



# THE FLASH

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

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## From the Mayor's Office

Participating in City government is easier than you may think and we sure want to hear from you! In Talent, we have many open lines of communication that allows you to discuss your hopes, concerns and ideas directly with the public officials.

The City Council meets the first and third Wednesday of every month. The agenda packet is posted on the City website at [www.cityoftalent.org](http://www.cityoftalent.org) usually 4 to 5 days in advance. The schedule of topics for the meeting and the support documents are attached for deeper

research. The agenda is also posted in front of City Hall, and at Town Hall where the meetings are held. We want folks to know what is coming before Council and again we want to hear from you.

Every meeting agenda has a topic called citizens heard on non-agenda items. This is a time in every meeting when we break from regular City business and hear folks talk about a topic of their choice. Our rules do not allow us to discuss the item then and there but we are allowed to put your topic on a future agenda, for further consideration.

Also, there is an opportunity called citizens heard on agenda items. Talent Council allows citizens to speak on any topic on the agenda, after filling out a speakers request form available near the entry doors.

For those who prefer not to speak before Council, one can always email the entire Council by finding the single link that distributes to all Council.

I can say with certainty that citizen ideas and feedback very often influence and even shift decisions made at Council. I am proud to serve with a Council that is authentically interested in what you think about every item before us.

Grateful to serve,  
Mayor Darby Ayers-Flood

## Talent Police Department Fireworks Information

In February, the Talent City Council directed the Talent Police Department (TPD) to conduct a community survey regarding a potential ban and/or restriction on "legal" fireworks within the city limits. The survey was available online on the city's website in addition to hard copies at both Talent City Hall and the Police Department. Additionally, we provided surveys to those attending the Community Development Fair. The results are as follows:

-45 respondents (including a home owners association) suggested a complete or partial ban on

"legal" fireworks within the city.

-16 respondents indicated they were against any bans or restrictions on fireworks.

Between June 26th – July 10th, TPD received a total of 10 fireworks related calls. Some of those calls were for illegal fireworks and some were for "legal" fireworks. We seized illegal fireworks in 2 cases. One incident involving illegal fireworks resulted in damage to a neighbor's property. There were no injuries reported to the department this year.

The survey information and fireworks related stats from June – July has been forwarded to the City Council for consideration.

## TPD Personnel

-Ofc. Michael Bates has completed his field training and is now on solo patrol.

-Ofc. James Vial, who has been with TPD for the last 2 years plus, was recently hired as

a Patrol Deputy with the Jackson County Sheriff's Office.

## Produce? You've Got It In The (Reusable) Bag!

Do you love your fruits and veggies, but hate using plastic to bag them up? We hear you! Even if you're making sustainable choices such as using a reusable shopping bag at the store, it can be really frustrating to encounter the need for a plastic bag when getting specific items! Luckily, reusable produce bags are becoming more and more common. If you want to learn more about these handy alternatives, read on!

It seems like there's an excess of plastic everywhere we go. That's why it's really important that we all actively work together to cut down on our use of it wherever and whenever we can. What's one way you can help combat this plastic problem? Reusable produce bags! There are many varieties and styles available online, ranging from cloth to mesh-like materials. Even better, your local grocery stores and shops will likely have some for sale. If you have some old cloth that you want to reuse (because reusing is AWESOME!), you can even make the produce bags yourself! Just go online and search "How To Make Reusable Produce Bags" to find some great patterns and step-by-step guides! Additionally, if you buy smaller bulk items (such as seeds, nuts, flour, etc.) and don't want to use a reusable bag, you can always bring your own container— just don't forget to tare the weight of the container at the weigh station or at the check-out counter before filling it up! Now that's some sustainable shopping!

The Talent Zero Waste Team is a group passionate about waste reduction. This group strives to inspire and foster a community without waste in Talent. We meet every 3rd Thursday of the month at 2:30 PM in the Talent Public Library. The next two meetings will be on August 15th and September 19th. Please join us as we develop educational material, sponsor reuse and recycling events, and promote zero waste at City-sponsored events.



**50th Annual Talent Harvest Festival 2019**  
**Saturday, September 21, 10am-4pm**

A Free, Family-Friendly, Zero-Waste Event | [www.CityofTalent.org/harvestfestival](http://www.CityofTalent.org/harvestfestival)

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## THE FUTURE IS NOT DISPOSABLE

by Lynne Likens

Talent Zero Waste Team

Many of us are familiar with the concept of bringing our own reusable bags into the grocery store. And many of us carry our own cups and water bottles. But have you considered the concept of bringing your own take-home containers into the restaurant? Or carrying your own cutlery to end the vicious life cycle of the plastic fork?

Imagine a world with a clean ocean and healthy fish and birds. Let's face it we had that once but we threw it all away and we still are. Now is not the time for fear or doubt, now is the time for action. We must stop throwing it away, one item at a time.

That is all it will take. Think about it. All it takes is for us to bring our own bags into the store, carry our own cup, pack a fork or throw some containers in a bag to be self contained leaving a lighter footprint on the earth.

Due to the work of the Talent Zero Waste Team, Talent is the first city in the state to approve a single use plastic ban on all food service items including To Go containers, cutlery, bowls, stirrers and ultimately lids and cups. The team is now implementing a BYO TO GO campaign in support of our restaurants. Our restaurants supported the single use plastic ban initiative, even though biodegradable items may be more expensive than plastic. We can now support them by not using the plastic alternatives and bringing our own cups and containers instead. This is how communities support a healthy lifestyle together.

May the Fork Be With You is another campaign our team has begun with a goal to putting an end to the plastic fork. Look for reusable forks in their pouches at the counter at restaurants in the near future.

Changing from easy disposables to reusables isn't easy and will take some time and intention but you will soon find out that the benefits exceed the trouble. You will be joining other like minded folks who have decided that disposables are not worth the price.

If you are interested in joining with others to reduce your disposable footprint, come to the monthly meeting of the Talent Zero Waste Team at 4 pm the third Thursday of the month at the Talent Library. Check the Talent Zero Waste Facebook page for news of the zero waste world.



This year is Talent's 50<sup>th</sup> Annual Harvest Festival! The Harvest Festival takes place in our beautiful downtown and brings out thousands of attendees. We are proud to provide the community with local vendors, entertainment from local live bands, and children's activities that run throughout the day!

**September 21<sup>st</sup>, 2019 ~ 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.**

### Vendor & Booth Info

- *Non-Profit & Info Only*
  - 10x10 - **\$45**
- *Commercial Art/Craft*
  - 10x10 - **\$70**
  - 10x20 - **\$90**
- *Food, Drink & Growers*
  - Growers 10x10 – **No Cost**
  - Snack Concession 10x5 - **\$70**
  - Commercial Food 10x10 - **\$150**
  - Commercial Food 10x20 - **\$300**
  - Exclusive Beer/Wine - **\$300**

**Visit our website for more information: [www.cityoftalent.org/harvestfestival](http://www.cityoftalent.org/harvestfestival)**

If interested in becoming a vendor, contact Gabriella Shahi at (541) 941-5939, or [harvestfestival@cityoftalent.org](mailto:harvestfestival@cityoftalent.org)

*A \$5 per person discount (up to 2 persons) will be given to booths that provide volunteers for the festival. Volunteers will be required to complete a 2-hour shift and register with the Volunteer Coordinator. **Note:** There is limited space for commercial trailers, and they must be self-contained.*