



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

Greetings Talentians



Hello Talent,

My name is Jessica Bieker, and I am excited to let you know that I have joined the staff at City Hall as Accounting Specialist. I earned my undergraduate and graduate degrees in accounting from the University of Arkansas in Fayetteville. Immediately after graduating, I went to work for Ernst and Young as an external auditor in Northwest Arkansas. I spent most of my two years with Ernst and Young auditing Tyson Foods, Inc. I moved to the area in the fall to explore the Pacific Northwest. Thanks for sharing it with me! In my free time I love to enjoy live music and the great outdoors.

The Planning Department Wishes a Happy New Year to all of Talent's citizens!

It's a pleasure to work with many of Talent's citizens and citizen volunteers. Although there was not a significant amount of current building activity in 2009, there have been strides in long range planning efforts with much more of the same to come in 2010. Staff expects to complete Talent's portion of the Regional Problem Solving process in 2010 (see below), adopt Design Standards and zoning regulations for the West Valley View Master Plan (see below), adopt Drive-up Standards, create a new dog park, and continue to work with the Citizens of Talent to improve Talent's quality of life.

To Drive Thru or not to Drive Thru...

The Planning Commission is currently discussing Drive-Up uses and design standards with the intent to mitigate their impact on the City's character, transportation system and air quality. The Planning Commission would like to encourage Talent citizens to come and participate in the discussion and offer suggestions that should be considered in a final draft. Please visit the City's website at <http://www.cityoftalent.org/> to verify when this topic will next be scheduled.

Committee/Commission Vacancies

If you are a citizen of Talent living within the City's Urban Growth Boundary and would like to volunteer your time to help shape your community's future, the City is seeking volunteers for the following Committees and/or Commissions. Joining a committee is a great way to get involved and make a positive contribution to local government. Applications for positions are on the City's website www.cityoftalent.org or at City Hall.

City of Talent Budget Committee
3 yr term:

Parks Commission Advisory Board-
4 yr term, meets 2nd Wed. @6:15pm

Planning Commission Advisory Board-
2 yr term, meets 4th Thurs. @6:30pm

Arch Review Committee-meets 3rd
Tues. @ 6pm

Urban Renewal Agency/Budget
Committee-(For more information,
contact Marla Cates at 535-6170)

Regional Problem Solving (RPS)

The Greater Bear Creek Regional Problem Solving process is nearing its completion. This 10-year planning effort has brought together the cities of Talent, Central Point, Medford, Phoenix, Ashland, and Eagle Point, as well as Jackson County and a number of State agencies, to identify lands suitable for the long-term urban growth needs sufficient to accommodate a doubling of the Region's population, which is expected to occur by the year 2060. Lands that were selected for urban growth have been designated as Urban Reserve Areas. The Urban Reserve Areas will be those areas into which cities will eventually expand their urban growth boundaries and, ultimately, their city limits.

As such, the City of Talent will be holding a Public Open House on Tuesday, February 2nd, 2010 at 6:30pm at the Talent Community Center to discuss the DRAFT Regional Problem Solving Plan (RPS) and specifically Talent's portion of the plan. The purpose of the open house will be to have the City Council, Planning Commission, Staff and some Technical Advisory staff members present to answer questions from the public relating to the plan. A draft of the plan as well as additional information regarding RPS can be found at http://www.rvcog.org/mn.asp?pg=RPS_2010.

West Valley View Design Standards

As part of the West Valley View Master Plan, City staff has been working on a draft ordinance that will regulate and provide guidance for developments in the West Valley View area (the area generally between Talent Avenue, South Pacific Highway, New Street, and Gangnes Streets). The primary purpose of the standards will be to maintain Talent's unique small town presence and to respect the planned open space areas created as part of the overall Master Plan. A joint study

session with the City Council, Planning Commission and Architectural Review Commission has been planned for January 28th, 2010 at 6:30pm at the Talent Community Center to further discuss the draft ordinance.

Flooding: Improving Storm Drainage

The City has developed and adopted standards for better storm drainage and other measures to limit flood risks. As a result of a small utility fee, the Public Works Department has made a commitment to regular maintenance of city storm drains. Citizens can help by preventing sediment and debris from being carried off of their property into city ditches or catch basins, and by reporting any accumulation of debris or other obstructions at catch basins to the Public Works Department at 535.3828. Remember: all storm drains connect to natural streams. Never dispose of any litter or chemicals onto soil or into a storm drain. If you see anyone causing anything other than normal runoff to flow into storm drains, or discarding debris in a stream, please talk to them about finding a better disposal method. If the practice continues, please notify City Hall of the violation at 535.7401.

Flood Insurance is a Smart Investment

Flood insurance is not included in your homeowner's coverage. The State of Oregon does not have an emergency relief fund to help homeowners recover from natural disasters. Federal disaster relief is only available in a federally declared disaster and only about 10% of floods are declared as federal disasters. Federal disaster relief is in the form of a loan and it must be paid back. The disaster repair loan monthly payment for \$100,000 in damage would be more than the annual flood insurance premium for a \$100,000 home. The City of Talent has over 200 homes located in the floodplains of Wagner and Bear Creeks, but very few of them are covered by flood insurance. About twenty homes were damaged or threatened by the 1997 flood, but only two of them had flood insurance coverage to repair the damage. National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) coverage is available through your homeowner's insurance carrier. Anyone in Talent or Jackson County can purchase flood insurance, including renters and commercial properties. Rates are based upon the relative risk of damage, so rates outside of the 100-year floodplain are lowest. See more information on the Planning Department's section of the City website.

"PFP" Pennies For Parks: Cents that Add Up

Long-time Talent residents know that they can help support City parks by contributing to the "Pennies For Parks" fund. This is a way of contributing your spare change to help support the maintenance of City Parks. All you need to do is round up your payment to the City (whether it be a water bill, building permit, or - yes - even a traffic

JANUARY, 2010
Volume 12/Issue 1
Official
Newsletter of the City of
Talent
110 East Main Street,
P.O. Box 445, Talent,
Oregon 97540

Edited by
Leslea Heiken

City Website:
www.cityoftalent.org
Telephone:
(541) 535-1566
E-mail:
leslea@cityoftalent.org

ticket) to the next even dollar and tell us that you want the spare change to go to Pennies for Parks. Your check-book benefits by not having those pesky pennies to subtract and the City Parks benefit from your generosity.

COP TALK

BY CHIEF MIKE MORAN

Recently I was patrolling town and an old Hank Williams tune came to mind. It was titled: "I Heard That Lonesome Whistle." The reason the song came to mind was I actually heard a loud train horn (they don't make trains with whistles anymore) signaling a train coming through Talent. I wanted to use this song to remind everyone that trains still do occasionally come through town and there is talk of a regular freight schedule resuming over the Siskiyou.

All of that is just to say that there are four train crossings in town, and the one at Wagner St. does not have an automatic warning gate. Remember that school buses are still required to stop at all railroad crossings before crossing the tracks, so please be patient with them and be careful at all of our crossings. Be alert for that occasional lonesome train coming through town.

Speaking of school buses, we have seen an increase in the number of drivers not stopping for them when the school bus red lights flash. The biggest problem is on four-lane roads like Highway 99. Drivers must stop in both directions on Highway 99 or other four-lane roads. Many drivers think only cars going the same direction must stop but you must stop if going the opposite direction unless there is a physical barrier between your lanes and the other lanes. A good example of such an exception is Biddle Rd in Medford where there are median barriers between the north and south lanes. Officers will be watching for these violations very closely.

This is turning into a traffic column so I will mention a couple more items. In the coming weeks, Talent PD will be working on enhanced DUI enforcement and seatbelt enforcement grants. Officers will be working overtime on these

two serious traffic issues.

Recently Talent PD investigated a hit and run collision involving a pedestrian in a crosswalk. The main cause of the collision was the driver did not stop as the law requires prior to the crosswalk line. We have had reports of many drivers rolling through stop signs or not stopping before the crosswalk line or stop line. The two biggest problem intersections are Talent Ave at Rapp Rd and Talent Ave. at Main St.

Expect increased enforcement of stop sign violations at these and other intersections in the coming weeks. Avoid a ticket by stopping completely and prior to the crosswalk or stop lines.

Last month we had some door to door sales people in town that caused some concern with residents. If someone is selling a product at your door they are required to have a peddler's license under Talent City ordinance. If they don't have one, or if you are suspicious about the legitimacy of their reasons for knocking on your door, please call our dispatch center at 776.7206.

I hope 2010 is a great year for you!

URBAN RENEWAL NEWS

North Talent Avenue: This project, which provided sidewalks, bike lanes, on street parking, paving and landscaping is now complete. Contractors for the project were Pilot Rock Excavation and Mountain View Landscaping. Partial funding for the approximately \$575,000 project was provided by ODOT's Bicycle and Pedestrian Program.

West Valley View Public Open Space Design: On December 7, over twenty citizens met with the Agency's design team and landscape architect to discuss potential concepts for the central public open space which will be created once the future three-way roundabout is constructed mid-way between Highway 99 and Talent Avenue. Citizens provided their responses to questions such as: What ideas and elements, unique to Talent, would you like to see captured in the public open space design? How would you personally like to use this space? What types of activities do you envision for this space? Are there elements you do not want to see incorporated? Would you like to see an entry sign or entry element? Laurie Sager & Associates Landscape Architects are currently working on design concepts for this area, and will present selected concepts for public comment on Thursday, January 14, at 6:30 p.m. at the Talent Community Center.

For more information, contact Executive Director Marla Cates, 541-535-6170 or ura.talent@charterinternet.com

Public Works Water Department



Welcome citizens. Currently the Water Dept. is starting the annual water valve maintenance program. This program involves a two to three man crew, a service truck, and vacuum trailer. The crewmen acquire a Comprehensive Water Map of the City's Water Distribution System. This information tells the operator where the water valves are located and the size of each valve. The operator will actually vacuum the debris out of the valve box and then exercise the water valve.

One of the most frequently asked questions is why the City performs water valve maintenance. The answer is to insure that the valve is in the open position, that it actually works, and most importantly, that the City can count on it when needed. Every water system has valves - devices that regulate, stop, or start the flow of water in the distribution lines. Being able to operate these valves at a moment's notice is extremely important. In an emergency, sections of a distribution system may need to be shut down without delay. However, if a valve is not used over a period of time it can seize-up from corrosion and get stuck, making the valve inoperable. This maintenance procedure is one of the most important ones that we perform. The American Water Works Association recommends that water system valves are exercised annually. When the crew finds a water valve that is in need of repair, we schedule it as a priority. The City of Talent Water Distribution System has well over 400 water valves.

In addition to the water valve maintenance, the City of Talent performs tests on the water supply to ensure compliance from DHS and the EPA. Each year the City of Talent publishes reports on the quality of water and is available at City Hall to all residents.

Feedback and Question from the citizens of our town are welcomed. Please feel free

to contact Lester Naught, Superintendent of Public Works 535-3828