



# THE FLASH City of Talent

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

The Flash, which occupies the following two pages, is a publication of the City of Talent and is editorially separate from the rest of the Talent News and Review. All content and editorial choices contained in the rest of the paper are the sole responsibility of the TNR and are not in any way associated with the City of Talent. -JG

## Farewells and Welcome

We would like to extend an enormous "thank you" to Councilor Wendy Siporen who has resigned after giving over 5 years of dedicated service to the Council and serving on many City Committees. We would like to welcome Teresa Cooke who has been appointed to the vacant seat until December 31st.

## "CALL BEFORE YOU DIG"

The State of Oregon requires anyone, even homeowners, who plan to dig or excavate to have all utilities in the work area to be located.

For free utilities locator service call...

"Oregon Utility Notification Center" Statewide Toll Free: 1-800-332-2344

Call at least 48 hours in advance. After receiving a call the Oregon Utility Notification Center notifies all of the utilities that have lines in the area notifying them that they will need to locate and mark the whereabouts of their underground utilities.

Various utilities have service lines buried at different levels, which makes it very important to call before you start any project that requires digging.

Project examples might include planting trees, putting up a fence, building a deck or any yard excavation.

More Information call Talent Public Works: 535-3828

## COP TALK

By Chief Mike Moran

This summer has been one of many changes at Talent Police Department. I am very pleased to be one of those changes. I was appointed as interim Police Chief on August 4th.

This is somewhat of a homecoming for me. Not many folks know this, but I started my police career with Talent PD in 1975. Shortly after turning 21, I spoke with Chief Chuck Roberts about my interest in police work. He swore me in as a Reserve in October 1975 and I served until the summer of 1976 with TPD. I credit Chief Roberts for helping me become a Medford Police Officer in 1977.

After serving at MPD until June 2006 I tried some other pursuits such as politics and real estate. I found I missed the law enforcement profession and returned to MPD as a background investigator and joined the staff at the Oregon Police Academy as an instructor.

When I heard that Chief Bob Rector was taking the Undersheriff's position

in Curry County I quickly asked to be considered for the honor of following Chief Rector as Talent Chief.

Bob's departure from TPD is a real loss for the citizens of Talent. He was an incredible chief of Police and left behind a very professional police department.

Another addition to Talent PD is Cindy Warner. Cindy is joining Anita Great and Kaylie Newell in our Support Staff. Cindy is a very friendly and helpful person who joins two very competent employees in our front office.

Also, I am happy to announce that Code Enforcement Officer Red Smith has returned to work after medical leave. I have known Red as a fellow officer through his years as a deputy with Jackson County Sheriff's Office. Red is a very hard worker and is a straight-talker. His job is a very difficult one keeping Talent a beautiful city we can all be proud of. I am pleased to have him on our team.

In later articles I will talk about crime, code enforcement and general safety tips. Meanwhile, I want to thank those of you I have met and who have welcomed me to Talent. I look forward to meeting those of you I have not met and re-connecting with old friends.

## More COP Talk...

With school starting in September we also see an increase in underage drinking parties. The Talent Police Department will be focusing resources on this problem in cooperation with Jackson County Sheriff's and other agencies.

Officer Bill May attended a conference this summer that emphasized the need for early intervention in alcohol abuse. Enforcement of Minor In Possession of Alcohol (MIP) violations is critical. Each year over 65,000 deaths are directly related to alcohol including 42,000 drunken driving deaths.

Other disturbing consequences of alcohol abuse are that 54% of violent crimes involve alcohol. Over 80% of domestic abuse cases involve alcohol. Over 50% of sexual abuse involves alcohol and 60% of emergency room cases are the consequence of alcohol abuse.

Nationally, the monetary cost alone is over \$136 billion annually. Also, if an adult furnishes alcohol to minors or hosts a MIP party there are criminal charges as well as severe civil liability that can result.

Please help us keep our young people safe. Be aware of teens using alcohol and do your part to stop it.

## SCAM ALERT

The Talent Police Department has received information from the Medford police Financial Investigation Section warning the public of a telephone solicitation scam that has come out in the last week. An unknown person or person(s) are calling random citizens and representing themselves as employees of a local bank. Some of the phone calls are pre-recorded messages. The caller or message is attempting to gain the victims personal information

to "re-activate" their credit or debt cards. This is a criminal organization and should not be given information.

Banks have your information and will not randomly call you on the phone to confirm personal information. If you suspect a fraudulent call, ask for the person's name and call back number. Then hang up the phone. Call your local branch and confirm the callers name and purpose for the call. Do not call back the number the suspicious caller gave you. The public is asked to contact their financial institution if they have already given out their personal banking /savings information.

## Information about Flood Insurance

NFIP: The City of Talent participates in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). The NFIP makes federally backed flood insurance available for all buildings, whether they are in a floodplain or not. Flood insurance covers direct losses caused by surface flooding, including a river flowing over its banks, a lake or ocean storm, and local drainage problems.

The NFIP insures buildings, including mobile homes, with two types of coverage: structural and contents. Structural coverage is for the walls, floors, insulation, furnace, and other items permanently attached to the structure. Contents coverage may be purchased separately provided the contents are in an insurable building.

Mandatory Purchase Requirement: The mandatory purchase requirement applies to all forms of federal or federally related financial assistance for buildings located in a Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA). This requirement affects loans and grants for the purchase, construction, repair, or improvement of any publicly or privately owned building in the SFHA, including machinery, equipment, fixtures, and furnishings contained in such buildings.

Financial assistance programs affected include loans and grants from agencies such as the Department of Veterans Affairs, Farmers Home Administration, Federal Housing Administration, Small Business Administration, and Federal Emergency Management Agency. The requirement also applies to secured mortgage loans from financial institutions, such as commercial lenders, savings and loan associations, savings banks, and credit unions that are regulated, supervised or insured by Federal agencies such as the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation and the Office of Thrift Supervision. It also applies to all mortgage loans purchased by Fannie Mae or Freddie Mac in the secondary mortgage market.

How it Works: Before a person can receive a loan or other financial assistance from one of the affected agencies or lenders, there must be a check to see if the building is in a Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA). The SFHA is the base (100-year) floodplain mapped on a Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM). It is shown as one or more zones that begin with the letter "A" of "V."

Copies of the FIRM are available for review in the City's Planning Office.

SEPTEMBER, 2008  
Volume 10/Issue 9  
Official  
Newsletter of the City of Talent  
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Many lenders and insurance agents also have copies. It is the agency's or the lender's responsibility to check the FIRM to determine if the building is in an SFHA, although the City will provide assistance.

If the building is in an SFHA, the agency or lender is required by law to require the recipient to purchase a flood insurance policy on the building. The requirement is for structural coverage equal to the amount of the loan (or other financial assistance) or the maximum amount available, whichever is less. The maximum amount available for a single-family house is 250 thousand dollars.

The mandatory purchase requirement does not affect loans or financial assistance for items that are not covered by a flood insurance policy, such as vehicles, business expenses, landscaping, and vacant lots. It does not affect loans for buildings that are not in the SFHA, even though a portion of the lot may be floodprone. While not mandated by law, a lender may require a flood insurance policy as a condition of a loan for a property in any zone on a Flood Insurance Rate Map.

If you would like to know more about the City's history with floods, you can pick up a brochure in the City offices called "The Flood Report," or access an on-line version at <www.cityoftalent.org> and follow the "City Departments," "Planning" link to "Flood Information."

## PLANNING DEPARTMENT NEWS

### Setbacks, Bulk, and Height

This department routinely receives calls complaining about a new house going up that is "too big," "too close," or "too tall." The zoning controls that regulate these factors are maximum building coverage, minimum setback, and maximum height. Notably, these controls have stood almost unchanged for over 30 years. In most residential zoning districts the maximum coverage buildings may have on a lot is 35 percent (i.e., the roofed area may cover no more than 35% of the lot area). For most houses in most districts the closest that buildings may be to side lot lines is five/eight feet (depending on the building's height). Some subdivisions have special setbacks that were approved during the review process, and up until a few years ago the RS-7 district required only a five-foot setback regardless of how tall the building is. Lastly, building height

is set at a maximum of 30 feet in all districts.

## **Architectural Review Committee Needs Volunteers**

This committee is a great introduction to municipal government. It meets for a couple of hours each month (on the 2nd Tuesday in the evening) and reviews plans for compliance with design standards. It is also in the business of debating and developing new or revised design standards. Contact the planning department for more information.

## **Register to Vote - November Election**

It is important that every City resident be registered, and vote in the November general election. There are a number of statewide issues that should concern City residents as well as all Oregonians, but also the local City election will have 4 candidates vying for 3 positions on City Council to be filled. These candidates are: Sherman Lamb running for seat #2, Teresa Cooke running for Seat #4, E.J. McManus, and Dan Goyette running for Seat #6.

If you have moved to Talent since the last election and have not notified the Jackson County Election Office of the change of address, you will not receive a Talent Ballot. Deadline for registration is October 14th. In Oregon, ballots are mailed to all registered voters.

For first time voters you will have up to 21 days prior to the November election to register in order to vote in this election. Your registration form must be in the County Election office no later than October 14th. You can obtain the proper voter registration form at Talent City Hall or at the Jackson County Election office at 1101 W. Main in Medford.

## **Talent Ave Enhancement Project**

The Talent Avenue street improvement project between Chuck Roberts Park and Creel Road is moving along well. Underground work related to the storm drains is nearing completion. The construction crew will be installing curb, gutter and sidewalk in September. Street paving should take place in early October. The project will be completed this fall and will represent a significant improvement to the city street system. Please call the City's project engineer, Jeff Ballard, at 535-5531 if you have any questions about this project.

## **Gibson Street Improvements**

The City of Talent is beginning to design improvements for Gibson Street and is looking for three to five City residents to volunteer to serve on a design review panel. The project does not have a construction schedule, but the design team will begin meeting in October. Two meetings lasting approximately two hours each are anticipated. The purpose of the panel is to suggest street improvements that best meet the needs of the neighborhood and the City. The engineers will attempt to incorporate those suggestions into the design while assuring that the final design meets City standards. Please contact Engineering at 535-5531 or Public Works 535-3828 if you are interested in serving on this panel.

## **The "Doors of Talent" Poster is Almost Here!**

The long awaited "Doors" poster will debut at the Harvest Festival, September 13th at the Garden Club and City of Talent Booths.

The poster is 24 inches wide by 30 inches tall and features Claire Barr-Wilson's photographs of 30 homes and businesses in Talent. A professional graphic designer has set up the poster for printing and has developed a beautiful composite of the "look" of Talent this last spring.

Posters will sell for \$10.00 each and the proceeds will go to the Talent Public Arts Committee thus benefiting ALL the residents of Talent.

## **Gigantic Sunflower Contest**

Bring your sunflower to the Garden Club Booth at this year's Harvest Festival, Sept. 13th. Your sunflower will be entered into the annual contest sponsored by the Talent Garden Club. Gift certificates from local businesses will be awarded for the three largest sunflowers submitted.

## **Free Plastic Round-up: Recycle Your Plastic!**

Now you can start saving your plastic. On November 14 and 15, Jackson County Recycling Partnership will host three free drop-off locations for numerous types of plastic, including grocery and dry cleaning bags, cereal and potato chips bags, to-go containers, lawn furniture, toys, nursery pots, buckets and tubs, lids and caps, CDs and CD cases, shrink wrap and much more.

Three event locations include: Rogue Disposal Transfer Station at 8001 Table Rock Road in White City, Valley View Transfer Station at 3000 Valley View Road in Ashland, and OSU Extension Service at 569 Hanley Road in Central Point.

For a list of acceptable items, visit [www.jcrecycle.org](http://www.jcrecycle.org).

## **PARKS & RECREATION**

### **Programs**

The City has concluded another successful year of offering summer recreation programs to the youth of Talent. The Parks and Recreation Commission will begin discussing next year and would like input from City Residents on the type of programs you would like to see and how we can improve. Please take the time to email the City at [talent@cityoftalent.org](mailto:talent@cityoftalent.org) and let us know what you thought of this summer's programs and suggestions on how we could improve our future programs.

## **Movie in the Park was a success!**

The Parks and Recreation Commission's Summer Movie in the Park held on August 23rd in Chuck Roberts Park was a great success. Many thanks to our Summer Parks and Recreation Coordinator Brian McKinnis and thanks to all that attended and a special thanks to Medford Parks and Recreation for the rental of the movie screen and SIS-Q Cellular for their generous donation that contributed towards helping to make this such a special event. If you have any feedback on how you thought the event went, please email us at [talent@cityoftalent.org](mailto:talent@cityoftalent.org) and let us know.