town District. Both policies help implement the vision identified by the Downtown Plan and encourage the preservation of historic resources.

City Council held a public hearing on the updated version of the Strategic Plan that was developed in 1998 with a grant from the US Forest Service. The update reflects changes in policies since the original adoption and acknowledgement of completed projects.

Comprehensive Plan Update is Complete

In 1995, the City of Talent initiated a process called “periodic review” to update the City’s Comprehensive Plan. For the past six years, City staff, volunteers, and the Planning Commission have spent *thousands* of hours developing new policies and reviewing new ordinances developed by staff to implement the Comprehensive Plan.

After each new element had been given a public hearing and had been formally adopted by the City Council, the entire revised Comprehensive Plan was forwarded to the Land Conservation and Development Commission for final approval. In the past, a Comprehensive Plan has never been returned to the City for further review, which speaks to the level of attention to detail given to this document. The City of Talent is very proud of this accomplishment and wishes to thank all who participated in the periodic review process.

Talent makes final preparations for post-moratorium growth

In anticipation of applications for new development being submitted in January 2002, the City’s Community Development Department is putting the finishing touches on a new system to improve customer service for city planning, zoning, floodplain management, and conservation-related services.

First, the Community Development link from the City’s website (www.cityoftalent.org) has been updated. There is now an introduction of department staff, a description of completed and planned projects, as well as a list of accomplishments over the last five years. In addition, a link to frequently asked questions provides answers related to zoning, planning, and property in Talent.

Second, the City Planner, Kevin Cronin, will be scheduling pre-application conferences for potential development *only*, starting on Monday, December 3, 2001. One-hour appointments will be made at a cost of \$125 and are strongly encouraged by City staff. This is an opportunity to discuss development goals, potential issues, neighborhood concerns, and expectations by staff of appropriate development prior to submittal of permit and land use applications in January. A pre-application appointment may be mandatory prior to *any* new development depending on the proposed use.

If you would like to schedule an appointment, please contact Kevin Cronin, City Planner at 535-7401 or e-mail: kevin@cityoftalent.org. Appointments will be scheduled for Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Finally, if you would like to purchase your own copy of the Comprehensive Plan, Talent Zoning Ordinance, Land Division Ordinance, Building Right! Guidelines, or Talent’s Transportation System Plan, you may do so by calling either Kinko’s in Medford (772-6001) or Lightning Copy in Ashland (488-2679). They can provide you with copies at cost.

“Cop Talk”

By Officer Shane Wilson

With winter upon us, I would like to remind drivers to *slow down!* Speeding is a major contributor to accidents, especially during this time of year. There are several Oregon Statutes that pertain to speeding (I won’t get in to all of them), but the main rule is ORS 811.100, VIOLATION OF THE BASIC RULE. This statute covers a lot of different aspects that include driving according to weather conditions, like rain, ice, snow, fog, etc. You can still receive a citation for driving the speed limit if the driving conditions do not permit you to drive that fast. These citations can range from \$77 to \$295 and can increase if there was an accident.

Besides mentioning the cost of citations, I’d also like to mention how important it is to be cautious when driving. Please slow down, give yourself some extra time to get to your destination, and don’t tailgate the car in front of you. Let’s all do our part and drive carefully.

If you have a question you would like me to answer, please take a minute to write or e-mail. My address is Officer Wilson, c/o Talent Police Department, P. O. Box 445, Talent, OR 97540, 535-1253. My e-mail address is wilsontpd@hotmail.com.