



# THE FLASH

## City of Talent

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

Summer is in full swing. Downtown is bustling with great restaurant activity, people are out on their bikes, in the parks, walking dogs, gardening and enjoying the Friday Evening



Market to name just a few very pleasant pass times in Talent.

With goals and budget in the can, I spoke in the last article about our meetings and process. Now I wish to acquaint you with the Council members; introductions starting with the most recent appointment.

The Council recently voted to appoint Stephanie Dolan to the Council seat vacated by Christina Collins. Councilor Dolan, who has extensive volunteer and government experience in her career as an attorney which includes the Talent Planning Commission, stated that her top 3 priorities are strong economic development, affordable housing, and planning for sustainable energy. She is one of two appointed Councilors who will be up for re-election during the next general election. The other is Ken Baker, who was appointed in early 2017, is the liaison to the Parks Commission and who is a builder-developer.

The other Councilors as you may recall from the Ballot, are Councilor Emily Berlant who is a recent graduate of SOU and Councilor John Harrison retired from California with a lifelong service in postal service management. The other Council members are Daniel Wise, who served 6 years on the Planning Commission, is a professional mediator and is now considering moving into Planning Consultation. Also, Ryan Pederson a data analyst, a veteran TURA member with a focus on economic development. He is the council President. Please take a moment to get to know your representatives and share your vision for Talent with them. Each of the Council members has a bio on [www.cityoftalent.org](http://www.cityoftalent.org).

We are all different; each with our own perspective on how to represent you, each with our own priorities but all with the same intention and that is to be of service to our community. We don't always agree nor should we, but at the end of the day we all have our hearts in it.

Grateful to serve,  
Mayor Darby Ayers-Flood,  
formerly (Stricker)

### Talent Police Department

Curtis Whipple, Chief of Police

With the August weather upon us, it is hard to imagine the beginning of the school year is just around the corner. The ability to walk to school has been improved with the additions of sidewalks at Main and Foss and I anticipate pedestrian traffic will increase in the area. As we strive to keep a safe community, I want to give you advanced notice that we will once again be conducting a Pedestrian Safety Enforcement Operation, this time on August 24, in the area of the Talent Elementary School.

During the last enforcement operation conducted, we emphasized education of the pedestrian laws over enforcement of them. Citations were issued for egregious violations, which numbered 2, and 9 additional warnings were issued. As the person crossing the roadway during the last operation, I can attest that those who received pedestrian violation citations were truly deserving. In addition to the crosswalk violations, I want to warn drivers to stop using their cell phones, we will be watching for this violation as well.

With the ongoing road work on South Pacific Highway, we will continue to have the Talent Police Department conducting extra patrols to assist in keeping the highway safe. A recent purchase of a LIDAR, used to monitor vehicle speed, will assist us. We obtained the LIDAR through a \$2600.00 grant from the Oregon Department of Transportation. The purchase of this LIDAR replaces a LIDAR we had purchased several years ago, also via an ODOT grant.

The safety of the public remains one of our major concerns. I can report that crime in Talent is on a downward trend. In the next Flash, I will share some local crime statistics.

If you have any ideas on how we can keep Talent safe, feel free to contact me as I am always open to new ideas.

### Talent Historical Society News

We are pleased to announce that THS Board Member and Historian, Jan Wright's, Kickstarter fund for the writing of the John Beeson Book Project was a success. Thanks to all 144 backers who made the writing of this important book about one of Talent's most notable citizens possible. A special thanks to Mayor Darby Ayers-Flood for her outstanding support. We will keep you informed as to the book's progress. We, at the Talent Historical Society, are so pleased to have been able to be a part of this outstanding project detailing the life of John Beeson. We can't wait to read this book!!!

Our Museum is located at 105 North Market Street in Talent and is open Saturday and Sunday from 1:00 pm until 5:00 pm. Why not take a stroll on over and see what interesting things we have on display?

### Talent Zero Waste Team (TZWT)

The Talent Zero Waste Team is passionate about waste reduction. This group strives to inspire and foster a community without waste in Talent.

**TRUE or FALSE?** The Recycle Symbol means your plastic material can go into your recycle cart. Answer: NO. Contrary to popular belief, the chasing arrow imprint on the bottom of a plastic container does not mean that the container is recyclable in your community. The plastics packaging industry adopted this symbol to help plastics processors sort the most common resins from each other; it was never intended as a recycling symbol for the general public. The number in the center of the arrows indicates the type of plastic resin that was used to make the item.

The TZWT meets every 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of the month at 2:30 PM in the Talent Public Library. The next two meetings will be on **August 17<sup>th</sup>** and **September 21<sup>st</sup>**. 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 what can be recycled curbside in Talent, please go to [www.Recology.com/Recology-Ashland/](http://www.Recology.com/Recology-Ashland/) or for more information about the Talent Waste Zero Team, contact Sharon Anderson at [scanderson1@charter.net](mailto:scanderson1@charter.net).

### Riparian Zone Education and Protection

When you live next to a stream or creek, you know the beauty and value that it provides. But it's more than just a pretty spot, your property is part of a larger ecosystem of plants, animals, land and water. These ecosystems along stream or creekbanks are called *riparian zones*. Riparian zones extend 50 feet from the top of the bank of any stream or creek in the City. Our stream and creeks rely on riparian zones as buffers to absorb floodwaters, filter pollutants from runoff, provide critical shade to cool waters, provide wildlife habitat, and other benefits. When riparian areas are lost, more pollution reaches stream and creeks, habitat is diminished, and water temperature increases. These are *big* problems for salmon (who love cold water) and other species. That's why *balancing your needs with the needs of the larger ecosystem* is why streamside landscaping is important. Did you know that if you are planning to remove or add landscaping to an identified riparian zone, you must have a Riparian Landscape Plan approved by both the City and the Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife? Before you do any work in a riparian area, please contact Community Development to obtain a permit application and guidance on your project.

Whether you are an urban property

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owner, small acreage homesteader, or a large commercial grower, there are a variety of simple steps you can take to improve the health and value our riparian zones, while protecting and enhancing the creeks and water quality. From simple decisions like where you store your compost or manure pile, to more complex practices like how you manage pests or fertilize the soil- every decision can have a positive effect.

Local communities, such as Talent are working together to improve watershed conditions and protect areas that provide key functions for people, wildlife, fish, and other species. Work being completed by the City is driven by regulations (the Clean Water Act and the Endangered Species Act), to improve water quality, to maintain recreational access, to protect riparian areas, and to provide habitat for fish and wildlife. The goal of the Clean Water Act is to make all waters fishable and swimmable.

The City of Talent is committed to being a community that cares for its riparian zones, strives to keep our streams and creeks clean and clear and participates in the Stream Smart Program. If you would like to learn more about the Stream Smart Program or how you can protect the City's riparian areas, please visit [www.stream-smart.org](http://www.stream-smart.org) or contact Zac Moody, Community Development Director at 541-535-7401 or by email at [zmoody@cityoftalent.org](mailto:zmoody@cityoftalent.org). Please help us protect our riparian zones and be Stream Smart.

### Planning Commission Vacancy

There is currently 1 vacancy for the Planning Commission. This is a seven person commission each serving a four year term. The Commission is responsible for community planning and development review related to all land use issues as specified in City Codes and State law. They meet once a month or more as needed. Members

participate in the development of the City's Comprehensive Plan, Zoning and Land Division Codes. Meetings are held the 4th Thursday of the month at 6:30 p.m., and, if needed, the 2nd Thursday. Applications are available on the City's website at [www.cityoftalent.org](http://www.cityoftalent.org) or they can be obtained at City Hall, 110 E. Main St. in Talent. If you are interested and have more questions, please contact Zac Moody, Community Development Director at 541-535-7401 or by email at [zmoody@cityoftalent.org](mailto:zmoody@cityoftalent.org).

### From Finance Department

Ryan Martin

The City received some good news in the past week when House Bill 2017 passed. This will gradually increase the amount the City of Talent will receive in addition to the State Highway Fuel Tax. These monies will must be specifically spent on the construction, reconstruction, improvement, repair, maintenance, operation, and use of public highways, roads, streets, and roadside rest areas.

The increase will last for the next decade and the City will continue their quest to provide the safest roads in Southern Oregon. These additional monies will begin to be collected on January 1, 2018 and will allow the City to maintain roads at a much greater speed than what would have previously been allowed with the current funds available.

### New Special Use Regulations

In 2016, Community Development Staff was asked by the City Council to work through a variety of zoning code amendments, including the addition of marijuana cultivation regulations, regulations for backyard chickens and ducks as well as temporary uses to address mobile food carts and other types of temporary uses. During the July 19th City Council meeting the Council adopted a new Supplementary Provisions section into the Talent Zoning Code to provide additional standards for permitted land uses in an effort to ensure the livability of residential and commercial communities within the City. The intent of the new regulations is to provide some control to the scale and compatibility of the identified uses and to identify when and if the special

use requires a planning review.

While these uses are commonly allowed outright (except marijuana related businesses), general standards of approval and an approval process needed to be defined. The Supplementary Provisions section (8-3J.11) provides clear and objective standards for backyard chickens and ducks and provides standards for temporary uses, specifically mobile food vendors and other types of temporary outdoor sales. Section 8-3J.1140 addresses Marijuana Related Uses and provides general standards for homegrown marijuana cultivation and more specific standards for growing outdoors. The new language allows property owners to plant four (4) recreational or six (6) medical marijuana plants per lot with a maximum of six (6) plants allowed. The new language also regulates where plants can be grown and a maximum plant height.

The new Temporary Use section (8-3J.1150) provides residents and business owners a more clear and objective process for uses such as mobile food vending, temporary sales and outdoor storage of products. The new regulations provide prospective business owners an opportunity to test their business in the short-term before making a long-term investment. The goal is to allow the development of small businesses that may someday become permanent brick and mortar businesses in the City's downtown area.

Lastly, the newly adopted language provides clear and objective standards for the keeping of chickens and ducks within residential areas (8-3J.1160). The keeping of chickens and ducks within the City is allowed in all residential zoning districts as an outright permitted use and allows for one (1) chicken or duck for every one thousand (1,000) square feet of assessed lot space (maximum of 10 chickens or ducks). The language also provides standards for securing the animals and defines setbacks and dimensional standards for coops and runs.

These new regulations will be effective on August 20, 2017 and are available for review on the City's Community Development website at [www.cityoftalent.org](http://www.cityoftalent.org). If you have questions about the new regulations, please contact Zac Moody at 541-535-7401 or by email at [zmoody@cityoftalent.org](mailto:zmoody@cityoftalent.org).

**Get Ready!**

**THE Talent Harvest Festival**  
**is coming...October 7, 2017**

This GREAT Fall Event (48 Years) will once again bring you the full experience of living in our community. Live Music, Arts, Crafts, Great Local Foods, Wine & Beer Garden, Grand Parade, Harvest Home for Kids, Climbing Wall, Pancake Breakfast, Apple Pressing and so much more!



**48<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL**

**Save the Date!!!**

**Fun, Fun, Fun!** Discover Your Talent!®


