



THE FLASH

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

City of Talent

NEW CITY COUNCILOR

Due to illness Councilor Brian Roberts found it necessary to resign from his position in January. The City Charter allows the City Council to appoint a replacement to serve until the next general election. After advertising in the media the Council received applications from two qualified individuals. Through an interview process the Council appointed Edwin J. McManus to the position. Voters will recall that EJ had run in the November election for another councilor position.

Mr. McManus lives on Tulipan Court and attends Southern Oregon University, where he will graduate in June. McManus worked in the family restaurant – Todo Chata when it was located in Talent. He appreciates the small town characteristics that Talent offers and expressed a desire to do his part to preserve and improve

Talent as the City moves forward. Welcome to EJ and thank you to former Councilor Roberts for his many hours spent on City business and the Urban Renewal Board.

CONSTRUCTION SEASON BEGINS

A very busy construction season has begun and this will cause everyone some disruption as they try to navigate through the construction. The I-5 improvements have begun and will continue for some time. The Highway 99 and Valley View Bridge projects will begin later this spring. Please begin now to allow for delays by starting a little earlier when you leave home or the office. This will help make the travel slow downs that you will experience a little more bearable.

COMMITTEE VACANCIES

Although the recent response to the City's plea for volunteers has been phenomenal, there are still openings. The committees listed below will each provide an opportunity to get to know your City government a little better and also help achieve the goals set forth by the council and its citizens.

Urban Renewal Agency – Assist in implementing the Talent Urban Renewal Plan, which includes infrastructure improvements and economic development activities within the district boundaries. (2 vacancies)

Parks & Recreation – Oversee the planning for improvements at City parks and establishing recreation programs for youth and adults. (1 vacancy)

Budget Committee – Assist in reviewing the proposed budget for the coming fiscal year. Primary meetings will take place in May. (3 vacancies)

Enhancement – Current events include planning for spring clean-up and recommending Christmas decorations for the season. (Many openings)

Harvest Festival—Each year the festival grows and requires more volunteer involvement to make it a truly community event.



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Official Newsletter of the City of Talent

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WATER BILL PAYMENT OPTION

As spring and summer approach residents will most likely increase their water usage to maintain gardens and lawns. The City would like to remind all water users of the Equal Payment Plan that will allow you to manage the water payments for your usage, a little easier. This Plan allows the water users to spread their payments for the water they use over a 12-month period rather than having to pay higher water bills in the warmer months and lower bills in late fall and winter months.

To participate in this program water users can sign an agreement with the City to be placed on an "equal payment plan". To qualify to participate the customer is required to meet the following criteria: 1) Have one year of payment history; 2) Sign up for the program in March of each year; 3) Pay the calculated monthly payment on time each month.

Your monthly payment is determined on your water usage history and a past one-year period provides information that will help in setting the appropriate charge. To estimate the monthly payment you will make, your total billing for the previous year is divided by 12. . By signing up in March you will probably be ahead on your account to absorb the increased costs for the higher summer usage. If a customer who has signed up for this "equal payment plan" does not make the monthly payments, the "equal payment plan" agreement will be terminated by the City and the monthly bill will be based on actual usage for that particular month. Please call Melissa at City Hall for more information about the program.



CITIZEN SURVEY RESPONSES

The City would like to thank all those who took the time to fill out and return the Council Goals' Survey and also the Recreation Program Survey. Your input is valued and the fact that you have taken the time to either return the survey, or use email to respond, is greatly appreciated. Many of you have shared concerns and the Council has discussed some of these in the past. As the City continues to grow and new people come to the community it is a challenge for the Council to determine that shared vision for the future.

The Mayor and City Council will have met on the 25th and 26th of February in a goal setting session to set the City priorities for the coming fiscal year. The goals are set early enough so that if goals set require additional funding, money can be budgeted for them. A future issue of the FLASH will report on the final goals set.

The Parks Commission is working with the information gained from the survey together with other data collected to decide what recreation programs to offer to Talent residents in the summer months. Their plan is to start small, offering only a few programs and achieve some successes before getting into a full list of offerings. While the voters did not approve the Park Levy, there are funds from a successful Park Gala fundraiser held a year ago to get started in this new adventure. Future funding will need to be found.

City of Talent Sealed Bid

The City of Talent Public Works Department and Police Department will be accepting sealed bids for many items the last week of March. Some of the items that will be sold include:

- 1998 Ford Crown Victoria (\$1000 min. bid)
- 1997 Ford Crown Victoria (\$1,000 min. bid)
- 1996 Ford Taurus (\$1,000 min. bid)
- 1988 Case Backhoe (\$10,000 min. bid)
- Kawasaki Motorcycle (\$2000 min. bid)
- 30 KW Diesel X-military Generator
- Computer Components
- Various air packs
- Snapper Riding Lawn Mower
- Typewriter, adding machine, and various computer components

All items are sold AS IS, WITH NO WARRANTY EITHER WRITTEN OR IMPLIED. Arrangements for Trip Permits and removal of items purchased should be made by April 11, 2005. The city reserves the right to reject any or all bids.

Bids may be submitted from 8:30 a.m., March 24, 2005 until 3:00 p.m., April 7, 2005 at City Hall, 204 East Main or the Public Works Office, 200 Suncrest Rd. Please call 535-3828 if wishing to view items. Bid sheets are available at City Hall or at the Public Works Office.



COP TALK By Officer Shane Wilson



This month I would like to reach out to the community for volunteers. We are in need of Community Service Officers (CSO) volunteers. The CSO's generally handle city ordinance type violations. For example, abandoned vehicles, weed abatement, house checks, etc. For more information, please stop by the Talent Police Department for an application and further information.

I would also like to talk about neighborhood watch. This program has been around for many years and is successful when communities work together. Neighborhood watch helps to prevent and deter crime that may be occurring in your area. The Talent Police Department can assist your neighborhood in setting up and helping out this program.

If your neighborhood is interested in this program, please stop by or call for more information. We want to work together with the community to make our city a safer place for all. Contact the Talent Police Department 604 Talent Ave, P.O. Box 445, Talent OR 97540 or call 541-535-1253.

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, February 24th the Commission will hold a public hearing on an application for a 1.85-acre, nine-lot subdivision in the MH zone at 306 Meadowslope Drive. The lots will be on a new cul-de-sac off Meadowslope and will range in size from 6,078 to 9,635 square feet. Applicant is Cota Construction. On the same night the Commission will also hold a public hearing on a proposal to rezone part of the land just west of Anjou Club apartments from C2 (Central Business District—Highway subzone) to R2 (High-Density Residential) in preparation of submission of an

application for a mixed commercial and residential development on the 10-acre lot. Applicants are Archerd-Breeze-Dale. On Thursday, March 24th the Commission will hold a public hearing on an application for an Accessory Dwelling Unit at 106 Fairview Street

Updates - The Planning Department is applying for a grant from the Transportation and Growth Management Program to plan a pedestrian connection from Highway 99 to Bear Creek Greenway. Part of the route could follow Wagner Creek, but the grant will help us determine the precise route.

On Thursday, March 14th the Commission will discuss reductions to front setbacks in Commercial and Residential zones.

The City Planner has received an application for a new restaurant at 203 E. Main Street. Bangkok's

Benny left its location on the highway and wants to build a structure across from City Hall.

Have a look at the reformatted Zoning Ordinance and Subdivision Ordinance on the City's website (look under the heading "Zoning and Development").

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.



COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Enhancement Committee – Fire District #5, March 8th, 3:45 P.M.
 Economic Development Committee - Community Hall, March 23rd, 3:00 p.m.
 Harvest Festival – Fire District #5, April 7th, 1:30 p.m.

NEW LOOK AT CITY HALL

The next time you visit City Hall you will find that we have rearranged the front office to serve you better. After many years with the current configuration, there were plenty of ideas about how to make things work a little more efficiently. Just as residents have observed the increased building taking place throughout the city, City staff experience this growth with greater demands for services. To better meet the demand, new technology has been purchased to help City staff manage their time a little better. To accommodate the technology, changes were made to the front office.

RECYCLING TELEPHONE BOOKS





What to do with the old telephone books when the new ones come out in April? Talent residents have two opportunities to recycle their old telephone books once the new directories are delivered in mid April. Those families who have school aged children can send the phone

books to Talent Elementary School for the “Phone Book Collection Competition.” The school will accept phone books from other residents or businesses if they are brought to the school during the April collection. Ashland Sanitary, who will provide a cash reward to the school that collects the most telephone books, sponsors this event. As another option, residents can place those used phone books with your other recyclables or take them to the Ashland transfer station between April 19, 2005 and April 19, 2006.

If you are not recycling now, you can make arrangements for the recycling curbside collection program by contacting Ashland Sanitary and Recycling Service at 482-1471.

Everyone wins when we all recycle!

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2 City Council 6:30pm Comm. Hall	3	4	5
6	7	8 Arch Review. 7:00pm Comm. Hall / Enh.Com. 3:45 FireDist 5	9 Parks 6:00pm Comm. Hall	10 Planning (if needed) Traffic 3:00 3:00pm P.W.	11	12
13	14 Municipal Court 3:00pm Comm. Hall	15 Urban Renewal 6:00pm Comm. Hall	16 Safety 1:30pm Co Hall City Council 6:30pm Co Hall	17 	18	19 Arch Review Walk TBD
20	21	22	23 Economic Dev. Comm. 3:30 Com.Hall	24 Planning 6:30 pm Comm. Hall	25	26
27 	28 Municipal Court 6:00pm Comm. Hall	29	30	31 The “Flash” Distributed		

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