



THE FLASH

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

City of Talent

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CITY HAS MANY REASONS TO SAY THANKS

This past year has been an extremely productive year for City government and the citizens as well. The new City Hall and Commons area were completed as well as the County Library in Talent. The West Valley View Bridge was finally complete and access to the Bear Creek Greenway and Lynn Newbry Park restored. While the county libraries were closed for four months they have now re-opened and with help from the City the Talent Library will be open for 36 hours a week. The Harvest Festival was very successful in its new location; the Parks Commission had a successful fundraiser to earn money to continue to support Recreation Programs for Talent's youth; Together for Talent, formerly the Enhancement Committee, launched a new program for planting over 20 trees

throughout the community; and, the Public Arts Committee sponsored a children art program that produces some impressive art work that was used to prepare a colorful calendar.

All of this could not have been accomplished without the support of the various City Committees and the participation of the city residents and the help from City employees. For this we wish to thank the members of the City Council, Urban Renewal Board, Planning Commission, Parks and Recreation Commission, Architectural Review, Traffic Safety Commission, Public Art Committee, Together for Talent Committee and the Harvest Festival Committee. As well many thanks to the Talent Chamber of Commerce, Lions Club, Garden Club and Fire District #5 for their help and support.

In 2008 we look forward to the completion of the Police Department Renovations and the street and sidewalk improvements on Talent Avenue and West/3rd and 4th Streets.

TREE LIGHTING PARTY - DECEMBER 6th AT 6:30 P.M.

Please join us on December 6th at the Community Center to light the Christmas tree and a holiday celebration afterwards. Each year, in conjunction with the Ashland community Hospital Light for Life program, the City lights the Christmas tree in front of the Community Center. This year we will have a holiday party afterwards with refreshments and fun for the whole family! Please plan on coming out and starting the holiday season together.

NEW HOURS AT THE LIBRARY IN TALENT

Beginning December 1, 2007 the Talent Library will be open 36 hours a week. The hours will be as follows: Sunday & Monday – closed; Tuesday – 10:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m.; Wednesday & Thursday – 12:00 noon-7:00 p.m.; Friday & Saturday 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. These expanded

are intended to accommodate the use of all residents including school age children and working adults who have difficulty using the library with the limited hours during the day.

Official Newsletter of the City of Talent

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Inside this issue:

<i>City Auction</i>	2
<i>Adopt a Family for Christmas</i>	2
<i>Planning Efforts of RVTD</i>	2
<i>2008 Children's Art Calendars for Sale</i>	2
<i>Boy Scout Christmas Tree Pick-Up</i>	2
<i>Cop Talk</i>	3
<i>Planning News</i>	3
<i>Planning- Continued</i>	<i>Back Page</i>

Auction 2007

The City of Talent will be conducting a sealed bid auction in December. We have everything including a kitchen sink! Items being auctioned include a 1994 Ford Utility Truck, a Presario laptop computer with carrying case, an Onan generator, air conditioning units, truck tool boxes, a bench grinder, office desks, chairs, computers, bookcases, paper shredders, a digital camera, a television, projection screens and much, much more. The public may view the items on Thursday – December 6, 2007 between 8:00 am – 3:30 pm at Public Works, 200 Suncrest Ave. **Please call ahead at 535-3828** to ensure that an employee is available to unlock the building. Only sealed bids will be accepted. Bid sheets can be obtained at the viewing or at Talent City Hall (110 E. Main, Talent) from Dec. 6 through Dec. 13 from 8:30 am – 5:00 pm. Bids will be opened on Dec. 14, 2007 and highest bidders will be notified. Payments are to be made at Talent City Hall. Items must be picked up no later than Friday - Dec. 21, 2007. Bidders will need to bring a receipt from city hall to claim purchased items. A trip permit is required from DMV for the utility truck. If you have any questions regarding this auction, please call Talent Public Works at 535-3828.

Adopt a Family for Christmas

If you would like to help in providing gifts for someone less fortunate in the Talent Community please stop by City Hall and pick up a gift tag from the City Christmas tree in the lobby. Each tag will have the first name of a family member from the City adopted families list and will include the sex, age and a suggested gift from the wish list for that person. If you take a tag we would ask that you bring the unwrapped gift, with the tag attached to it to City Hall no later than December 10th. There will also be a box for non-perishable foods for those who would like to contribute in this way. All City department employees working together with Fire District #5 have adopted families within the community to make sure they have a special Christmas. We are inviting anyone who wishes to join us in this effort this year so that we can add a few more families. If you have any questions please ask the receptionist at the front desk, or contact Coleen, who is coordinating the project, at Public Works 535-3828. Thank you in advance for your help.

PLANNING EFFORTS OF RVRTD

Many of the City residents do use the Rogue Valley Transit District services either through the use of the bus or the Valley Lift. RVRTD is preparing a long range plan that will include planning for the growth of their services in Talent and needs citizen input to this plan. The lack of adequate funding has always been an issue to the District and this has affected their ability to offer the type of services that many would like to see. The City continues to support the presence of the bus service since we recognize that a number of residents use this service to get to and from work each day. As gas prices continue to rise more people will be looking for alternatives to driving themselves to and from work.

RVRTD is also sponsoring some new programs that would support Van Pooling or “Way to Go Business Network”. From 5-15 people can pool together and participate in a Van Pool. Some businesses participate in the Business Network program to provide passes to their employees. If you would like to have more information about either of these programs you can contact RVRTD at 608-2411.

2008 CHILDREN ART CALENDARS FOR SALE

Many of you have had the pleasure of obtaining a 2008 Children’s Art Calendar at the Harvest Festival or at City Hall. The Public arts Advisory Committee put together the art calendar to promote the children’s talent of creating art for each month of the year. As the busy holiday rolls around, please stop by City Hall or contact Talent Elementary and help sponsor the children’s art by purchasing a calendar. Each calendar costs \$10. The calendar lists the names of the artists and the businesses in Talent that helped support the art project. We appreciate everyone helping us promote artwork from Talent’s own talented artists! Happy Holidays from the Arts Committee!

REMINDER - BOY SCOUT CHRISTMAS TREE PICKUP

Talent Scout Troop 535 will be picking up discarded Christmas trees on January 5, 2008 for all City residents. This is a great program to have the trees disposed of after the holiday and chipped into mulch for reuse. Please place the trees at the curbside by 10:00 a.m. the morning of the 5th to assure pickup. Please remove all metal and tree stands. For more information, or if an out of city pick up is needed, please contact the Scouts at P.O. Box 898, Talent, Oregon. A donation to the scouts is appreciated

This month we'd like to remind Talent residents about the possibility of seasonal flooding, and about preparedness for this kind of emergency situation. Historically, the December-January time frame is when we experience the worst seasonal flooding. Extreme seasonal flooding has caused those living along the Bear Creek & Wagner Creek drainages to evacuate their homes, and may do so again in the future. Below are some emergency preparedness reminders. For additional information, contact the Talent Police Department at 535-1253, or after hours at our Dispatching center at 776-7206.

Obey Evacuation Orders!

- If Police or Fire order evacuation, the threat is real.
- Don't question it, just act and get out fast.

Have a To-Go Kit:

- Medications, vitamins, supplements.
- Toothbrush, toothpaste, denture needs, contact lenses or extra glasses, soap, wash cloth, small towel, underclothing, extra car & house keys.
- Phone card to call long distance.

Important Documents:

- Keep in waterproof container, ready to go.
- Include safe deposit box key.
- Keep wallet, purse, and house/car keys together.

Pets: Arrange a Place for Pets to Stay Ahead of Time.

- Take medications, leash, tags, special instructions, and name/phone of Veterinarian.

Designate Out-of-State Relative:

- That all family members can call to tell they are okay. Call them as soon as you are safe.

Turn Off Utilities:

- Turn off gas at main to prevent explosion/fire.
- Turn off electric at breaker box to prevent fire.
- Turn off water at water main to prevent water damage.

Meet With Neighbors in Advance:

- Plan how neighborhood should work together after a disaster. Know your neighbors' skills.
- Consider how you could help neighbors with special needs, such as disabled persons.
- Become a trained CERT (Community Emergency Response Team) volunteer. Your neighbors need you.
- For more on local CERT activities, call Talent Police or Fire District 5.

Do You Need Help Evacuating? - **If you can't get away from your home without help, plan in advance to get help.**

- Arrange with neighbors or others close by to come and get you if there is an emergency evacuation order.
- Register with the Jackson County Disaster Registry. The forms are at City Hall. It's confidential. Once you are on the Registry, Police & Fire personnel will be notified of your special needs in an evacuation situation.
- Call 664-6676, ext 379, or City Hall at 535-1566, for assistance with JC Disaster Registry.

PLANNING DEPARTMENT NEWS

Talent Avenue Improvements & On-Street Parking

Next year the City will upgrade Talent Avenue from the police station to Creel Road. Improvements will include bike lanes on both sides and sidewalk on the westerly side, much like the northern portion that was done a

few years ago. Improvements will *not* include on-street parking—there is not enough right-of-way width to fit all the pieces. It would be possible to fit on-street parking if we left out the sidewalks or bike lanes, but that's not an option. We are required by Federal, State and our own laws

to provide capacity for all modes of travel; that includes bike and pedestrian modes. The money the City was awarded to pay for the improvements was authorized by SAFETEA-LU, a transportation-financing act passed by Congress in 2005; that is one source of the bike & pedestrian requirement. **(cont'd on back-page)**

PLANNING DEPARTMENT NEWS (continued from page 3)

The State's *Transportation Planning Rule* (OAR 660-012) contains the same requirement, as does the *Regional Transportation Plan*. On top of all that, the City's own *Transportation System Plan* requires us to accommodate all modes of travel when the opportunity arises.

This project, as with many other state and local construction projects includes sidewalks not only because they are required by law, but there is a belief by local and state officials that cities should be providing greater opportunities to use other modes of transportation such as bicycles, sidewalks and bus transit. New highways are costly to construct and add to air pollution, whereas other modes offer opportunities, if used, to reduce the demand for new and improved highways and improved the air quality in the valley.

When working within a limited right-of-way, the provision of on-street parking has the lowest priority, because providing for general mobility is the greater municipal objective.

State Planning System

In the debate surrounding "Pacific Stage Heights," a proposed 143-lot residential development at the south-west end of Talent, what has been most revelatory is the general lack of understanding for land-use planning in Oregon.

Lands in the City's Urban Growth Boundary (UGB) are, by definition, eligible for development. They are not defined as farm or forest land, or wildlife reserve, or any similar thing. With the exception of some undevelopable areas, such as wetlands, the City relies on land in its UGB to accommodate growth. Having been set aside for growth for more than 30 years in Talent, these lands are part of the State's goal of containing and directing development so cities do not expand into agricultural areas.



December 2007



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3 Court 3:00pm Comm. Center	4	5 City Council 6:30pm Comm. Center	6 <i>Tree Lighting Community Celebration 6:30 pm</i> Comm. Center	7	8
9	10 TFT 4:00pm City Hall	11 Architectural Review 6:00pm Comm. Center	12 Parks 6:00pm Comm. Center	13 Planning Commission 6:00pm City Hall	14	15 Arch. Review Walk-Around 9:00am Historic Dist.
16	17 Court 6:00pm Comm. Center	18 Urban Renewal 6:00pm 102 Home St.	19 <u>Safety Committee</u> 1:30pm City Council 6:30pm -ComCtr	20 Planning Commission 6:30pm Comm. Center	21	22
23	24 City Offices Closed @ 12:00 pm	25 Christmas City Offices Closed	26	27 The "Flash" Distributed	28	29
30	31					