

THE *FLASH* OF TALENT

January 28, 2004

An update from City Administration, Planning, Public Works, and Police Departments.
Vol. 7 No. 1

New Water Ordinance

The Talent City Council has adopted some significant changes to the City's Water Ordinance that specifies the rules and regulations for the operations of the City's water system and the use of the system, collection and billing procedures. A great deal of time has been spent to revise how the City manages the billing and collection of fees for the water service provided. Now that the City purchases water from the Medford Water Commission and has a significant amount of debt that has been incurred to connect to the Medford system, changes in how collections were managed needed to be made.

The changes that will be of most interest to the majority of the public are those related to how collections will be handled. All users should expect to receive a letter notifying them of the relevant changes to the Ordinance in the next couple of weeks. The Ordinance will not go into effect until February 20th, but preparation will begin now.

The purpose of the changes is to have in place a system that treats everyone the same and ensures that the City is doing everything it can to prevent the need for increases in the water rate. The Medford Water Commission has recently increased the charge to the City for water. It is hoped that if the City can be more efficient in their water collections this increase will not have to be passed along to its customer. In addition to improving the water collection, the Public Works Department will continue to change out old water meters and replace them with a touch read meter that will reduce time spent in both the meter reading and billing processes.

If you would like to obtain a copy of Talent's new water ordinance, you can purchase a copy from City Hall (204 East Main Street) for the cost of \$.25 per page. You can also view the new ordinance in its entirety from our website at www.cityoftalent.org.

Talent Residents Get the *FLASH*

In an effort to better communicate with its citizens, the City of Talent will be mailing its newsletter, the *FLASH OF TALENT*, to all its residents. Copies of the *FLASH* will still be available at distribution sites around town, but Talent residents can now look forward to receiving the City's newsletter with their regular mail. For distribution site information, you can check our website at www.cityoftalent.org.

Cop Talk

By Officer Shane Wilson

This month I'd like to talk about House Bill 2338 which became effective January 1, 2004. This bill creates the offense of carrying a minor on an external part of a vehicle. For definition purposes, a minor is defined as a person under 18 years of age and an external part of a vehicle refers to the general exterior of a vehicle (hood, fender, running board), including the **open bed of a truck**. The exceptions to this law are: (1) if you are carrying a minor in the open bed of a truck and the minor is secured with a safety belt or harness that complies with the rules adopted under ORS 815.055 (2) if you are operating the motor vehicle in an organized parade, or (3) if you are carrying a minor that is seated on the floor of the bed in which ALL available seats are occupied by minors and the tailgate is securely closed AND the minor is being transported: in the course of employment, between a hunting or camping site or between hunting sites during hunting season, and the minor has a hunting license.

Violation of this offense will result in a \$237.00 fine. An easy way to remember this new law is to think about safety—minors need to ride up front for their safety.

If you have a question you'd like to ask or have a topic for my next "Cop Talk" article, please contact me directly. My address is Officer Wilson, c/o Talent Police Department, P. O. Box 445, Talent, OR 97540, 535-1253, wilsontpd@hotmail.com.

Monthly Statistics:

For the month of December the Talent Police Department handled 301 cases. Officers issued 101 traffic citations, 18 citations for speeding and 13 for driving while suspended. Twelve people were arrested for Driving Under the Influence.

Yearly Statistics:

In 2003 the Talent Police Department handled a total of 3,817 cases. Of that total, 349 were traffic related incidents. Of the 349 traffic incidents, 87 were citations for driving while suspended, 78 were arrests for Driving Under the Influence, 48 were traffic accidents, and the remainder were miscellaneous traffic crimes, hazards, etc.

Planning Department News

Neighborhood Meeting

The owners of the property on Highway 99 between Anjou Club and Goodnight Inn will be holding a neighborhood meeting on February 12, 2004 at 6:30 p.m. in the Community Center. The developers are at the early stages of formulating ideas and concepts. In a message to staff the developers wrote, "We are seeking input and ideas, suggested uses, concerns about transportation and infrastructure and would like this project to be a collaborative process that distills the best ideas of the community at large. We are looking at this as an opportunity to do a poster project that addresses as many concerns and issues as can be addressed on this site."

Applications Pending

Keith and Coral Edwards have applied for Site Development Plan Review (SPR 04-01) for the establishment of a 12-unit light manufacturing structure in the LI, Light Industrial, zone on the parcel northwest of the Talent Police Station. This is a Type III land use application, which the Planning Commission will review at a public hearing on February 26, 2004. Decisions are based on the approval criteria for site plan review found in Article 23 and the approval criteria for site plan review in the LI zone as found in Section 12 of Article 11, both in the Zoning Ordinance. Lauren Bell has applied for a Conditional Use Permit to establish a daycare at 105 W. Main Street. The property is zoned R1-6. The Planning Commission will review the application at a public hearing on February 26, 2004. Decisions are based on the approval criteria for conditional uses found in Article 24 of the Zoning Ordinance.

Grant Projects Soon to Start

The City has received two grants from Transportation and Growth Management, a joint program of ODOT and DLCDD. One is for updating several parts of the Zoning Ordinance, including the zoning districts, conditional use criteria and procedures, and site development plan review criteria and procedures. The other will master plan streets and development potential in the area south of the railroad within the City's Urban Growth Boundary. The Planning Department will send out invitations to participate to area property owners within the next month.

Enhancement Month Committee

The City is seeking involvement by its

Wal-Mart Lights Up Squad Car

The Talent Police Department received a \$1,500 grant from Wal-Mart for the purchase of a light system for one of the department's new vehicles. The Police Department had budgeted for three new patrol cruisers this fiscal year with the assumption they would transfer lighting equipment from the retired cruisers to the new cruisers. Two light bars were salvaged, but one new vehicle remained without emergency lighting. At the same time the department was wondering how they would come up with the money to purchase a new light system, they were approached by Wal-Mart telling them about the Safe Neighborhood Heroes grant. It was soon thereafter that the department received a check for \$1,500 and the new cruiser was outfitted with a complete emergency lighting system.

The City of Talent would like extend huge thanks to Wal-Mart for coming to the rescue of our police department—the donation was, and is, greatly appreciated.

Civic Center Update

From five submitted proposals, the City Council has selected WBGS of Eugene, Oregon, as the architectural firm to develop schematic plans for a new Civic Center for Talent. The consultants will be working with the Civic Center Master Planning Committee and City staff over the next several months to develop a design that fits with the community. From this they will prepare cost estimates to implement the project. There will be several public meetings related to this phase of planning and Talent residents are encouraged to stay involved. Once the design is complete the City Council will determine the extent and the size of the project to present to the voters in November 2004. The planning will include a new city hall, a multi purpose building as well as the associated parkland area and parking. In addition, the consultant will also be determining the necessary renovations to provide more space at the Police Station on Talent Avenue and how to make that facility accessible to all populations.

Planning Commission Vacancies

citizens to participate on the Talent Enhancement Month Committee. The month of May is dedicated to the beautification, or *enhancement*, of Talent. For several years, residents have participated in the city-wide yard sale. They have also taken this opportunity to do some much-needed home repairs or yard maintenance for themselves or their neighbors, as well as city-wide clean-up.

The Talent Enhancement Month Committee would be responsible for planning and organizing enhancement activities during the month of May. If you are interested in serving on this committee, please pick up an application at City Hall, 204 East Main Street. You can also download an application from our website at www.cityoftalent.org.

The city-wide yard sale will be held in conjunction with the City of Phoenix. The date is set for Saturday, May 8th. Map information will be available closer to the event.

There are currently **two** vacancies on Talent's Planning Commission and **four** vacancies on the Planning Commission Advisory Board. If you are interested in serving on either board, please stop by City Hall to obtain an application. You can also download the application from our website at www.cityoftalent.org.

The Planning Commission meets regularly on the fourth Thursday of the month.