



THE FLASH

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

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From the Mayor's Office

Summer is here! I can't help but remark on the spectacular double rainbow of June 17, which arched over Talent from end to end. It seemed like a sign that things are really looking up!

Talent has been busy working out the best budget for the 2018-19 fiscal year. I believe our Budget Committee has been very successful on this front—especially considering we have also had significant personnel restructuring recently—and some of the benefits of that will be realized in this upcoming biennium.

On that note, while we say a fond farewell to some employees who have retired, taken maternity leave, and who are enjoying advances in their careers in bigger cities, we also welcome some exceptional employees as well. Our luck in hiring has been phenomenal. Please join me in a warm welcome to Talent Police Chief Tim Doney, Interim City Manager Sandra Spelliscy, and Interim City Recorder Savannah Edson. Hearty congratulations are also in order for Kurt Sexton, who received a well-deserved promotion to City Finance Director.

There is a lot of change happening at City Hall, but we remain very confident that essential services will stand strong and our priorities will not wane, while the realignment of our staffing will help manage our labor budgets. All this is made possible through the strong leadership from Sandra (Sandy) Spelliscy, who brings a level of management, expertise, and respect to City Hall that favors a smooth transition. Many thanks to all who are working together to maintain Talent excellence!

It is simply amazing that we have appointed over 20 people to committee service in the last few months. We have filled positions on the newly formed Economic Development Commission, the Parks and Recreation Commission, the Urban Growth Boundary Citizen Advisory Committee and the Clean Energy Action Plan Citizen Advisory Committee. The strength of Talent has always been in the volunteers' relationship with our staff and our desire to work collaboratively to do more than our size. There are still openings listed at City Hall and www.cityoftalent.org, so please consider joining our efforts!

Grateful to serve,
Mayor Darby Ayers-Flood

Talent Police Department Update

By Chief of Police Tim Doney

Hello, Talent! My name is Tim Doney and I'm your new Chief of Police. After riding around with recently-retired Chief Whipple for a couple weeks, I'm now on my own.

I want to take this opportunity to introduce myself to the Talent community and give you a little insight into my background. I was raised in the Rogue Valley, with about half my childhood spent living in West Medford and the other half in the Upper Rogue/Shady Cove. My grandmother grew up in the Wagner Creek/Anderson Creek area outside of Talent.

In terms of my educational background and training, I'm a graduate of Corban University and the FBI National Academy. I spent over 25 years working in a variety of assignments at the Medford Police Department, including as an undercover investigator, patrol officer, field training officer, detective, public information officer and several

other supervisory roles. I left Medford as a Deputy Chief in 2013 when I was selected as Chief of Police in Springfield, Oregon.

In 2016, I retired from the Springfield Police Department. My wife and I wanted to get back to the Rogue Valley, as our adult children and grandchildren all live locally. After moving back and then spending a year travelling Europe and Central America, I found myself wanting to work in law enforcement again. And that's how I ended up at the Talent Police Department!

I was fortunate to inherit a department with solid leadership and outstanding employees. In my first couple weeks on the job, I have been deeply impressed by the dedication exhibited by workers in the department. They truly care about the citizens and community.

I look forward to getting to know residents in the community and hearing what they want from their police force. After all, we are your department!

May Volunteer Service Award: Bradley Wilson

How long have you lived in Talent?

I've lived in Talent since 2011.

Why do you volunteer?

Back in 2014, TURA requested that me and two other colleagues provide suggestions on how the landscaping for the West Valley View Roundabout project could be pollinator-friendly. The suggestions we provided led to a proposal for a separate four-seasons pollinator garden area in the then-empty plot adjacent to the roundabout.



Long story short, I was thrilled the City would provide the space to do such a project and have been happy to commit my time as a volunteer to see the project through to where it is now. Besides being good for the pollinators, the people who work, live, and pass through the area have also been really appreciative of the garden, so its great to be part of such a worthwhile activity.

Which projects have you been involved with?

I contributed to making Talent the second Bee City USA in the country by contributing to PPRV (Pollinator Project of the Rogue Valley) in its early stages, including making the first native plants for pollinators list for the City of Talent and doing a public presentation on how I made the plant list. That was what led to the proposal for the current garden project I'm working on.

What are you most proud of in your life?

I am most proud that I have been able to make the Northwest my true home. I moved to the Pacific Northwest in 1996 from Michigan to be with friends and because I loved the area. I've always felt a connection to the land, which has inspired my gardening and other environmental interests.

If you were a flower or plant, which one would you be and why?

Well a flower is a plant right? I think I would more likely be a bee than a flower, because I really like honey. :)

The Volunteer Service Award is a monthly series hosted by the City of Talent. Nominate your favorite local volunteers at Talent City Hall (110 East Main Street) or online at bit.ly/VSAnomiators.

Get Involved!

Election Schedule

The Jackson County General Election will take place on **Nov. 6, 2018**. Prospective candidates should keep the following timeline in mind.

July 19, 2018: Election packets available for pickup from City Recorder. First day to file a prospective petition.

Aug. 20, 2018: Suggested deadline for submitting signatures.

Aug. 23, 2018, 4:00 p.m.: Deadline for candidates to complete filing with City Recorder.

Sept. 10, 2018: Last day to file candidate statements for voters' pamphlet.

Nov. 6, 2018: General Election Day.

For further details, visit www.cityoftalent.org/elections.

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Commission and Committee Openings

These committees are all open for citizens to join and are a great place to start getting involved!

Citizen Advisory Committee (Clean Energy Action Plan):
3 vacancies

Economic Development Commission: 2 vacancies

Parks Commission: 1 vacancy

Talent Public Art Committee:
1 vacancy (alternate)

Together for Talent Committee:
Bee City USA
Weed Team
Friends of Trees
Zero Waste Team
Clean Energy Team
Emergency Preparedness

Visit www.cityoftalent.org and click on "Committee Openings" for more details and other vacancies.

TURA and the Gateway Project, Part 5

By Ryan Pederson, TURA Board Member

It's already a busy summer in downtown Talent, and the Gateway project is no exception. Financial studies forced changes to the plan, but with a result that still delivers a beautiful, walkable commercial area with diverse housing options and a large, shared green space. The public meeting on June 20 included an overhead view of the current plan, and a 3D rendering is being created for another public meeting in mid-July. With a makerspace, brewery, additional commercial space, affordable senior housing, and price-protected townhomes, it represents Talent's creative, energetic, and inclusive spirit.

Previous plans called for taller, mixed-use buildings, but they simply weren't financially-feasible. Mixed-use buildings have begun to appear in Ashland and Medford, but even those remain partially vacant, with one of the Ashland condos priced at \$685,000. It wasn't a fit for Talent. Instead, one three-story building is planned, bringing 60 units of senior housing. Shorter townhomes will create a visual transition toward the nearby single-family neighborhood, and ample walking paths will connect the entire area to create a community feel. Three commercial spaces, including the makerspace and brewery, will line Valley View and Hwy 99, with an opening at the intersection providing a welcoming view into the area.

To achieve these goals, TURA is considering a significant public contribution to the project. Reducing the cost of housing costs money somewhere, but through DOSO Properties and their additional partners, Talent has an opportunity to deliver senior housing and subsidized townhomes. TURA's expected contribution includes land, SDCs (system development charges, which pay for future infrastructure improvements), and a cash contribution to lower the townhome purchase price. TURA would provide a subsidy up front, and a restriction could be placed on each townhome property to limit price inflation. A secondary partner through DOSO is substantially funding the senior housing, but the up-front subsidy on the townhomes would require additional cash funding from TURA. However, it would deliver purchasable housing for working families and a blended neighborhood on the Gateway site. The commercial buildings are viable as standalone spaces, and the addition of many walking paths, plaza and outdoor seating, and green open space create the atmosphere envisioned for the Gateway to Talent.

The full DDA (Disposition and Development Agreement) is scheduled for discussion July 3, and a 3D view of the plan will be available near the middle of the month; stay tuned to the Gateway project website or the Talent Facebook page for exact date and time! Join us at a meeting sometime to provide your input and hear the latest details.

Recycling Plastics: Know Before You Throw

By Jamie Rosenthal, Talent Zero Waste Team

Global changes in recycling have taught us to take more responsibility for what we had once wishfully tossed into our curbside carts. Because recycling can vary so widely depending on the municipality, doing a little research before you recycle will likely increase your positive impact.

Hands down, the most confusion amongst the public is centered around plastics. Did you know that if you live in Talent, only three types of plastics should go into your recycling cart? Probably not. Perhaps you mistakenly learned to throw every piece of plastic donning the recycle symbol into your cart—because “the recycle symbol means it's recyclable, right?” Wrong.

Upon creation, the recycle symbol was never intended to indicate the packaging is recyclable. The symbol was in fact created to identify the plastic resin the packaging was made of. Leading to further confusion, the symbol is not trademarked, and is in the public domain, which means virtually anyone can use it any way that they wish.

Although we've learned that resins 1, 2 and 5 are the most valuable in the industry, “going by the numbers” is not an option, as the shape of the item—and its ability to survive the rigorous sorting process—comes into play.

Items that break apart easily or are small enough to fall through cracks between sorting equipment should not go into your cart regardless of the number.

Until better processing technology is developed, it's important to note that only three types of plastic should go into your cart: bottles (such as detergent, ketchup, and shampoo, defined as having a neck smaller than the base of the item); jugs (like what milk and juice come in); and rigid tubs (opaque and thicker, like what butter and cottage cheese come in).

The Talent Zero Waste Team strives to inspire and foster a community without waste and meets every third Thursday of the month at 2:30 PM in the Talent Public Library. For more information, please email Sharon Anderson at scanderson1@charter.net.

Movie Night! *A Plastic Ocean*

July 6 at 6:30 p.m.
Talent Fire Station #5
5811 S. Pacific Hwy

Join the Talent Zero Waste Team and Southern Oregon Master Recyclers in Action (somra.org) to watch *A Plastic Ocean*, a documentary film exploring plastic pollution and the fragile state of oceans around the world. There will also be a meet-up at the Pump House following the movie.