



THE FLASH

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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

It is goal setting time again. February is the month that we create and finalize goals for year 2020-2021. This allows council and staff to discuss priorities for upcoming services, projects and policy making. I know that your city council members want to hear from you the residents of Talent, to represent your hopes for your community. Please visit the City calendar at www.cityoftalent.org where you can find a link to email all members at once. While you are on the website, you can get automatic announcements of city events and meeting by signing up for the RSS feed, Talent's automated communication platform.

Last month, staff added an all call to the Flash for the upcoming elections for City Council. Yes, 2020 is an election year and 3 seats will be up for election. One can contact City Hall at (541)535-1566, where Talent's City Recorder Gabriella Ciprazo can provide more about when the election petitions begin, usually at the beginning of summer. It is so easy to get on the ballot! While there is a special election in May, city elections are part of the general election cycle in the fall. Council service begins on January 1, 2021.

Serving Talent on city council is a rewarding experience, as well as serving on city commissions or committees. We currently have openings on Together for Talent. The mission is to preserve and enhance the quality of life in Talent by building community, promoting sustainability, and encouraging citizen participation. The Economic Development Commission provides recommendations to the Council to support and encourage the retention and expansion of existing business. The Talent Harvest Festival Committee is always looking for motivated volunteers to help create a great Festival! Talent is best served by a three legged stool: staff, public officials and a community oriented volunteer effort that is second to none!

For more information visit www.cityoftalent.org and click on the City Commissions tab or call (541)535-1566 and ask for Gabi to get applications.

Grateful to serve,
Mayor Darby Ayers-Flood

Energy News: City of Talent Solar Array is Half Way Funded!

The solar + battery project with Oregon Clean Power Cooperative (OCPC) is still open for local investment! The project being fundraised is for the City of Talent government buildings. This 75-kW system with a battery pack will bring multiple benefits to the City and its residents. First, it will allow the Community Center, City Hall and Town Hall, to be powered all by 100% solar. This allows us to become closer to some of the Talent Clean Energy Action's goals.

This will also lower the City's energy bills which reduces the tax burned on Talent residents. Secondly, having a battery back-up installed with this solar array allow the City to become more energy resilient. This will create a small microgrid which will allow the Community Center to get power when the grid is down. We have fundraised over half of the requires \$102,000 thus far but need more local people to invest!

More information on OCPC and how to invest below:

OCPC is a nonprofit, and, a cooperative that gives the local community an opportunity to help finance the up-front cost of their projects, along with a return on their investment to the investors. To invest in these projects, you need to become a member of OCPC along with Solar Oregon. Then, you can buy a (or multiple) preferred stock for \$1000 with an APR 4%. The estimate payback period for each project is 12 years. The Talent projects are looking to fundraise 344 preferred stocks to finance all the projects.

To learn more about these project or to investment in them, you can go to Oregon Clean Power Cooperative's website (<http://oregoncleanpower.coop/>), contact Dan Orzech (dan@oregoncleanpower.coop) or follow up with myself (mhoch@cityoftalent.org).

Michael Hoch
City of Talent - Energy Efficiency Coordinator & RARE Participant
mhoch@cityoftalent.org

Single Use Straw Ban Hits the Street By Myke Gelhaus

By the time you are reading this, Oregon will be a month or more into its first ban on single use plastic items, flimsy shopping bags and hard plastic straws. The reasoning behind the bag ban is obvious, and seems to be percolating along, consumers have been preparing for this for quite a while and many have their own sturdy cloth bags.

The new plastic straw law bans restaurants and other food and drink serving businesses from providing single-use plastic straws unless customers request one. Restaurants can still provide customers with paper straws. The law does not apply to nursing homes, senior care facilities and other medical venues where there may be people who need a sturdy straw to get their liquid.

The law includes all restaurants and convenience stores in the regulations, but it offers some of those establishments leniency. Convenience stores, for instance, are free to include boxes of bulk straws out by soda fountains if there's not enough room behind the counter for a clerk to keep them. And fast food drive-thrus will be able to proactively ask customers if they want a straw, rather than waiting for a request.

"Nothing in this bill prohibits the person taking your order from offering you a straw, nor you from requesting a straw," says Oregon Sen. Michael Dembrow, D-Portland. "It's free speech one way or the other."

And, no, the straw police are not going to bust into your home and arrest you if you are still drinking with a straw.

Some people however will still be wondering how banning a little plastic straw can have a positive effect on our environment. The answer is awareness. Laws such as these will serve to make citizens more aware of using any plastic item only once, and then throwing it away without thought. When more people take small steps like switching from single-use plastic straws to eco-friendly alternatives like paper straws, they will start thinking about making bigger changes that will lead to a healthier planet.

And the real reason is of course, we must start somewhere.

Oregon's new partial ban on plastic straws comes at a pivotal time in the fight for sustainability. The World Economic Forum has projected that by the year 2050, there will be more plastic in Earth's oceans than

fish. Bombarded by advertisements, we are persuaded that the more we buy, the more fulfilling and satisfying our lives will be. The fact is we are burning more fossil fuels than ever to make and then dispose of things that we just do not need.

Recycling has come to a world impasse, only 9% of plastic intended for recycle is actually recycled right now according to a 2017 report published in Science Advances.

Until a solution is developed for this problem, we need to add to "Reduce, Reuse or Recycle" the word "Refuse", as in refuse to use items that are clogging up our world.

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 4:00 PM in the Talent Public Library. The next meeting will be on February 20th. For more information about the Talent Waste Zero Team, please contact Sharon Anderson at scanderson1@charter.net.

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Edited by Gabriella Ciprazo
www.cityoftalent.org
541-535-1566
gciprazo@cityoftalent.org

JOIN OUR CITY COMMITTEE



TOGETHER FOR TALENT

**Join us every first Tuesday
of the month from 4 PM - 6 PM
at Old Town Hall**