

THE *FLASH* OF TALENT

March 31, 2004

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

Vol. 7 No. 3

Success for Parks Fundraiser

The Talent Parks and Recreation Commission held a very successful fundraiser at Paschal Winery on the evening of March 13th. Over 45 local businesses donated food and items that were auctioned off for amounts far greater than their value. The attendance at this event and the generous donations shows a strong support for improving City Parks and developing recreational programs in Talent. This event raised over **\$5000** to be used to complete the Downtown Park and to start planning for recreation programs and a dog park.

We'd like to extend huge thanks Paschal Winery, Tark's Market, Jonathon Rand of Talent Café, Caffe Café, Curves for Women of Ashland, Arbor House, Jackson County Fire District No. 5, Standing Stone Brewing Company, Jane Hardgrove, Science Works Hands On Museum, Ashland's YMCA, Simply Sassy, Southern Oregon Pottery Supply, New Sammy's Cowboy Bistro, Kerry KenCairn, Elanah, Valley View Nursery, Senor Sams, Bonnie Morgan, Micro Trains, Munchie's, Talent House Music and Books, Allyson's of Ashland, Maverick's Steak House, The Running Y Ranch Resort, Betsy's Christmas and More, Mt. Ashland, Essential Faces, Figaro's Pizza, Quality Paperbacks, Fabricated Glass, Jude Moan, Beasy's on the Creek, Big Town Hero, Southern Oregon University Outdoor Program, The Grotto, Harry and David, Wal-Mart, Suncrest Homes, Steven Lundberg Glass Art, Ashland Community Hospital and Dr. David Childress, A-1 of a Kind, Imaginears, Tabu, and Marian Telerski Pottery. Special thanks to City Councilor and Parks liaison Darby Stricker, City Manager Betty Wheeler and staff, Tom Stamper of Modern Prometheus Jazz Trio, Jason Stricker, Arden Prehn, Lisa Sesar, and all those who helped make this event fun and at the same time very successful.

Cop Talk

By Guest Contributor Chief Rector

Hi, this is Chief Bob Rector of the Talent Police Department filling in this month for Officer Shane Wilson who is out recovering from minor surgery. He's doing fine, but will be off from work for a few weeks.

Since I have the podium, so to speak, I'd like to take this opportunity to touch on a traffic safety issue that concerns me. The issue is motorist responsibility when an emergency vehicle approaches using its emergency lights and/or siren.

When an emergency vehicle is responding to an emergency situation many times other drivers fail to get out of the way or just continue to drive normally. When that happens a dangerous situation is created on top of the one we're already trying to deal with. That danger can be greatly minimized if drivers would obey the law, which is spelled out clearly in Oregon Revised Statute (ORS) 811.145 "Failure to yield to emergency vehicle or ambulance". The statute reads in part: *A person commits the offense of failure to yield to an emergency vehicle or ambulance if an ambulance or emergency vehicle that is using a visual or audible signal approaches the vehicle the person is operating and the person does not do all of the following: (a) Yield the right of way to the ambulance or emergency vehicle. (b) Immediately drive to a position as near as possible and parallel to the right-hand edge or curb of the roadway clear of any intersection. (c) Stop and remain in such position until the emergency vehicle or ambulance has passed.* Keep in mind that "approaching" means from **any** direction, regardless of the direction either you or the emergency vehicle is traveling. So please pull over safely, stop, and wait until the emergency vehicle passes. Enforcement of this traffic offense is difficult in that we're usually too busy responding to an emergency to stop and take action on drivers failing to yield. Consequently, we really need voluntary compliance on this one.

Talent Celebrates Arbor Week

We are pleased to announce that the City of Talent has once again been named a Tree City USA by the National Arbor Day Foundation. This is the *fourth* year Talent has received this national recognition. In celebration of Arbor Week, the mayor of Talent is asking that you please join her for a tree planting event to take place at Chuck Robert's Park on Wednesday, April 7, 2004 at 11:30 a.m. The trees will be donated by Dan Bish of Plant Oregon and planted by our Public Works Department.

Talent Enhancement Activities

The Talent Enhancement Committee has been busy planning activities for both April **and** May. As part of the ongoing enhancement workshop series, Marta Henry of the Talent Garden Club will be hosting a class on Growing Giant Vegetables—specifically Zucchini, Sunflowers and Pumpkins. The workshop will be held on Saturday, April 10th from 10 a.m. to noon at Talent's Community Center, 206 East Main Street. After you attend this workshop and get your giant vegetables started, you can bring them to the Harvest Festival in September for a chance to win some great prizes.

The citywide yard sale will take place on Saturday, May 8th. Maps of Talent along with a list of addresses participating in the yard sale will be available the day of the event. If you would like to have your address listed on the yard sale map, the cost is \$3. For more information, call City Hall at 535-1566 or stop by 204 East Main Street.

There are three events planned for Saturday, May 15th: Green-Up and Clean-Up, brush and lumber drop-off, and an enhancement workshop on composting. Next month's issue of the FLASH will detail all the activities planned for May. For more information on Talent Enhancement, please contact Greg Goebelt, Committee Chair, at 840-5966.

Civic Center Update

At a meeting on March 18, 2004, WBGS, the architectural consultants for the Civic Center, presented 3 design alternatives to the public. From the public input the Civic Center Planning Committee will select the final plan to be used by the consultants to estimate the construction costs of the project. On April 21, 2004 the City Council will be presented with this preferred plan and the developed costs estimates. WBGS will also present the estimates on completing renovations of the Police Department to add space as well as to comply with federal Americans for Disability Act regulations. The City Council will then determine the size of the project and the best funding alternative(s).

Due to the constraints at City Hall it is difficult to display these design alternatives. However, if you are interested, please stop by and ask to take a look at the plans. The Committee is pleased with the product and would like to share it with all Talent residents. You will see a thoughtful plan that reflects sensitivity to existing structures and the "small town feel" of Talent.

The City is also planning a Community Survey to be conducted in May. The survey will be managed by Advanced Marketing, Inc. with the Committee assisting in the development of the questions. The City asks that if you are contacted that you would be willing to take time to respond to the survey. As much as some dislike phone surveys, it is the most effective way for the City Council to determine what the residents think about a variety of issues related to city government. Those contacted are selected at random so there is no way to give anyone advanced notice of the phone call.

Don't Miss Talent's Harvest Festival

The 31st Annual Talent Harvest Festival will be held in the downtown area of Talent on Saturday, September 11th.

The day will start with a Lion's pancake breakfast followed by a parade at 10 a.m. Military and emergency service units will lead the procession, followed by participants promoting the harvest theme. After the parade, there will be a special ceremony in front of Talent's Community Center to honor the men and women who lost their lives on this day in 2001.

In addition to vendor, craft and food booths, there will be *live* entertainment at Library Park and lots of activities for the young ones. The Talent Garden Club will also be judging a giant growers contest and prizes will be awarded for the largest vegetables and sunflowers.

If you would like to be a vendor or parade participant in the Talent Harvest Festival, please contact Allison at City Hall, 204 East Main Street, 535-1566 or e-mail

Pooch Problems for Main Street Landscaping

Now that Main Street is finished, it appears that Talent's cute pooches enjoy the new landscaping as much as we humans do. Maybe even more so!

Unfortunately, an abundance of dog droppings have been deposited in the landscaped areas. Not only is it not nice to look at, the droppings are extremely harmful to new plants. There is several thousand dollars worth of plant material on Main Street, and it could take thousands more each year to replace dying plants that otherwise would flourish. Please, pick up after your pooches. Carry a plastic bag whenever you take them for walks, and deposit *their* deposits in the nearest trash can.

Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

Planning Department News

Applications Pending

Suncrest Partners, LLC has applied for a Planned Unit Development to develop approximately 50 lots in an undeveloped area between two ends of Lithia Way. The 12.45-acre area is bounded by Creel Road and Arnos Street and by Talent Avenue and Highway 99. It is zoned R1-8, low-density residential. The first Planning Commission public hearing on this application is *tentatively* set for April 22, 2004.

Planning Commission Decisions

At its meeting on March 25th, the Planning Commission approved an application for a Conditional Use Permit to establish a daycare at 105 W. Main Street. The property is zoned R1-6, Low-Density Residential. The applicant was Lauren Bell.

Sealed Bid Surplus Sale

The City of Talent Public Works Department and Police Department will be selling surplus items from their inventory. Items to be sold include cars, trucks, propane cylinders, and much more. For a complete list of bid items, please contact City Hall, 204 East Main Street, at 535-1566 or Public Works, 200 Suncrest Road, at 535-3828.

Sealed bids may be submitted from 8:30 a.m., April 1, 2004 until 3:00 p.m., April 13, 2004 at City Hall or Public Works. If you wish to view any of the bid items, please call 535-3828.