



THE FLASH City of Talent

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

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FROM THE MAYOR'S OFFICE

In twenty years if someone were to ask a Talent citizen "what's your town like?", I hope the Talentian will reply:

"It's a community that seems much smaller than it really is. It's like a small farming

community where people feel safe to walk the streets and shop at local merchants. It is surrounded by open space and operating farms and orchards. It's a place where people want to raise their families."

Anyway, that is my vision for Talent and the vision expressed in the Talent Strategic Plan that was developed by the citizens of Talent in 1998 and revised in 2001. It is a vision that I have carried with me from my days on the Planning Commission to the present time.

Talent has grown and changed a lot in the last ten years. We have a new Library, City Hall and Police Station. We have made significant improvements to our streets and water system, city parks and public areas. All of this we have done within the vision of the strategic plan.

One of the elements of the plan that has been slow in coming is attracting business and merchants to support our community. City government is succeeding in improving the infrastructure to support a viable business community, but it will be up to each of us to support our local merchants and businesses to make our vision for Talent successful. So I ask you all to *Think Talent First*. The more we support local business, the more business we attract. The more business we attract, the more services they provide. The more services they provide, the more sustainable we become. The more sustainable we become, the closer we are to achieving our vision expressed in the 2001 Strategic Plan. So again I ask, *Think Talent First*. I am convinced if we do this, we will have a more prosperous business community that will enhance our city and improve the quality for all who live in Talent.

HOW CAN I GET INVOLVED IN THE COMMUNITY?

There are a number of City Volunteer Committees. If you wish to get involved in your community this is a great way to start. Contact City Hall 535-1566.

Planning Commission - Community planning and development review.

Parks & Recreation Commission - Advises on planning and improvements to City parks and the City's Summer Recreation Programs.



Architectural Review Committee - Advises on Design Review criteria for the Historic District in Talent.

Budget Committee - Advises on the annually proposed City budget.

Traffic Safety & Transportation Commission - Reviews traffic and public safety issues.

Public Art Advisory Committee - Promotes visual arts, performing arts and art education.

Together for Talent Committee - Promotes sustainability and works to improve the appearance and livability of the City.

PUBLIC WORKS

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 with DHS and the EPA. Results are published each year and available 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.



URBAN RENEWAL NEWS

For more information contact Marla Cates, Executive Director, 541.535.6170 or execdir@talenturbanrenewal.com.

Annual Financial Report for FY 09-10: The Agency's annual financial report, which discusses budget, capital projects, tax revenue receipts, assessed value within the urban renewal area, and taxes foregone by overlapping taxing districts, is now available at the Agency's office (102 Home Street), City Hall, and the Talent Library.

West Valley View Project: A mid-February date is anticipated for going to bid on the first construction phase of this project, to include building Seiber Street and the alley adjacent to the new Camelot theater, followed by a limited extension of Main Street.

Disposition of Old Camelot Theatre: Proposals are now being accepted by the Agency for disposition of the old theater building, to occur after Camelot relocates to its new facility this summer. Proposals are due Friday, February 11; contact the Executive Director for details.

TALENT PD NEWS

As I wrote this article in the last days of January I received some very unsettling information about attacks on police officers. With the month not quite over, 14 police officers were killed feloniously in the line of duty so far in 2011. In one 24 hour period 11 police officers were shot. Many think that can't happen here.

Sadly, assaults against police officers do occur in very small towns and they happen in Oregon. The police chief of Rainier, Oregon was murdered during a routine dayshift call. A Lincoln City police officer was shot and seriously wounded on a quiet Sunday night. These crimes occurred in towns similar in size to Talent.

I bring this up because we have had some recent incidents where individuals have contacted officers who were in the middle of dealing with subjects on traffic stops. In some cases the person needed to talk to an officer about a minor issue. In other cases the person wanted to insert themselves into the investigation. As a matter of safety for all, I would like to give some information on how to approach officers who are already engaged in a traffic stop or another contact.

If you need to speak with an officer in such a case, wait a distance away from the scene. When the officer is not in direct contact with the other person he has stopped, or better yet, when the officer is done, get the officer's attention verbally. Then wait until the officer advises you to approach or comes to you. If your emergency is life threatening or extremely urgent draw the officer's attention as soon as possible using your best judgment.

Another reason for bringing this up is to remind everyone that the officers of this department do face dangerous people and situations quite often. I have observed a higher level of individuals who fight officers in our county in addition to the serious national trends I mentioned above. That is why you may see officers taking precautions during certain calls.

Talent Police Department provides

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police service and protection to our citizens 24 hours a day and 7 days a week. I want to take this opportunity to thank Sgt. Jennifer Snook, Corporal Dave Plummer, Officer Dave Lorenz, Officer Lencin Carnighan, Officer Bill May, Officer Gail Schweizer and Officer Dan Moulin for their commitment to Talent.

I also want to commend our administrative support team of Julie Byrd and Kaylie Newell. They are devoted to excellent customer service and to making the wheels of justice roll smoother by supporting our officers in the field.

Chief Mike Moran

100 TREES FOR TALENT PROJECT EXCEEDS ITS GOAL!

Good news! Over 300 trees were planted in honor of our Centennial. More good news! You can still get 10% off the purchase of a tree at Plant Oregon. And businesses can get a shade tree, including planting, for only \$100. The first ten businesses who purchase a tree will also get a complimentary Centennial belt buckle. The buckles normally sell for \$20. These offers are for residents and businesses of greater Talent, through the end of April only. Contact Dan@plantoregon.com, or call Cynthia at 541-292-2677.

PLANNING DEPT NEWS

Building Permit Applications:

What is the procedure for getting building permits? It sounds a little complicated, but it's not. First, contact City Planning or Building Department staff to make sure you're starting off in the right direction. Typically, Planning issues a "Zoning Permit" to verify that all land use code regulations are being met. Second, submit the necessary plans (varies depending on type and size of application, but most permits include a site plan, floor plan, structural plans, etc.) which then are reviewed by the Building Department staff. Finally, after the plans are reviewed and approved, the plans are ready to be issued and construction can begin. At various phases of the construction, inspections are necessary. The last inspection will

include a “final” inspection in order to finalize the permit.

Building permits require various fees which follow State regulations. Further, other fees, such as System Development Charges or Rogue Valley Sanitary Sewer fees may also be required. For more information or to schedule an appointment, please call 535-7401. Building plans are accepted and issued Tuesday through Thursday between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m.

- What can I do with my lot?
- What We Need to Know:
- Where is it located (we need a number address, tax map and lot number, or you may identify the lot on a zoning map)?

- What do you want to do with it?

To find out what you can do on your lot, you will have to consult the Talent Development Codes. Talent has zoning districts for Residential, Commercial, and Light Industrial land uses. The Zoning Code includes an Article for each of the zoning districts, with the various uses that are allowed listed under four basic categories. The zoning ordinance tells you what is permitted, and under what conditions it can be approved.

Zoning ordinances are “inclusive”. If a land use is allowed, it will be included in one of the use lists in the ordinance. If it is not listed, it is not allowed. A land use will not be permitted in any zone where it is not listed. There is one exception to this general rule. If a proposed land use is not listed in any zoning district in the city, it may be possible to permit it in a zone as a “Similar Use.” To obtain approval for a “similar use”, the applicant has to demonstrate that the proposed use is substantially similar to uses that are allowed, particularly in terms of its impacts on the surrounding area.

The categories for land uses are based upon the impacts of the uses on the neighbors and the level of review that is required for approval. Some uses are permitted outright. For instance, the first single-family residence on an individual lot in a residential zoning district is an outright permitted use. In addition to the list of permitted uses, there are Residential Development Standards, prescribed setbacks from property lines, and some other basic requirements for permitted uses. The planning procedure for permitted uses is just a quick check by the City Planner to see that those basic requirements are met, and a signed “Zoning Permit” that authorizes the Building Official to accept your construction plans for review and permits.

Some new uses require Administrative Site Development Plan Review, meaning that the City Planner will need to review the project for compliance with City development standards. More complex uses require Site Development Plan Review with a public hearing in front of the Planning Commission. Also, uses that are considered to have a potentially significant impact on the surrounding area require Planning Commission review and consideration of Conditional Use Permit criteria that address how potential adverse impacts can be minimized.

IMPORTANT MESSAGE FROM UTILITY BILLING ON PAYMENT OPTIONS

All Water Utility Customers have the opportunity to enroll in an “Equal Payment Plan” for the payment of monthly water utility bills. This has been a popular program for some, and allows them to equalize their monthly payments for water usage over a 12 month period rather than having to deal with higher water bills during the warmer months of the year and lower bills in late fall and winter months.

To participate in the program a water customer signs an agreement with the City that they will make equal monthly payments based on their annual consumption. The criteria for qualifying for this program are as follows:

- You will need to have one year of payment history with the City (i.e. you have been a city water customer for at least a year);
- Sign up for the program in March;
- You agree to pay the calculated monthly payment on time each month.

The actual monthly payment is based on your water usage history. Looking at the previous year of usage assists in setting the monthly payment at an amount that would, over the course of a year, cover the highs and lows of the bills.

By signing up in March you will be able to build up a credit balance so that when the larger bills occur during the summer months there will be money there to cover that. Each year at this time the City reviews each one of the “Equal Payment Plan” accounts and adjusts the monthly payment to reflect the previous year usage as well as any balances on the account. If the monthly payments are not made then the City will terminate the agreement and place the customer back on a regular billing that requires full payment each month. Please call Ashlei Michaels at City Hall (541) 535-1566 for more information about this program.

DECEMBER 2010 CITY SNOWFLAKE CONTEST RESULTS

Congratulations to Elaina Salcedo! Elaina (*pictured*) was the 1st place winner in the City of Talent’s Snowflake Contest. There were just over 100 snowflake entries submitted that were judged by the community who visited City Hall. Thank you to everyone who participated! We really enjoyed having every one of these wonderful snowflakes to decorate City Hall for the holidays!

Thank you to Talent Middle School computer students and their computerized name snowflake creations! Very cool!

A note from our winner:

Hi,

My name is Elaina. I am 8 years old. My birthday is February 5th. I go to Talent Elementary School. My favorite color is blue, that’s why I made my snowflake blue and white. I love to do arts and crafts!

-Elaina Salcedo



**Elaina Salcedo:
City of Talent’s Snowflake
Contest Winner, 2010**