

THE *FLASH* OF TALENT

June 30, 2004

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

Vol. 7 No. 6

Talent's New Building Inspection Program

The management of the City's Building Program will change as of July 1, 2004. The

City Council has entered into an Intergovernmental Agreement with Jackson County to provide building inspection services for the City of Talent. This change will result in new faces as well as new office hours for those interested in obtaining building permits. The new inspectors Mark Stevens (Electrical/Plumbing Inspection) and Buck Eichler (Building Inspection) will work out of Talent City Hall and can be reached by calling **535-6025**.

This number will connect you directly to Mark or Buck, or their voice mail if they are not in the office. You will be able to ask questions, make appointments or schedule inspections.

The new Office Hours for the Building Department are **Monday through Friday from 8:30—9:00 a.m. and 4:00—5:00 p.m.** or by appointment. For larger projects the City is encouraging the scheduling of appointments to reduce the congestion at City Hall. The actual issuance of permits will continue to be handled by City Hall staff from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. If you currently have an active permit issued by the Ashland Building Inspectors, they will be continue to be responsible for providing the inspections.

Update on Rapp Road Reconstruction

In mid-June, Jackson County advertised for bids for the reconstruction of Rapp Road from Talent Avenue to Highway 99. The County improvements include bike lanes in both directions, a sidewalk along the north side, and new storm drains. These improvements are part of the jurisdictional transfer of the street from Jackson County to the City of Talent. The City improvements include installing a new waterline.

The bids were opened on June 29, 2004 and construction will follow in early August. For those concerned residents that may notice construction happening before this time, it's just the gas company relocating their distribution pipe on the north side of the street.

Drivers should be advised that the construction will interrupt through traffic. The City encourages drivers to plan ahead for alternative driving routes to avoid delays and reduce traffic on Rapp Road during construction. Thank you in advance for your cooperation!

On a side note, the Oregon Department of Transportation will be improving the Rapp Road and Highway 99 intersection (including a stop light!) next spring when work begins on Highway 99.

Planning Department News

Seeking Advisory Board members

The Planning Commission is seeking Advisory Board members. Learn the process and have input on development that's taking place in town. Call John Adam in the Planning Department for more information.

Upcoming Public Hearings

At their meeting on July 7, 2004, the City Council will conduct a public hearing on the rezoning of several properties along Highway 99 and Valley View Road from Retail-Wholesale Commercial (C3) to Central Business District Commercial (C2). This will foster a commercial environment that provides greater opportunities for

Cop Talk

By Officer Shane Wilson

With summer now upon us, I would like to pass along a few hot weather reminders for staying safe. First and foremost, it is imperative that you *not* leave your children or pets in a vehicle that is unattended. Temperatures inside a vehicle can get **very** hot in a short period of time. Children and pets *both* have died from extreme heat and, on this issue, we have zero tolerance for such behavior. If you have pets and are planning to travel, consider leaving them at home or with a friend or family member. If you have children, **always** take them with you—even if you're just "running in" to some place close by.

The second reminder has to do with firework safety. Talent Police and Jackson County Fire District No. 5 respond to countless calls regarding small and large fires, injuries, and

mixed-use development. The Planning Commission also feels the area would be better served by greater retail and office use opportunities rather than some common C3 uses, such as mini-storage or automobile sales lots. The Planning Commission recommended approval at its meeting on May 27, 2004.

On July 8, 2004, the Planning Commission will hear an application for Kamerin Springs Estates, a 53-lot subdivision at the ends of Lithia Way between Arnos and Creel Road. The current proposal includes park space with playground equipment and a range of lot sizes.

On July 22, 2004, the Planning Commission will hear an application by Rick Allen to rezone 2.26 acres at 100 E. Rapp Road from Light Industrial (LI) to Retail-Wholesale Commercial (C3) to permit the eventual expansion of the mini-storage facilities.

Long-range Planning

The City continues working on amendments to the Zoning Ordinance using funding from the Transportation and Growth Management program. The adoption process will begin in late July, preceded by a joint work session of the City Council and Planning Commission on July 7th. The objective is to have a more streamlined, easier-to-use code. The Planning Commission will hold its first public hearing to consider this on July 22, 2004.

“Housekeeping” changes to the Land Division Ordinance and the Article regulating Planned Unit Developments will also be discussed in the next couple of months.

unsafe behavior. If you are going to play with fireworks, we ask that you do so responsibly.

Third, we’d like YOU to stay safe during the heat. Make sure when you’re outside that you dress appropriate for the weather and that you stay hydrated. If you are working outside, make sure you take breaks and drink plenty of water. Above all else, we want everyone to have a safe and fun summer. Let’s work together to make that happen.

Yard Debris Becomes a Problem

The City’s Public Works staff has noticed that some residents have been dumping grass clippings and other yard refuse in alleys, on public property, and even in their neighbors’ yards. Talent Ordinance Number 749 Section 6 states that such dumping is prohibited. Please help to keep Talent neat and clean and dispose of your *own* yard debris in a responsible manner.

Ashland Sanitary and Recycling offers a green waste curbside pickup for lawn and garden refuse. If you would like more information about this service, please call 482-1471.

Cyclists Beware

It has come to the City’s attention that there are some portions of the Bear Creek Greenway running through Talent that are unsafe for cyclists. In some sections, tree roots have caused bulges in the asphalt making it a rough road for riders. These bulges have been identified with bright orange paint and are slated to be repaired in July 2004.

Signs have been posted at both ends of the greenway that warn of rough pavement and we ask riders to take this warning seriously.

Although the City does not own the greenway, we acknowledge the problem and encourage riders to use caution. If you have any questions regarding the Bear Creek Greenway, please call Karen Smith at 774-6231.

Get involved in City Government

Registered voters in the City of Talent are invited to get involved in how their government

operates. There are four open positions on City Council that will be decided in the November election. In order to have your name placed on the ballot you are required to file for a nonpartisan nomination and circulate a petition to obtain at least 20 signatures from registered voters who reside in Talent.

To obtain more information about the duties and responsibilities of the positions and what is involved in becoming a candidate please contact the City Manager/Recorder at 535-1566, Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Petitions have to be filed no later than August 20, 2004 so it is not too early to be making a decision to get involved. Other than being a registered City voter the only other requirement for becoming a candidate is care and concern about the future of the community.

What Citizens Think of the City of Talent

The results of the Community Survey conducted by Advanced Marketing Research were presented to the City Council on June 2, 2004. This phone survey involved a random sample contact of 360 residents. There were 50 questions all related to city government and demographics. The responses have provided useful information to the City Council and will assist in future decision making. Results from the survey will be summarized over the next several months in the FLASH.

Four of the questions asked relate to the planning for the new Civic Center and the possibility of a Parks Levy. The City Council has been considering these two areas for possible ballot Measure items at the November election.

Parks Maintenance and Recreation Program Levy: Respondents were asked if they would support or oppose a levy to maintain city parks if the property owner of a \$100,000 home would have to pay an additional \$25 per year. A separate question asked what the support would be if the levy were to include both park maintenance and recreation programming for \$30 per year on a \$100,000 home. Seventy percent would "support" or "lean to support" a maintenance levy, and 67% would "support" or "lean to support" a levy for both maintenance and recreation programs.

Civic Center Bond Vote: In the first question related to the civic center respondents were asked whether they would support or oppose a Civic Center levy if the vote were held today. Sixty-two percent (62%) would "support" or "lean to support" the levy with 24% opposed and 15% undecided.

The second question provided options depending on the size of the bond vote and its impact on the property tax. The figures were based on different size of bonds and the associated property tax impact on a \$100,000 house. For a \$7,000,000 bond with an expected \$367 increase in taxes 16% would support it. For a \$6,000,000 bond with an expected \$331 per year, 20% would support it. For a \$5,000,000 bond with an expected \$262 per year, 34% would support it.

This information is very useful and the Committee working on the Civic Center has been meeting to determine where cuts might be made, and also to explore alternatives that would provide a project that could gain greater community support.

There may be some confusion as to what is included in the project: in addition to building a new city hall, the project will include construction of a community activity center that would provide spaces for many community events as well as recreation programs, parkland and parking at the civic center complex. It will also include significant improvements to the Police Station.

The entire report is available for review at City Hall and the Talent Library. Survey results can also be viewed from our website at www.cityoftalent.org.