



# 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

### Stimulus Money Coming to Talent for Streets

Two primary streets in Talent will soon receive an asphalt overlay thanks to Federal stimulus funds. Talent Avenue between downtown and the Wagner Creek bridge and West Valley View Road between Highway 99 and I-5 will each receive overlays to bring them to "like new" condition. These projects were some of the very first projects in the State to be bid. The City worked with ODOT to hire WH Pacific to prepare specifications with the understanding that construction would take place this summer and fall. The projects were combined with stimulus projects in Phoenix and bids were opened on July 16. The price for all projects in Talent and Phoenix is about \$250,000. The low bidder was Knife River at a price that was about \$200,000 below the engineer's estimate. "Engineers are working to expand the projects to utilize all of the available federal funds." According to Talent engineers, this is an excellent time to take bids on projects because prices are extremely favorable to local governments.

### MAIN STREET PARKING

Residents and/or property owners in the vicinity of West Main Street between Front and Third Streets are asked to attend a Traffic Safety Committee meeting to address concerns regarding parking along West Main Street, Tuesday - August 11 at 4:00 pm in the Community Center.

When this section of West Main Street was improved about ten years ago, parking spaces were created in the unpaved areas between the normal curb line and the sidewalk on the north side along sections of West Main. When pickups, vans and other large vehicles are parked in these strips close to the intersecting streets, it is difficult for drivers in smaller vehicles as they are attempting to pull out onto Main Street from North First and North Second Streets.

There has been some discussion about restricting parking in the parking strips in an attempt to improve sight distance. Before taking any action the TS&TC would like to hear from you. To that end, please join us and participate in a discussion. If you are unable to attend the meeting feel free to send us a note for consideration at this meeting. Copies of your letters will be forwarded to the TS&TC members prior to the meeting. Be sure to send your letter no later than August 7th to:

Joe Strahl, Public Works Director  
200 Suncrest Road  
Talent, OR 97540

Please RSVP to Coleen at 535-3828 with the number of people that will be attending in your group.

### PLANNING DEPARTMENT NEWS

#### The City's Planning Department is going to have some new hours...

New schedule:

**Mondays** closed until 1:00pm  
**Tuesdays** 8:30-4:00  
**Wednesdays** 8:30-4:00  
**Thursdays** 8:30-5:00  
**Fridays** Closed  
**Building Permit Issues**  
Tues-Thurs 8:30-12:30

#### Kathy Hackstock Planning Asst.:

Tuesday - 8:30 to 12:30  
Wednesday - 8:30 to 12:30  
Thursday - 8:30 to 5:00

#### Mark Knox, Planning Director:

Monday - 1:00 to 4:00  
Tuesday - 12:00 to 4:00  
Wednesday - 12:00 to 4:00  
Thursday - 1:00 to 5:00  
Friday (Closed, except for necessary appointments)

Please contact planning department at 535-7401

### COP TALK

by Chief Moran

The month of June was a very busy month for Talent PD. The caseload was up significantly and we were operating at 75% of our normal police staffing due to one leave of absence and an open position. As I write this we will soon be back to full strength with the return of one officer from leave and the addition of a new officer to Talent PD.

Our new officer is **Gail Schweizer**. Gail just retired from the Medford Police Department where he served for nearly 20 years. His most recent assignment was as a Motor Officer. Previously Gail served for 8 years with the Ashland Police Department. Gail is an excellent police officer and we are excited to welcome him to Talent.

Coming up on September 12th is the Talent Harvest Festival. That will be a full day of fun in the downtown area. Some street closures will occur to accommodate the Festival Run which usually goes at 8 a.m. up main to Foss and out to the county and back. The parade, which starts from the elementary school, runs down Wagner and back up Main. Plan for those street closures if you are out that morning. More details up coming next month.

The very next day, on September 13, another event comes to Talent. The 2009 cycle Oregon will come through town along Talent Avenue from Colver Rd to Highway 99. The bikes will be coming through town over the course of a few hours starting early Sunday morning.

Speaking of bikes, I have noticed bicyclists are riding more often on sidewalks and in bike lanes against the direction of travel of the adjacent lane. Riding on sidewalks seems to be the biggest problem between cyclists and pedestrians and cyclists and cars. In general, you shouldn't ride a bicycle on sidewalks.

Here is some advice from the Oregon Bicyclist manual: "Many crashes between bikes and cars occur on sidewalks, especially when bicyclists ride against the flow of car traffic. If you do ride on a sidewalk, try to ride in the same direction as traffic next to you, and adjust your riding habits for the safety of all sidewalk users by following these guidelines: Slow down at driveways and street crossings if a car is coming. If you go too fast, drivers will not see you (they are looking for pedestrians nearby, not a fast moving cyclist further away). If you crash, you may be found at fault if you were going too fast. Yield to pedestrians: sidewalks are for walkers, not bicyclists. Be courteous and ride cautiously. When passing a pedestrian, **slow down**, give an audible warning, and wait for the pedestrian to move over. A bicycle bell works best. If you must say something, make your intentions clear. For example, "Passing on your left, or "On your left" "

In Oregon, a bicycle is a vehicle by law and, with a few exceptions, the rules of the road for drivers apply to bicyclists, such as stopping for stop signs, signaling turns, and riding with the flow of traffic.

Finally, always protect yourself and wear a helmet to reduce the risk of head injury in the event of a crash.

A great reference for bicyclists and others who share the road with them is the above-mentioned Oregon Bicyclist Manual, which can be obtained at DMV or online. The Manual gives great guidance to both bicyclists and motorists about how to safely share the road. You can access the Oregon Bicyclist Manual online at: [http://www.oregon.gov/ODOT/HWY/BIKEPED/docs/bike\\_manual\\_06.pdf](http://www.oregon.gov/ODOT/HWY/BIKEPED/docs/bike_manual_06.pdf)

### URBAN RENEWAL NEWS

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

**North Talent Avenue:** As of this writing, this sidewalk, bike lane and roadway project is on schedule. Curbs and sidewalks should be completed by the end of July, and final paving during the first week of August. An area in front of the gas station is being prepared for a potential northbound bus stop in the future. Landscaping is in the design phase, with installation planned for November. This project receives partial funding from the ODOT Bike and Pedestrian program.

**Civic Center Landscape:** The Agency recently completed its planned 2-year maintenance effort on the civic center landscape, installed by the Agency while building the Commons and City Hall. Nearly \$30,000 was invested over this 2-year maintenance period on hand weeding, lawn care, extra plants, mulch and irrigation water. This intensive management is provided when new plants are most vulnerable, and helps ensure their long-term health and vigor. This protects the Agency's landscape investment and reduces costs for the City which is now responsible for all future maintenance.

**Civic Center Alley:** This project makes improvements next to the Community Center by adding parking, underground utilities and pedestrian lighting. Storm drainage was also added to the plan. Recent engineer's

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P.O. Box 445, Talent,  
Oregon 97540

Edited by  
Cheryl Nicolay

City Website:  
[www.cityoftalent.org](http://www.cityoftalent.org)  
Telephone:  
(541) 535-1566  
E-mail:  
[cheryl@cityoftalent.org](mailto:cheryl@cityoftalent.org)

estimates indicate construction costs that are higher than anticipated by the Agency. The project is now undergoing some design revisions in order to conserve costs. This will postpone the project until after the Harvest Festival.

### WATER SAVING TIPS

Summer is upon us and this is the time when water bills tend to skyrocket. Taking a few simple steps to increase water conservation in and around your home will not only save you money on your water bill but can also reduce energy costs and save on CO2 emissions associated with them.

#### Lawns

1. Water before 10 a.m. to prevent evaporation, which occurs during the hottest part of the day.

Morning is better than evening, when the dampness encourages growth of fungus.

2. Water only when grass shows signs of wilt. Grass that springs back when stepped on does not need water.

3. Water long enough to soak the roots. A light sprinkling evaporates quickly and encourages shallow root systems. If you water for longer periods of time i.e., 20 minutes, less frequently it will force grass roots to grow deeper in search of water which will in turn require less watering.

4. Don't let the sprinkler run any longer than necessary. In an hour, 600 gallons can be wasted.

5. Allow an inch of water per week on your lawn. To measure, place cake tins outside to collect rain and water from sprinklers.

6. Aerate lawns by punching holes 6 inches apart. This allows water to reach roots rather than runoff surfaces.

7. Position sprinklers to water the lawn, not the pavement.

8. Avoid watering on windy days when the wind not only blows water off target, but also causes excess evaporation.

9. Adjust your hose to simulate a gentle rain. Sprinklers, which produce a fine mist, waste water through evaporation. Know how to turn off an automatic sprinkler system in case of rain.

#### Vegetable and Flower Gardens

1. Water deeply, slowly, and weekly. Most vegetables require moisture to a depth of six to eight inches.

2. Keep soil loose so water can penetrate easily.

3. Use mulch around plants and rows to hold in moisture.

4. Keep out weeds to reduce competition for water.

5. Put the water where you want it and avoid evaporation by using soil-soakers or slow-running hoses, not sprinklers.

#### **Trees and Shrubs**

1. Water deeply using a soil-soaker.

2. Water only when needed. Check the depth of soil dryness by digging with a trowel. While the surface may be dry, adequate moisture is retained beneath the surface for the support of trees and shrubs.

3. Mulch to reduce evaporation. A 2" to 3" layer of wood chips; pine needles, grass clippings, or straw keeps the soil cool in summer. Mulch adds landscape interest and reduces weeds. The few weeds that do grow are uprooted.

4. Dig troughs around plants to catch and retain water.

5. Water plants growing in full sun more often than those in shade.

6. Know how to turn off automatic sprinklers in case of rain.

7. Do not fertilize during the summer. Fertilizing increases a plant's need for water.

8. Postpone planting until spring or fall when there is generally less need for water.

9. Install trickle-drip irrigation systems close to the roots of your plants. By dripping water slowly, the system doesn't spray water into the air where it can be lost through evaporation.

10. Use rainwater caught in containers placed under downspouts. Use

spring, stream, or creek water, if available.

#### **Around the House**

1. Use a bucket of soapy water and a sponge to wash your car. Save the hose for rinsing. Wash your car in sections and rinse with short spurts from the hose. Washing a car for 20 minutes with the hose running all the time uses 90 gallons.

2. Keep a bottle of drinking water in the refrigerator instead of running the faucet for cold water. (For real pampering, keep your glass in the refrigerator, too.)

3. Cover your backyard pool when not in use to prevent evaporation, accidents, and to keep it clean. Don't fill if full and keep splashes inside.

4. Tell your children not to play with water hoses and sprinklers.

5. Recycle wading pool water for plants, lawns and for bathing the dog.

6. Start a compost pile instead of using your garbage disposal, which uses a lot of water.

7. Use a broom, not a hose, to clean driveways and sidewalks.

8. Clean garden produce in a tub of water, then recycle used water and give the plants in the garden a drink.

#### **How to Tell if you are Over-Watering:**

Soil is constantly damp

Leaves turn a lighter shade of green or turn yellow.

Young shoots are wilted.

Leaves are green yet brittle.

Algae and mushrooms are growing.

#### **How to Tell if you are Under-Watering:**

Soil is dry.

Older leaves turn yellow or brown, and drop off.

Leaves are wilted.

Leaves curl.

## It's not too late...

To register for August classes and activities from "got talent?"

### **Parks and Recreation August Calendar**

#### **Hip Hop Dance with Calysta** Ages 10 - 16.

**August 3 - August 14** \$38

Hip Hop dance class focusing on technique, rhythm and style. Dynamic, young instructor brings a high energy and fun-filled way to learn the latest moves.

2:00 - 3:00 on Mon. Wed. Fri. at TES.

#### **Mosaic** 10 to Adult

**August 3 - August 6** \$35

Learn the art of Mosaic. In this class you will learn how to turn old, boring furniture into beautiful and functional art that will brighten your home. Everything you need will be provided for you to create a stunning mirror or stepping stone for your garden. Also great for decorating small tables and stools, bring it in if you have one. Have some fun with grout, glass and tile.

Class meets at TES from 6:00 - 7:30pm

#### **Basketball Camp** All ages

**August 17 - August 20** \$40

Summer skills camp featuring players from the SOU Men's and Women's Basketball teams. Camp will focus on Individual offensive and defensive skill instruction by position as well as game situation drills and concepts. Learn how to improve in all areas of the game. Campers will be grouped by age and skill level for optimum learning. Open to boys and girls.

Monday - Thursday 10:00 - 12:00 at TMS.

#### **Soccer** All ages

**August 10 - August 14** \$45

The beautiful game taught by local champions. Coach Dennis Flenner and the Phoenix High School men's soccer team will hold this early evening skill development camp that is sure to impress and entertain players of all ages. Campers will receive individual and team technical instruction from some of our valley's brightest stars. Perfect tune up for the fall season.

5:30 - 7:30pm

Team price only \$350

A special thank you to the Talent branch of **South Valley Bank** and **Umpqua Bank** for their extremely generous contributions to the "got talent" scholarship fund.

**Call for more information or visit us at [www.cityoftalent.org](http://www.cityoftalent.org) (541)535-1566**