



# THE FLASH

## City of Talent

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

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### From the Mayor's Office

I recently aThe color of Fall reminds us of dramatic c h a n g e ; inevitable and yet, often very beautiful.

S m a r t a d v a n c e d planning is the difference

between positive growth and negative growth. I am so proud of boards of appointed officials who help guide the City within their areas of expertise. Current and boards of the past are volunteers who lay down the foundations on which our City operates. Talent Urban Renewal Agency, the Planning Commission, Parks Commission and Together for Talent are 4 of the most active City boards, who are charged with shaping and developing our future direction.

Talent Urban Renewal Agency uses tax revenue collected within the urban renewal district to stimulate new development and eliminate blight. Some completed projects include the sidewalks along Talent Ave and Main St., Talent City Hall, the Depot Building and other business match grants that have helped improve the look of the historic downtown business district. The next big project is the 4.23 acre Gateway project on the corner of Hwy 99 and Valley View Rd. Plans are underway for a mixed use community based project that will serve to jump start further improvements within the historic down town area. The agency strives for maximum community input so keep your eye out for more community meetings where we hear your ideas.

The Planning Commission is a board of 7 Commissioners who develop city land use policy by following the guidelines and laws provided by the State. It is complex but very interesting. Among their important functions is to hear land use applications in a quasi judicial capacity. This means that these 7 individuals must understand and adhere to the codes and land use laws that apply to any given development. Their tasks are subject to a great deal of demanding homework. Our current Commission is a very capable board with a great deal of collective experience.

The 5 volunteer Parks Commissioners develop parks policy and plan for future growth and amenities. They make their recommendations to the Council by studying the Master Plan and finding the next project to pursue based on need and budget. They are also busy in their research, with a heart for the element of our



community development that provides us with gathering space, recreation opportunity and outdoor activity.

Together for Talent has a broad range of focuses. They strive to create environmental sustainability, make alternative energy changes within our community, protect pollinators, clean up, green up, recycle and T4T is currently developing a pest/weed management program that seek long term goals to eliminate the use of harmful chemicals in parks and other public property.

These volunteers serve to uphold and advance our community values. They are the truest way finding as invested members of Talent. Please join me in gratitude for the time and effort that they willingly give to all of us who live in this fine little City. We couldn't do it without them!

Grateful to serve,  
Mayor Darby Ayers-Flood

### HOLIDAY CELEBRATION

Mark your calendars for the Talent Tree Lighting Celebration on December 12, 2017. Along with the tree lighting there will be entertainment and refreshments. The festivities will begin at 6:00 pm at the Community Center.

### IN SEARCH FOR HOLIDAY CAROLERS

If you are interested in sharing your singing voice for the Holiday Celebration please call Kimberlyn Collins at 541-535-1566 or email kcollins@cityoftalent.org, with your name and contact information (phone number and email address if you have one).

### The Talent Weed Team Needs Volunteers

If you or a friend want to reduce the weeds around the Library and in front of City Hall, the Together for Talent Weed Team needs volunteers. We meet in front of the Library on Tuesdays and in front of City Hall Thursday from 8:30 a.m. until 10:30 a.m. We use no sprays and only work in areas where the city does not spray herbicides. Questions: call 541 897 0285.

### Community Development Gives Answers to Floodplain Questions

If you want to know if a property is in the Special Flood Hazard Area, check our website at [www.cityoftalent.org](http://www.cityoftalent.org). Click on Flood Protection Information link for more information. You'll find a wealth of information about the City's Flood Insurance Rate Map, flood depths at your property, natural conservation areas and wetlands, flood insurance, special rules for building in the floodplain, and ideas for protecting your property from flood damage. Or you can contact the Community Development Department with all of your floodplain questions via email at [building@cityoftalent.org](mailto:building@cityoftalent.org) or by phone at 541-535-7401. We also have copies

of FEMA Elevation Certificates on all buildings constructed or substantially improved in the floodplain since January 1982.

### Talent Police Department

**Curtis Whipple, Chief of Police**

As we begin the winter months ahead, be aware that driving conditions will deteriorate and ice and snow will occasionally be on the valley floor. If your traveling out of the valley, you can expect that these conditions will become typical when driving in the higher elevations.

Below are some tips that will keep you safe while driving this winter, as well as ensure your vehicle remains safe.

Once the cold mornings arrive, please don't leave your car warming up unattended while sitting in a driveway or on the street. The Talent Police Department responded to several stolen vehicles in 2015 and 2016 and many of these occurred while vehicles were warming up and unlocked. Don't make yourself an easy target for a criminal, it makes for the start of a bad day.

During the winter months, it can be an inconvenience to get all the snow and ice off your windshield before driving. However, make sure you do, because Oregon Revised Statute requires your windshield, as well as your side windows to be free of obstructions when driving.

When driving in ice and snow, driving slower is one of the keys that will help you to arrive safely at your destination. Everything you do on ice and snow takes a little more time. Accelerating, stopping, turning, talking with your cell phone in your hand (the last one was a trick – don't do that.) These all take more time when driving on the ice and snow so you need to plan accordingly.

Know the roads you are traveling on. If you must go up a hill, don't power up the hill as this will cause your wheels to spin. Once you begin down the hill ensure you slow down as your vehicles weight and gravity will increase your speeds thus making stopping and turning take longer as mentioned above.

A final tip I have for Flash is to use your seat belt each and every time you drive your car, and ensure your passengers are buckled up as well. I can attest they save lives and minimize injuries.

As we near the end of 2017 and the Thanksgiving Holiday, be mindful of all the things you are grateful for. For me some of those are a wonderful family, great friends, enduring faith, good health and living in this wonderful Rogue Valley.

Count your blessings. Once you do, you will see how many you truly have.

### Leaf Disposal Opportunities

Free leaf disposal is available to residents on Sunday, November 12th

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at Talent City Hall, which is located at: 110 E. Main St., Talent, OR 97540. Only leaves and pine needles will be accepted! This opportunity is available from 10:00am – 3:00 pm. Please arrive prepared to empty your bags of leaves yourself and take your bags back home with you.

As an alternative to the free leaf disposal event, Recology offers Talent residents -within the Urban Growth Boundary- compostable bags for the collection and disposal of leaves. For a limited time, the City of Talent is offering a discount on the bags. From October 23rd through November 30th a set of five bags may be purchased for \$10.00. Please be prepared to show proof of residency. Each bag is nearly three feet tall and can hold up to 35 pounds of leaves.

Keeping leaves out of the street is a simple but important action we can all take to help improve water quality in our streams. For more information on these programs, please call Talent Community Development at 541-535-7401 or visit [www.cityoftalent.org](http://www.cityoftalent.org).

### 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). Closing will be on November 9, 2017 at 4:00 PM

**Talent Historical Society News**

Thanks to everyone who came out to our booth or stopped by the museum during the Harvest Festival. We appreciate your support and we enjoyed talking with so many people.

The Talent Historical Society continues its series of presentations held on the fourth Tuesday of each month.

On Nov. 28th THS board member Emmalisa Whalley will give a talk on "Birds of Talent." She is an accomplished photographer and will have her 2018 calendar featuring her bird photographs for sale at the meeting. A portion of the proceeds will be donated to THS. The talk will be from 6:30 to 8:00 pm at the Society's Museum at 105 N. Market Street, Talent. The meetings are free and open to the public and you need not be a member to attend. Call 541-512-8838 for more info.

Thank you!!

**Adopt a Family for the Holidays**

The Holiday tree will be up at the Talent City Hall on November 20th. We are kindly asking the community to join our City employees along with Fire District #5 in effort to make the Holidays special for some of the less fortunate families in our area. Gifts should be returned to City Hall no later than Friday, Dec. 8, 2017.

If you would like to help please stop by City Hall and pick up a gift tag from our Holiday tree. Each tag will have the first name of one family member and suggested gift from the wish list for that person. We will gladly accept donations of boxes or bags, gift tags/stickers, bows and ribbon to wrap these gifts in.

If you have any questions please direct them to Coleen Bradley 541-535-7401 [coleen@cityoftalent.org](mailto:coleen@cityoftalent.org) or Leslea Heiken, 541-535-1566 [leslea@cityoftalent.org](mailto:leslea@cityoftalent.org) at Talent City Hall .

Thank you so much for your support!

**A BIG THANK YOU FOR THE 2017 TALENT HARVEST FESTIVAL**

The 2017 Harvest Festival was a huge success! Great weather, entertainment, vendors, delicious food and the most amazing volunteers!

As the new City Recorder, I want to thank each and every one of my volunteers who helped make this event possible. I could have never have put this event together without the help of all the volunteers.

We had about 12 volunteers who helped with set up the day before the Harvest Festival. Another 15 volunteers made sure the festival went smoothly with various tasks the day of the event. The City received so many compliments about our volunteers and how helpful they were. Thank you so much for your support. We are very grateful to each one of you!

I especially want to thank the Harvest Festival Committee for their months of preparation and long hours to assure this event was successful for the entire community. All of us put in many long hours and dedication. Most of the committee members have been faithful volunteers for many years. Their commitment to the City of Talent goes beyond the Harvest Festival and this is something to be commended. Thank you just doesn't seem enough! :)

Again, thank you and I hope to see you all at the festival in 2018!  
Kimberlyn Collins

