



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

CALLING ALL ARTISTS

For the third year in a row, the Harvest Festival Committee has decided to put out the call to artists. This year there will be a prize. The prize is \$50.00 worth of gift certificates to various local Talent businesses and restaurants in addition to opportunity to show off their creativity. Imagine your artwork on the front of this year's Harvest Festival Tote Bag and Event Poster. One lucky artist will be selected in June to have his or her artwork represented. The theme is "Harvest". Artwork only please. Do not include any words or dates, but you may sign it. The desired size of paper or canvas of your painting or drawing would be a maximum size of

12" x 17" and a minimum size of 8-1/2"x11". Each entry will need to be accompanied by a signed Entry Form. Forms are available online at www.cityoftalent.org, on the homepage. Forms are also available at the front counter at Talent City Hall, 110 East Main Street, and can be completed when submitting your artwork. Contact Cheryl at 535-1566 or Cheryl@cityoftalent.org for more details on your submission. **Deadline is May 29th.** GOOD LUCK!

New Restrooms Being Installed at Lynn Newbry Park



The new restrooms project involves the installation of a prefabricated restroom building kit in Lynn Newbry Park. The prefabricated restroom building kit will be made from durable concrete block and will be resistant to vandalism. The make is a Romtec pre-engineered building kit that is put together in Roseburg and was delivered to the Public Works shop this last fall. The city public works crew should take about 60 days to install new units. To view a photo of the unit, point your browser to: http://www.romtec.com/Restrooms/Standard_Restrooms/Model_2023/

Gibson Avenue Project NOT Approved by Oregon Transportation Commission

The City of Talent made a strong, last-ditch effort to obtain funding through the federal stimulus process

for Gibson Avenue improvements, estimated to cost \$592,000. The Oregon Transportation Commission (OTC) received proposals for special, ready-to-bid projects on March 11. Among those project proposals received by the OTC was Gibson Avenue, which is ready to bid, having been through the preliminary design and public review process.

The OTC received requests to fund many more projects Statewide than available funding would allow. Over \$500 million in requests were made for \$101 million in available special funding. Even though Gibson Avenue was not selected for funding under this program, the City will continue to seek funding from all available sources.

COP TALK

by Chief Mike Moran

This month's article is about some very serious issues in our community.

The first issue is how the nationwide and statewide financial problems impact our budget here in Talent. First of all, some good news. The Stimulus program has opened up opportunities for Talent PD to apply for a grant to hire another police officer. We will be applying for funding through the Federal Government COPS program. It is a competitive process.

Our city has felt the crunch of budget woes for sometime. Last year a vacant police officer position was cut to help balance the budget. This past January two city positions were laid-off including our Department's Code Enforcement Officer. I mention these cuts only to let you know that we are not immune to the national crisis and to let you know we will continue to provide 24/7 police service.

The second issue is a recent series of incidents throughout the valley involving racist flyers being posted and racist graffiti being put on buildings. Talent Wal-Mart reported racist flyers being left on cars in the parking lot. The group responsible for the flyers identifies itself as a Nazi type of organization. Some of these few individuals are known to law enforcement. However, the subjects have not been accused of any crime. While the flyers may be offensive there are freedom of speech issues that allow them to be printed.

When issues like this come up people ask, "What is prohibited conduct?" On the lower end of the scale of potentially related issues is graffiti. Graffiti is not protected conduct and should be reported. Cases will be investigated.

On the other end of the spectrum is the crime of Intimidation. Oregon Revised Statute 166.165 states:

(1) A person commits the crime of intimidation in the second degree if the person:

(a) Tamper or interferes with property, having no right to do so nor reasonable ground to believe that the person has such right, with the intent to cause substantial inconvenience to another because of the person's perception of the other's race, color, religion, national origin or sexual orientation;

(b) Intentionally subjects another to offensive physical contact because of the person's perception of the other's race, color, religion, national origin or sexual orientation; or

(c) Intentionally, because of the per-

son's perception of race, color, religion, national origin or sexual orientation of another or of a member of the other's family, subjects such other person to alarm by threatening:

(A) To inflict serious physical injury upon or to commit a felony affecting such other person, or a member of the person's family; or

(B) To cause substantial damage to the property of the other person or of a member of the other person's family.

(2) Intimidation in the second degree is a Class A misdemeanor.

(3) For purposes of this section:

(a) "Property" means any tangible personal property or real property.

(b) "Sexual orientation" means heterosexuality, homosexuality or bisexuality.

166.165 Intimidation in the first degree. (1) Two or more persons acting together commit the crime of intimidation in the first degree, if the persons:

(a)(A) Intentionally, knowingly or recklessly cause physical injury to another person because of the actors' perception of that person's race, color, religion, national origin or sexual orientation; or

(B) With criminal negligence cause physical injury to another person by means of a deadly weapon because of the actors' perception of that person's race, color, religion, national origin or sexual orientation;

(b) Intentionally, because of the actors' perception of another person's race, color, religion, national origin or sexual orientation, place another person in fear of imminent serious physical injury; or

(c) Commit such acts as would constitute the crime of intimidation in the second degree, if undertaken by one person acting alone.

(2) Intimidation in the first degree is a Class C felony.

Cases like this are investigated vigorously and thoroughly and depending upon the circumstances can involve assistance from Federal agencies. A case last year in Medford involving harassment of a couple based on their race resulted in arrests.

Talent is a diverse community and it is our responsibility to keep it a safe and enjoyable one for all.

Oregon Prescription Drug Program

Many cities throughout the Rogue Valley including Talent have been researching options for all Oregon residents to tap into ways to help citizens save on their prescription drug costs. Recently the City Council has decided to introduce to its residents the Oregon Prescription Drug Card Program that offers savings up to 60% on prescription drugs depending on the drug and the pharmacy. There are many pharmacies in our valley that are participating in the OPDP network. The average savings on prescription drugs in this program is 42%. There is no cost to join this discount card program. There is no paperwork required and no age or income limit. There are 3 ways to enroll; by phone, call toll free 1-800-913-4146 or online at www.opdp.org You may enroll online in English or Spanish. You can also print out an application from the website for mailing to the program. For more information on the program, visit our website at cityoftalent.org for a link on our homepage to the program

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Flood Insurance

The City of Talent participates in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) that makes available federally backed flood insurance for all structures, whether or not they are located within the floodplain. More than 25 percent of NFIP claims are filed by properties located outside the 100-year floodplain, also known as the Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA). Following the purchase of flood insurance, NFIP imposes a 30-day waiting period, so residents should purchase insurance before the onset of the rainy season to ensure coverage during the flooding season. Please be aware that standard homeowner or renter insurance policies do not cover losses due to flooding.

Membership within NFIP — and the availability to City residents of flood insurance — requires the City to manage its floodplain in ways that meet or exceed standards set by FEMA. NFIP insures buildings with two types of coverage: structural and contents. Structural coverage includes walls, floors, insulation, furnace and other items permanently attached to the structure. Contents coverage may be purchased separately to cover the contents of an insurable building. Flood insurance also pays a portion of the costs of actions taken to prevent flood damage.

Since July 1, 1997, all NFIP policies include Increased Cost of Compliance coverage that assists with bringing structures into compliance with current building standards, such as elevating structures 1 foot or more above the height of the 100-year flood. **The limit of this coverage is \$30,000.**

Federal financial assistance requires the purchase of flood insurance for buildings located within the SFHA — a requirement that affects nearly all mortgages financed through commercial lending institutions. This mandatory requirement stipulates that structural coverage be purchased equal to the amount of the loan, or other financial assistance, or for the maximum amount available, which is currently \$250,000 for a single family residence. While the mandatory flood insurance purchase requirement has

been in effect for many years, not all lending institutions required flood insurance in the past. Today, however, most institutions are now requiring the flood insurance purchase, and some are reviewing all mortgage loans to determine whether flood insurance is required and should have been required in the past. Upon refinancing a loan, nearly all lending institutions will enforce the flood insurance requirement. It is the lender's responsibility to check the Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) to determine whether a structure is within the SFHA.

The mandatory flood insurance purchase requirement does not apply to loans or financial assistance for items that are not eligible for flood insurance coverage, such as vehicles, business expenses, landscaping and vacant lots. The requirement also does not apply to loans for structures not located in a SFHA, even though a portion of the lot may be within a SFHA. Persons located within SFHAs who received disaster assistance after Sept. 23, 1994 for flood losses to real or personal property must purchase and maintain flood insurance coverage, otherwise future disaster assistance will be denied.

If you don't know if your property is located in a SFHA, please contact the planning department at 535-7401 for a floodplain determination. For more information please visit our website cityoftalent.org

CITY WIDE YARD SALE Saturday May 2nd

On Saturday, May 2nd join in the citywide yard sale. **For \$5.00 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 5pm, April 24th. These maps of yard sales in Talent will be available starting April 27th through May 2nd at the following locations—**Tarks Market, Talent Post Office, Talent Laundromat, Talent Library, City Hall and the Community Hall Bulletin Board.**

New this year, for those residents who are unable to hold a yard sale due to residential restrictions, such as living in apartments or mobile home parks, the City is providing space at Chuck Roberts Park. You will be allowed to set up your table or blanket in the park beginning the morning of May 2nd (no set ups allowed the night before). A designated area for sellers has been established as the only place for yard sellers that day. Facing the park from the parking lot, the area designated will be in the lawn between the restrooms and the tennis courts, in front of the playground. You are required to break down and clean up by 4:00 p.m. Please only use the parking lot for parking your car not for set up of yard sales. Please leave the park in the same condition as you found it and do not leave any items behind. Being respectful of these simple requests will enable this event to continue in the future. Have fun, be safe and sell lots!

Urban Renewal News

North Talent Avenue: This project, which is receiving partial funding from the ODOT Bicycle/Pedestrian Program, is running nearly on schedule. The Agency expects to start advertising for a General Contractor in April, with construction to take place this summer. Plans for this project can be seen at the Agency's office at 102 Home Street, or on the bulletin board at City Hall. The project will provide sidewalks and bike lanes on both sides of the street, plus some on street parking and landscaping. It will also place utility wires underground where they cross over Talent Avenue.

Civic Center Alley: The last and final phase of civic center construction

planned by the Agency is tidying up the alley and parking area adjacent to the Community Center. Plans include placing the remaining power poles underground, paving, tying drainage into the storm drain system, creating permanent parking spaces, and adding some pedestrian scale lighting. The goal is to finish alley improvements in time for September's Harvest Festival.

For more information contact Executive Director Marla Cates, 535-6170

City Wide Green-Up Clean-Up Day Saturday, May 16th

Green-Up and Clean-Up of Talent neighborhoods and businesses is happening on Saturday, May 16th from 8:00 to 1:00 pm. There are 3 different times for you to get involved: 8am, 10am & 12pm, but please don't hesitate to come out at any other time between those hours; we can use all the help we can get! All groups will meet in the Tarks parking lot. Members of the Together for Talent committee will be available to lead and/or direct citizens beginning at 8am until 1pm. Trash bags and gloves will be provided as well as hot coffee, water and doughnuts. For more information, please contact Cheryl at City Hall 535-1566. Hope to see everyone there!

SPRING DISPOSAL OF YARD WASTE

Combined with the City's citywide Green-Up and Clean-Up Program set for May 16, **Ashland Sanitary Services** has arranged a program to allow residential customers to come to their Valley View Transfer Station at 3000 Valley View Rd. from 7:30am-4pm

to dispose of lumber (nails and screws allowed), brush, leaves and grass for a discounted rate of \$4.00 per load. This program is only available to residential customers and the reduced fee charged is only for May 16th. In the past the City has arranged for a roll off container at Chuck Roberts Park for these waste materials. This was a difficult program to manage and not the appropriate way to handle these types of wastes. Also, an Ashland Sanitary employee was injured at the event. Therefore this program at Chuck Roberts Park will not be offered. So plan to drive a little further to take advantage of "Discount Day" and drop this type of waste off for a reduced fee of \$4.00/load at the Transfer Station. This offer does not include regular garbage and as always the waste must be separated. Contact Ashland Sanitary for more information at 482-1471 or online <http://www.ashlandsanitary.com/>

Talent Named Tree City USA for 2008

The City of Talent was recognized as one of only 52 cities in Oregon receiving the Tree City Award. A few years ago, Echo City Administrator Diane Berry challenged other cities to help Oregon reach 50 Tree City USA communities by 2009, Oregon's 150th Anniversary year. Proudly ODF was pleased to announce that number was reached and surpassed for a record number of 52 Tree City USA communities. The Tree City USA award, a national recognition program administered in Oregon by ODF, recognizes cities for maintaining urban forestry programs. Please join us on April 14th as we celebrate our Cities nomination. Were hoping to have a staff member of the Oregon Department of Forestry here to present Mayor Steyskal with a plaque during a tree planting ceremony. The ceremony will be held at 11:30 a.m. at a location in Talent to be determined. Please keep a look out on the cities website (cityoftalent.org) for further details!

It's all coming together...in TALENT

2009 SUMMER RECREATION "ALL FOR FUN AND FUN FOR ALL"

The program guide is coming soon and it's LOADED with activities for all ages, like Art, Dance, Fitness, Music,

Life Skills, and Sports. There is definitely something for everyone at Talent Parks and Recreation. Look for the schedule in early April on our website www.cityoftalent.org and in the May edition of the Talent News and Review or request a guide via email from recreation@cityoftalent.org

Got Talent?

We're starting things off early with:

Argentine Tango for Absolute Beginners

6:00 pm on Thursdays at the Talent Community Center beginning April 2. This Absolute Beginners class is \$30/month and NO PARTNERS NECESSARY!

For more information contact Brian McKinnis 535-1566 or brian@cityoftalent.org.