



# THE FLASH

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

## City of Talent

June 28 , 2007 /Volume 10, Issue 6

### UTILITY RATE INCREASES AND DECREASES

The Talent City Council has approved some utility fee rate changes that will become effective July 20, 2007. Both the Park Utility surcharge and the Transportation utility fee will increase, however the water rate for the first 3000 gallons of water will be decreased. The average water customer will not realize the change on their bill, except perhaps a slight decrease in what they will pay.

The Park Utility surcharge provides funds for the maintenance of all City parks and will also be used to provide the summer recreation programs. The City has struggled to find enough money to maintain and make improvements to the City park system. These parks are used by all city residents and provide open spaces for the public to enjoy. The recreation programs provide a positive way for young people to learn new skills in both sports and passive recreation and give them something to do in the long

summer days. The fee has been increased from \$1/month to \$3/month. This amounts to \$36/year for a single family residence. This fee was originally adopted in 2005 with an effective date of January 2006. The Transportation Utility fee provides money to the Street Fund to pay for the maintenance of city streets including labor and materials. Equipment purchases and maintenance of the equipment is also included. As the city has grown more streets have been added to the City network and it costs the City to maintain them. This new fee is based on a trip generation calculation of \$.38/trip and varies depending on the type of use of a property. For a single family resident the increase will be from \$1.96/month to \$3.93/month or \$47.16/year. This fee has been the same for seven years (adopted in 2000) and the costs for maintaining city streets have risen considerably

since that time. Water rates will actually drop for City residents from \$16.14/month to \$12.00/month for the first 3000 gallons of water consumed. Most of the residents do receive a minimum bill and it is only in the summer months depending on the amount of water you use as to how much you will pay. The rate of \$16.14 was set at a time that the City had just started to operate with water coming from the Medford Water Commission, rather than operating a water treatment plant and there was both old and new debt that had to be factored into the rate. As we become more familiar with the new system we have found that we can continue to provide the same service as well as set aside funds for future major infrastructure improvements at a lower cost to the customers. New customers added to the system also spread the cost over more users. A current minimum utility bill including the water, park surcharge, and transportation fee is \$19.10.

With the adjustments approved by City Council the new minimum utility bill will be \$18.93. These new rates will become effective on July, 20, 2007.

### Official Newsletter of the City of Talent

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## ELEMENTARY SCHOOL ART DISPLAY

The Public Art Advisory Committee sponsored a youth art program that resulted in the submittal of over 70 pieces of art from the students at Talent Elementary. Many thanks to Principal Teresa Sayre and the teachers for their interest in having the students participate. Throughout June all of the art is on display in area businesses including: Southern Oregon Pottery Shop, Downtown Coffee, Pedals and Ink Flower Shop, Whistle Stop, Medicap Pharmacy, Umpqua Bank, Bangkok's Benny, Simply Sassy Beauty Shop, Picasso Pantry on Hwy 99 and the City Hall. From the submittals 13 pieces of art were selected to be included in a calendar that the Committee will put together and have on sale at the Harvest Festival, September 8th. This is a great way to have the community share the student's talent and promote awareness of public art.

## SUMMER RECREATION

Summer recreation registrations are underway and parents are encouraged to come in and sign your children up for a number of different summer activities. There are still openings in soccer, tennis, swimming, skate boarding and other offerings. The season begins the last week in June but there are many spaces available. There are CPR and Red Cross classes being offered as well. Registration can be made at City Hall or by mail if you have a copy of the registration form or can download it on the City's website [www.cityoftalent.org](http://www.cityoftalent.org).

## READING IN THE PARK

With the closing of the library the City and Friends of the Talent Library have had concerns regarding the loss of reading time for the children. One of the summer recreation programs is "Reading in the Park", which will be held every Thursday from June 28<sup>th</sup> – July 26<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m. at the Old Town Park (Skate Park) on Main Street. Laurel Prachall, librarian at the Talent Library, will be coordinating the program and the Friends have committed some funds to provide books for the children. There is no cost for the program; however we do ask that you register so that we have a good idea of the numbers of children to expect.

## POLICE DEPARTMENT BUILDING PLANS

In November 2006 the voters approved the City borrowing money to provide funds to renovate and expand the existing Police Station on Talent Avenue. This work is now being designed by an architect and the project will be placed out to bid in July with the construction to begin in September. While the construction is underway, the Police Department will relocate to the old City Hall and work out of there until the renovations are complete. This will be cost effective for the City since there will be minimal costs to adapt the front office. They will have the benefit to the existing phone system and data connections. By the August Flash we will have an exact date as to when the old station will be closed to the public and their temporary quarters opened up. It is expected that once the project begins it will take 6-8 months for completion.

## WEED

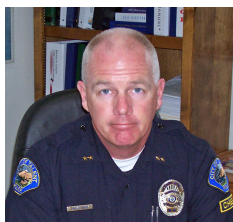
### ABATEMENT PROGRAM

Oregon Department of Forestry officially declared the Fire Season June 11th, 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. For more information go to the City's Website-Ordinance link, then click on "W" for Weed Abatement, or contact City Hall.) If compliance is not met the City may intervene to correct the problem at the expense of the property owner.

## MOVING DATE IS SET!

The City Hall staff has received great news that we will be able to move into the New City Hall the week of July 22<sup>nd</sup>. It is currently the plan that any new furniture, phones, computer server and many boxes will be moved the week of the 22<sup>nd</sup>, however the City Hall staff will not move over until the weekend of July 28th. Unpacking will take place on that weekend when the offices are closed and then we will be ready for business on Monday. City Offices will be open for business on July 30, 2007 at our new home at 110 E. Main Street. It is important to remember that we will not be at 204 E. Main after July 27<sup>th</sup>. Please do not drop any water payments in the door slot after the 27<sup>th</sup>. The City will plan an open house and dedication at the New City Hall for sometime in August.

## COP TALK By Chief Rector



In last month's Flash, we put out incomplete information regarding the prohibitions on garage/yard sale signs. In the article entitled "Spring Reminders" we said that the City restricts "*...the posting of signs on City traffic signs, power poles and City street light poles.*"

Well-meaning residents read that information and assumed that if they avoided those methods of posting signs, they'd be meeting City ordinance requirements. As often happens with good intentions, it didn't work out that way.

Folks have since posted garage/yard sale signs on sandwich boards, or used sand-filled buckets, cardboard boxes, or other means to advertise various activities, from private business ventures to garage/yard sales.

Unfortunately, all of the signage described here, when posted on public property or in the public right of way, is illegal and not permitted by City ordinance.

In addition to public property restrictions, there are also restrictions for signage placed on private property. If you are interested in posting signs in the City of Talent, you'd be well-served to read the City's ordinance, entitled 'Signs, Billboards, and Advertisements', which is a part of the City's Zoning Code. The ordinance can be found on the City website, [www.cityoftalent.org](http://www.cityoftalent.org), or at Talent City Hall, or at Talent Police Department.

Persons with questions about the requirements of this or any other City ordinance should call the City's Code Enforcement Officer, the person responsible for day-to-day enforcement of ordinance violations. To do so call "Red" Smith at Talent Police Department, 535-1253, or stop by and visit the police department at 604 Talent Avenue.

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

## PLANNING DEPARTMENT NEWS

### Planning Commission

The Commission held a public hearing on May 24, which continued on June 14, to consider a petition to annex 12.5 acres at the south end of town near Belmont Road. The annexation was related to a concurrent application for a 152-lot residential development on about 39 acres called "Pacific Stage Heights." After receiving testimony at both meetings, the Commission voted 5-1 to recommend denial to the City Council. During its regular meeting on July 18 the Council will consider the petition, the testimony, and the Commission's recommendation. The applicant has decided to defer the hearing on Pacific Stage Heights until the Council makes the final decision on the annexation.

Also at the June 14 meeting the Commission approved the construction of a wireless communications antenna that will be hidden inside an existing sign structure at the Talent Truck Stop, 251 W. Valley View Road. The applicant is Verizon Wireless.

### PUD Revision

City staff and a Planning Commission subcommittee are working on a complete revision of the regulations governing planned unit developments (PUDs) with the objective of improving the product" resulting from the regulations. PUDs, in general, allow applicants for commercial and residential projects to propose modifications

"to some of the zoning district standards, such as clustering houses to preserve natural features, or increasing the number of residential units for commercial mixed-use projects. Some of the problems with the current regulations stem from a lack of specific provisions for open space or recreation areas and the lack of a clear two-step process where the concept plan is truly conceptual and the development plan is the formalization of the concept, which would allow for more creative give-and-take between the applicant and the Commission.

**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](mailto:john@cityoftalent.org).**

# URBAN RENEWAL NEWS

**City Hall/Commons:** Work is rapidly finishing up, all landscaping is completed, and a move-in date near the end of July is anticipated.

**Board Position Available:** Interested in serving on the Board of Directors? There is currently one business/citizen vacancy on the Talent Urban Renewal Agency Board. The Agency has a large responsibility for determining how the Downtown Plan at Valley View will be implemented in the next few years. This is a two year term, and applicants must live within the Talent city limits or own a business located within the Talent city limits. City Council would make the appointment. Meetings are held monthly, the third Tuesday, at 6 p.m.

For more information or to get an application, contact Executive Director Marla Cates at 535-6170 or [ura.talent@chartinternet.com](mailto:ura.talent@chartinternet.com).

## COMMITTEE VACANCY:

There is a seat vacant on the Parks and Recreation Commission. If anyone is interested in this position you can file an application at City Hall. City Council would make the appointment.



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Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2 <i>Municipal Court</i> 3:00pm <i>Comm. Hall</i>	3 <i>City Council</i> 6:30pm <i>Comm. Hall</i>	4 <i>Independence Day</i>  city offices c	5 <i>Public Arts</i> 6:00pm <i>Comm. Hall</i>	6	7
8	9	10 <i>Traffic</i> <u>3:00pm PW</u> <i>Arch Rev.</i> 6:00pm <i>Comm. Hall</i>	11 <i>Harv. Fest</i> 3:30pm <u><i>Fire Dist. #5</i></u> <i>Parks 6:00pm CH</i>	12 <i>Enhancement</i> <u>4:00pm CH</u> <i>Planning</i> 6:30pm <i>Comm. Hall</i>	13	14
15	16 <i>Municipal Court</i> 6:00pm <i>Comm. Hall</i>	17 <i>Urban Renewal</i> 6:00pm <i>Comm. Hall</i>	18 <i>Safety 1:30pm</i> <i>Comm. Hall</i> <i>City Council</i> 6:30pm CH recycle	19	20	21
22	23	24	25 <i>Ad. Hoc.</i> <i>Economic Dev</i> 6:0pm <i>Comm. Hall</i>	26 <i>Planning 6:30pm</i> <i>Comm. Hall</i> The "FLASH" distributed	27	28
29	30 <i>New</i> <i>City Hall Opens</i>	31				