

# THE *FLASH* OF TALENT

December 31, 2003

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

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## ***Thank You and Best Wishes for the New Year***

The City has had the benefit of many volunteer hours provided by citizens serving on Boards, Commissions and Committees as well as those who, in a less structured way, contribute to the City's well being. We would like to thank everyone who has taken the time to make Talent a better place to live. Even constructive criticism is appreciated since without it we cannot make improvements. Special thanks to Dan Bish, Plant Oregon, who contributed over 150 trees that will be planted in Downtown Park, Talent Avenue and in Chuck Robert's Park, Bear Creek Rotary for their continued efforts in Lynn Newbry Park, the Kiwanis Club for restoring the fitness trail in the park, volunteers with the Ashland Hospital Foundation for the reader board trailer, and Wal-Mart for their donations to the police department for equipment and spring bulbs.

Many others have contributed to the development of Downtown Park in terms of fountains and planters as well as bulbs. The City appreciates all the contributions and if not properly thanked previously, we wish to do so now.

In this coming year we hope that more residents will get involved and share their talents with the greater community. In this next year the Parks Commission is eager to begin offering recreation programs to residents as well as fund raising events to furnish the parks.

## **Ordinance Permitting Accessory Dwelling Units**

On December 11, 2003 the Planning Commission approved an Ordinance establishing standards and procedures for the permitting of Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs) on single-family lots. The basic provisions of the Ordinance are: The size of the ADU will be the lesser of 600 square feet or 40 percent of the primary dwelling. ADUs will be permitted on single-family lots in the R1-6, R1-8 and MH zones. The property owner will have to live on site for at least half of each year, or either the primary dwelling or the ADU may be leased for residential use. Parking will have to be provided on site at a rate of one space per dwelling unit.

**The City Council will consider the ordinance on January 7, 2004 at 6:30 PM. Copies of the draft ordinance are available at City Hall.**

### **Applications Pending:**

Phoenix-Talent School District has applied for a Variance (file no. VAR 03-03) to permit an 8.5-foot high, 6.75-foot wide sign on the Wagner Creek Road frontage of Talent Elementary School. The property is zoned R1-6, Low-Density Residential, where sign heights are limited to five feet and sign areas are limited to

## **COP TALK** **Officer Shane Wilson**

This month I would like to go over some new laws that will be going into effect on January 1<sup>st</sup>. The first one, Senate Bill 315, rewrites several of the pedestrian statutes. The new language now states that a motorist must stop for a pedestrian when the pedestrian is in the motorist traffic lane/or when the pedestrian is in a lane adjacent to the motorist. The second is Senate Bill 795. This bill makes it an offense if a skateboarder or in-line skater fails to wear protective headgear if the person is under 16 years of age and rides on a highway or premises open to the public.

Basically, if you are under 16, you must now always wear a helmet when riding. These are just two of several new bills for 2004. You can go to [www.leg.state.or.us](http://www.leg.state.or.us) to learn more. In upcoming issues, I will try to address one or two each month.

Police Department Stats: For November 2003, the Talent Police Department handled 339 cases. Police Officers issued 80 citations, 33 of those were for speeding, and 15 people were arrested for DUII. Have a happy and safe New Year!

## **Council Meeting Time**

The City Council has permanently changed their meeting start time to 6:30 p.m. All citizens are encouraged to attend and participate in the Council meetings.

## **Water Ordinance Amendments**

The City Council is working on a comprehensive re-write of the City's Water Ordinance. This Ordinance regulates the use of the water, connections to the system, payments and collection procedures for non-payment. If adopted, collection procedures will be changing and opportunities for making installment payments will become an option. Citizens are encouraged to participate in the adoption process for this Ordinance. Copies of the proposed revisions can be reviewed at City Hall or a summary is posted at Tark's Market and on the bulletin board outside City Hall. A public hearing on the Ordinance will take place at the Community Center on January 7, 2004 at the City Council meeting at 6:30 p.m.

## **Committee Openings**

There are several openings on various city committees and this is an opportunity for residents of Talent to become involved in their government. If you are interested in applying please stop by City Hall to pick up an application

12 square feet. The Planning Commission tabled the application at its December 11, 2003 and will reconsider it at its January 22, 2004 meeting.

or you can fill out the application at the City's website [www.cityoftalent.org](http://www.cityoftalent.org). There are openings on the Traffic Safety Committee, Parks Commission, Parks Advisory, Planning Advisory and Architectural Review Advisory.