



THE FLASH

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

City of Talent

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URBAN RENEWAL NEWS

West Valley View Design Workshop Set for

The public is invited to a hands-on design workshop for the Master Plan of the West Valley View Area. The workshop will be held at the Talent Community Center, 206 E. Main. Everyone is welcome to come and participate in this interactive workshop, which will develop a vision of how the West Valley View area can look and function as an important part of the downtown core area, including; a street network, parking opportunities, and potential streetscapes. The West Valley View area lies between Talent Avenue and Highway 99, and is bordered by New Street on the North and the Gangnes subdivision on the South. For more information, contact Executive Director Marla Cates, 535-6170.

Mayor's State of the City Speech

Once again, it is my privilege to address you, the honorable council and valued citizens, about the state of our city. I shall, as in the past, inform you of the achievements, future plans and challenges that face each department. These need to be seen in the context of council and department goals, our regional involvements, our long-range plans for the city, and, of course, growth. We the City staff, Commissions and Committees and Volunteers work towards common goals to strengthen our neighborhoods, achieve a sense of safety and security, preserve the beauty of our land, to preserve and encourage a strong community spirit and identity in our small rural city, how best to serve all our citizens equally and well, and to be a good neighbors in our region.

Our population is now 6255, a 21% increase over the year 2000, about 4% growth a year. I believe we have experienced the crest of the building wave, begun three years ago. However, we cannot close the door and pronounce ourselves full. The State requires at least a 20-year supply of buildable land inventory. I will outline some of the things this government is doing to meet the needs of growth and to

plan for the future. Each year this address is more complex, yet more encouraging. Those of you who grew up here in Talent have many recollections of "how it used to be." In the years that I have lived here, (since the late 80's), I recall that the Post Office was in the present Laundromat, there was no Skate park or Downtown park, no Depot, no Wal-Mart, no Urban Renewal Agency, no Tark's Market, few sidewalks on Talent Ave. and fewer on Valley View, one traffic light, and a lot of folks were concerned about Tig's language on his playland signs. We had a volunteer fire department. We had two aging water treatment plants, disabled in the '97 floods. At one point, our roads were in such poor condition that RVTD refused to run buses on Talent Ave. Many things have changed.

PLANNING - The Planning Dept. oversees the present and long-term plans for the city's development. The staff and planning commission are currently working with the council on the Regional Problem Solving project (RPS) to identify lands for future growth. Lands are selected to balance residential and commercial uses, and preserve, as much as possible, the valuable agriculture base that surrounds us. The Commission is making progress in the improvement of the development code in regard to PUD's (planned unit development) and flag lots. The Commission met with the City Council

to discuss revisions to the zoning and land use ordinances, as well as the impacts of proposed developments.

Major challenges for Planning are:

- Creative infill, now that most of the large parcels are gone;
- Update the Transportation System Plan to accommodate growth and flexibility in design.
- Work on street network design for the area from New St. to Gangnes.

POLICE -The Police Department reports a 5% increase over last year in the demands for service, *(continued on page 2)*

Official Newsletter of the City of Talent

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25% greater than 2000. Despite a number of changes within the department and increased demand for service, the department has maintained excellent work quality and high training standards. Our community has a sense of safety and security.

It remains vital to invest in needed facility improvements now. Two years ago I advised the public that our police building does not meet ADA (American Disability Act), that more records/archive and evidence space is needed, as well as office space. We must address storage and staffing needs to continue the high level of professional service we receive in Talent.

PUBLIC WORKS-This has been a year of great visual change for the City; some may call it the year of the traffic cone. This year has brought to fruition many projects that have been several years in the planning. Accomplishments as well as 2006 projects include:

*A loop and new water connection on Colver Road and the new 12-inch water lines on Hwy 99 and Rapp Road are examples of upgrades to our aging system.

*The Highway 99 project will be complete in the spring of this year, bringing traffic signals to Rapp and Colver, sidewalks, landscaping, bike lanes and storm drains.

*The bridge over Bear Creek on Valley View will be replaced, lights and pedestrian protected crossings will be added to give safe access to the Greenway. A sewer line will be added to allow construction of restrooms in Lynn Newbry Park. Summer road construction projects include Rapp Road, Wagner Street and Creel Road.

PARKS-The newest accomplishment for the Parks Commission is the creation of a recreation program for the public.

The City Council has recently passed a parks maintenance fee, to begin January 2006, to help support the care of our parks. This has been a challenge for many years.

You will note that both the basketball courts and the tennis courts in Chuck Roberts are improved; picnic furniture adds to the amenities. The Skate park continues to be well used, as well as abused. Vandalism to public property remains a problem.

ADMINISTRATION-Administration continues to work with Council and the Civic Center Committee to plan for a new City Hall. You will see major changes in our downtown this year, starting with the long awaited library, a commons area, and renovation of Home Street. Construction of the new City Hall bounded on the west by the Railroad track will be a phased version of our original plan. The need for adequate space, just to provide basic city services, has not gone away. The Urban Renewal Agency will help fund the City Hall and the Commons; the County funds the Library. Phase one, the office area, will begin construction in the fall of 2006. The Council chambers and Community Activity rooms will be built in phases two and three. Given all that I have reported to you today, we, the Council, Commissions and Committees and Staff are working together to improve the City and plan for its future. Our finances

are sound. This is a good time for Talent. Our City is changing, yet we remain the friendly, small town many of us chose to move to. My parting remarks are that I hope the newer residents of this city will come forward and claim a small piece of government as their interest, will get involved, and continue to create this city.

**Thank you for the privilege of serving you.
Marian Telerski, Mayor—January, 2006**

(Mayor Telerski's speech can be found in its entirety on the home page of the City's website at www.cityoftalent.org)

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 payments to be spread 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 by 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 on time, the agreement will be terminated by the City and the monthly bill will be based on actual usage per month. Please call Melissa at City Hall for more information about the program.

NUISANCE ORDINANCE

Residents and City Council have asked that the City become more active in cleaning up the City and enforcing various Nuisance Ordinances that have been on the books, but not enforced for a number of years. The Police Department has finally been able to hire a full time Code Enforcement officer and he is beginning to take action to address some of the violations. While it is understandable that after so many years of allowing these violations to continue, some may be asking; why now? It is something that needs to be done to create a healthy environment and more livable community. If you would like to review the Ordinances that cover these violations you can find them on the City's website at



COP TALK By Guest Contributor Chief Rector

Sometimes people call the police department and get an answering machine and then wonder whether or not there really are any police officers available to help them. In Talent there are several ways to get a police response, but there is not always someone at the TPD office (604 Talent Avenue) to answer the phone. We'd love to have the resources to provide administrative staff 24 hours a day, but we don't, hence the need for an answering machine at the TPD office. Our administrative office hours are weekdays (other than holidays) from 7:00 am to 4:00 pm. Call the TPD office at 535-1253/1235 for any non-emergency complaint, questions, or to speak with the Chief of Police or other personnel. For emergency situations call 911. For those situations that are non-

emergency, and you feel the need to speak to a real person, call 776-7206, 24 hours a day. Both 911 calls and 776-7206 calls are answered by a Southern Oregon Regional Communications (SORC) dispatcher. SORC provides dispatch services to most of the emergency responders in Jackson County, and their office is located in the County Courthouse in Medford. SORC dispatchers are in radio contact with Talent police 24 hours a day. When you call SORC, if you don't have an emergency, you may be asked to "hold" while the dispatcher takes a higher priority 911 call. Calling SORC is the best way to get the fastest police response, but remember that all calls are prioritized as either priority 1, 2, 3, or 4, depending on the nature of the threat to public safety. We routinely juggle numerous calls

at once, and the priority system helps both the dispatcher and the officer focus on the most urgent situations first, so please be patient if your call is not an emergency. If we have two Priority One calls at once, an officer from a neighboring jurisdiction will be dispatched to respond to the second call (since typically there is only one Talent PD officer on duty at a time).

Talking to an answering machine can be frustrating, especially when you have been a victim of a crime, or have a difficult situation you need help with. If you have an emergency, call 911.

If it is not an emergency, but you want a faster response, call SORC at 776-7206. If it can wait, call TPD Office at 535-1253/1235, and leave a message. We will get back to you.

PLANNING DEPARTMENT NEWS

Upcoming Planning Commission items

On February 9th the Commission will review revised findings for the ordinance adopting the *Access Management Plan* for the Highway 99 improvement project. There has been no change to the *Plan*, but the City is under obligation to supplement its findings. The Commission's recommendation will go to the City Council for consideration later in February.

Home Occupations in Residential Zones

The zoning code allows people to conduct certain types of businesses in residential zones provided they are not disruptive to the residential character of the neighborhood. Disruptions include excessive non-residential traffic and noise. Retail businesses are not allowed, but offices are. The occupation is to be carried on within a residential building and only by members of the family occupying the dwelling.

For more information, see

Article 22 of the Talent Zoning Ordinance, which can be viewed online at www.cityoftalent.org.

Prospective business owners should contact the planning department for more information and for a Home Occupation application form. If approved, you also need to get a City business license, which is dependent on the home occupation approval.

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.

FLOODING IN TALENT

Just before the New Year, the City as well as other areas of the Rogue Valley, received a tremendous amount of rain in a short period of time. On the 30th the water crested on the Bear Creek. Residents from Mountain View Estate and the RV Park were asked to leave their homes for higher ground. The Lynn Newbry Park and the Bear Creek Greenway received a great deal of water damage and it is hoped the City will receive some assistance with the clean up. Many thanks to the Police, Public Works and Fire District #5 for help with evacuation and helping with sand bags throughout the day. Due to the lack of storm drains in many areas of the City many residents experienced high water at their homes as well. Even the Police Station had water coming up through the floors. To correct this problem will take a number of years.

URBAN RENEWAL NEWS

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Civic Center Campus

Design plans are nearing completion for the Commons and Home Street construction, which will create a park twice the size of Library Park with new public restrooms, playground area, large lawn area, off street parking, and an alternative stormwater system. Current plans are to select a contractor in March and begin construction late spring/early summer. This work will correspond with the County's construction of a new public library in the same area. The Agency has also agreed to build the first phase of City Hall and hopes to select a contractor in May, with construction beginning sometime in summer. Designs for both the Commons and City Halls-Phase I are available for viewing at Downtowne Coffee and Clayworks.

ACCOUNT NUMBERS ARE IMPORTANT

All water accounts have been assigned a 12-digit number to distinguish your account from all the other accounts. It is important that the water bill stub be included with your payment, or this 12-digit account number be written on your check when you are making a payment. It is even more important if you make payments through a service company. Without the account number a great deal of staff time and detective work is spent in trying to figure out where the payment should be credited. Thank you for your help in fixing this problem.



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Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 <i>City Council</i> 6:30pm	2 <i>Enhancement</i> 4:00pm CH	3	4
5	6 <i>Muni Court</i> 3:00pm CH Council 6:30 pm Roundtable CH	7	8 <i>Parks</i> 6:00pm Comm Hall	9 <i>Traffic</i> 3:00pm Pub Wks Planning 6:30pm CH	10	11
12	13	14 <i>Arch. Review</i> 7:00pm CH Civic Center 5:30 pm CH	15 <i>Chamber</i> 8:30am <i>Rising Farms</i> Safety 1:30pm City Council 6:30pm CH	16 <i>Economic</i> 3:30pm Comm Hall	17	18 <i>Architec.</i> Review Walk 9:00am TBD
19	20 <i>President's</i> **Day** (City Offices closed)	21 <i>Muni Court</i> 6:00pm CH <i>Urban Ren.</i> 6:00pm Library	22	23 <i>Planning</i> 6:30pm <i>Comm Hall</i> The "Flash" Distributed	24	25
26	27 <i>Council</i> Retreat 6:30 pm TBD	28 <i>W. Vly View</i> Design Mtg. 6:00pm CH	(recycle)			