



THE FLASH

An update from City Administration,
Planning, Public Works

City of Talent

March 29 , 2007 /Volume 10, Issue 3

Green-Up Clean-Up Day Saturday, May 5th

Green-Up and Clean-Up of Talent neighborhoods and businesses is happening on Saturday, May 5th from 8:00 to 2:00 pm. In addition, that day Ashland Sanitary will offer free brush & lumber disposal at the Chuck Roberts Park parking lot from 8 am to 2 pm. The following items will be accepted:

- Tree limbs & woody brush (no grass or leaves)
- Wood scraps & lumber (nails and screws are ok, no other hardware)
- No trash!

CITY WIDE YARD SALE

On Saturday May 12th join in the citywide yard sale. For \$4.00 you can have your yard sale address added to a list and map. A sign up sheet will be located at Talent City Hall from now until 5:00 pm, May 1st. These maps of yard sales in Talent will be available starting May 5th through May 12th at the following locations —*Tark's Market, Talent Post Office, Talent Laundromat, City Hall and the Community Bulletin Board.*

City Open Burning Ban

Open burning is prohibited within the Talent City limits. The City Council adopted an Ordinance to ban open burning in June 2006 and it is the responsibility of the Fire District #5 to comply with these regulations when issuing burn permits. This ban does include the open burning of brush or tree debris and garden waste and was taken only after considerable discussion by the Council. Check on the City's website for the details on this regulation.

The entire Rogue Valley is subject to stronger federal air quality standards and controlling open burning is one of several measures that have been put in place to help the Valley come into compliance with these regulations. There are very few exemptions from this regulation.

Recognizing that this can be a problem to residents in dealing with their spring brush clean-up arrangements have been made to provide for free, compliments of Ashland Sanitary, drop off for brush and wood disposal at Chuck Roberts Park parking lot on May 5, 2007 from 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Take advantage of this opportunity.

RECYCLING

The City of Talent is a member of Jackson County Recycling Partnership (JCRP), a consortium of solid waste companies, Jackson County, and several local municipalities. JCRP works to educate County residents about recycling, waste prevention, hazardous waste prevention and composting through the Recycling Directory and various other projects.

Find out how you can extend the life of natural resources close to home. Go to www.RogueSMART.org and find a list of recycling opportunities for homes and businesses to reduce waste and prevent pollution. From appliances, building materials, and electronics to paint, tires and yard waste, the Recycling Directory includes over 50 local recycling outlets beyond basic curbside collection service.



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City of
Talent**
204 East Main
Street,
P.O. Box 445, Talent,
Oregon 97540

*Edited by
Cheryl Nicolay*
City Website:
www.cityoftalent.org
Telephone:
(541) 535-1566
E-mail:
cheryl@cityoftalent.org

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Mayor Steyskal State of the City Address

“As we settle into the new year, it is time to see where we are and where we are headed.

This year brings change, accomplishments, and challenges that reflect our character as a community.

The Talent City Council has a new look this year. As the new Mayor it will be my privilege to work with a dedicated group of people. The current Council is fortunate to have continuity and an infusion of new blood. This combination of experience coupled with fresh energy and new perspective bodes well for our City. I definitely see progress and success in our future.

The Administration Department is like the conductor of an orchestra. One doesn't hear the conductor, just the music that is the result of the conductor's direction and coordinating efforts.

Challenges to the Administration Department over the past year have been a shortage of staff, turnover of staff, increased regulatory requirements, and cramped quarters. Rising to meet these challenges, the Administration Department has:

- Negotiated a new three-year contract with the city employees union.

- Organized a “workforce housing” regional summit.

- Coordinated with various agencies for the completion of numerous Public Works projects.

- Facilitated building of a new city hall.

- Coped with the day-to-day business of the city.

The Finance Department has experienced a complete make-over. A new director, new billing clerk, and new financial software were challenges for any department. In spite of these issues, the Department incorporated the new software, filled vacancies, and completed training for the new system.

The Talent Police Department has become one of the premier small city departments in the region. This has happened even in the face of many “opportunities to excel”. The current inability to provide adequate funding results in insufficient staff levels, reduced services, and continuous turnover. Even with these problems, our Department continues to be efficient and professional. Our dedicated officers were rewarded by the citizens of Talent when the bond for the Police Station expansion was passed.

Balancing the desires of the citizens, requirements of law, and the rights of property owners are challenges faced by the Planning Department. Working with the Police to coordinate code enforcement, re-working

the Planned Unit Development Ordinance, and dealing with re-development issues are aspects of these challenges.

To address planning issues, the Department has reorganized the development code, updated the Transportation Systems Plan, implemented a GIS databank, and enhanced permitting procedures. Increased staff knowledge and training has helped accomplish this.

Public Works is the Department with which the residents of Talent have the most direct contact. Funding and staffing are the main challenge to a department that deals with streets, parks, sidewalks, storm drainage, and the water distribution system – either directly or by coordinating with other agencies. One only has to move about the city to see what Public Works has been involved with. Highway 99, Creel Road, Wagner Street, and West Valley View Bridge are some of the more noticeable projects that have been completed.

So this is where we are – coping with lack of funding, shortages of staff and space, and STILL accomplishing most projects -all the while- keeping the city safe and financially stable.

Looking ahead, we will still struggle with budgetary constraints. This will mostly be seen in police services, and a lesser implementation of the Capital Improvement Plan. This is the way we do business in Talent: but, do business we will!

The new City Hall will be completed this summer and the renovation and expansion of the Police Station will begin. These improved spaces will do much to enhance the ability of staff to perform their jobs. It will also provide space for the increased staffing we will attempt to provide.

We are scheduled to begin work on extending Talent Avenue improvements to Creel Road and reconstructing 3rd, 4th, and West streets.

The Finance Department is looking to revamping its' procedures and the Planning Department will expand the GIS database and continue to improve ordinances and procedures.

The City will be working with Urban Renewal on the West Valley View Master Plan which will improve the economic vitality of Talent. We will also continue to see more community involvement from our citizens. The uncertainty of the Library has brought many people out. The fledgling Chamber of Commerce is gaining ground, and we have a more diverse group of volunteers serving on our commissions and committees.

The Community of Talent has come far in the last few years and continues to progress as a place where its' residents can say with pride – “ I live in Talent”.



COP TALK By Chief Rector

This month I'd like to talk about fraud. The type of fraud I'm referring to occurs

when you receive a check in the mail for a large amount of money, made out to you, and at first glance it appears authentic. Too good to be true? Probably. Along with the check comes a letter addressed to you explaining that you have either won a contest, been selected as a secret shopper, or some other somewhat plausible reason as to why you're being sent a check for a large sum of money. These schemes are probably fraudulent, and the checks are forgeries. There are several common traits to look for that can tip you off that this is fraud. The first and most obvious is that the sender is asking that you cash or deposit the check and then send them back one of your checks, usually for a lesser amount of money.

The reasons given for sending the money back vary, but basically they are attempts to get you to take your real money and send it to them in exchange for their fake money. Don't do it. Other common features of these schemes are that the company/individual's names on the letter and the check usually don't match, and that the return address of the person signing the letter is usually from a foreign country. This type of fraud is a variation of the "Nigerian" scheme and is discussed on the Oregon Department of Justice (DOJ) website at <http://www.doj.state.or.us/finfraud/index.shtml>. These schemes originated in Nigeria a decade ago and have evolved into the many variations, with these check/letter schemes surfacing lately here

in Talent. If you receive one of these letters, there are several things you can do.

First, bring it down to the police department and we'll help you determine it's validity. Second, take the check and letter to your bank and have them explain what will happen to your account balance, fees, etc., if you do deposit or cash the check and it turns out to be a fraud. Third, if you have internet access, log onto the Oregon DOJ website and educate yourself about fraud and other consumer threats, and complete and submit a Consumer Complaint form to DOJ if you have received one of these fraud letters. If you have any questions, please call us at TPD, 535-1253, or stop by and visit us at 604 Talent Avenue.

PLANNING DEPARTMENT NEWS

Recent Planning Actions

On March 21st the City Council approved the rezoning of 0.7 acres on Suncrest Road from CBH to RM-22 (central business hwy. dist. to high-density residential). The property was split by the reroute of Suncrest Road, resulting in an orphaned, commercial-zoned lot adjacent to an RM-22 zone. The other half of the split lot fronts on Highway 99 and will retain commercial zoning.

At the same meeting the Council adopted an updated *Transportation System Plan* (TSP), a vital part of the city's Comprehensive Plan. It is the guiding document for street standards and for planning street-related capital improvements; it is the basis for obtaining federal and state roadway grants; and it inventories traffic counts, roadway conditions, and projected growth. The city adopted the TSP in 2000; the current

amendment is not a complete overhaul, just an update to improve its usefulness.

By the time the Flash is distributed, the Planning Commission will have held a hearing and made a recommendation to the City Council to suspend Article 8-3L.3 of the zoning code, which regulates the application and approval process for planned unit developments.

Community Garden

The future "Talent's Great Green Garden" will be having a work party, Saturday, April 7th at 9:00 a.m. at the rear of the Talent Elementary School off W. Wagner. Breakfast goodies provided. The garden is a cooperative effort between the Talent Elementary School and the Talent Garden Club. Anyone interested in helping out, please join us. Contact Sharon Anderson at 535-9055 for more information.

Arbor Day - April 6th

The City has been named a "Tree City USA" for the seventh year in a row. In recognition of this and of Arbor Day, the City will have a short ceremony in front of Camelot Theater on Friday, April 6th at 11:00 AM. City staff will plant seven trees donated by Plant Oregon in the planters along Talent Avenue and Main Street. Please join us in recognizing this annual event.

REGISTER TO VOTE FOR MAY ELECTION

A very important election will take place on May 15, 2007 to decide the fate of the Jackson County Library System. People new to the area who have not yet registered to vote are encouraged to do so no later than April 24, 2007. For those who have recently moved within the Valley it is also important to notify the election office of your new address so that this May ballot finds you. The City has applications for voter registration at City Hall or you can register at the County Election Office at 1101 W. Main Street, Medford.

Chuck Roberts Park Improvements

The City is gradually beginning to improve the facilities at Chuck Roberts Park with city funds and a generous donation of labor by JM Construction. Jason Myers has installed stairs and a low wall in the area where the play structure and swing set are located. Many thanks to all who contribute their time to making this park more inviting for public use.

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Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2 Municipal Court 3:00pm Comm. Hall	3	4 Enhancement 4:00pm Comm. Hall City Council 6:00pm Comm. Hall	5 Harv. Fest. 3:30pm Fire Dist 5 Public Arts 6:00pm Comm. Hall	6	7 Park Auction Ashland Wind- mill Inn 7:00pm <i>Library Closes</i>
8	9	10 Arch. Review 6:00pm Comm. Hall	11 Parks 6:00pm Comm. Hall (recycle)	12 Planning 6:30pm Comm. Hall Public Arts 6:00pm City Hall	13	14
15	16 Municipal Court 6:00pm Comm. Hall	17 Urban Renewal 6:00pm Comm. Hall	18 Safety 1:30pm TBA City Council 6:00pm Comm. Hall	19	20	21
22	23	24	25 (recycle)	26 Planning 6:30pm Comm. Hall	27	28
29	30					