



THE FLASH

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

City of Talent

February 28, 2006 / Volume 9, Issue 2

URBAN RENEWAL NEWS

West Valley View Design Progress - Coming Soon on Website

As reported in last month's FLASH, a public design meeting for the West Valley View street network planning process will be held Tuesday, February 28, from 6 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. at the Talent Community Center. All are invited to attend this hands-on workshop in creating a vision for how the area will look and function in the future. For those who may have missed the public announcements or were unable to attend the workshop, soon you will be able to check out the current design ideas on the City's website at cityoftalent.org, where a button on the home page will direct you to the West Valley View site.

PUBLIC INPUT FOR PARKS MASTER PLAN

On April 10, 2006 at 6:30 p.m. at the Community Center, the City will hold a public open house to obtain comments from all city residents on what they see for the future of public parks in Talent. The City Parks and Recreation Commission is working with consultants to update the Parks Master Plan. The Parks Master Plan describes in detail the content and condition of all the parks currently owned by the City, as well as making recommendations as to how these parks should be developed in the future. These improvements can include types of future uses of the parks such as water features, volleyball courts or areas for dogs, as well as tree plantings and picnic tables. The Plan will also look at whether the City should be planning for new parks and if so where they should be located.

Another question to be asked/addressed is should the City be having developers include parks in the new developments that are being proposed for construction or should the focus be on central park

areas. As the City grows it is important that parks and open space be planned to meet the recreational needs of all the citizens.

Once a new level of detail is developed for the parks then the next step is to figure out how through grants and other methods of funding these identified features can be implemented. For a number of years the City has had difficulty in finding the money to just maintain parks without being able to even consider capital improvements.

With the recent development that has taken place, combined with some grant funding the City has been able to start to make some improvements, but much more needs to be done. The new parks surcharge that was approved by City Council in December 2005 and implemented in February will provide much needed funds to just be able to take care of the parks.

In addition to planning for the current parks, this public planning session will look at providing ideas on how the City should develop what was previously referred to as Whackers' Hollow and also the DeYoung Property. Both of these parcels connect around the City's Public Works Facility off of Suncrest Road. There is sufficient land there for a combination of active (sports related) and passive (walking trails and fishing) recreation.

NEW LIBRARY GROUNDBREAKING CELEBRATION

Jackson County Library
Services and the
Community of Talent
invite you to join in
celebrating the ground-
breaking for the new
Talent Branch Library
Sunday, March 12, 2006
2:00—3:00 p.m.
Talent Community
Center

Art project for children
in the Library —
2:00 - 2:45 p.m.
For more information
call the Talent Library at
535-4163

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Inside this issue:

<i>Urban Renewal (cont'd)</i>	2
<i>Parks Master Plan</i>	2
<i>Construction Hazards</i>	2
<i>Cop Talk</i>	3
<i>Planning News</i>	3
<i>Recreation Program</i>	Back Page
<i>Committee Volunteers</i>	Back Page

URBAN RENEWAL NEWS – (continued from page 1)

Civic Center & City Hall Designs:

Design plans are undergoing final review with the City's various review bodies for the City Hall (Phase I), Commons park area, and Home Street construction. Contractor selection is anticipated this spring, with major construction beginning this summer. To see the designs currently under review, please visit the City's website or stop by City Hall. To comment on any of the designs, please contact Civic Center Committee Chair Bob Wilson at claire-bob@charter.net, 535-3387, Agency Director Marla Cates at ura.talent@charter.net or call 535-6170 or City Manager Betty Wheeler at betty@cityoftalent.org or call 535-1566. In addition, the City Hall design will be discussed at a joint meeting of the City's Architectural Review and Civic Center committees on Thursday, March 2nd, 7:00 p.m. in the Talent Community Center. As always, all meetings are open to the public.

Work to Begin on Wagner Creek Bridge:

A contractor has been selected for this project, which will make safety and aesthetic improvements to this historic bridge. Work will begin this spring and be completed by June, with very little traffic disruption anticipated.

PUBLIC INPUT FOR PARKS MASTER PLAN—(continued from page 1)

Some City residents will have by now received a Parks Survey that has been sent out to a random selection of citizens, by the consultants from the University of Oregon as a first step in obtaining public input to this planning process. The consultants will also be meeting with the leadership group at the Talent Middle School to obtain the youths input and this public meeting on April 10th is the third comment opportunity.

The consultants working with the Parks Commission on this project are affiliated with the University of Oregon Community Planning Workshops Program. The selection of this consulting group was made since it provides the City with the expertise of the professional land use and landscape architectural staff at the University as well as gives the students studying in these fields an opportunity to have hands on experience working with a community to

CONSTRUCTION HAZARDS IN DOWNTOWN



Citizens in Talent can expect a great deal of construction inconvenience in the downtown area beginning in April 2006 and extending through the Summer. With the plans for the County library going out to bid this month, and the “Commons” area including Home Street reconstruction and the new City Hall going to bid in April, there will be considerable disruption in and around Main, I Street, North and Lapree Street. Library Park will be closed off to use during construction and parking in general in the area around the Library and City Hall is going to be difficult. While the current library will remain open until the month before they move to the new building, due to the heavy construction taking place it has been decided that it is not safe to try and keep Library Park open for public use. In preparation for the construction the Public Works Department is now removing the play structure, picnic shelter, park benches and drinking fountain. The play structure, drinking fountain and park benches will be re-installed after the “Commons” area is complete in late fall.

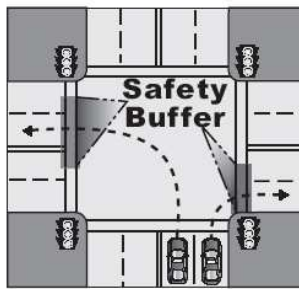
The city owns all the land where the current and new libraries are located. However, they have entered into a ground lease with Jackson County for the installation of the new library on the former fire station site. The county will be responsible for the safety of the site while the new library is under construction.

Residents and visitors who would like to use the library or to come to City Hall are encouraged to walk when possible or be prepared to experience some parking inconvenience during the construction. While we regret that Library Park, which has become a popular spot for children to play, will have to close during the construction, the new park area that is included in the Commons plans will be a significant improvement over what is there today.



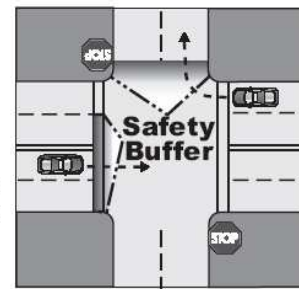
COP TALK By Guest Contributor Chief Rector

Oregon's Crosswalk Laws Have Changed



← Before turning at a crosswalk with a signal, it's 1 + 6. Your lane plus six feet. Stop for the pedestrian, who must clear the lane into which the vehicle is turning PLUS 6 feet beyond that lane, before you proceed.

At any other crosswalk, it's 1 + 1. Your lane plus the next lane. Stop for the pedestrian, who must clear the lane in which the vehicle is traveling or turning PLUS the next lane, before you proceed. →



Fine = \$242; \$355 in School Zones

Effective January 1st of this year, pedestrian crosswalk laws changed in Oregon, and the diagram above shows this change. The law here applies in one of two possible ways, depending on the type of intersection, and regardless of whether the crosswalks are marked or unmarked. For those intersections that are controlled by traffic signals (left image in diagram), the rule is "Motorist lane + 6 feet" before a

motorist can enter a crosswalk in which pedestrians are traveling, the pedestrians must be completely out of the motorist's lane of travel and also be 6 feet beyond the motorist's lane of travel. For all other intersections (right image in diagram), the rule is "Motorist lane + 1 lane" before the motorist can enter a crosswalk in which pedestrians are traveling,

the pedestrians must be completely out of the motorist's lane of travel AND must have cleared a second lane of travel away from the motorist's lane of travel. This new law is intended to simplify previous crosswalk laws. If you have any questions about these or other traffic safety issues, contact Talent Police at 604 Talent Avenue, or by phone at 535-1253/1235.

PLANNING DEPARTMENT NEWS

Businesses and Houses in the Downtown

You may have noticed the new Bangkok's Benny Thai restaurant taking shape on E. Main Street across from City Hall. Just like the year-and-a-half-old Hanson-Dilling Building around the corner from it on South I Street, the new restaurant stands out amid the houses. I've been asked why the City let such a large building go up next to a house and why its built up to the sidewalk. The reason this is happening is that the zoning in this area permits it. The zoning of the area from the railroad tracks to the highway and from Wagner Street to Lapree Street is "Central Business District" (short name: C2). This zone also extends up both sides of Talent Avenue to

Colver Road. Although this zoning has existed for over 30 years, there hasn't been much commercial redevelopment to replace the old housing stock. Now that we're seeing a little vitality coming into this area, we'll also see a change in the character of the downtown. Some houses will stay and some will be replaced by new commercial buildings; some houses may be repurposed for commercial use. The Architectural Review Committee has oversight of new construction and rehabilitations in most of the C2 zone because most of it is in the design review district known as "Old Town." The biggest issue on the horizon is the availability of parking as more businesses and more business buildings combined with residential uses—such as Hanson-Dilling—move into the

downtown. To be able to accommodate more commercial activity in the downtown, more parking will be needed.

For more information, see Articles 8 and 16 of the Zoning Ordinance and the Old Town Design Standards, which you can view on-line at www.cityoftalent.org.

Upcoming Planning Commission items

On March 9 the Commission will review the site development plan for the civic center campus, which will include an expanded park, library parking lot, and new city hall.

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.

RECREATION PROGRAM PLANNING NEEDS YOUR HELP



The Parks Commission is currently developing recreation programs to be offered to City residents during the summer months. The City is looking for the help of an individual who may have some time and knowledge of recreation to help in setting up these programs. The City can offer a stipend to the right person. This is not considered to be a full time job but would be for approximately 10 hours a week for the next couple of months to set up the programs and then get them started. In addition, if there is anyone who has some experience in teaching sports classes and would have time this summer to spend with the youth in Talent, please contact Betty Wheeler, City Manager at 535-1566.

COMMITTEE VOLUNTEERS

Several people have stepped forward to volunteer to serve on the Planning Commission and the Traffic Safety Committee, thank you for that.



There are still openings for the Enhancement Committee and the City Budget Committee. On both of these committees there is a focus of time and then some breaks during the fall and winter months. Please contact City Hall for an application to volunteer or you can find this application form on the City's website www.cityoftalent.org. Also, the Urban Renewal Agency's budget committee has two openings for the 2006-2008 term. Please contact Marla Cates, Executive Director at 535-6170 for more information.

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Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Eri	Sat
			1 <i>City Council 6:30pm Comm. Hall</i>	2	3 <i>Harvest Festival 1:45pm Comm. Hall</i>	4
5	6 <i>Municipal Court 3:00pm Comm. Hall</i>	7	8 <i>Parks 6:00pm Comm. Hall</i>	9 <i>Planning 6:30pm Comm. Hall</i>	10	11
12	13	14 <i>Arch. Review 7:00pm Comm. Hall</i>	15 <i>Chamber 8:30am Comm. Hall Safety 1:30pm Comm Hall City Council 6:30pm Comm. Hall</i>	16 <i>Economic 4:30pm Comm. Hall</i>	17	18 <i>Arch Review Walk 9:00am TBD</i>
19	20 <i>Municipal Court 6:00pm Comm. Hall</i>	21 <i>Urban Renewal 6:00pm Comm. Hall</i>	22	23 <i>Planning 6:30pm Comm. Hall</i>	24	25
26	27	28	29 recycle	30 <i>The "Flash" distributed</i>	31	