



THE FLASH

APRIL 2018
Volume 19
Issue 4

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

Blossoms literally cause a visceral response in me. With the Spring Equinox in the rearview mirror, our upcoming days should be filled with flowers and pollinators, as well as several Talent events that you should keep an eye out for.

In January, the Council received a financial report that showed a shortfall of incoming revenue, due to a delayed franchise agreement with Pacific Power. I am happy to report that the staff realigned some priorities and realized some staffing savings that will ultimately make up that difference to the budget's ending balance. Talent strives to be trans-

parent. Talent's Finance Director has been a responsible steward of the City's resources by first reporting the shortage on the open record and then working with the team to find areas to make it up. Thank you to Ryan Martin and team!

Most will agree that water is one of society's most precious resources. Since fresh clean water is essential to life, Talent has long managed water as one of our highest priorities. We own and maintain an incredible water delivery system, and we are always at the table when negotiating the purchase price of water with the Medford Water Commission (MWC). Thank you to our Public Works department for excellence in this department. Each time water rates are increased, it is in response to the rising cost of water from MWC and cost of living indexes. Also please know that, as we build our new water storage facility, we will have a full one-third of the costs forgiven, as our community partner Business Oregon went to bat for Talent on State funding.

Please consider joining the effort by visiting www.cityoftalent.org and filling out an application to be on a Committee or Commission. It is easier than ever as City Recorder Erin Zelinka improves access to documents on the City website. Applications are also available by visiting City Hall or by calling 541-535-1566.

Grateful to serve,
Mayor Darby Ayers-Flood

TURA and the Gateway Project, Part 3

By Ryan Pederson, TURA Board Member

As we welcomed Spring, the Gateway project moved forward another major step: dozens of Talent citizens came and gave input on three proposed layouts for buildings, uses, roads, parking, and open space. TURA and Walker Macy hosted the March 6 open house and received great input on the designs. Walker Macy is a landscape architecture and planning firm working on the project through the TGM grant.

All the designs include some apartments above commercial spaces and an open space near the middle. One design maximizes apartments, with 98, while two others include townhomes and 53-68 apartments. The designs with townhomes received the most positive feedback. If they are included, TURA may also consider restrictions on the townhomes to enforce affordability, which could require public participation to be achievable.

The designs with multiple types of housing also contain a larger open space, with both green space and plaza area bordering either a makerspace or brewpub. Both also shield the green space from street view with mixed-use buildings bordering Highway 99 and Valley View Road, but they allow pedestrian access near each corner. These designs allow views into the plaza from the intersection of the two roads, which many attendees supported. See all the designs on the TURA Gateway site:

www.cityoftalent.org/gateway

The TGM grant process, which includes assessing the financial feasibility, will be complete near the end of spring, and TURA will work with development partner DOSO Properties to draft the final Development Agreement, due to be adopted in the fall. Between now and then, TURA, our partners and consultants, and Talent residents will shape the final elements which go into the Development Agreement. With the building layout coming together, other design considerations like building features, monumentation, art and landscaping will be upcoming. On behalf of TURA, we hope to hear your input soon!

Update: Talent Codification Project

By Erin Zelinka, City Recorder

City of Talent is currently in the process of codifying all of its ordinances, with the goal of indexing and presenting City laws in a more accessible, understandable and searchable format for both residents and City staff.

Once the process is completed, citizens will be able to easily look up City of Talent laws on the official City website.

Other benefits include:

- A more enforceable system of law
- Assured compliance with state and federal laws
- Increased efficiency in City operations
- Elimination of old, obsolete or redundant provisions
- Increased governmental transparency
- Avoidance of lawsuits

We have contracted the codification job to Code Publishing Co., a company that has codified ordinances for 42 other Oregon cities and is an expert in the process. They estimate that we will receive a proof by late April or early May and that we can have our code online by the end of this fiscal year, June 30, 2018.

Questions? Contact City Recorder Erin Zelinka at 541-535-1566, ezelinka@cityoftalent.org.

Bear Creek Stewardship Day

Join SOLVE (Stop Oregon Litter and Vandalism) and thousands of volunteers across the state on **April 21, 2018, 9 a.m. to Noon**, as we support the health of the Bear Creek Watershed by cleaning up litter from source to sea! This clean-up event is creating a local, community-based investment in keeping trash out of this stream that is so important to recreation and wildlife.

There will be seven check-in/out locations along the Bear Creek Greenway from Pine Street in Central Point to Lynn Newbry Park in Talent.

Snacks will be provided at the registration/check-in booths.

Register online for this event by April 20, 2018 at:

www.bearcreekstewards.org

On-site registration the day of the event is also available.

For more information about the clean-up at Lynn Newbry Park in Talent, contact Community Development Director Zac Moody at 541-535-7401 or zmoody@cityoftalent.org.

SOLVE is a non-profit organization that brings together individuals, business groups, and service and conservation groups through volunteering and education to restore our natural spaces and take good care of this great state of which we are all so proud.

Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) Spring Basic Training

Ashland Fire & Rescue is offering Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) training. Upon completion of this course, you will be able to perform basic disaster responses such as small fire suppression, urban search and rescue, and disaster medical operations. When disasters occur, you will know how to respond by being prepared to give critical support to your family, friends, neighbors and professional responders.

Training is free and open to those as young as 14 with an accompanying adult. CERT is a National Citizen Corps Program. Ashland CERT is a division of Ashland Fire & Rescue's Fire & Life Safety Division. If you enjoy what you learn, you can become a volunteer. CERT members may provide critical support to local emergency responders.

You must attend each session for successful completion:

Thursday, April 5, 5:30 - 8:30 p.m.
Friday, April 6, 5:30 - 8:00 p.m.
Saturday, April 7, 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Thursday, April 19, 5:30- 8:30 p.m.
Friday, April 20, 5:30- 8:00 p.m.
Saturday, April 21, 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

To register contact the Ashland Community Preparedness Coordinator at 541-552-2226 or cert@ashland.or.us

www.ashlandcert.org

Savvy, Safe Spring Cleaning

By Jamie Rosenthal, Talent Zero Waste Team (TZWT)

Spring has sprung. You might be feeling pulled to check out the status of your garage and storage areas. Are unwanted items like cleaning supplies, paint thinners, or weed killers taking up space? If you're ready to say goodbye to those chemicals, you should be familiar with ways to responsibly dispose of them. (HINT: these liquids should never be poured down your drain.)

On **Saturday, May 5, 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.**, Recology Ashland will co-sponsor its annual residential **Household Hazardous Waste** event at 8001 Table Rock Road in White City. Residents can bring unwanted chemicals, household batteries, fuels, mercury thermostats, florescent light ballasts and more. (Businesses may apply to participate in a disposal event on Friday, May 4.) While the cost per resident is a whopping \$125 to Recology this year, residents will only pay \$5 per vehicle. For more information, visit www.Recology.com/Recology-Ashland or www.RogueDisposal.com.

Note that not all chemicals are accepted. Paint, for instance, is not allowed because the the State of Oregon already has a program called PaintCare that allows you to take your unwanted paint back to participating stores. Medical waste, propane tanks, explosives, ammunition, and radioactive materials are other examples of items that are not accepted.

Do you have other, non-chemical items you'd like non-landfill Spring-cleaning options for? Attend the annual **Talent Round It Up and Turn It In** recycle drop-off event on **Saturday, May 12, 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m., at Talent City Hall**.

We accept electronic waste, all types of metal including metal appliances, Styro-foam peanuts, usable household goods like clothing and books, usable building materials like doors and windows, unused paint, and old compact florescent lightbulbs. For more information or to volunteer, check out the Talent Zero Waste Facebook page, or contact Sharon Anderson at scanderson1@charter.net.

The recycling drop-off is part of a community-wide event on May 12 called **Accent on Talent**, which includes the Citywide Yard Sale, the Spring Plant Sale, Talent Tomato Sale, and Book Sale. Before or after dropping off your items for recycling, stroll around downtown and support local organizations and businesses.

The Talent Zero Waste Team is a group passionate about waste reduction that meets the third Thursday of the month at 2:30 p.m. in the Talent Public Library. Upcoming meetings will be **April 19** and **May 17**. Please join us as we develop educational materials, sponsor reuse and recycling events, and promote zero waste at City-sponsored events. For more information, contact Sharon Anderson at scanderson1@charter.net.

Talent Police Department Update

By Chief Curtis Whipple

The Talent Police Department has been busy trying fill our police officer position that has been vacant since December 24, 2017.

After conducting an interview process on January 23, 2018, several applicants were chosen to continue in the hiring process. We have now conducted background investigations and have chosen a candidate.

Now, most would believe when I refer to someone as a "chosen" candidate, we would now be ready to make a hiring decision, but that is not the case. Once we have selected someone for a position they are given a conditional job offer. What this means is our process changes from a comprehensive background investigation to one where a psychological examination and a medical examination are conducted to ensure the candidate is mentally and physically prepared for the trials and tribulations associated with a career in police work.

I have found that the hiring of a police officer never seems to be an easy process, but I also know that, in the police profession, we should never lower our standards in order to fill a vacant position.

A police officer is expected to do many things, the worst of which is being placed in a situation where a life and death decision must be made in a split second. Even if it takes an extended time, taking that time to make the right hiring decision is well worth the effort. No matter what the outcome, I will provide additional information on this in the next *Flash*.

Celebrate Arbor Day!

Talent will proudly celebrate Arbor Day on **Saturday April 28, 2018, 9 a.m. - 11 a.m.**, at the corner of Suncrest Road and Clearview Parkway.

For more information, visit www.cityoftalent.org, or contact Savannah Edson at 541-535-7401 or sedson@cityoftalent.org.

*Official Newsletter of the
City of Talent
Edited by Erin Zelinka
www.cityoftalent.org
(541) 535-1566
ezelinka@cityoftalent.org*
