



# THE FLASH

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

September 27, 2007 / Volume 10, Issue 9

## City of Talent

### Library Surcharge for Additional Hours of Operation

The City Council has been discussing how to provide support to the re-opening of the Talent Library since it closed in April of this year. While the library is located in Talent, on city owned land, the library itself was built and owned by Jackson County. The County Commissioners determine how the library will be funded and managed and they are currently in negotiations with LSSI, a private company, to re-open all the libraries in Jackson County. The contract with LSSI will allow for the Talent Library to be re-opened for only 16 hours a week. Many feel that this is not enough time to serve the needs of the Talent residents and it is for this reason that the City Council has adopted by City Ordinance a surcharge that

will bring library operations up to 40 hours/week. The City will pay the County for the additional 24 hours.

The surcharge upper limit is not to exceed \$2/month for a single family residence. The charge will be included on your Utility Bill. This charge will not take effect until November (which you will see on your bill mailed the first week in December).

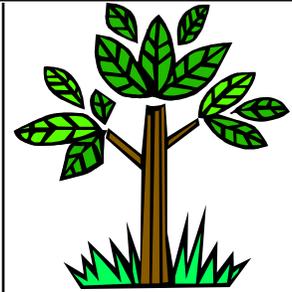
The City will have an agreement with the County to add hours to meet the needs for hours after school with some evening and Saturday hours. Throughout the discussions on the Library there was always support from the Friends of the Talent Library. This together with the two positive votes by Talent residents when the Jackson County Library levy was put to the voters in November 2006 and again in May 2007 assured the Council that the community supported the library reopening. While the two levies were defeated countywide, the Talent precincts supported both levies. While

the levies were based on property value with \$.66/1000 of property value, the surcharge will be a flat fee of \$24/year.

The City Ordinance can be found on the city's website.

### **Parks and Recreation Programs**

The City has concluded another successful year of offering summer recreation programs to the youth of Talent. The Parks & Recreation Commission will begin discussing next year and would like input from City residents on the type of programming they would like to see and how we can improve. Please take the time to call or email the City Manager [betty@cityoftalent.org](mailto:betty@cityoftalent.org) and let us know what you think. While there were a number of children participating, we think we should do better, but need to know what you would like.



**Official  
Newsletter of the  
City of  
Talent**  
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## TALENT AVENUE WATER LINE

In advance of the major infrastructure improvements scheduled for next spring on Talent Avenue from Rogue River Parkway to Creel Road, the City will be installing a larger water line in the next month. This upgrade will ensure adequate flows for existing and new developments in this area of the City. Residents can expect this construction to begin in the fall of 2007. As always the city appreciates the citizen cooperation when these disruptions are taking place.

### Important Upcoming Events

#### October 9<sup>th</sup>

**Open house presentation of the improvements planned for Talent Avenue from Rogue River Parkway to Creel Road. (Community Center 5:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.)**

#### October 10<sup>th</sup>

**Public meeting on the Regional Problem Solving (RPS) final plan for the region and an overview of the final report and maps. (Community Center – 6:00 p.m.-9:00 p.m.)**

#### November 5<sup>th</sup>

**West Valley View Traffic & Parking Analysis Presentation – (Community Center 6:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.)**

## THANK YOU!

We wish to recognize the generous donation of the Siskiyou Velos Bicyclists for their \$500 contribution towards the purchase of the new bike racks at City Hall. Contributions such as this have allowed the City to add the amenities to the Civic Center complex that make it function better for citizens and staff as well. Thank you!

## 35th Annual Talent Harvest Festival

Saturday, September 8th was a great day for the entire community. Friends and families filled the streets of Talent for a fun filled day -

#### **Parks and Recreation Run Winners:**

5K (male)- Elliot Jantzer

5K (female) - Bree Ray

10K (male) - Ric Sayre

10K (female)- Suzanne Ray

There was a great turn out of entries this year with 91 total runners including 20 from the Phoenix High School group.

Congratulations to all the runners this year!

#### **Parade Entry Winners:**

1st Place - Friends of the Animal Shelter

2nd Place - Friends of the Talent Library

3rd Place - Downtowne Coffeehouse

Honorable Mention - 1st Street Families Float

What a beautiful turnout all of this years parade entries were! Congratulation to this year's winners!

Thanks again to all our Sponsors, Volunteers and

## **REMINDER Street Sweeping on Thursdays**

Street Sweeping in Talent takes place every Thursday. All streets that have curbs and gutters will be swept and cleaned *early* Thursday morning. The City is asking for your cooperation in keeping vehicles off the roadway during this time. Thank you in advance for helping to keep our streets clean.

Recently Talent PD has been called to the rail crossing on Rapp Road because the crossing gates have been lowered and warning signals have been activated when no train was approaching. This has occurred several times and is due to malfunctioning of the rail crossing warning signal. This malfunctioning has also resulted in trains passing through town at times when the signal is not working at all and thus providing no warning when trains are approaching.

While the rail company maintenance crews work to solve the problem, but it appears to have been a difficult one to resolve so citizens are reminded of the following:

Oregon Revised Statute (ORS) 811.455 requires that drivers must stop at a rail crossing under any of the following circumstances:

- (A) When a clearly visible electric or mechanical signal is given by a device that warns of the immediate approach of a railroad train.
- (B) Upon the lowering of a crossing gate.
- (C) When a signal given by a flagger or police officer indicates the approach or passage of a railroad train.
- (D) When an approaching train is clearly visible and because of its nearness to the crossing is an immediate hazard.
- (E) When an audible signal is given by an approaching railroad train because its speed or nearness to the crossing is an immediate hazard. (*Since the train has been operating on some days when the signal is not working at all we must all be attuned to this warning of approaching trains!*)

Additionally, the same statute requires that: *“A person shall not drive any vehicle through, around or under a crossing gate or barrier at a railroad crossing while the gate or barrier is closed or is being opened or closed”*.

This last part is important to note as the law has no provisions for exceptions to its requirement in event of signal malfunctioning. In the event a police officer is present and motions drivers across the rail crossing, it is then legal and safe to do so, otherwise one crosses at risk of danger as well as committing a Class B traffic violation.

If you have questions about this or any other police or code enforcement matter, contact us at 204 E. Main Street (old City Hall) or by phone during administrative hours at 535-1253, and after hours (or at any time) by calling the Dispatching center at 776-7206.

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## PLANNING DEPARTMENT NEWS

The Regional Problem Solving Policy Committee will conduct a public hearing on Wednesday, 10 October 2007 at 5:30 PM at the Talent Community Center, 206 E. Main Street.

This hearing will introduce the public to the Regional Problem Solving (RPS) process and invite public comment on the draft *Regional Problem Solving Plan*. The proposed *Plan* includes measures to protect resource lands and it identifies areas for long-term urban growth beyond existing urban growth boundaries.

The public is invited to comment on the work of the collaborators in the RPS process. Individuals may submit written comments relating to the draft *Plan* at any time up to, and during, the public hearing, although it is preferred that such comments be submitted to Rogue Valley Council of Governments so they may be provided to the Policy Committee prior to the hearings. The *Plan* is being developed pursuant to ORS 197.652 – 197.658.

The draft *Plan* is available for public review at

[www.rvcog.org](http://www.rvcog.org) (See Regional Problem Solving, Draft Regional Plan). A copy of the *Plan* is available for public review from 8 AM to 5 PM, Monday through Friday, at Rogue Valley Council of Governments, 155 N. First Street, Central Point, Oregon, 97502. Copies may be purchased for \$50.00.

Questions may be directed to Michael Cavallaro, Rogue Valley Council of Governments at 664-6674, 8 AM to 5 PM. Monday-Friday.

## Urban Renewal News

**Rehab/Facade Improvement Grant Program:** Recently-approved changes to the Grant Program expand eligibility, provide incentives for property owner investment, and offer extra benefits for certain historic properties. The Grant offers a \$5,000 base grant, as well as a new 50/50 matching grant over the base grant, with an Agency investment cap of \$10,000 per tax lot or up to \$15,000 for Local Landmark List properties. Eligible are 1) any commercially-used building in the Commercial Business Downtown Zone, and 2) any historic structure within the Urban Renewal Area. Those with National Historic Register or Local Landmark List status are eligible for Historic-Benefit Maintenance Grants to assist with certain maintenance-related items. Limited funding is available, an application process is required, and certain restrictions apply. For details, contact the Agency at 535-6170.

**Traffic & Parking Analysis Presentation, Nov. 5:** The public is invited to hear the results of the Traffic and Parking Analysis for the West Valley View Master Plan. The meeting will be held at the Community Center, 204 E. Main. Time: 6:30 - 8:00 p.m.

## PLANNING DEPARTMENT NEWS (continued from page 3)

### **Annexation**

The City Council approved the annexation of 12.5 acres southwest of the railroad tracks at the south end of the city. The annexation is conditioned on two factors: (1) Approval by the Planning Commission of a related development application known as "Pacific Stage Heights" and (2) provision of two public access points (in other words, two ways in and out of the development across the railroad tracks). If the applicant cannot meet either of those conditions the annexation will not become final.

The Council placed the high access standard on the annexation request because of past experience with inadequate numbers of evacuation routes in emergency situations. Eventually, a street will connect Belmont Road with Rapp Road in the area southwest of the railroad, thereby providing two access choices for future development.

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Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3 City Council 6:30 pm Comm. Hall	4 Mobile Home Park Meeting 5:00pm	5	6
7	8 Municipal Court 3:00 pm <u>Comm. Hall</u> TFT 4:00 pm City Hall	9 Architectural Review 6:00 pm City Hall	10 Parks 6:00 pm <u>Comm.</u> <u>Hall</u> RPS Open House 5:30pm	11 PUD Subcommittee 6:00 pm City Hall	12	13
14	15	16 Urban Renewal 6:00 pm 102 Home St.	17 Chamber <u>8:30 am TBD</u> Safety Comm. <u>1:30 pm TBD</u> City Council	18	19	20 Arch. Review Walk-Around 9:00 am Historic Dist.
21	22 Municipal Court 6:00 pm Comm. Ctr.	23	24	25 Planning Comm. 6:30pm <u>Comm. Ctr</u> The "Flash" Distributed	26	27
28	29	30	31			