



THE FLASH

September 2020
Volume 20
Issue 9

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

City Council Election News – November 3, 2020 General Election

In addition to important state and national races, voters in the City of Talent will be electing three members to the City Council on November 3. Open seats are 2, 4 and 6, and voters can vote for one person for each seat. Candidates for City Council seats must be registered voters and reside within the city limits.

The Talent City Council is comprised of six members who are elected to four-year terms. Elections are staggered so that all Council seats are not open at the same time. In 2020, the three even-numbered seats are on the ballot, and in 2022 the odd-numbered seats will be open. If a council member is appointed to, or runs to, fill a seat with an unexpired term, that council member will serve only until the unexpired term is completed, and then must compete in an election for a full four-year term at the appropriate time.

The Mayor holds a separately-elected office, and mayoral terms are four years. The next mayoral election in Talent will be in 2022.

As of the FLASH publication deadline, the following candidate filing forms had been received:

Seat 2

Dave Pastizzo
Ana Byers

Seat 4

John Harrison
Derek Volkart

Seat 6

Jason Clark
Ronald Timen



For additional information on the November 3 election, or to find out how to register to vote, visit the Jackson County Elections Office website at jacksoncounty.org/clerk/Elections/Elections-Office.

Energy News: Saving Energy With your Refrigerator

by Michael Hoch

As the vegetable garden is producing a variety of greens, Talent Tomatoes are starting to ripen, more ripe berries need to be picked, my household refrigerator is starting to get very full. This made me think of the phrase I have always heard “a full fridge is an efficient one”, so I started to think about if I ever investigated this claim to see if it was true or not. Unfortunately, with my new insights, I discovered that the old adage is a myth. Through my investigating I have found some simple ways to help make sure your refrigerator runs with minimal energy! Here are some tips ‘n tricks to try:

Decide what you want before you open the door: Cooled air escapes every second the door is open! Try to be quick!

Cover and Wrap Food: Uncovered food & liquids release moisture which causes the fridge to use more energy to keep a constant temperature.

Check the Temperature: You are losing money if the fridge is lower than 37 degrees and your freezer is outside the 0 – 5-degree range. To check the fridge temperature, put a thermometer in a glass of water and place in the fridge. To check freezer temperature, put a thermometer in a glass of cooking oil, place in freezer. Read temperature after 24-hours.

Defrost Refrigerator Regularly: Excessive freezer ice or frost will spoil food and cause fridge to use more energy to keep temperature.

Check the Door Seals : Put a piece of paper half in and out of the refrigerator door and close it. If you can remove paper easily, then you need to adjust the door latch or replace seal.

Unplug your Second Older Refrigerator : It can cost up to \$200 more in energy to have the second (old) fridge in use.

Buying an ENERGY STAR Certified Model: Replacing a fridge bought in the 1990’s with an ENERGY STAR-certified one can save you enough energy to light an average household more than 4 months!

If anyone would like more information about these activities or implements one of the tips ‘n tricks, feel free to reach out to me via email (below).

Michael Hoch

City of Talent – Sustainability & Parks Coordinator

mhoch@cityoftalent.org

City Ponders Collaborative Water Rights Strategy

by Sandra Spelliscy, City Manager

The Medford Water Commission (MWC) supplies drinking water to the cities of Talent, Ashland, Phoenix, Jacksonville, Central Point and Eagle Point, as well as its own customers in Medford and some outlying areas. The municipal customers have come to be known as the Partner Cities (Partners). The MWC and the Partners meet regularly to discuss coordination, operational issues and future planning for this very important regional resource.

In late 2018, while discussing the potential need for additional water rights for some members of Partners, MWC recommended that the group consider hiring a consultant that would evaluate existing and future water rights on a regional basis, and make recommendations on the best way to acquire and utilize these water rights for all MWC customers, instead of looking at water rights based on individual city needs. In early 2019 Partners and MWC entered into a cooperative agreement to hire GSI Water Solutions (GSI) to carry out this task and prepare a proposed Water Rights Strategy.

GSI spent all of 2019 developing a draft strategy, with input from Partners, and in late 2019 brought a draft to Partners with three alternative options for the group to discuss.

Strategy Components

GSI began developing the strategy by preparing a comprehensive water rights summary that included the maximum anticipated water demand for each city through 2070. These projections were then compared to each city’s individual water rights. This comparison showed a time projection for when each city’s demand would exceed its available supply. The analysis of the data showed that some Partners would have adequate supply based on water rights through 2070, while other cities water rights are not sufficient to even meet current demands. The same data also showed that if Partners were to share their water rights, there would be sufficient supply to meet the regional demand well past 2070.

GSI made a recommendation for Partners to consider developing a coordinated approach to water rights certification and water supply. A major benefit of this approach would be certification of all of the 20 potential water rights that have a point of diversion at the Duff Water Treatment Plant on the Rogue River, noting that a failure to certificate these rights in a strategic manner could result in some of these presumed rights eventually being lost.

This is important because some of the Partners, including Talent, hold significant rights that have yet to be “certificated.” If uncertificated rights holders cannot show that the water obtained under a right is being fully used by a date certain, that water right will be extinguished. Talent currently holds greater “uncertificated” rights than demand projections show will ever be utilized.

Next Steps

Once there was consensus on the current state of water rights and expected demand, Partners began discussing how best to set up a coordinated approach that would be most efficient and cost-effective, while attaining the goal of having group-wide certainty regarding rights (and thus supply) for the long-term. Defining that collaborative approach and the governance structure that it would require is a longer-term goal of the Partners

Official Newsletter of the
City of Talent
Edited by Sandra Spelliscy
www.cityoftalent.org
541-535-1566
sspelliscy@cityoftalent.org