

THE *FLASH* OF TALENT

July 31, 2002

An update from City Administration, Planning, Public Works, and Police Departments.
Vol. 5 No. 7

Welcome Joe Strahl - Talent's New Public Works Director

Joe Strahl has been a Rogue Valley resident for nearly 18 years. He recently retired from Jackson County as Director of Roads, Parks, and Planning. Not ready to call it quits for good, Joe has signed a one-year contract with the City to serve as its Public Works Director. He had his first day with the City of Talent on Monday, July 29th, in which he spent time getting acquainted with staff. He said he can appreciate the amount of work Public Works has been able to accomplish during the periods of transition.

Joe's hobbies include snow skiing, fishing, hunting, kayaking—basically, as he says, “anything having to do with the rivers and the mountains.” In the time he is here, he said he would like to help people in the organization develop their skills.

We, at the City of Talent, would like to welcome Joe to our organization.

Thinking About Running for Office?

In the November election, four of our six City Council seats will be up for re-election, as well as the seat for mayor. If you are interested in running for City Council or running for Mayor, please contact Betty Wheeler, City Administrator/Recorder, at 535-1566, to discuss the details. The sooner the better—the final filing date is August 22nd.

Tree Maintenance in Talent

Pacific Power has notified the City that they will be conducting tree work in late summer to early autumn. They will be pruning and removing trees (if necessary) that have grown too close, or on top of, power lines. If you have any questions regarding tree pruning, safety, or planting, please call Bill Harrington at 840-4064.

Planning Department News

Applications Approved:

Fort Wagner Townhomes: Applicant George Cota Homes, LLC of Ashland was approved to reduce and amend a prior approved 18-unit condominium project at 226 Talent Avenue to 16 units of individual townhouses with 26 parking spaces and a one-way private access drive. An existing house was renovated and partitioned from the subject property and will not be affected by the proposal. This project was originally approved in 1994 and given multiple extensions to submit a final plat. The most recent extension was for six months from the end of the moratorium in January 2002.

Lithia View: Applicant Gregg Adams of Ashland was approved with conditions on July 25 before a public hearing for a 20-lot subdivision with a street connection from Alpine Way to Summer Place and a new street (Jordan Avenue) connecting further north on Lithia Way. The property is located at 1737 Lithia Way and is 3.8 acres.

Policies Under Review:

The Planning Commission held a public hearing to consider amendments to the Planned Unit Development Ordinance (Article 21 of the Talent Zoning Ordinance)

Opportunities to Serve

The following list of committees and commissions have vacancies and provide an excellent opportunity for you to become involved with the City of Talent:

Architectural Review Committee (one alternate position)

Parks and Recreation Commission (one vacancy)

Parks and Recreation Advisory Board (five vacancies)

Planning Commission Advisory Board (four vacancies)

If you are interested in filling one or more of the above vacancies, please stop by City Hall, 204 E. Main, for an application.

Talent Harvest Festival 2002

The Talent Harvest Festival is right around the corner—Saturday, September 14th. The day will be packed with lots of fun and activities, so plan on bringing the entire family. If you would like to reserve a booth space or be a participant in the parade, it's not too late.

Simply call City Hall at 535-1566 to request an application or e-mail Allison at allison@cityoftalent.org.

Plan to join in Talent's celebration of the harvest!

Ordinance (Article 27 of the Talent Zoning Ordinance). A study session was held on June 27, 2002 to discuss potential changes. The Planning Commission tabled further discussion until the next meeting in September.

The Planning Department was awarded \$18,000 in technical assistance from the state Transportation and Growth Management Smart Code Assistance program.

A consultant will assist the City in reviewing and updating the zoning districts, site plan, and conditional use criteria to promote smart development principles, such as transit and pedestrian-oriented development, improved transportation access and options, human scale architecture, and maximizing existing public facilities.

Other News

The Planning Commission held three interviews for two available positions. They recommended the appointments of Cori Cooper and Andrew Snowden to the Planning Commission. The City Council confirmed the appointments.

The Planning Commission will be on vacation for the month of August. Their next meeting is scheduled for September 12, 2002.

Kevin Cronin, the City Planner, will be on vacation from August 15th to 26th. No applications will be accepted or reviewed during that time.

“Cop Talk” By Officer Shane Wilson

First of all, we at the Talent Police Department would like to express our deepest sympathy to the family and friends of Rory Ably, the Talent man who died in a skateboarding accident in Ashland. Rory had helped us police the Talent skatepark and establish harmony with its various users. His presence will be missed.

Since this incident with Rory, I have noticed an increase in compliance with the rules at the skatepark. I would like to thank all park users who have chosen to make positive decisions. As a reminder to all, helmets are required. Ordinance No. 99-669-O states, “Any person operating a skateboard, bicycle, in-line skate or other such device to control speed or movement while at the skatepark or BMX park shall use protective headgear of a type approved under ORS 815.052 for bicycle helmets.” Fines for not wearing a helmet are determined by the judge, but generally run \$50-\$75 *per* violation. Wearing a helmet is for your own safety, so please, set a good example.

If you have questions you’d like me to answer in my next “Cop Talk” article, please call or write. My phone number is 535-1253 and my address is Officer Wilson, c/o Talent Police Department, P. O. Box 445, Talent, OR 97540, or e-mail me at wilsontpd@hotmail.com.

Parks Meeting Rescheduled

The Parks and Recreation Commission will be meeting on August 12th (instead of August 14th) at 6:00 p.m. in Talent’s Community Center. In September, the commission will resume meeting on the 2nd Wednesday of every month.

Busy Hands Bring Comfort to Young Children

The Busy Hands Sewing and Craft Club of the Oak Valley Community have once again been...busy! This year they have donated over 50 teddy bears to the Talent Police Department for officers to give to children in need of comfort in difficult situations. Police Chief Elmer Kammel proudly accepted *four sacks* of hand-sewn teddy bears and commented, “In tough times, these bears become a child’s best friend. It gives me as much pleasure to accept them as to give them away. On behalf of the Talent P.D., I’d like to thank every sewing club member who took the time to make difference in some child’s life.”