



# THE FLASH

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

## City of Talent

May 31 , 2007 /Volume 10, Issue 5

### Water Department Survey

In accordance with State Regulations regarding cross connection/backflow prevention program, the City is required to maintain a list of properties where the potential of health hazard cross connections exist within the City's water system. In order to comply with this law, we will be sending a cross connection control survey to you in the mail in the near future. We appreciate everyone's cooperation in completing and returning the survey within 30 days of receipt. If you have any questions please call the Public Works Department at 535-3828. Below is a definition of what an installed backflow device will prevent:

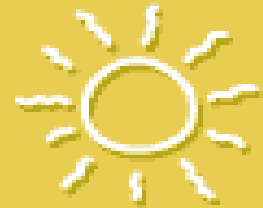
***Cross Connection is most likely to occur when you receive both City water and TID water. Any unprotected connection or another type of installation which could possibly introduce any water or substance other than potable water (treated drinking water) into the City's drinking water system.***

### CITYWIDE GREEN-UP

The City wide Green Up/Clean Up held on May 5<sup>th</sup> was another success thanks to the citizens who came out to help and also to the efforts of Greg Goebelt and Anne and Clark Zimmerman, Chairs of the event. It is only through this effort that the City takes on a clean, fresh look each spring. Each year the amount of trash picked up seems to decrease and we hope that is because of previous successful efforts and a more aware community. Special thanks go to the Ashland Sanitary and Disposal for providing free disposal of brush and yard waste. Over 14 containers of yard waste were collected. This material will be recycled for another use. We also want to thank Home Depot in Phoenix who provided gloves and trash bags as well as a group of volunteers.

### CITY BUDGET

The Budget Committee has adopted the 2007/08 City Budget at an overall total of \$9,007,601. This represents a 6% increase over the current year's budget. This increase is due largely to the \$800,000 bond approval for the Police Station. Capital projects including the Police Station will total \$3 million. In addition to the police station there will be major reconstruction of West 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup>, Talent Avenue (Rogue River-Parkway to Creel Road) and the purchase of land for a new reservoir. The City Council will consider the final adoption of the budget at their June 6, 2007 meeting at 6:30 p.m. at the Community Center. This budget does include rate increases in the Parks and Transportation Utility Fees and a decrease in the Water Rate. These changes will be discussed at the June 20<sup>th</sup> meeting of the City Council. Thanks to the Budget Committee for their work on behalf of the citizens.



**Official  
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#### Inside this issue: page

|                                   |              |
|-----------------------------------|--------------|
| <i>Fire Season/Weed Abatement</i> | 2            |
| <i>Summer Recreation Programs</i> | 2 and insert |
| <i>Spring Reminders</i>           | 2            |
| <i>Talent Ave. Improvements</i>   | 2            |
| <i>Water Violation Notice</i>     | 2            |
| <i>Cop Talk</i>                   | 3            |
| <i>Planning News</i>              | 3            |
| <i>- Market Street</i>            |              |
| <i>- Talent Chamber</i>           | Back Page    |
| <i>- Urban Renewal</i>            |              |
| <i>News</i>                       |              |

## **FIRE SEASON WEED ABATEMENT PROGRAM**

It is expected that by the end of May the Oregon Department of Forestry will have declared the Fire Season for 2007. Not only is this declaration a time for citizens to become more alert to the danger of fires, but it also marks the beginning of the City's Weed Abatement Program. Depending on the weather conditions for this season, this declaration could stay in effect to possibly October. The City Ordinance related to Weed Abatement is intended to prevent the risk of fire hazards due to extensive growth of weeds.

If you believe that there is a fire hazard please contact Cheryl at City Hall and she will begin the process. The City's Code Enforcement Officer will be involved in the initial complaint and the City Ordinance describes in detail the process to be followed. (See City Website-Ordinance link, then click on "W" for Weed Abatement, Ordinance #716, or contact City Hall.) If compliance is not met the City may intervene to correct the problem at the expense of the property owner.

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## **SUMMER RECREATION PROGRAMS**

The City will again be offering summer recreation programs to the residents of Talent. Please refer to the enclosed brochure for more detailed information. Part time Recreation Coordinator Tim Storfjell has returned this year and has been actively recruiting both instructors and volunteers. You can reach Tim at 512-1418. Since he is working part time if you have questions about the programs and can't reach Tim you can contact Cheryl Nicolay at City Hall – 535-1566.

Through the Summer Recreation Programs the City would like to offer a Story Time/Reading in the Park. Since there are no City resources to contribute to this, the City is looking for Volunteers who might be interested in helping and have had some experience with reading to large groups of children. Depending on the skills of the volunteer we could have two groups; one for the younger children 3-5 years old and another one for 6-11 year olds. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Tim or Cheryl at the numbers listed above.

## **SPRING REMINDERS**

**Yard Sale Signs** - With the nice weather there is the desire to clean out garages and hold yard sales. While the City does not require a permit for these sales, we do restrict the posting of signs on City traffic signs, power poles and City street light poles. Both City and State laws prohibit the use of power poles since there is the potential danger to the power company employees. Obstructing traffic signs have the real potential of contributing to a traffic accident. Taping signs to street light poles leaves a residue that is difficult to remove. Thanks for helping to observe these rules.

**Walking Dogs** - City Ordinance requires that dogs must be contained within a fence or on a leash. Dogs are also not permitted in City Parks. When walking your dogs please be respectful to your neighbors who want to protect their lawns and to other walkers who use City sidewalks. Always carry a plastic bag to clean up after your pet. At a number of locations the City has provided disposal bags and containers for animal waste. If you have a favorite walking route where walkers seem to frequent and no container is available please let us know. As money becomes available we will try to install such facilities at other locations.

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## **TALENT AVENUE IMPROVEMENTS**

The City has obtained a Federal Grant to make street improvements on Talent Avenue from Rogue River Parkway to Creel Road. These improvements will include a continuous sidewalk on the west side and bike lanes on both sides of the street. Engineers from W & H Pacific are currently developing the designs and those of you who live in this area may have already been contacted by them. Prior to the construction of the street improvements, the City will upgrade the water line from a 6" pipe to 8" & 12" pipe.

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## **Water Violation Notice**

The City of Talent failed to conduct their lead/copper test in December of 2006 as scheduled. There is no potential health effect based on previous results. The City will conduct their sampling as soon as possible. For more information, please contact Lester Naught at Public Works 535-3828.

With summer coming up around the corner we would like to inform and remind parents of some common issues that we tackle in regards to juveniles. In regards to curfew, Talent City Ordinances say that, “No minor shall be in or upon any street, highway, park alley, or other public place between the hours of 12:00 midnight and 4:00 a.m. of the following morning.”

The exception to this is when a minor is accompanied by a parent, guardian, or other person 18 years of age or over **and authorized by the parent or by law** to have care and custody of the minor.

The most common violations are the kids that are walking from one friend’s house to another at night or hanging out in the

Parks.

Per city ordinance city parks close after dark unless otherwise authorized by the city manager.

Juveniles found in violation of these ordinances are taken into protective custody until a parent or responsible adult can be found to take charge of them. They may also receive a citation for violation of city ordinance to appear in Municipal Court and the fines can range up to \$250.

For life threatening emergencies call 911. To reach the police dispatch office for non-emergencies call 776-7206.

## PLANNING DEPARTMENT NEWS

### Urbanization

On May 24th the Planning Commission held its first hearing on a proposed 152-lot development on about 39 acres at the south end of town off Belmont Road. The applicants are calling it “Pacific Stage Heights.” Since this article was written before the meeting took place, I can’t report the outcome, except to say that the Commission would, in all likelihood, not make a decision on such a large project in just one hearing.

However, the comments received to date from neighboring property owners point out that there are a few basic misunderstandings about Oregon’s planning process and principles. For one thing, to label development as “sprawl” or “leapfrog”

is inaccurate unless it is happening outside a city’s urban growth boundary (UGB) and public infrastructure has not been extended such that development within the UGB is feasible. Talent’s UGB was drawn around 1974 and has not changed since. That means what the City, the County and the State define as “urbanizable” is the same land that all three have been saying is urbanizable for a third of a century. In the case of the “Pacific Stage Heights” proposal all utilities are available to the site, but the applicant will have to make storm water system improvements on his own. Development within a UGB may contribute to sprawl if it squanders the density potential granted by municipal zoning.

For example, the City’s residential RS-5 zone means there is a potential density of about five dwellings per acre. The County’s residential RR-5 zone allows a density of one dwelling per five acres. In other words, municipal zoning permits twenty-five times as many dwellings on a piece of land than County zoning allows. The idea is to more efficiently use land and resources within UGBs and to preserve lands outside UGBs for agriculture and open space. A side effect of this hard line between urban and rural uses is the potential friction between incompatible uses, such as spray drifting from orchards into houses and yards, which is why buffer areas are often designated to mitigate the effects.

## 105 N. MARKET STREET

The City has taken ownership of the old library located at 105 N. Market Street. A portion of the building has been reserved to provide office space for the recreation activities and the remainder has been leased to the Talent Historical Society. The Society is busy painting and unpacking some of the historical items they have collected over the years, and finally have a place to display. When the office has been set up they will post their hours so that citizens can stop by and take a look at the new location.

## TALENT CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

The City has made available office space in the Community Center previously occupied by the Historical Society for use by the Talent Chamber of Commerce. While this is not a large space, it does provide for a permanent office location within the City. The Chamber has been in existence for a couple of years now and continues to grow and attract new members. While the office will have limited hours when it is open to the public, they will be working towards being able to provide information to new businesses and citizens regarding existing business that serves the Talent Community and opportunities for new businesses.

## URBAN RENEWAL NEWS

West Valley View Master Plan: The Agency recently purchased a piece of property at 108 New Street -- within the Master Plan area -- which became available this spring. The Traffic and Parking Analysis has begun: parking counts occur in May, the consulting traffic engineer will complete his study over the summer and the final analysis should be ready for dissemination in early fall.

### City Hall/Commons:

To date, painting has been completed and interior cabinets and tile have been installed. Interior finish work and landscaping will continue through June. The playground and public restrooms are expected to be open in June.

For more information, contact Marla Cates, 535-6170 or [ura.talent@charterinternet.com](mailto:ura.talent@charterinternet.com)

| Sun              | Mon  | Tue   | Wed  | Thu  | Fri | Sat |
|------------------|--|---|--|--|-----|-----|
| <b>June 2007</b> |  |   |  |  |     |     |
| 3                | 4<br><i>Municipal Court<br/>3:00pm Comm.<br/>Hall</i>  | 5<br><i>Harvest Festival<br/>3:45 pm Comm.<br/>Hall</i>   | 6<br><i>City<br/>Council<br/>6:30pm Comm.<br/>Hall</i>                       | 7<br><i>Public Arts<br/>6:00pm Comm.<br/>Hall</i>                    | 8   | 9   |
| 10               | 11   | 12<br><i>Arch.<br/>Review<br/>6:00pm Comm.<br/>Hall</i>   | 13<br><i>Enhancement<br/>4:00pm<br/>Comm. Hall<br/>Parks<br/>6:00pm</i>      | 14<br><i>Planning<br/>6:30pm Comm.<br/>Hall</i>                      | 15  | 16  |
| 17               | 18<br><i>Municipal Court<br/>6:00pm Comm.<br/>Hall</i> | 19<br><i>Urban<br/>Renewal<br/>6:00pm<br/>102 Home St</i> | 20<br><i>Safety<br/>1:30pm TBD<br/>City Council<br/>6:30pm Comm<br/>Hall</i> | 21   | 22  | 23  |
| 24               | 25   | 26  | 27   | 28<br><i>Planning<br/>6:30pm Comm.<br/>Hall<br/><br/>The "Flash"</i> | 29  | 30  |