

November 24, 2004
Volume 7 Issue 11



THE FLASH OF TALENT

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

SEASON FOR GIVING

City of Talent City Council and City staff would like to extend to all residents Best Wishes in this holiday season. Special thanks to all who serve on the various boards, commissions, committees, police department volunteers and all those who get involved in any way to make this community better for their having been here. Thank you.

The annual Lights for Life tree lighting sponsored by the Ashland Community Hospital Foundation is taking place in Talent. Donations can be made to aid the Trinity Respite Center and the Hospital's Hospice and Palliative Care Services. Donation forms are available at City Hall.

CIVIC CENTER & NEW LIBRARY

The November 2nd vote on the Civic Center has sent a clear message that the City will need to re-evaluate the plans presented to City residents and determine what type of project would better gain Talent resident's support. After the first of the year a Town Hall meeting will be scheduled to better understand the needs at City Hall and the Police Department and obtain fresh ideas on how these problems can be addressed.

In the meantime, the City will be working with Jackson County and the Talent Library Design Committee to allow plans for a new library in Talent to move forward. Planning for the Civic Center included a location for a new library in Talent. Jackson County voters approved a bond in May 2000 that would provide new libraries for each of the Jackson County cities including Talent.

The old fire station at the corner "I" and North Street will be the location of the new library. This building has been vacant, except for storage, since the City residents approved the transfer of fire fighting services to Jackson County Fire District #5. City staff is in the process of disposing of or moving everything now at the fire station to other city owned facilities.

Once a ground lease with the County for the library has been approved by the City Council, and the building is vacant, it will be removed. This will happen in early 2005.

A Citizen Design Team is being appointed to work with the County and their architect to develop plans for the library. As these plans develop the Civic Center Planning Committee will be working with Urban Renewal to develop the commons area around the new library which will include a parking lot, upgrade of Home Street to include sidewalks, park and open space. Once the new construction is complete the old library will become City property and will be renovated to accommodate city records and office space for the Mayor and the Urban Renewal Agency. Funds for the City improvements will come from the City of Talent Urban Renewal Agency.

Citizens are encouraged to stay involve as these changes take place your input is valued.

IMPACT FROM HIGHWAY CONSTRUCTION

Traffic disruption from highway construction will be with Talent for a couple of years from projects planned by the City, County and State. Currently the I-5 corridor between Talent and Phoenix is under construction to include bridgework at the Bear Creek crossings and resurfacing. This has resulted in increased traffic on Highway 99. This will result in increased traffic and possible delays.

The Rogue Valley Sewer Service is replacing a sewer line in the area between Valley View and Arnos in Talent. Projects of this nature are always more complicated since they involve both the line replacement and the individual service connections as well.

In the next two years there will continue to be construction involving Highway 99, Valley View and Rapp Road to improve the safety of residents and visitors and to accommodate the growth.

COMMITTEE VOLUNTEERS

There are a number of openings on various City Council appointed Committees and residents are encouraged to get involved in helping to shape your community.

Architectural Review Committee – 1 vacancy; Alternates – 2 vacancies

Budget Committee – 3 vacancies (2- two year terms and 1-one year term)

Economic Development Committee – 1 citizen vacancy

Enhancement Committee - seats available for anyone who wants to be involved

Parks and Recreation Commission - 3 vacancies; Advisory Board - 6 vacancies

Planning Commission Advisory – 3 vacancies

Traffic Safety & Transportation Commission – 1 vacancy

RAILROAD DISTRICT MASTER PLAN

The City's Planning Department invites the public to a two-day design open house at the Community Center on Thursday, 2 December 2004 from 6:30 to 8:30 PM and on Friday, 3 December 2004 from 4:00 to 6:00 PM. This design open house (or charrette) will develop a master plan for streets, parks, lots and pathways for the area southwest of the railroad tracks and south of Rapp Road within the City's Urban Growth Boundary. These lands may, in the future, be annexed; should they develop, the City will have an integrated master plan to guide development decisions. Contact the City Hall for more information.