



# THE FLASH

August 2018  
Volume 19  
Issue 8

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

Opening with a feeling of gratitude for our fire fighters who risk their lives to keep us safe!

On May 30, Talent hosted a Town Hall meeting about the installation of smart meters for Talent Pacific Power customers. The meeting offered residents a place to voice their concerns about smart meter technology and the cost of the opt-out option. Pacific Power attended to answer questions and share their reasoning. Since then, Council directed staff to send a letter to the Oregon Public Utilities Commission (OPUC) to weigh in on the cost burden of opting out (which exceeds

\$500 in the first year), an action which resulted in a discussion with the Governor's office. Our concerns are on the record, but for those who are interested, the OPUC will address the issue of smart meters during their Regular Public Meeting on Tuesday, August 14, 2018 at 9:30 a.m. in Salem. For those unable to attend, the meeting will be available for online viewing through their website and written comments will be accepted from the public. You can find more information on the upcoming meeting at [www.puc.state.or.us](http://www.puc.state.or.us).

Recently, there were some generous changes to an ordinance that governs the addition of an accessory dwelling unit for certain residential properties. This update should allow Talent residents to realize more efficient use of property within City limits while improving conditions for housing. Please contact the Community Development Department at City Hall for more information on this potentially great addition to your property.

I often write about the volunteer efforts within Talent and how your neighbors are working to improve life in Talent, from commissions and committees to groups and organizations. We still have a few openings for City committees. More good news is that the City of Talent is renewing its efforts to recruit members to the Architectural Review Committee, whose primary function is to preserve our historical aesthetics in downtown. Applications are easily available at [www.cityoftalent.org](http://www.cityoftalent.org) or by calling City Hall at 541-535-1566.

Grateful to serve,  
Mayor Darby Ayers-Flood

## Compostable & Biodegradable Products Aren't the Solution

By Jamie Rosenthal,  
Talent Zero Waste Team

These days, many of us are trying to do right by our planet. We consciously make earth-friendly decisions like grocery shopping with reusable bags, reducing the amount of waste we produce, and recycling whenever possible. But what about compostable or biodegradable products like cutlery and cups (also known as bioplastics)? Some of us buy these products because we are told they are "green," and we feel good about that. But how earth-friendly are they really? The answer may surprise you.

When compostable silverware and cups are sent to an industrial-scale composting facility they are heated to 120 degrees, and will break down in less than two months, but—here's the catch—there aren't any of these types of facilities in our area.

In someone's backyard compost heap, compostables could easily take more than a year to decompose. If you read the fine print on most compostable products, you'll even see a message like: "Not suitable for backyard composting." If compostables are sent to a landfill and buried, they could take

over one hundred years to decompose. Is that what you imagined when you made your earth-friendly purchase? Probably not.

It's important to remember that "compostable" is not the same as "recyclable." In fact, if compostables get accidentally thrown into your mixed recycling bin they will be considered a contaminate once they reach sorting facilities. These contaminates compromise the whole recycling industry. If you live in Ashland or Talent, you should never throw compostable products into your mixed recycling cart.

If you're interested in making truly earth-friendly decisions, skip the compostables and opt for materials that can be reused over and over again.

*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 third Thursday of the month at 2:30 p.m. in the Talent Public Library. Please join us as we develop educational material, sponsor reuse and recycling events, and promote zero waste at City-sponsored events.*

*For more information about the Talent Waste Zero Team, please contact Sharon Anderson at [scanderson1@charter.net](mailto:scanderson1@charter.net).*

## Turn That Light Off

By Connor Shields,  
Energy Efficiency Coordinator

When it comes to unwanted heat loss (and gain), windows can be a pane. When windows lose heat, they have the potential to lose a lot. If your home is on the older side and you haven't performed a window replacement, then wasting heat may be a common occurrence. I am going to share some standard measures you can take to increase the efficiency of your windows and maintain the comfort of your living space, all while saving money on your utility bills.

**Case for Efficiency** - The American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy states that "energy efficient windows can save 7 to 15 percent on residential energy" which equates to somewhere between 104 and 223 dollars for the average Western U.S. home. When compared to a well-insulated wall, a window can lose or gain up to 15 times the amount of heat over any given time. There are a variety of ways to increase energy savings.

**Ways to insulate** - Insulating methods for spring and summer time include solar shades (both indoor and outdoor), curtains (best for homes without air conditioning), weather-stripping on window sashes, storm windows (exterior; big energy saver), awnings, window films, Low-E windows (complete replacement) and shade vegetation.

**Window Films** - Window films are special because they are one of the few things you can install to increase your window's performance (read: efficiency) across all seasons. Applying film to the interior side of a window can reduce non-solar heat entering from outside as well as decreasing how much heat escapes from inside.

Films differ in cost and their ability to reflect heat. Standard reflective films are cheaper, averaging reflection of 19 to 30 percent of indoor heat. In comparison, conventional low-E films cost one to two dollars more per square foot but reflect up to 67 percent of indoor heat. Higher quality films are reported to reflect as much as 92 percent of non-solar heat!

When you finish your window insulating project, you'll probably want to celebrate the long-term savings that are coming your way. Please do that. But when you finish celebrating, turn those lights off.

## Summer Fire Season

Community Development would like to remind residents within the City limits that summer fire season is upon us and that all property owners are required to remove potentially flammable vegetation on their property and to maintain grass and weeds at a height of no more than six inches. Reducing noxious and flammable vegetation works to confine fire to the property and prevent the fire from spreading to a neighboring lot.

Maximum penalty for a violation of this ordinance is \$250 a day per residential lot and \$500 a day for commercial or industrial lots.

*For more information on noxious vegetation or high grass, please contact Zac Moody at (541) 535-7401, email [zmoody@cityoftalent.org](mailto:zmoody@cityoftalent.org).*

## Election Schedule

The Jackson County General Election will take place on **Nov. 6, 2018**. Election packets are now available for pick-up at City Hall. Prospective candidates should keep the following timeline in mind:

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

Aug. 23, 2018, 4:00 p.m.: Deadline for candidates to complete filing with the 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](http://www.cityoftalent.org/elections).

*Official Newsletter of the  
City of Talent  
Edited by Savannah Edson  
[www.cityoftalent.org](http://www.cityoftalent.org)  
541-535-1566  
[sedson@cityoftalent.org](mailto:sedson@cityoftalent.org)*

## August Volunteer Service Award: Charles Roome

### How long have you lived in Talent?

My wife and I moved here from the Bay Area when I retired seven years ago.

### Why do you volunteer?

Talent is a wonderful place with so many active people whose efforts and achievements inspired me. Knowing their causes and interests, I wanted to get involved too.

### Which projects have you been involved with?

First, I joined Together for Talent on various committees, then as Chair and now Vice-Chair.

Elizabeth Zwick inspired me to do more volunteering as she wanted the City to stop using pesticides that are dangerous to children and animals. After she passed away, I took over coordinating the Weed Team and now work on weeding the skateboard park and around the library for four hours a week, though the team is not as robust as I'd like. We're getting some volunteer help from the Garden Club and Talent's Bee City USA, but the weeds keep coming and we'd welcome some more weeders!

Disaster Preparedness is an important issue for us all, so I'm working on establishing emergency supplies for the City of Talent. So far, the City Council has approved money for some supplies. I recently achieved a Ham Radio Technician License through CERT (Ashland's Community Emergency Response Team), which should also be helpful in an emergency situation like an earthquake or fire.

I've been involved with Rogue Climate Talent from its beginning, helping form a plan to reduce energy usage and make our city more sustainable. From increased use of LED light bulbs to installation of electric vehicle (EV) chargers, Talent is moving in the right direction thanks to volunteers, Rogue Climate Talent's informational public meetings, and the resources they've provided. More recently, I joined the Energy Citizen Advisory Committee, which makes specific recommendations for reducing our reliance on fossil fuels and big energy corporations.

Every year at Harvest Festival time I help with the Together for Talent booth. In spring, collection of electronic waste is the priority, so I work with the Talent Zero Waste Team to bring in companies that specialize in recycling these types of waste that can otherwise be harmful to the environment.

### What are you most proud of in your life?

I had the great opportunity to work in Silicon Valley for 30 years, to be involved with fantastic new technologies as they were evolving and to see them profoundly change lives all over the planet, mostly for the better.

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

I'd be a deodar cedar – they grow so high, live so long, and survive in harsh conditions without any trouble. We have three in our yard!

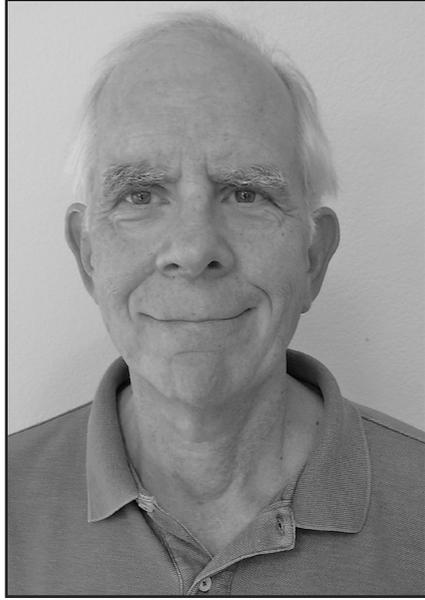
*The Volunteer Service Award is a monthly series hosted by the City of Talent. Nominate your favorite local volunteers at Talent City Hall (110 East Main Street) or online at [bit.ly/VSANominatons](http://bit.ly/VSANominatons).*

## TURA and the Gateway Project, Part 5

By Ryan Pederson,  
TURA Board Member

During August, the Talent Urban Renewal Agency (TURA) will finish reviewing the Disposition and Development Agreement (DDA) in public meetings, leading up to signing the final agreement before the end of the month.

Concept drawings of the proposed plan are available now on the Gateway website, along with the most up-to-date information. The beautiful, lively space represents the vision and culture of the community put into action! Visit the website to see the affordable housing, open space, and vibrant commercial spaces laid out on a map and in 3D rendering. Send your comments or attend the meetings in August to give your feedback on the final plan.



**SPACE  
RESERVED  
FOR ADS**

**Save the Date!  
Saturday, Oct. 6, 2018**



**Join us for a fun-filled day:**

- Pancake breakfast
- 5k & 10k run/walk
- Parade
- Live entertainment
- Children's entertainment
- Variety of vendors
- Local food and beverages

[www.cityoftalent.org/  
harvestfestival](http://www.cityoftalent.org/harvestfestival)