

THE *FLASH* OF TALENT

October 29, 2003

An update from City Administration, Planning, Public Works, and Police Departments.
Vol. 6 No. 10

Main Street Enters the Home Stretch

The current schedule for completion of Main Street is December 5, 2003. Curbs, driveways, and asphalt paving are scheduled to be installed by mid-November, followed by sidewalks. Landscaping and concrete crosswalks are scheduled to be installed the week of Thanksgiving and into the first week of December.

We apologize for your inconvenience and thank you for your patience.

Regional Local Calling Area

The Public Utilities Commission (PUC) is proposing a regional local calling area consisting of Jackson, Josephine, and parts of Douglas counties. The intent is to make calling within these areas local—no long distance charges would apply. Attached to this issue of the *FLASH* is a leaflet that explains what this new plan would mean to you as a telephone customer.

We felt it was important for you to know your options and who to contact for more information.

CIVIC CENTER PLANNING

It has been some time since we last reported on the progress of the Civic Center. At this time the City is seeking architectural proposals for the design of the buildings and facilities to be located in the complex. The consultant will be asked to prepare schematic plans sufficient enough to develop good cost estimates on the project. The City Council will then be better able to make a decision on what the City can afford to build and how best to pay for that. All of the input from the citizens who have participated in the brainstorming sessions and the charrette will be provided to the selected consultant so that they can work with this information in developing a design. Once the consultant is hired, it will take them several months to prepare the design and develop costs. It is likely to be early spring before there is enough information for the Council to make any decisions on how and when to proceed.

New City Vehicles

You will probably start to see some new City vehicles around town driven by City employees. Through this year's budget process, the City Council authorized the purchase of some new police cruisers for the Police Department and trucks for Public Works. In the past, the Police Department had been accustomed to buying used police cruisers from other larger departments. This practice had mixed results. While they were able to save money on the original purchase price, they spent a great deal of money and time on repairs. The officers were also frustrated by the frequent breakdowns of the equipment when they needed to perform their duties. The Department has set up a purchasing plan for the next five years to acquire new vehicles on a lease purchase basis. The patrol officers will use the new cruisers and the older vehicles will be assigned for other department uses and gradually rotated out of the system. The goal is to have fewer but more reliable vehicles.

Public Works has been able to purchase new vehicles by selling off a considerable number of old vehicles and other equipment that has not been used by the department for a number of years. The newer vehicles will provide more reliable trucks to the department and improve their ability to perform their jobs.

These purchases for both departments will save not only in maintenance costs and time lost in fixing the vehicles, but also in costs for insurance.

Planning Department

Cop Talk
By Officer Shane Wilson

News

Applications Approved:

Annexation (File ANX 03-02, Lithia View). C. A. Galpin, C. A. Cochrane and Gregg Adams have petitioned for the annexation of 4.13 acres on Lithia Way, east of Winters Way, to the City of Talent. The Planning Commission held a public hearing on the application at its meeting on October 23, 2003. The Commission recommended, by a 7-0 vote, that the City Council approve the annexation. The property is recommended for zoning to R 1-6, Low-Density Single-Family Residential.

Ordinances Under Review:

The Planning Commission is discussing an ordinance permitting accessory dwelling units on single-family lots in the R 1-6, R 1-8 and MH zones. The first public hearing will be held at its meeting on December 11, 2003 at 6:30 p.m. Copies of the draft ordinance will be available at City Hall.

Applications Under Review: The following applications are pending before the Planning Commission and/or the City Planner:

Minor Land Partition (File MP 03-05, 141 N. Front Street). Jack Latvala has applied to divide this lot into three lots. Because the shape of the parent lot causes a discrepancy with the requirement in the Zoning Ordinance that each lot have 20 feet of frontage on a street, a variance may be warranted in this case. The Planning Commission will consider the application at its meeting on November 20, 2003 at 6:30 p.m.

Minor Land Partition (File MP 03-06, 214 S. Pacific Hwy). David Hoyer has applied to divide this lot into three lots. The application will be reviewed by the City Planner for compliance with the Land Division Ordinance.

Conditional Use Permit (File CUP 03-02, 214 S. Pacific Hwy). David Hoyer has applied to establish a car wash business in the C-3, Retail-Wholesale Commercial, zone at the above address. A car wash is considered a "drive-up" or "drive-through" use, which is conditionally permitted in the C-3 zone. The Planning Commission

This month I would like to talk about driving while suspended and driving without a license (we deal with both of these offenses frequently). We'll first talk about driving while suspended. Driving while suspended means that your license has been suspended by the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) or the court and you are not permitted to operate a vehicle. A suspension can occur for a number of reasons: i.e. failure to pay a fine, failure to appear in court on a citation, DUII, being involved in an uninsured accident, failure to pay child support, etc. Driving while suspended can have major consequences including vehicle impoundment and increased insurance rates, and carries a **\$421.00** fine. If your license was suspended due to a DUII (Driving Under the Influence of Intoxicants) or felony involving a vehicle, then the offense becomes a crime and is punishable by jail and/or fine.

Drivers that operate a vehicle without possession of a driver's license will be subject to a fine of **\$237.00** and the vehicle will usually be impounded. Last month (September), we issued 7 citations for driving while suspended and 10 citations for driving without a license. If your driver's license has been suspended or you do not have one, please do not drive. Contact the DMV or the court that issued the suspension and take the necessary steps to getting your driver's license back.

I just wanted to mention that the Talent Police Department has gun locks available free of charge. They are being distributed as part of a program called, "Child Safe." If you would like to receive a *free* gun lock, contact the Talent Police Department at 535-1253, or stop by 604 Talent Avenue.

STATS:

For September, the Talent Police Department handled 326 cases. Officers issued 106 traffic citations and arrested 10 people for DUII's. Police cases are up 16% over last year.

Caution Children About Construction

As you may have noticed, there is a lot of construction going on in Talent. Most of this construction involves heavy equipment that is dangerous for children to play on or around. It would be cost prohibitive to move that equipment in and out on a daily basis so it can be expected that the heavy equipment used will be stored over night and on weekends near the construction area. If you have children of any age, please caution them about the dangers of playing around construction areas and playing on or around heavy equipment.

will consider the application at its meeting on November 20, 2003 at 6:30 p.m. using the criteria for approval of conditional uses contained in Article 24 of the Zoning Ordinance.

Alpine Way Becomes Alpine One-Way

The City's Public Works Department has ordered the new one-way signs for Alpine Way. Once the signs are erected, Alpine Way will become a one-way street in the westerly direction.