



THE FLASH

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

City of Talent

February 22, 2007 / Volume 10, Issue 2

TALENT AVENUE IMPROVEMENTS

The City received an ODOT Enhancement Grant to make street improvements along Talent Avenue. The project will begin at Chuck Roberts Park and extend to Creel Road. This is the final phase of the project begun a number of years ago to improve Talent Avenue by installing a storm water system, sidewalks on the west side of the street, and bike lanes on both sides of the street. WH Pacific, consulting engineers, has been hired to complete the design work on this project. You may see them out there in the coming months completing surveys and identifying issues that will need to be addressed with this project. In coordination with their work the City will have a Citizen Advisory Committee to include a couple of residents who live along the street in the project area as well as someone who travels this road on a regular basis.

Anyone interested in participating should contact the City Manager at City Hall, 535-1566.

TAKE A VACATION FOR TALENT PARKS & RECREATION

The City's Parks and Recreation Commission is busy planning for a major fund raising event to be held on **April 7, 2007 at the Windmill Inn in Ashland.** (Please note: This is a change in the date from last month's Flash)

With a vacation theme the Commission is seeking items to auction off to raise funds to continue to be able to offer Recreation Programs during the summer months. This fund raising event is an opportunity for residents to become involved with helping to fund programs that could otherwise not

take place. Last summer there were about 18 different recreation programs offered for the City youth.

While there was an enrollment fee to cover program costs they were kept intentionally low to allow anyone who wanted to participate the opportunity to do so.

Putting such a program together is time consuming and takes special efforts of a part time employee. The City would very much like to continue what has been started each year. If you'd like to donate an item or service for the auction, please contact City Hall at 535-1566.



**Official
Newsletter of the
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Talent**
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UTILITY BILL PAYMENT OPTIONS

All Water Utility Customers have the opportunity to enroll in an "Equal Payment Plan" for the payment of monthly water utility bills. This has been a popular program for some, and allows them to equalize their monthly payments for water usage over a 12 month period rather than having to deal with higher water bills during the warmer months of the year and lower bills in late fall and winter months.

To participate in the program a water customer signs an agreement with the City that they will make equal monthly payments based on their annual consumption. The criteria for qualifying for this program is as follows: 1) You will need to have one year of payment history with the City (i.e. you have been a city water customer for at least a year; 2) Sign up for the program in March; 3) You agree to pay the calculated monthly payment on time each month.

The actual monthly payment is based on your water usage history. Looking at the previous year of usage assists in setting the monthly payment at an amount that would, over the course of a year, cover the highs and lows of the bills.

By signing up in March you will be able to build up a credit balance so that when the larger bills occur during the summer months there will be money there to cover that. Each year at this time the City reviews each one of the "Equal Payment Plan" accounts and adjusts the monthly payment to reflect the previous year usage as well as any balances on the account. A new agreement is signed between the customer and the City confirming the commitment to continue in the program. If the monthly payments are not made then the City will terminate the agreement and place the customer back on a regular billing that requires full payment each month. Please call Amanda at City Hall 535-1566 for more information about this program.

LOCAL ARTISTS CONTEST

Here's your chance to have your artwork on the front of this year's Harvest Festival T-Shirt and Event Poster! Contact Cheryl at City Hall 535-1566 for details on your submission. Deadline is April 2nd.

CITIZEN VOLUNTEERS

The City continues to have openings on the Budget Committee and is looking for citizen volunteers to step forward. The Budget Committee will meet several times in May to review the budget presented by the City Manager. Each of the City Departments will present their budget proposals for the next fiscal year July 2007-June 2008. The Committee then makes a recommendation to the City Council of the amount of budget and sets a city tax rate. It is a good opportunity to learn how the City spends its money and also to have input on the total amount finally adopted. The Budget Committee is comprised of the Mayor and 6 councilors and an equal number of citizens are on the committee as well. If you are interested contact City Hall 535-1566 for an application to volunteer or you can find the application form on the City's website www.cityoftalent.org.

PLANNING COMMITTEES FOR HARVEST FESTIVAL AND CITYWIDE CLEAN UP

The Harvest Festival Committee is beginning to plan for the largest City celebration that has taken place on the 2nd Saturday of September for over 30 years. Each year this event has grown with more participants and a greater attendance. Events include a Lions Club Breakfast, road race, parade and then a full day of entertainment and vendor booths. As you can imagine something like this takes a lot of effort and the committee is looking for new members with new ideas on how to keep improving on what is already a very popular event. Contact Cheryl at City Hall 535-1566 to volunteer.

The Enhancement Committee is another group established to work towards improving the physical appearance of the community. One of the major events is held in May with a one-day Green-Up/Clean Up event and a community wide yard sale. The committee is looking for other events to take place throughout the year where citizens can get involved in the ongoing challenge of making the City a cleaner, healthier place to be. Contact Cheryl at City Hall 535-1566 to volunteer.



COP TALK By Chief Rector

This month I would like to take a moment to talk about seatbelt safety and specifi-

cally child passenger safety. Recently The Oregon Child Safety Seat Resource Center inspected 2,580 child safety seats and found that 82.3% were incorrectly installed. Another sad statistic to think about is that in Oregon in 2006 there were 1,354 child passengers under eight years of age injured (six were killed) in motor vehicle crashes. Two out of five of them were not using child safety seats. Here are highlights of Oregon Law (ORS 811.210) on this subject: **A child who is under four years of age and weighs 40 pounds or less must be properly secured with a child safety system designed for**

safety system designed for children weighing 40 pounds or less. A child who is at least four years of age and under six years of age or weighs between 40 and 60 pounds must be properly secured with a child safety system that elevates the person so that a safety belt or safety harness properly fits the person. "Proper fit" means the lap belt of the safety belt or safety harness is positioned low across the thighs and the shoulder belt is positioned over the collarbone and away from the neck. The child safety system must be designed for children weighing between 40 and 60 pounds.

A child who is at least six years of age and weighs 60 pounds or more must be properly secured with a safety belt or safety harness.

It is also advisable that all children 12 years and under should ride in the back seat. Our hope is that parents will take the time to make sure that each member of the family is properly wearing their seatbelts and that all child safety seats are being properly used. Talent PD has on hand a variety of educational flyers and handouts for the fitting and installation of child safety seats.

You can also contact the Oregon Child Seat resource Center at 1-800-772-1315, or visit their website at www.actsoregon.org, or call Talent Police Department at 535-1253.

PLANNING DEPARTMENT NEWS

Long-Range Plans adopted

On February 7 the City Council adopted the Railroad District Master Plan (RDMP). The "Railroad District" is the area in the city's urban growth boundary (UGB) lying south and west of the railroad and W. Rapp Road. The RDMP is a supplement to the city Comprehensive Plan, the document that lays out planning and development goals and policies through 2020. The Council is also on track to adopt the Wagner Creek Greenway Connection Plan, a guideline to implementation of a trail alongside Wagner Creek from Talent Avenue to the Bear Creek Greenway (see on-line Oct. '06 *Flash* for more information).

Building activity

I suspect it's common knowledge that residential building

activity has slowed considerably in the last year or so; it might interest you to know what the figures look like in Talent:

- In 2004 the city issued 128 permits for new houses. In 2005 we issued 68, and in 2006 the number was 42.
- The average number of permits issued per month has dropped from 10.7 to 3.5.
- There are currently 189 vacant residential lots that have received planning approval and are either available to build on or soon will be.
- The latest population estimate puts the city at 6,415

people, an increase of only 160 over the previous year's estimate, whereas the previous increase had been 365.

Planning Commission

On 3/8 (or 3/22) the Commission will consider a recommendation to the City Council to suspend the planned unit development (PUD) regulations for a six- to twelve-month period while the commission and staff work on re-writing the rules governing the creation of PUDs. This means the city will not accept or process applications for such type of development during the suspension.

MEMORIAL PARK BENCH FOR CIVIC CENTER

Would you be interested in purchasing a park bench in memory of a loved one?


As the Civic Center is beginning to take shape we are reminded that there were a number of items that had to be deleted from the project in order to stay within the budget. All park furniture including park benches, trash receptacles and bike racks were taken out of the project. The City would like to be able to restore some of these items and therefore ask if anyone either individually or as a group would be interested in the purchase of some of these items. These furnishings have been selected because of their durability and also with knowledge of recent experience the city has had with vandalism at other city parks. The purchase prices are higher but the product is one being used by other cities who have also been confronted with the damage that can be done to less expensive furniture. If you are interested please contact the City Manager or Cheryl at City Hall, 535-1566.

RECYCLING PHONE BOOKS - Talent residents have two opportunities to recycle their old telephone books once the new directories are delivered in mid April. The Talent Elementary school will accept phone books from all residents or businesses during the campaign that runs until mid May for the "Phone Book Collection Competition." Ashland Sanitary will provide a cash reward to the school that collects the most phone books. As another option old books can be placed curbside with your other recyclables through mid-May. 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!

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Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				<i>1 Public Arts 6:00pm Comm.</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>3</i>
<i>4</i>	<i>5 Municipal Court 3:00pm Comm. Hall</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>7 City Council 6:30pm Comm. Hall</i>	<i>8 Traffic 3:00pm Comm. Hall Planning 6:30pm Comm.</i>	<i>9</i>	<i>10</i>
<i>11</i>	<i>12</i>	<i>13 Arch Review 6:00pm Comm. Hall</i>	<i>14Harvest Festi- val 3:30pm c h (Tentative) Parks 6:00pm Comm. Hall</i>	<i>15</i>	<i>16</i>	
<i>18</i>	<i>19 Municipal Court 6:00pm Comm. Hall</i>	<i>20 Urban Renewal 6:00pm 102 Home st</i>	<i>21 Safety 1:30pm Police Dept City Council 6:30pm Comm.</i>	<i>22 Planning 6:30pm Comm. Hall</i>	<i>23</i>	<i>24</i>
<i>25</i>	<i>26</i>	<i>27</i>	<i>28 (Recycle)</i>	<i>29 The "Flash" Distributed</i>	<i>30</i>	<i>31</i>