

THE *FLASH* OF TALENT

March 28, 2001

An update from City Administration, Planning, Public Works, and Police Departments.
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TAP Project on Track

The cities of Talent, Ashland and Phoenix (TAP) are participating in a joint venture to bring water from the Medford Water Commission to this end of the valley. The project includes the construction of a 24-inch water transmission line approximately six miles in length, connecting Medford's water system to Talent's water system. The waterline may be extended to Ashland at some point in the future. The water transmission line will be constructed along Highway 99. The new waterline will be connected to the Medford Water Commission distribution system near the intersection of Belknap Road and Highway 99, and a pump station will be placed near South Stage and Highway 99.

In addition to the waterline, Talent will construct a concrete water reservoir which will hold 1.5 million gallons of water. The new reservoir will provide us with additional water storage which will improve our ability to meet daily peak demands. Additional water storage is also important for fire suppression and other emergency situations. The cities selected J. Fowler Construction to be the project contractor. A pre-construction conference was held on November 30, 2000, in which the contractors sat down with all three cities, the Oregon Department of Transportation, and all utility companies to discuss construction details. The project was set in motion on December 4, 2000, and official ground-breaking occurred on December 12, 2000.

Current Activity

Construction of the waterline along Highway 99 is underway. The earthwork at Talent's reservoir site is completed and construction of the reservoir will begin soon. The projected completion date of the Intertie is Spring of 2002.

If you would like more information, visit our website at www.cityoftalent.org (project information is updated as received). Or, if you would like to attend our monthly TAP meetings, mark your calendars for the 1st Tuesday of every month at 5:30 p.m. The meetings are held at Talent's City Hall, 204 East Main Street, and are open to the public.

Parks Commission seeks members

The Talent Parks and Recreation Commission is looking to fill four vacancies with interested persons, not necessarily living within the City limits of Talent. If you have an interest in our City parks and would

Tips on Weed control

No matter how great and weed-free your yard may look in spring and summer, winter can destroy your efforts with one good rainfall and gusty winds. If you're an avid gardener, you know first-hand how fast weeds can spread. The only way to get weeds under control is to act immediately and treat them by using one of more of the weed control practices listed below. It is also suggested that you team up with neighbors to improve effectiveness. Remember, weed control by itself is not enough. It is also necessary to modify the practices that caused weeds to become established in the first place.

Prevention: Good land management will help keep desirable vegetation healthy and weeds under control. Avoid over-grazing (that leaves bare spots for weeds), buy weed-free hay, plant certified seed, wash your vehicle after being in a weed-infested area, monitor your property, and respond quickly to any new weed infestations.

Biological: Biological control attempts to find something in nature that can weaken or eventually kill a weed plant. Successful bioagents include certain fungi and insects that weaken weeds by attacking seed heads and other plant parts.

Mechanical: Mow weeds annually before they go to seed. Pull small weed patches and weeds near streams by hand.

Livestock grazing: Graze weeds before they go to seed using sheep, goats, or cattle.

Because livestock and wildlife can easily carry and spread weed seed on their coats or in their feces, avoid moving livestock from a weedy area to a weed-free area. Some weed species, if eaten, will make livestock sick.

Chemical Herbicides: Herbicides can be safe and effective when properly applied. Read label instruction carefully and follow directions. Use chemicals away from water to avoid harming you, your animals or wildlife, and to prevent pollution of streams and groundwater. Only certified pesticide applicators can use restricted herbicides. Call a local farm supply store to find out about hiring custom chemical applicators to spray your weeds. Be sure herbicides will not reach and kill desirable trees and shrubs. Dispose of leftover chemicals at hazardous waste facilities.

like to serve on the Parks Commission, please stop by City Hall, 204 East Main Street, to pick up an application, or call 535-1566.

The Parks and Recreation Commission meets regularly on the second Wednesday of every month at 6:00 p.m. All meetings are open to the public.

[Information in this article came from *Tips on Land and Water Management for Small Acreages in Oregon*. To request a copy of this brochure, write or call the Oregon Association of Conservation Districts, 1080 SW Baseline, Suite B2, Hillsboro, OR 97123, (541) 648-3174.]

Burn Advisory Calendar for Talent

January and February.....NO BURNING ALLOWED

March – June.....Burning may be allowed (dial phone advisory)

July and September.....NO BURNING ALLOWED – Hazardous Fire Condition

October.....Burning may be allowed (dial phone advisory)

November – December.....NO BURNING ALLOWED

Burn Advisory: (541) 776-7007

Jackson County Fire District No. 5 invites you to stop by to obtain a *free* burn permit or to learn more about permit requirements. They would like to remind citizens that there is no burning during fire season, generally June through mid October. They would also like to remind citizens in rural areas to make sure your address is properly displayed. This way, fire and rescue vehicles can easily identify your property in the event of a medical emergency. If you need help addressing your property, stop by Fire District No. 5 at 716 South Pacific Highway - they'll make an address sign for you free of charge. The numbers will be reflective so they'll be easily spotted in the dark. There is also a video for loan that you can check out on how to fire proof your home in case of a wildfire.

If you have any questions or would like more information on fire safety, please contact Fire District No. 5 at 535-4222.

How to get *your* topic on the City Council Agenda

Talent's City Council meets regularly on the first and third Wednesdays of the month. If you would like to address the Council, please stop by City Hall to fill out a request form. If you have a lengthy or complex issue to bring before the Council, please submit it in writing one week prior to the Council meeting. Your request and any additional paperwork will then be included in the packets prepared for Council's prior review and consideration.

If you have any questions, please call City Hall at 535-1566. The next City Council meeting will be April 4, 2001 at 6:45 p.m. All meetings are open to the public and an agenda will be posted when available.

Watch your speed in school zones

Spring Break is almost over and its time to be thinking about school. The Talent Police Department would like to remind drivers to obey the posted speed in and around school zones. With increased outdoor activities, pedestrian traffic will not be limited to just before and after school. Police Chief Elmer Kammel asks, "Please watch for young children as you drive through town. Be alert especially when driving through school parking lots as children may be hard to see between cars. Please take the time to make springtime a safe time for all."