



THE FLASH

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



City of Talent

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Highway 99 Modernization Project



It is expected that the Highway 99 modernization project will be placed out to bid early in 2005 with construction to begin next spring. The project has been held up due to an appeal filed by a property owner within the project limits to the State Land Use Board of Appeals (LUBA) regarding a procedural issue. In response to the LUBA decision the

Planning Commission recommended amending the Talent Transportation System Plan to incorporate the Access Management Plan for Highway 99 prepared by the Oregon Department of Transportation. A public hearing will be held by the City Council on January 5, 2005 to consider the amendments recommended by the Planning Commission. The Access Management Plan is required for any state highway construction project and is in-

tended to provide a comprehensive inventory of all rights of access to the state highway within the project limits and describes the improvements in detail to ensure that the design and operation of the improved highway will ensure the efficient movement of people and goods within the area. It is intended that all state funds spent on a highway project achieve statewide transportation goals to provide safe highways that allow for the smooth flow of traffic and ensure both vehicular and pedestrian safety.

Official Newsletter of the City of Talent

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Boy Scout Christmas Tree Pick Up

Talent Scout Troop 535 will be providing a pick-up service of Christmas trees on **January 8, 2005** to all City residents. The trees must be placed at the curbside by **9:00 a.m.+.** The trees will be chipped and the chipped material

will be used on trails and as mulch for plants. This is a great opportunity to dispose of your tree in an environmentally sensitive manner. The Boy Scouts, who are greatly appreciative for all contributions, will accept donations for this community

service. For more information, or if you live outside the city limits you can call 734-9583.



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Measure 37

Statewide the voters in November approved Measure 37 that authorizes an owner of property to file a claim with a government that has enacted or enforced certain types of land use regulations that have affected their ability to use their property. In order to be considered a valid claim the applicant must demonstrate that they owned the property when a regulation was passed that affected their use and that the change

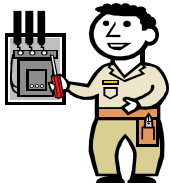
has affected the value of their property. The City can either pay for this loss in value or grant a waiver from the land use regulation that has affected their use. The City Council has adopted an ordinance that defines the process the City will follow in the event such a claim is filed in Talent. While the burden of proof is placed on the one filing the claim, there will be



expenses to the City in processing such a claim. A fee has been established to cover these costs. If you are interested in the Ordinance that has been passed or would like more information you can contact City Hall and discuss it with the City Planner or City Manager.

New Water Meters

The City is replacing all of the water meters in town with "touch-read" type meters. These new meters allow for automatic reading of water meters without the necessity of having to remove the lids, physically read the meter dial and write down the reading. All of the readings will be automatically recorded and accumulated by a computerized device that receives an electronic signal by simply touching the top of the meter box. Another benefit is that the human error associated with reading meters and preparing monthly bills will be virtually eliminated. About 65% of the meters have already been replaced over the past two years and the rest will be replaced by next June. The new meters will provide a more efficient and accurate way to read meters. Once all the new meters have been installed, staff meter reading time will be reduced from 1-2 weeks to about two days.



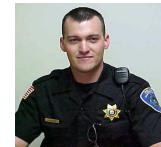
New Street Design Committee

City Council has adopted a new policy that will provide a more comprehensive review process in the design of improvements to existing City streets. Over the next several years there are plans to make improvements to a number of City streets by the City and Talent Urban Renewal Agency. There is the need to have a process in place that allows for input from various committees and city staff as well as the public regarding planned improvements. While there are specific design standards that must be applied to all City streets to ensure the safety of the traveling public, there is a need to accommodate various travel modes (pedestrians, bikers, buses etc.) and to balance these needs with the impact on the character and livability of the neighborhoods and business districts where the streets are located. The Committee would work with the design engineer to achieve these goals.

The Policy directs that there be at least one citizen who lives on the street planned for reconstruction as well as someone who does not live on the street but is in the immediate neighborhood or travels the road on a daily basis. There are three streets that will be reviewed through this new process in 2005. **Included are: Rapp Road (Talent Avenue to the railroad track), Home Street and Wagner Street (Front St. to West St.). Anyone interested in serving on one of the design committees that will discuss any one of the above streets, please let the City Manager know.**



COP TALK By Officer Shane Wilson



This month I would like to address a traffic violation that we see nearly everyday, as well as some apparent misconceptions by some about this violation. The subject is *Failure to Carry Proof of Insurance*. First about misconceptions: a lot of folks believe that as long as there is current insurance on their vehicle, then they meet all legal requirements. Not necessarily; Oregon traffic laws say that not only must a person operating a motor vehicle have current insurance (ORS 806.010), but they must also carry proof of that insurance with them in the vehicle (ORS 806.012). Failure to Carry Proof of

Insurance is a class B violation and carries a \$237.00 max fine. Additionally, if you don't have the proof of insurance and you can't demonstrate in some other manner to the officer that you do have current insurance, then you may be cited for Driving Uninsured, which also carries a \$237.00 max fine, **and** the vehicle will be impounded, which will bear additional costs. Carrying your current insurance card is very important for other reasons. If you were to get into a car accident and did not have your insurance card with you, that fact could be recorded on the DMV crash report, which could result in

your driving privileges being suspended. The easy fix to all these potential problems is to take the time to make sure that you have a current insurance card in your vehicle. If you don't have a current card, contact your insurance carrier immediately for a replacement card. At this time of year with the winter weather upon us, you do not want be involved in some sort of accident and be without your insurance card. Furthermore, carrying your card is an easy way of saving \$237.00 in fines if you're stopped by police.

Planning Department News

Upcoming Public Hearings

All Planning Commission meetings take place at the Community Center, 206 East Main Street, and start at **6:30 PM.**

On Thursday, January 13 the Planning Commission will hold a public hearing on an application for a variance from the setback standards for one or more lots in Oak Valley subdivision.

On Thursday, January 27 the Commission will hold a public hearing on an application for a subdivision

containing 14 lots next to 510 S. Pacific Highway 99. The land is zoned R2, High-Density Residential.

Updates

On December 16 the Planning Commission held a public hearing on the adoption of an Access Management Plan for the Highway 99 Modernization Project. They voted 5-0 to recommend the adoption to the City Council. The Council will hold a public hearing on January 5 to consider adoption of the plan.

At the beginning of January

a number of minor changes to the Zoning Ordinance and Land Division



Ordinance will take effect, including a density calculation method and revised rules on lot averaging for subdivisions (Ordinance Nos. 776 and 777).

If you have a specific request or need more information, please feel free to contact Planning at 535-7401 or via e-mail at john@cityoftalent.org.



Front Street Double Fence

Everyone seems to have lots of questions about the mysterious "double fence" installed along Front Street as part of the new street improvements by the Talent Urban Renewal Agency: "What is

it? Why are there two rows of fence posts?"

The answer is simple -- it's a hedgerow! Next spring, native drought-tolerant shrubs such as field rose, flowering currant, ceanothus and Oregon grape will be planted between the two rows of posts. Then, more wire will be attached to the outside. Within a few years, shrubs will grow

through the wire to make a living hedge and the wire will seem to disappear. The wire makes future pruning easy...a hedge shear can be run alongside the wire to trim tips of plants sticking through the mesh.



OPPORTUNITY TO SERVE

The City continues to have a number of openings on various City Committees. City Council relies on these various committees to provide input and help in making good decisions about the future of the City. Some of the committees meet more frequently than others and can be daytime or evening meetings. Serving on a committee is a great way to get to know your City.

Currently there are openings on the following committees:

Parks and Recreation Commission - Commission serves as an advisory board to the City Council on all issues related to City parkland and open spaces. They review open space and parkland proposals submitted by developers and make recommendations to the Planning Commission. The Parks Commission is developing plans to offer recreation programs for youth and adults. The term is 4-years.

Budget Committee – State laws require this advisory board to conduct public meetings to hear the annual budget message and review the budget proposed by the budget officer. One of its most important purposes is to take comment from citizens that may result in a revised budget that is then presented to City Council. Members have a 3-year term and meet only during the budget process.


Enhancement Committee - This committee is tasked with organizing community events to improve the appearance of the city. Activities include organizing events to clean up in the spring, bulb planting, and in the future decorations for the holiday. Many openings.

Architectural Review Committee - This committee has the responsibility of preserving and enhancing the use of structures, natural features, sites and areas within the City of historic, architectural, archaeological, cultural or aesthetic significance. The area of focus is the Old Town District and they work with property owners and developers to apply design standards approved by the City Council. They meet the second Tuesday of the month. There is one vacancy.

Economic Development Committee – This committee was established to focus on providing opportunities for Talent residents to work, shop and do business in Talent. The committee includes members from City Council, Urban Renewal and the business community. There is one opening for a community member to represent the citizens’ interests.

JANUARY



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					<i>December 31 (Offices Closed)</i>	<i>1 New Year's Day</i>
2	3	<i>4 Municipal Court 3:00pm Comm Hall</i>	<i>5 City Council 6:30pm Comm Hall</i>	6	7	8
9	10	<i>11 Arch Review 7:00pm Comm Hall</i>	<i>12 Parks 6:00pm Comm Hall</i>	<i>13 Planning (if needed) Traffic 3:00pm PW</i>	14	<i>15 Arch Review Walk</i>
16	<i>17 Martin Luther King Day (Offices closed)</i>	<i>18 Municipal Court 6:00pm Comm Hall</i>	<i>19 Safety 1:30pm CH CityCouncil 6:30</i>	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	<i>27 Planning 6:30pm Comm Hall</i>	28	29
30	<i>31 The "Flash" Distributed</i>			<i>Building Plan Review—Monday-Friday 8:30am-9:00am & 4:00pm-5:00pm</i>		