



# THE FLASH

June 2020  
Volume 20  
Issue 6

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

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## Drought Season and Noxious Vegetation

Recently, the Governor issued a drought emergency declaration for four southern Oregon counties, including Jackson County. In addition, Jackson County Board of Directors have voted to declare a local disaster due to the drought conditions and Oregon Department of Forestry established fire season this year on May 1st. At a time where our emergency responders are already being tested, things could go bad very quickly if preventive measures for the drought are not taken.

Residents will protect lives and property by adhering to the Summer Season noxious vegetation rules that are now in effect. What does this mean? Simply put, weeds, grass, blackberries and anything else defined as noxious vegetation may not exceed six inches in height until the end of Summer Season. [In accordance with Talent Municipal Code Chapter 8.05]

Violators who occupy their property will receive a posted red door hanger notice and have 48 hours to comply with violation notices; vacant property violators will receive a certified mail notice and have 10 days to comply. Continued noncompliance will result in citation.

As wildfires increasingly begin to impact communities in our region, City of Talent strongly encourages proactive vegetation management. If you have concerns about overgrown vegetation on a property in town, please contact City Code Enforcement at 541-535-7401.

## Talent Police Department

We want to thank the community for being so supportive to first responders considering everything going on with the COVID 19 crisis. The police department has received donations of personal protective equipment (PPE) from the following local businesses and organizations: Ray's Food Place, Medicap Pharmacy, Wellness Compounding Pharmacy and Supplement Center, Jackson County Fire District #5, and Talent Maker City. Thank you!

There have been some recent changes in personnel at the Police Department. Ofc. Zach Mailand is no longer employed at the Talent PD as he recently took a job as a patrol officer with the City of Medford Police Department. Good luck to Ofc. Mailand!

On May 12th, 2020, we hired Edgar Valdovinos, as a patrol officer. Edgar grew up in both Talent and Phoenix, attending local schools. He attended Rogue Community College and was employed as a corrections deputy with the Josephine County Sheriff's Office. Edgar is married with two small children. He enjoys soccer, traveling and camping with his family. Additionally, he played on the 2014 club soccer championship team for Oregon. Welcome to Ofc. Valdovinos!

## Energy News: Save Water & Energy at Home

With summer around the corner, I decided June's article will focus on some easy ways to reduce your water usage at home. More specifically, your hot water usage as you pay for the water, along with, the energy to heat that water. A typical American household uses 14% of their household's energy heating water and uses more than 300 gallons a day! With a couple of simple tricks and changes, you can dramatically reduce the amount of water and energy you use! Here is a list of some changes you can make:

Install Low-Flow Faucet Aerators & Showerheads: Can use up to 20% less water which can save an average home 2,300 gallons of water a year

Repair Leaky Water Faucets: Thirty drops a minute can waste up to 600 gallons a year

Use your Dishwasher's Energy-Saving Setting: Use the light wash setting to save water and use the no-heat drying option to save energy

Use Cold Water Instead of Hot: When you use hot water, you pay for the water and the energy to heat it. Reduce the amount of hot water to save on both bills

Turn Water Heater Thermostat down to 120°F: This saves energy and prevents burns. A lot of water heaters are set too high, so check to see if you can turn yours down to save money

Insulate Water Heaters & Pipes: This saves energy by preventing heat loss to the air. If your tank's R-value is less than 24, you can add insulation and reduce heat loss by 25-45%

If anyone would like more information about these activities or completes one of these, feel free to reach out to me via email (below).

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

Here are some great ways to get involved in the city of Talent:

The Economic Development Commission, Talent Public Arts Committee, and Together for Talent Committee are looking for new members.

Talent's City Council has three seats up for election this fall.

**Contact the City Recorder for more information at [gciprazo@cityoftalent.org](mailto:gciprazo@cityoftalent.org).**

Official Newsletter of the  
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