

THE *FLASH* OF TALENT

June 25, 2003

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

Construction Begins on Main Street

The long-awaited construction of Main Street will begin the first week of July. The project, which is expected to be completed in October, will include new sidewalks, bike lanes, parking bays, and landscaping for both sides of Main, from Talent Avenue to Front Street. Overhead utilities will be placed underground and power poles will be removed. All landscaping will complement Talent's rural past. The landscape design will include plants that are drought tolerant and low maintenance, and large oak and ash trees (eventually growing to 45' x 45') will be planted to provide a future shade canopy for pedestrians. New lighting will utilize the downtown-style light posts with a new roof-optic bulb system to reduce glare and "light pollution". In addition to Main, improvements will also be made to South and North I Streets.

During construction, City Hall and the Community Center will remain open. Residents are encouraged to use the old fire department parking lot (behind the library) for parking. Although efforts will be made to minimize traffic delays, some disruption will occur. Your patience and understanding during construction will be greatly appreciated.

General Construction Timetable (subject to change):

Trenching & preliminary excavation: first week of July

Water & sewer lines: July 9-Aug 4

General excavation: Aug 4-8

Sidewalks: Aug 18-27

Paving: August 30

Landscaping, benches, lightpoles: Sept 1-9

The Main Street Project is being funded by the Urban Renewal Agency of the City of Talent. For more information, please contact Marla Cates, URA Executive Director, at 535-6170.

Firework Safety

The folks at Jackson County Fire District No. 5 would like to wish everyone a happy and safe 4th of July. They would like to remind those buying and using fireworks to practice the **3 BE'S**:

BE Prepared (before lighting fireworks)

Use legal fireworks from licensed outlets

Always read and follow label directions

Always have water handy (a garden hose or bucket of water)

BE Safe (when lighting fireworks)

An adult should always light fireworks

keep matches and lighters away from children

Use outdoors only, away from anything that can burn

Light one firework at a time and move away quickly

Do not throw fireworks or light in your hand

BE Responsible (after lighting fireworks)

Soak used fireworks thoroughly in a bucket of water

Dispose of used fireworks properly

Vacancy on the Planning Commission

There is currently one vacancy on Talent's Planning Commission. If you are interested in community development and issues pertaining to growth, please stop by City Hall at 204 East Main Street to pick up an application. You can also fill out the application online at www.cityoftalent.org. The Planning Commission meets regularly on the 4th Thursday of the month at 6:30 p.m.

Talent's Harvest Festival

Join us as we celebrate the **30th Annual Talent Harvest Festival** on Saturday, September 13th, in the downtown area of Talent. The Harvest Festival Committee is already planning this year's event and can promise a good time will be had by all! The day's festivities will start with a pancake breakfast, followed by a parade at 10 a.m. We'll have vendor, craft and food booths, face-painting, pony rides, games for the kids, a science demonstration, and **live** entertainment. Mark your calendars so you won't miss the fun!

If you would like to be in the parade, are a vendor and would like a booth, or would like to assist in the coordinating of the Harvest Festival, please contact Allison at City Hall, 535-1566, or e-mail allison@cityoftalent.org.

Watch Your Speed

Community Service Officer Frank Falsarella showed off the Police Department's new radar board to Chief Ed Hanson and City Manager Betty Wheeler. Traffic crept by on Main Street as drivers (and City staff) watched their speed appear in red lights.

The radar board will be used to monitor traffic on different streets throughout town. The purpose is to make drivers aware of their speed especially in school zones, residential neighborhoods, and near crosswalks.

The purchase of the radar board was made possible with donations from the Oregon Department of Transportation, the City of Ashland, the Ashland Community Hospital Foundation,

Planning Department News

Applications Approved

Site Plan Review (File # SP 03-02): Clark Blowers of Granite Bay, California, received approval for 28 units of multi-family apartments and open space off Suncrest Road. The City Planner rendered a staff report and decision on June 2, 2003.

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

Subdivision (File SUB 03-01): Buntin Construction, LLC is proposing a 40-lot single-family subdivision at 356 Suncrest Road. The zone is R 1-6 and the property is 7.5 acres. A public hearing before the Planning Commission is scheduled for June 26, 2003.

Planned Unit Development (PUD 03-01): DBH, LLC and Rainy Day Holdings, LLC have proposed 53 lots of mixed use and mixed residential and common open space at 307 Talent Avenue. The zone is R-2 High Density Residential and the property is 7.8 acres. A public hearing before the Planning Commission is scheduled for June 26, 2003.

Minor Partition (MP 03-03) The Hertel Family has applied for a minor partition to split one lot into

Department Heads

With the departure of two Department Heads (Police Chief Elmer Kammel and City Planner Kevin Cronin), interviews have been taking place to fill these two positions. A new Police Chief should be appointed within the next week and is expected to start work mid to late July. Many thanks are given to Interim Chief Ed Hanson for his help in guiding the Department for the last five months. During his time here in Talent, he has dealt with budgets, cruiser replacements, and the loss of staff. He has done a tremendous job and we are truly grateful.

The City is currently interviewing candidates for the position of City Planner. While there is not a selected candidate at this time, it is hoped that there will be someone in the position by the end of July early August. In the interim, the office will be staffed by City employees and through the consulting services provided by the Rogue Valley Counsel of Governments. While responses may not be as quick as in the past, the City will continue to offer planning services to the citizens of Talent.

The City bids farewell to current City Planner Kevin Cronin. Kevin took on the position just prior to the moratorium being lifted and has adapted to a faster pace of activity in the office since then. Many thanks to him for his service to the community in the last two years and good luck to him and his wife in their future pursuits.

two lots at 107 N. Second St. The City Planner will render a staff report and decision on June 26, 2003.

Policies Under Review or Adopted:

The City Council adopted an amendment to Sign Ordinance regarding advertisements of ballot measures and political campaigns.