

THE *FLASH* OF TALENT

April 11, 2001

An update from City Administration, Planning, Public Works, and Police Departments.
Vol. 4 No. 7

City of Talent - Tree City USA

On March 15, 2001, the National Arbor Day Foundation and the Oregon Department of Forestry officially recognized the City of Talent as a Tree City USA. A representative from the Oregon Department of Forestry will present the City with an official placard, street signs, and a Tree City USA flag at the April 18, 2001 meeting of the City Council.

To qualify to become a Tree City, Talent needed to establish a Tree Committee, recognize Arbor Day by proclamation, adopt a Tree Ordinance, and provide a budget for trees of at least \$2 per capita. All of this was accomplished with assistance from Talent's Parks and Recreation Commission, the Community Development Department, Public Works Department, City Council, and community volunteers.

The City of Talent would like to thank all those involved in the Tree City USA process.

Celebrate Earth Day/Arbor Day

In celebration of Earth Day and Arbor Day, the Talent Parks and Recreation Commission and City's Community Development Department will be hosting a tree planting at the Downtown Park on Saturday, April 21, 2001. City staff and volunteers will be gathering at the park at 9 a.m. and planting six, 10 year-old trees along the bank of the park near the railroad tracks.

Anyone interested in participating in the tree planting, please contact Meghan Mac Kenzie, Assistant City Planner, at 535-7401.

Are you prepared for a *disaster?*

The next time a disaster strikes, you may not have much time to act. You can learn how to protect yourself and cope with disaster by planning ahead. Talent's Emergency Preparedness Committee believes it is important for citizens to know what to do in the event of an actual emergency. There will be a presentation by Terry Haines of the American Red Cross on Wednesday, April 25, 2001, at 7 p.m. in Talent's Community Center. Terry will be discussing ways for you and your family to prepare for any type of disaster.

Emergency Preparedness checklists are available at City Hall, 204 East Main Street. The information in the checklist is provided by the American Red Cross and the Federal Emergency Management Agency. If you can not attend the meeting on the 25th and would still like to know how to prepare for hazards in the community, feel free to contact the American Red Cross at 779-3773 or toll free 1-800-433-9285.

Talent Lion's Club Easter Egg Hunt

The fun starts at 1:00 p.m., Saturday, April 14, 2001, at the Talent Elementary school playground. Children up to the age of 11 are welcome to participate in the hunt. Lots of prizes and chocolate eggs await! Be sure to mark your calendars so *you* won't be left out! For more information, please contact Chuck Roberts, the Lion's Chairman, at 535-1718.

In memory of...

This Giant Sequoia was donated by a gentleman named Mike Olson. The tree has been planted at the Downtown Park in memory of his father. Right now the tree stands just over 5 feet tall, but according to Farrien Jensen from the City's Public Works Department, "It should reach close to 150 feet tall when mature." Farrien said that, in a few years, the tree would provide some much-needed shade for the park and park users.

City Council Agenda Items

April 18, 2001 – 6:45 p.m.

Translation services needed

New Business:

Review a Resolution amending the City of Talent’s Flood Hazard Mitigation Plan. Subject to adoption.

Review of RVCOG funding proposal.

Discussion of Community Hall use.

Review the Wacker’s Hollow Lease Agreement.

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

Talent’s Community Development Department is looking for an individual who is able to translate sections of its Greenway newsletter into Spanish. The newsletter is published monthly and donated services would be needed prior to each publication.

If you are bilingual and could assist with translation, please contact Meghan MacKenzie, Assistant City Planner, at 535-7401.

Drop-off Days are here!

Clean out the garage, dig under the sink, and sort through the shed for your latex paint and hazardous wastes. Then, mark your calendars for the following events: latex paint drop-off and household hazardous waste drop-off.

The days to drop-off **latex paints** are **Friday and Saturday, April 20 and 21, 2001**, at the Valley View Transfer Station (3000 Valley View Road). If you plan on attending, bring only latex paints. The drop-off days for **household hazardous wastes** are **Friday and Saturday, May 4th and 5th**, at the Jackson County Expo Park. Items eligible for drop-off include old pesticides, swimming pool chemicals, weed killers, paint removers, old lead and oil-based paints, cleaning supplies (like bathroom cleaners, window cleaners, drain cleaners), old or toxic wood preservatives, thermostats containing mercury, etc.

If you would like to drop off something that is not on this list, please contact Ashland Sanitary and Recycling at 482-1471.

It’s time to update Strategic Plan

Strategic planning determines where we, as a community, are going over the next year or more, how we are going to get there, and how we will know if we got there or not. Simply put, our *Strategic Plan* is a document that details the desired future of Talent.

It is time to revisit Talent’s Strategic Plan as it is now three years old. A committee has been selected to review what has been accomplished, what still needs to be done, and what is no longer relevant. They will have their first meeting on Thursday, April 12, 2001, at 6:30 p.m. in City Hall.

How to irrigate more efficiently

Watering more efficiently helps gardens, crops, and the environment. Efficient irrigation strives to provide just the right amount of water actually needed by crops and landscapes. Ideally, this is done without unnecessary loss to evaporation or runoff.

Any irrigation system can be used more efficiently if you consider some basics.

What is the weather like and how long are the days?

The amount of water needed by crops and landscape changes during the season and from one day to the next. The long, hot days of July demand the most water.

How much water do irrigation systems put on an area during some amount of time?

Example: A blanket of water 1/4 inches thick is put on Ruby’s lawn in 15 minutes.

What kind of soil will receive the water?

Is it clay, which drinks water very slowly and holds onto it for a long time? Is it sand, which drinks quickly and dries quickly?

What is the crop?

Herbs use less water than lawns and pastures. Grape vines use less water than fruit trees.

Is the system working properly?

Regular maintenance is suggested for utmost efficiency.

How much does the weather affect watering?

There is more evaporation on hotter and longer days. When the sun is beating down

Recent City Council action

At their April 4, 2001 meeting, the City Council:

approved a Resolution urging the State Legislature to postpone electric deregulation;

adopted an Ordinance changing the quorum requirements for the Parks and Recreation Commission from two members to requiring 51% of the members to be in attendance to have a quorum;

appointed members of the Strategic Plan Ad-Hoc Committee

allowed the Community Hall to be used at no cost for violin lessons to Talent Elementary School students and allowed the Talent Garden Club and the Friends of the Talent Library to use the Library Park for a plant, book, and rummage sale on May 12th.

on us, we become thirsty, we drink water (if available), and we perspire. Plants respond in a similar way. The sun shines on the leaves, the roots draw water (if it's available), and the plants transpire. When the two words evaporation and transpiration are put together, they form the word *Evapotranspiration*, or ET. ET can be used to adjust how much or how long to water.

How much water is applied?

You can take some simple measurements:

Put empty tuna cans throughout the lawn or garden

Run the sprinklers for 15 minutes

Measure the depth of water in each can

Figure the average depth (example: 1/4 inch is applied in 15 minutes)

How much water is needed?

ET tells us how many inches of water are needed to adequately water alfalfa. Lawns may use some or all of this amount for an overall lush appearance. ET numbers are listed on the weather page of some newspapers, and online.

How long to water?

Example: Assume that ET is 1/4 inch of water per day. This is realistic during July, while ET will be less in June and August. If Ruby waters every other day, then she will water 1/2 inch each time. Since Ruby's sprinklers apply 1/4 inch of water in 15 minutes, she will water 30 minutes every other day.

Making these decisions in relationship to the season and the weather provides the greatest opportunity to irrigate more efficiently.

(Information in this article comes directly from "Irrigation Water Conservation." Brochures will be available at City Hall, 204 East Main Street.)