

THE *FLASH* OF TALENT

November 26, 2003

An update from City Administration, Planning, Public Works, and Police Departments.

Vol. 6 No. 11

Construction Begins in Talent

Talent Avenue

The long awaited improvements to Talent Avenue will begin in March with completion scheduled for May. The project begins at Wagner Creek and extends to Rogue River Parkway. The roadway will be widened to include bike lanes on both sides of the road and a curb, gutter, sidewalk and drainage system along the western side. Motorists may expect some traffic delays at various parts of construction. The project is being funded through a Transportation Enhancement Grant with the City providing a 10% local match.

Park & Ride/Depot Project—Main Street

Construction bids have been opened for the final two phases of the park & ride project on Main Street opposite the Downtown Park. It is expected that City Council will act on the bids on Wednesday, March 5th and that construction will begin shortly thereafter. This project includes the construction of a Depot to replicate the original depot on this site. In addition, parking, landscaping, and utilities will be installed. Funding for these phases of the project has come entirely from a pass through transportation grant from RVTD and a direct grant from the Oregon Department of Housing and Community Services.

Wagner Creek/Rapp Road Pump Station

Work has begun on the installation of a water pump station at the corner of Wagner Creek and Rapp Road. This project also includes the demolition of the Wagner Creek water treatment plant that has provided water to area residents for many years. This is the final phase of the TAP Intertie project and when complete all Talent water users will be connected to Medford Water Commission system. Water treatment will no longer be a City responsibility and the water rights owned by the City for both Bear Creek and Wagner Creek will be terminated. Funding is coming from a combination of grants and loans from the State Department of Fish and Wildlife and the USDA Rural Development.

PROJECTS IN PLANNING

Main Street Reconstruction

The Main Street reconstruction project has been placed out to bid with a bid opening the first week of March. This project includes road reconstruction, storm drains, sidewalks, landscaping and bike lanes. The railroad grade crossing will be upgraded with signals and gates. This project is being funded by Urban Renewal. Prior to construction beginning area property owners will be notified.

Regional Problem Solving (RPS) Process Update

The RPS process is wrapping up a comprehensive analysis and selection of future growth and buffer areas in the Rogue Valley. Talent is one of seven cities that are participating in the process to develop a regional plan for growth. The RPS process is anticipating a doubling of the population within 50 years and is charged with developing a set of regional goals and policies to manage growth more responsibly. The City of Talent identified candidate lands approximately two years ago when the process began but has not selected additional lands for future growth. The future growth areas in Talent (TA), consisting of 213 acres, are as follows:

- **TA-1, 45 acres:** Phoenix- Talent School District owns a fairly large property on Colver Road that is currently used for recreation purposes and is dedicated to a future school facility. The school district will use the property to meet long-term projections in student population.
- **TA-2, 50 acres:** This property is currently zoned Exclusive Farm Use (EFU), is located directly west of the existing urban growth boundary, and is bordered by Rapp Lane. This land could include a mixture of uses, such as light industrial, commercial, and residential.
- **TA-3, 123 acres:** This area is designated for future low-density residential similar to the existing development pattern in the south area of Talent. This area presents challenges because of slopes, railroad, and TID (Talent Irrigation District) canals, but is a likely candidate for development as a result of its proximity to Ashland. This area includes the rural residential lands outside the existing UGB and stops where Talent Avenue connects to Highway 99.

The City of Talent considered other properties during the process, but did not include more land because of constraints posed by high quality farmland to the north and west, maintaining an acceptable urban form and identity, financial feasibility of growing across Interstate 5, and a commitment to a growth management strategy of infill and redevelopment of existing vacant and underutilized land.

In March 2002, the Rogue Valley Council of Governments (RVCOG) and the City sponsored a successful open house. Over a hundred people attended the event with many of the participants filling out a survey. In November 2002 RVCOG gave a presentation and an update on the RPS process to the Planning Commission. Last December RVCOG produced a survey, similar to the one in Talent, and distributed as an insert in the *Mail Tribune* as part of a larger educational publication on RPS. If you would like a copy, please stop by City Hall during regular business hours.

The City of Talent is ready to begin the adoption process for the future growth areas. The following schedule provides dates and time of upcoming meetings and hearings to review the selected lands for future growth in Talent.

- Planning Commission: Public Hearing, Thursday, March 27, 2003
- City Council: Presentation by RVCOG, April 16, 2003
- City Council: Public Hearing, May 7, 2003

All meetings will be held in the Community Center at 206 East Main Street. Dates and times will be posted in the FLASH, on the City's website, and outside City Hall. For more information, please contact John Adam, City Planner at 535-7401 or john@cityoftalent.org.

Planning Department News

Applications Approved:

- **Site Plan Review (SP 02-10):** Charlie Hamilton of Suncrest Homes, LLC received approval of a site plan for an office and apartment. The property is zoned C-2 Central Business District and is located at 207 Talent Avenue. The existing garage will be converted with a structural addition, parking, landscaping, and shared access driveway. The City Planner released a "Notice of Decision" on January 31, 2003.
- **Minor Partition (MP 03-01):** Nancy Hinkley received approval for a minor partition at 251 West Valley View Road. The subject property will be divided into two lots with access to a public street. An existing shared driveway at the traffic light will be dedicated as public right-of-way and upgraded to city standards when the property is redeveloped. A "Notice of Decision" was released on February 24, 2003.

Applications Under Review: These applications are pending before the City Planner and/or the Planning Commission, and City Council:

Conditional Use Permit (CUP 03-01): Suncrest Homes, LLC has applied for a conditional use permit to construct a community swimming pool at Spruce Landing PUD. The pool is proposed in the required open space area on Max Loop and is subject to conditional use and site plan review. The homeowner's association will manage the pool. The applicant is also proposing a restoration and expansion of the wetland and riparian area. The Planning Commission will hold a public hearing to review the proposal on February 27, 2003.

Policies Under Review or Adopted:

The Citizens Advisory Committee, which is responsible for reviewing the zoning districts, will meet on February 27, 2003 as part of a joint session between the Architectural Review Committee and the Planning Commission. PC/ARC will consider the recommendations made by the CAC to amend the zoning districts.

The City Council will consider adoption of amendments to the Old Town Design Standards and Article 27 - Procedures before a public hearing on March 5, 2003.

The City Council amended the Community Development Department Fee Schedule that added a fee for access permits, address assignments, and a hearings officer.

Interested in Serving on the Budget Committee?

There are currently three vacancies on the Talent Budget Committee. They meet only a few times annually during the City's budget process. This year there will be a preliminary meeting on March 26th followed by scheduled meetings to begin in May.

If you are interested in filling one of the three vacancies, please stop by City Hall, 204 East Main Street, to obtain an application, or download one from our website at www.cityoftalent.org.

Thank you Bear Creek Rotary

At the beginning of the month, Bear Creek Rotary members volunteered their Saturday to help beautify Talent. Armed with trash bags and gloves, they covered our city streets picking up trash and debris tossed around from the wind. They fought the cold to clean up our community and for this we are grateful. The City sends huge thanks to Bear Creek Rotary for their service.

**Cop Talk
Officer Shane Wilson**

This month, I'd like to answer a few questions that were raised by Talent residents: (1) When is the right time to turn on your headlights? (2) Is there a law that says dogs need to be on a leash? and (3) How many seatbelt citations did we issue during our "blitz"?

When is the right time to turn on your headlights?

This question was asked by a resident who was concerned with drivers not using their headlights on foggy mornings. ORS 816.040 talks about the use of lighting. Section 1(b) states, "At anytime from sunset to sunrise or any other time when, due to insufficient light, persons and vehicles are not clearly discernable at a distance of 1,000 feet." This section also applies to driving during inclement weather. Violations of this ORS carry a \$175.00 fine.

Is there a law that says dogs need to be on a leash?

We have had several complaints about dogs running at large and have been asked if there is a law that says dogs need to be kept on a leash. To answer the question, yes, there is a law—City Ordinance No. 718. Section 3, pertains specifically to dogs and reads as follows:

"Section 3. Dogs

(1) All dogs must be confined by fence, leash, or obedience training to the property of the person owning, harboring or having the charge, care, control, or possession of such dog; however, it shall be permissible for a dog to be confined by fence, leash or obedience training to the property of another if such other person has given express permission. Leash lead shall be no greater than six (6) feet.

(2) Any dog that is vicious or dangerous to the safety of persons must be confined by an enclosure to the property of its owner or keeper.

- (3) Any dog not confined to property as set forth above and which is on either public or private property must be on a leash.
- (4) Dogs not on private property as described above must always be attended by their owner or person having the custody of such a dog; and, it shall be unlawful for any person to tie a dog or any other animal to any tree, hydrant, railing or other object on the public property of the City of Talent for longer than 15 minutes.
- (5) Dogs are not permitted in any city park or greenway under any condition except in those areas where special rules, as adopted by City Council, may apply.
- (6) Any person, with the exception of a sightless person, responsible for any dog, shall be in possession of tools for the removal of and shall remove, excrement deposited by the dog in any public area not designated to receive those wastes, including but not limited to streets, sidewalks, parking strips, trails or roads paralleling ditches, swales, culverts, canals, railroad tracks or similar facilities.
- (7) Seeing eye dogs, dogs for the deaf, and any licensed/certified assistance therapy dogs when in custody and control of a person who legally falls into the category of blind, deaf, or therapy assisted, are exempt from the provisions of this section.
- (8) No person shall keep more than three dogs over three months of age on any tract within the city.”

If you see violations of this ordinance, please do not hesitate to call us at the Police Department at 535-1253.

How many seatbelt citations did we issue during our “blitz”?

As I stated in my last “Cop Talk” article, we would be conducting a seatbelt blitz between February 10th and February 23rd to enforce the seatbelt law. During that time, we issued **77** written warnings/citations! Although the blitz is over, we will still be issuing citations for drivers and passengers who are not wearing a seatbelt. It is for your own safety that you wear a seatbelt, *and* it’s the law. So please buckle up.

If you have any questions you would like me to answer in my next Cop Talk article, please contact me at the Talent Police Department at 535-1253 or e-mail wilsontpd@hotmail.com.