



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

From the Mayor's Office

I am always heartened in our community when one person reaches out; interested neighbors rise to help. Recently, many community members held their hopes for days, while a



search for Pearl was underway. Pearl is a small breed dog who had gotten out of the yard and into the cold night. She is a service dog that means a great deal to her family, as a participant to one family members wellbeing. To quote mom, "she is my daughter's life line." A Facebook campaign spread like wild fire and soon the Talent Police Department was involved! After a couple of days of towns folk and PD searching, she was found cold but safe by one of Talents finest. It happened again when a horse found its way down town, was caught and corralled in the dog park by Talent PD. Ryan Mallory marketing and Facebook expert, worked with the Police Department and community to get the horse back home; our very own small-town Holiday warming stories.

There has been a lot of misunderstanding about how the Talent Urban Renewal Agency operates. The TURA story is long in history; it is complex and has had several focus areas over its lifetime, including the upcoming Gateway project. In response to the need for better communication, I asked the TURA board to appoint a Communications Director so that there will be consistent information provided in the most accurate transparent way. Council President Ryan Pederson, who also serves as the Vice-Chair to TURA will work with Zac Moody Interim TURA Executive Director, writing informative articles for the Flash and populating our website with TURA information. Thank you both for making Talent even more transparent.

The State of the City address happens during the first quarter of every year. This report informs our community about what we accomplished, how we can improve and where we go from here. Date will be announced soon.

As the New Year comes in, please look for new opportunity to serve Talent on our boards of Committees and Commissions. Many terms are ending and we will need to fill the seats with new applicants. Please join us, as a resident with interests in Talent, you are exactly what the City needs!

Grateful to serve,

Mayor Darby Ayers-Flood

Turn That Light Off

By Connor Shields, Energy Efficiency Coordinator

Cold toes, drafty doors and changing your thermostat like it's the car radio--these are all signs that your house might be leaking precious air. Precious, warm air. To weatherize or not to weatherize... That is not the question. The question you should be asking is Do I want to use more energy or less energy for the same amount of comfort in my home? That is the question.

Before I go on, I think it's only appropriate that I introduce myself. My name is Connor Shields and I am closing in on my fourth month working with the City of Talent as the in-house Energy Efficiency Coordinator. While I work in Talent for the next seven months, I plan to establish an ongoing outreach and education strategy for the residents and proprietors of Talent regarding energy conservation in buildings, both residential and commercial. Nice to meet you, Talent.

On that note, let's talk about household weatherization. Think about it this way: weatherizing your home is like sealing the envelope. Your house or apartment was built to be a shell for which you could live in comfortably. For the most part, that shell is great at doing just that but time (or shoddy construction) takes its toll, producing small and large cracks that can result in hundreds of dollars spent on your utility bills over the course of many seasonal changes. The thing is: closing those holes would cost you a lot less and pay it all off and then some through savings down the road. Not to mention, your home would require less energy in order for you to have the same level of comfort. After all isn't that what life is all about? Finding a warm place where you can eat and avoid people you don't like? Sounds like a warm home.

So where do those holes exist?

Typically, all around exterior doors, along window sills and around outlet face plates, to name a few. Thanks a lot, captain obvious! Alright, other places that often go overlooked in homes include the attic hatch and under the sink where the plumbing enters through the wall.

In the case of the attic door, if gaps between the hatch and the rest of the ceiling aren't insulated to the same level as the rest of the attic, you could be experiencing heat loss that rivals a partially-opened window in the dead of January. You can use the same kind of weather-stripping used on your doors to seal this spot. As for the plumbing penetrations: caulking over gaps and cracks found here will create an effective airflow barrier.

Larger gaps typically found where ventilation and plumbing enter your basement or crawl space could use an application of spray foam to close gaps wider than 1/2 inch. Be diligent of the kind of foam that you purchase because some foam types expand up to eight times their initial size.

A rule of thumb for finding other leaks in your home is to feel for drafts with the back of your hand along window sills, door jambs and anywhere else that you are curious about. You are the investigator and your hand is the magnifying glass!

Where can I find out more?

For more information on the topic

of DIY weatherization, YouTube videos can offer a substantial education to anyone willing to learn. For professional-grade work in your home, whether owned or rented, and if your income qualifies, pursue the Weatherization Assistance Program provided by ACCESS. Through this waitlist program, you can receive insulating improvements and other household upgrades valued at hundreds, if not thousands, of dollars for free! This all depends on what your home needs.

For a hands-on demonstration in a real house join the City of Talent and Talent Maker City for our first ever Weatherize Your Home workshop on Sunday, January 21st! Participants will be given a brief education on air flow in your home and the opportunity to help make Talent Maker City's current building warmer! Materials will be provided to attendants to take home for sealing your own envelope. Registration will be open at www.talentmakercity.org/workshops and is limited to 8 individuals so keep an eye on the webpage for registration to be open.

Resources

To learn about and register for income-dependent weatherization in your home or apartment, call 541-779-6691 ext. 347

To learn about cash rebates for insulation and weather-stripping in households that are heated by oil or wood, contact the Oregon Department of Energy's State Home Oil Weatherization program at 503-378-4040

...and remember, turn that light off!

TURA and the Gateway Project, Pt 1

By Ryan Pederson
TURA Vice-Chair, on behalf of the TURA Board

This is the first in a series of articles which will explain and provide updates on the Gateway Project, Talent Urban Renewal Agency's effort to reshape and revitalize downtown. I hope to help Talent residents understand the vision, as well as how it was built, so everyone can follow and contribute to the conversation. Let's start at the beginning...

Urban Renewal Agencies exist to create change. They invest in the community to create growth, and improve property values in an area chosen by the community. Talent Urban Renewal Agency (TURA), through many involved citizens, has been investing in revitalizing downtown since 1991. The Gateway Project is expected to be the final major push from TURA, which is due to expire in 2019.

The investment TURA has made in the Gateway Project includes \$1.88 million to purchase land, plus fees for consultants and other experts. What TURA must achieve with that investment is a developed property that brings in more property tax revenue and encourages growth. Depending on the final plan, the investment is expected to increase the land value by 5-10x. Over time, that helps the city recoup its investment through higher property tax revenues. The plan is to create walkable, mixed-use development (residential above commercial) with an open space for artistic performances and housing

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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

at a mix of incomes, which will bring further new energy to downtown, as well as many new customers.

TURA's partner in this project is DOSO Properties, an experienced team lead by local developer, Jerryck Murrey. Mr. Murrey presented a vision and plan that leverages Talent's existing strengths and unique character. Over the next several months, TURA, DOSO Properties, and all interested citizens will contribute to the final plan. Stay tuned for monthly updates, and please share your input at the next TURA or community meeting. The next community meeting will be held on January 16, 2018 from 6PM-8PM at the Talent Community Center. For more information about the upcoming community meeting, please contact Zac Moody at 541-535-7401 or by email at zmoody@cityoftalent.org.

Talent Police Department

We had a great 2017, and this was due to the quality people who showed dedication to their profession and to serving the citizens of Talent. Now with 2017 behind us, I am looking forward to the challenges that 2018 will bring to both the City of Talent as well as the Talent Police Department.

Talent Police Department will begin the New Year with the hiring of a new police officer. We have received many high-quality applicants, and have begun the process of picking the best candidate to become the next officer for the City of Talent. Qualifications we will be looking for in our future officer will include: Possessing a high level of integrity, showing they have effective communication skills, and that they are committed to serving the public.

These were the same attributes we looked for in the last hiring process, and our newest officer, Officer Vial, has shown he possesses these abilities. At the end of December, he completed all the steps needed to be on solo patrol.

Just as we are preparing for the new year, you need to make sure your vehicle is ready, for winter driving. Carry your traction chains when traveling, ensure you have adequate food and water, as well as blankets, for that just in case moment and tell people where and when you're traveling. Ensure your vehicle has a full tank of gas and that you have the patience needed to drive in the snow. Slowing down will help you arrive

safely.

May you make your 2018 all you want it to be.

Talent Zero Waste Team
The 2018 Oregon Bottle Bill Expansion
- Getting YOUR money's worth
By Jamie Rosenthal

When I was young I really enjoyed collecting things. High on my list of treasured collectables were colorful stickers, doll house figurines, unique coins and precious stones I'd find on the sandy beaches of the Oregon coast where I grew up. I collected crisp two-dollar bills stashed in the holiday and birthday cards given to me by my grandmother. When it was time to raise money for my elementary school's playground upgrade, our teachers asked us to travel door-to-door in our neighborhoods to collect bottle and can donations.

Fast-forward to the present, the only items I continue to consciously collect, as automatically as I had when I was a child, are those bottles and cans.

Years ago, as a freshman at Southern Oregon University, I worked at an Ashland grocery store in what they called the "bottle drop" area. I quickly learned how disgusting the bottle and can redemption process can be. Routinely I'd swap out large bags full of tobacco-spit laden containers mixed with the smell of various flavors of soda combined with the odor of beer. To this day I do not envy anyone who maintains these types of collection points.

Since 1972, well before curbside recycling service was made available, Oregonians have been collecting bottles and cans for recycling. Guided by the Oregon Bottle Bill, aimed at reducing litter and increasing recycling, people have been gathering this material in preparation for the trek they'll eventually make to a local redemption center. Through charging a small deposit per container at the time of purchase, the Bottle Bill encourages consumers to get their now 10-cent deposits returned in the name of recycling. Oregon's Beverage Container Act was the first such legislation passed in the United States, and Oregon's program has been leading the charge ever since.

Consumer opinions regarding Oregon's Bottle Bill are wide-ranging. While some delight in the ritual of reuniting with their dimes, others grudgingly schlep their bags of stale-smelling and sometimes sticky containers to redemption centers. Some forgo redemption altogether and either toss their redeemables in their curbside recycling cart, or donate their containers to someone who doesn't mind following the protocol.

Right up until the ball dropped signaling the beginning of the year 2018, only soda, beer and water containers were eligible for the now 10-cent redemption. But on New Year's Day, everything changed when Oregon Law made it so that all beverages except liquor, wine, milk (dairy and plant-based), infant formula and meal-replacement drinks will be covered under Oregon's Bottle Bill.

This expansion means that common beverages such as tea, coffee, fruit juice, hard cider, energy drinks, sports drinks, kombucha, and coconut water will join soda, beer and water on the redemption list. The revision comes on the heels of a change in April of last year that increased the refund value of select beverage containers from 5 cents to 10 cents. The increase occurred with the hopes of increasing redemption participation because Oregon's redemption rate fell below 80 percent in 2014 and 2015.

So the next time you're waiting in line at the grocery store, take a close look at the beverages in your shopping cart. If those beverages aren't wine, or milk, chances are you'll be paying a 10-cent deposit on each, and in turn

those containers will be eligible for redemption under Oregon's new Bottle Bill expansion.

For more information on Oregon's Bottle Bill, or to learn more about the changes, please visit www.obrc.com, www.oregon.gov/olcc/pages/bottle_bill.aspx, or www.bottlebill.org.

The Talent Zero Waste Team is a group passionate about waste reduction. This group strives to inspire and foster a community without waste in Talent. We meet every 3rd Thursday of the month at 2:30 PM in the Talent Public Library. The next two meetings will be on January 18th and February 15th. Please join us as we develop educational material, sponsor reuse and recycling events, and promote zero waste at City-sponsored events.

Jamie Rosenthal is Recology Ashland's Waste Zero Specialist, a City of Ashland Conservation Commissioner, and a Jackson County Master Recycler. For more information about the Talent Waste Zero Team, please contact Sharon Anderson at scanderson1@charter.net.

Talent Community
Development to Host
Information Fair

Community Development will be hosting a Community Information Fair on Tuesday, January 16, 2018 from 6PM – 8PM in the Talent Community Center. The purpose of the Open House is to encourage conversation among residents, community groups, city staff, state and local government agencies about community development in Talent, including planning for growth and development; promoting quality of life and supporting the City's vision for the future. This event is an opportunity for our citizens to get engaged in projects that interests them and get connected with those heading up the projects.

The Open House is intended to be informal and offer the opportunity for conversation about subjects of interest to our residents. Community Development has confirmed that the following groups and agencies will be in attendance:

- Oregon Department of Transportation (OR 99 Project)
- Rogue Valley Sewer Services (Adopt-a-Swale Program/Stormwater Education)
- Recology Ashland (Waste Zero Program)
- Rogue Climate Talent (Energy Element – Clean Energy Plan)
- Talent Maker City (Upcoming Workshops)
- Jackson Soil and Water Conservation District (Wagner Creek Restoration Project)
- Talent Garden Club (City Hall Pollinator Garden)
- Talent Public Works (Rapp Rd. Project Update/John St. Update/Water Reservoir Project)
- Department of Land Conservation and Development (TGM Grant)
- Talent Gateway Design Consultant Walker Macy, ORW Architecture and ECONorthwest
- Gateway Developer – Jerryck Murrey, DOSO Properties

For more information visit www.cityoftalent.org/information or contact Zac Moody, Community Development Director at 541-535-7401 or by email at zmoody@cityoftalent.org.

Adopt a Family for
Christmas Thank You!

The City of Talent and Fire District #5 would like to thank everyone who helped in making this year's "Adopt a Family for Christmas" program such a tremendous success! With the generosity of so many community members, we helped 7 local families this Holiday Season. Thank You again, and until next year!