



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

Being a Planning Commissioner is an awesome responsibility. Planning Commissioners are appointed officials who have two main functions. They recommend policies to the Council, which if adopted become Talent zoning and development codes. Once recommendations are adopted by the Council, Commissioners and Staff must enforce them when there is an application to develop. Like a judge, they apply the codes closely because deviation often results in an appeal hearing at the Land Use Board of Appeals. The LUBA board is also made up of appointed officials but is a State level agency. They have the exact same task; review the codes and apply them directly. If LUBA finds that we have misapplied our own development codes, they can send the hearing back to the City (remand) to correct our misapplication of code. Because this is a very expensive mistake to make, there is an incredible burden on the Planning Commissioners to keep the City out of LUBA hearings. I am sharing this to inform you that if we envision different codes, the time to discuss changing them is before a development has applied. One can imagine that trying to change your neighbor's right to build a shed is basically unfair, if the code allows them to build a shed when they applied for their permit. That said, if one believes a policy should change, then one can join any Planning Commission meeting to discuss improving our codes moving forward. I believe that our codes accommodate healthy growth but we are definitely always open to improvement. I am very proud of Talent Planning Commissioners and my hope is that by developing understanding about planning duties, we will all appreciate our Commissioners and Staff for their awesome dedication. We should have a thank your Commissioner/Staff month! Please join a planning meeting on any 4th Thursday in Town Hall at 6:30PM. Get involved and help shape our future together!



The City of Talent has planned for and supported a Maker Space. Volunteers have worked to support the realization of the plan by organizing the non-profit Talent Maker City. Now you can support the MakerSpace by joining TMC on December 9th at either the Talent Maker Market or the Wine Down and Tool Up! Fundraising Auction. Both will be at the Talent Community Center. Find the ad with more information within the Talent News and Review.

Adopt a Family for

Christmas

The Christmas tree is up at the Talent City Hall and Christmas is just right around the corner! We are kindly asking the community to join our City employees along with Fire District #5 in effort to make Christmas special for some of the less fortunate families in our area.

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

These families will be receiving a Christmas dinner basket containing a turkey and several non perishable food items. All gifts and dinner baskets will be hand delivered on a fire truck by Fire District #5 and Santa Claus the week of Christmas.

All gifts will need to be turned in, unwrapped or in an open gift bag with the original gift tag attached to it at City Hall no later than 5pm on Wednesday, December 13th.

If you have any questions please direct them to Leslea Heiken at City Hall, 541-535-1566 or leslea@cityoftalent.org. Thank you so much for your support and Happy Holidays!

Public Works Department

As the weather turns cold it is time to be thinking about protecting your homes against freezing. Extreme cold weather can be hard on both you and your home. Here are some suggestions on how to prepare for the freezing weather, snow, and ice that will come.

- If the water meter box lid is removed, it should be replaced as soon as possible
 - Insulate all exposed piping
 - Remove garden hoses from any spigot and drain the hoses
 - Turn off sprinkler systems and drain to lowest point
 - Drain bird baths, ponds and fountains
 - Locate the main water cut-off to your home in case it becomes needed
 - Seal up cracks and holes in both exterior and interior walls
 - Cover or remove any window air conditioners
 - Insulate electrical outlets and switches on exterior walls with foam seals
 - Repair or replace weather stripping and thresholds around doors and windows
 - Keep the heat on, even if nobody is home, above 50 degrees should be sufficient
 - Leave interior doors open to let heat balance throughout your home
 - Close garage doors and open only as necessary
 - Clean gutters and downspouts to prevent ice from forming
 - Use ice repellent on steps and walks

These are just a few basic ideas to help prevent possible damage to your property from freezing. Other considerations might be to have your heating system serviced to help prevent an outage during the extreme cold. Heating technicians are at their busiest during this time of year and might not

be able to come right out. Also making sure that your vehicle is winter ready could prevent a cold weather hassle as well. If going on vacation it is a good idea to have someone check on your home frequently.

Holiday Celebration

Don't forget to 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 Town Hall.

Parks and Recreation Commission

Family Movie Night: Come see the funny, Christmas-themed movie "Elf" on Saturday, December 16, at 7:00 p.m. in Town Hall. The movie stars Will Ferrell and is rated PG. Admission is free. Bring a blanket or cushion if you wish to sit on the floor, closer to the screen, rather than in the seating area. See you there!!

Talent Police Department

Oregon's crosswalk laws were written to provide a buffer of safety for pedestrians on the roadway.

In collisions with cars, pedestrians are always the losers. Studies show a pedestrian hit at 40 mph has an 85% chance of dying.

There are two questions I get asked about concerning crosswalks; when must I stop for a pedestrian in a crosswalk and if there is no marked crosswalk, can I cross?

Oregon Revised Statue 811.028 has a rather long wordy explanation as to when you must stop for a pedestrian. To break it down, it basically states you must stop for a pedestrian who is in a cross walk in your lane and the adjacent lane. So, on a two-lane road, such as Talent Ave, that would mean curb to curb. On three lanes or more roadway, it would be your lane and the lane next to you.

If you are at an intersection that does not have a traffic signal and turning onto a two-lane road, again you must yield to pedestrian in a crosswalk curb to curb. If you are turning onto a three lane or more road, yield to pedestrian in your lane you are turning into and the adjacent lane. The only exception to this rule is at an intersection controlled by a traffic light. In this case, you must yield to a pedestrian in your lane (the one you are turning into) and at least 6 feet of the adjacent lane.

If there is not a marked (painted) crosswalk, Oregon law recognizes the intersection as still having a crosswalk, commonly referred to as an unmarked crosswalk. The crosswalk laws also cover the unmarked crosswalk.

The Talent Police Department conducted two Pedestrian Enforcement Operations this year in Talent with grant funds. The funds are obtained to educated drivers about the pedestrian right of ways in the crosswalk. During this operation, if violations are observed, the drivers are contacted and warned or cited. These operations are announced with the date, time and place in advance.

With all of this in mind, Talent Police Dept. is watching the elementary and middle school for these violations as well as speeding violations. The school

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zones now have flashing signs bringing your attention to the 20-mph speed in the school zone. TPD has received many complaints of speeding cars in the school zones and our officers are out there watching for those speeders. For more information on the crosswalk laws, the Talent Police Dept. has brochures in our office available for the public.

Charge your EV at Talent Community Center

Cynthia Care

Electric vehicles (EVs) can be solar-powered when they plug in at the Talent Community Center, beginning December 15th. The addition of the chargers will put Talent on the Plugshare map, a map of public charging stations throughout Oregon. Find it at plugshare.com. These will be Level 2 chargers, so EV owners can plug in for an hour or two - for free - and get 50 miles or so additional range, perhaps while eating at one of Talent's wonderful restaurants!

EVs will be the topic of the Rogue Climate Talent meeting scheduled in February. The event will take place at Talent Community Center. For more information contact Talent@rogueclimate.org

Talent Zero Waste Team (TZWT)

Crisis or Opportunity? Local Ways to Cope with Global Recycling Changes
By Jamie Rosenthal

Have you been keeping up with the news lately? If you have, you've likely seen headlines such as "Recycling Crisis Hits Home" and "China's Recycling Crackdown". To the dismay and disappointment of many Oregonians, our relationship with recycling is changing at such an alarming speed we can hardly keep up. In a nutshell, China doesn't want our recycling contamination (garbage) anymore. But where is the opportunity amidst all the gloom and doom?

If it's true that substantial growth tends to only occur when we're outside of our comfort zone, the door of sustainability has suddenly been flung wide open. It's important that we not get swept up in the negative hype, but focus rather on what opportunities are in front of us. Please refer to the

following tips when you find yourself asking the question, “What can be done?”

1) Stay the Course; Don't Panic – if you live in Talent or Ashland, nothing about what can go into your recycle cart has changed, so please continue to recycle. Follow Recology's local website or Recology Ashland's Facebook Page to stay current with the latest developments. If anything changes about what will be accepted in your bin, the correct information will be in these places first.

2) Stop Wishful Recycling – it's never been a better time to double-check that the items you place in your bin actually go. Common offenders like lids of all kinds, soft plastic bags, clothing, paper towels, napkins, Styrofoam, food scraps, single-use cups, and most plastics are not accepted. Remember: When in Doubt, Keep It Out (or reach out to Recology to get your question/s answered).

3) Stick with the First two R's: Reduce and Reuse – Recycling has always been 3rd in the hierarchy. Go beyond recycling by being more thoughtful about your purchases. Reduce needless consumption whenever possible. Stay away from single-use products. Reuse materials whenever and however possible. Let your voice be heard and “speak” to manufacturers by “voting” with your dollar. If a product you purchase comes housed in a ridiculous amount of plastic packaging, try to find a less wasteful alternative.

A little determination and increased awareness goes a long way, so when you're feeling discouraged about the current state of recycling, please remember the tips above.

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 December 21st and January 18th . 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 the Talent Waste Zero Team, please contact Sharon Anderson at scanderson1@charter.net.

Turn the Light Off

Spotlight: Ductless Heat Pumps

By Connor Shields, Energy Efficiency Coordinator

“Is it a robot? Is it listening to every word that I'm saying? Is it quiet because it's broken?”

Well, none of the above actually. You may have heard of or seen these near-silent machines mounted on walls in restaurants and homes of friends or family. There is a lot of talk around these strange, white boxes in the valley lately but much of that talk may be creating mystery as well as clarity. So, let's talk about it. Let's talk about ductless heat pumps.

Ductless heat pumps (DHPs) are popular because now, more than ever before, they are one of the most energy efficient, electric heating technologies to date for most buildings. Instead of requiring a system of ducts that run throughout your home's walls, DHPs simply require a “head”, the white thing on the wall, a “heat pump”, the unit that sits outside your house, and a refrigerant line that transports the warm air. Don't forget: heat pumps also cool your home. When heating, the system is pulling warmth into the building. When cooling, the system is pulling heat out of the building.

If you're thinking about going ductless because of the energy and cost-savings of the installation then you are on the path to greater energy efficiency in your home or business.

But...before you start combing your savings or searching for a loan there are some major questions to ask yourself:

- Is my home comfortable with my current heating/cooling setup? If not, why not?
- Have I made efforts to weatherize my home personally or professionally?
- Do I want to replace or supplement my current system to achieve greater comfort?

Former energy efficiency professional and current resident Todd Carey puts it well, “Before upgrading any heating or cooling sources - the first actions any residence needs [to take] are to install more thermal insulation and to seal air leaks...”. Saving the most money now and in the future, relies on improving the efficiency of the building first and foremost. Technology such as DHPs will yield even greater savings if they are installed in a well-sealed space.

Supplementing an existing HVAC system with a DHP is more economical than a complete replacement. Ben Scott, building science expert of Ashland weighs in stating that DHPs “...can serve single [areas] that are the result of remodels or additions. They can even [assist] some existing heating systems where complete replacement is costly or just not necessary”. One of the first questions an installer will likely ask you is Where do you spend most of your time in this building? Your answer to that question will give you an idea of how your most economical system would look like. There is no need to install a head in every single room. Be strategic about the placement of your potential system because an extra head can add over \$1,000 to your install costs.

So now that you've thought about the potential inefficiencies of your building and addressing those details first, let's talk about cost and financing. A local installer with Central Point's Allied Comfort Pro says that when shopping around for a basic setup (one or two head units) the cost will land in the ballpark of \$3,000-\$4,000 depending on the floorspace to be covered. These numbers apply to a space anywhere from 600 to around 1,000 square feet depending on the brand of pump and its power.

Low-interest loans, cash rebates and a State tax credit may all be used to help finance your DHP purchase. Craft3 offers 100% financing, low-interest loans to Pacific Power customers which can be paid back through your monthly utility bill. The Energy Trust of Oregon is also offering an \$800 reimbursement by check to folks who purchase a DHP system that qualifies for their incentive. Qualifying systems need to be replacing or supplementing electric heating only, must be the first ductless system to be installed in the building and need to meet a certain efficiency rating. Oregon's Department of Energy is also offering a tax credit of over \$1,000 for qualifying DHPs purchased before December 31st, 2017.

The information above is a primer with hopes of giving you more confidence in your decision to go ductless or to not go ductless. Remember: be mindful about the spaces that you occupy most in your home or business and pay respect to your budget by first performing those important weatherization steps before making any investments in new HVAC technology. And please, in the meantime, turn that light off!

For more information contact:
 Energy Trust of Oregon:
 1.866.368.7878
 Craft3 Loans: 1.888.231.2170
 Oregon Dept. of Energy:
 503.378.4040