



THE FLASH

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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

I admire any operation for its ability to transparently and courageously look at challenges periodically, so that we can correct our course and celebrate success. While we just aced another financial audit with an A+ rating (thank you Ryan Martin), we felt it was also a good idea to review our projects and determine the best practices to move us through the remainder of the fiscal year.

As an official for Talent for nearly 20 years, I can say that, if you look, you will always find areas to improve. This review is no exception. Our budget will realize a shortfall in revenues of around

\$30,000, due to franchise agreement delays in 2017. By reviewing a financial presentation at the halfway mark in the fiscal year, we have enough time to correct our course without diminishing a single city service. We can all remain confident, knowing that our Budget Committee adopted a sound budget that has safeguards and contingencies for these kinds of challenges.

So now we get to the part that I love about Talent. Many cities might not be willing to share our challenges; they only share successes in an effort to keep the public on a "need to know" basis of their own design. Not in Talent! We will share what we need to fix as well as what we need to celebrate. I am proud of our staff for their watchful eyes and for always having a game plan for whatever may arise. Their can-do attitude is a signature of this team. I am extremely proud of their performance, now more than ever. Talent is in very good hands!

Speaking of celebrations, how about that Community Development Fair? Twenty-five booths of information about everything you wanted to know in Talent. Talent wants to thank Community Development Director Zac Moody for knocking it out of the park. He is on board making access to your city a high priority. We are proud of this event, Zac!

Our city needs you! Yes, you! We all have our own perspectives, and our committees and commissions need every unique point of view. Please consider joining the effort. It is very rewarding. Find openings at www.cityoftalent.org or by calling 541-535-1566.

Grateful to serve,
Mayor Darby Ayers-Flood

Talent Police Department Update

By Curtis Whipple, Talent Chief of Police

It was a very busy year for the Talent Police Department in 2017. We handled 7,375 calls for service which resulted in 3,855 written investigative reports. That is a busy year for 8 officers. In addition, 1,225 citations were issued for driving offenses and numerous other written and verbal warnings were also issued.

Overall, the above activities showed a decrease in Talent's Part I crimes by 2.4%, and that is a good thing. Part I Crimes consist of more serious crimes such as robbery, assault, burglary and theft. The largest increase in 2017 was observed in the number of theft reports taken, much of that due to an increase in shoplifting.

Although Talent's more serious crime was down, there was an increase in Part II crimes of 8.5%, and that is a good thing. (I will explain this later.) Part II crimes consist of offenses such as driving under the influence of intoxi-

cants, drug offenses, fraud, disorderly conduct, juvenile offenses and fugitive arrests. The greatest number of cases which increased in the Part II Crime category were the arrest of fugitives. Talent showed an increase of 30.3% in the number of people arrested on warrants, with 159 people taken into custody for warrants during 2017.

Now for the explanation of why I don't necessarily mind the increase in the Part II crimes. This increase is due to officers being proactive, and that is what I expect from our officers. Not many suspects will freely come to the police department and tell you they have drugs on them, nor are they willing to divulge they have been driving while intoxicated or have a warrant for their arrest. These crimes are only found when officers conduct proactive patrols and are looking for crimes beyond a traffic stop.

TURA and the Gateway Project, Part 2

By Ryan Pederson, City Council President

This month's article will explain, in more detail, what the Gateway Project may include, how the goals were created, and the process Talent Urban Renewal Agency (TURA) and DOSO Properties are using to ensure success. First, it is important to know that nothing about the development is final yet; the final Development Agreement, which states what will be built, is projected for fall 2018. Between now and then, the final design will be shaped through market feasibility studies and more public meetings. (Kudos to the many residents who participated in the Community Development Fair in January! Next meeting is planned for early March.)

The vision for the Gateway property that Mr. Murrey (with DOSO) presented during the developer selection process furthers many City and TURA goals, including additional walkable commercial area, more affordable and market-rate housing, supporting the development of a makerspace, and increasing the diversity of businesses downtown. In order to include all this, Mr. Murrey proposed two buildings, up to the allowed 45-foot tall, with complementary shapes that partially surround a large green space, as well as a set of townhouses or similar "missing middle" housing. This smaller housing would provide a visual transition from the taller buildings to the single-level housing on Gangnes St. to the south.

The goals of the Gateway Project are informed by TURA's guiding principles and the goals and input from the City's Economic Opportunities Analysis (EOA—2016) and Housing Needs Analysis (HNA—2017). The project aims to create more walkable commercial area full of businesses that represent Talent's character while increasing housing and encouraging re-development of nearby properties. Some of the business types suggested in past meetings include health and personal services, additional restaurants, a makerspace, a brewpub, and small-scale production spaces. You can read all the goals of the EOA and HNA on the City of Talent website: <http://www.cityoftalent.org/complanamendment>

The market feasibility of these and other options is currently being studied with the help of a state-funded TGM grant (Transportation & Growth Management). The same grant will also help plan the Gateway as a pedestrian-centric area. The results of the study are expected in the spring and will further guide TURA and DOSO in what types of specific units to build and what types of commercial tenants to pursue. Read more about the TGM grant here: <http://www.oregon.gov/LCD/TGM/Pages/grants.aspx>

Visit the TURA website for ongoing updates:
<http://www.cityoftalent.org/tura>

Commission & Committee Openings

Citizen Advisory Committee (Urban Growth Boundary Analysis): 11 vacancies

Citizen Advisory Committee (Energy Element): 7 vacancies

Economic Development Commission: 7 vacancies

Planning Commission: 1 vacancy

Parks Commission: 1 vacancy

Together for Talent Committee: 6 vacancies

TURA Budget Committee: 4 vacancies

Visit www.cityoftalent.org and click on "Committee Openings" for more details and other vacancies.

Planning for Talent's Future

By Zac Moody, Community Development Director

How can Talent accommodate future growth while retaining its small-town atmosphere and overall quality of life? How should the city's land use planning adapt to accommodate approximately 3,000 new residents that are forecasted over the next 20 years? Where should these new residents live and work? Depending upon where new housing or employment centers are planned, how will transportation and government services need to change?

These questions are all part of the planning process that is currently underway in the City of Talent, as part of an analysis to determine if an Urban Growth Boundary expansion is necessary. Since the process began in 2015, the City has updated its buildable lands inventories for commercial, industrial and housing and has completed both an Economic Opportunities Analysis and Housing Needs Analysis. The studies indicated that the City has a surplus of commercial and industrial land and a deficit of residential land. As a means of determining if more land is needed in the UGB, the City must complete a UGB Alternatives Analysis and adopt measures that guide the City to more efficient development within the existing City limits.

As in previous planning efforts, community engagement is an essential part of the study to keep stakeholders informed about the progress of the assessment and to provide opportunities for public input. This study will engage a Citizen Advisory Committee (CAC) appointed by the City Council to review documents and plans prepared by the City's consultant and staff, so to ultimately make a formal recommendation to the Talent Planning Commission. Participants in the CAC will provide subjective and critical insight that will ensure the City's Comprehensive Plan policies are implemented in a way that serves the entire community and addresses any needs or concerns.

Contact: Zac Moody, Community Development Director, 541-535-7401, zmoody@cityoftalent.org. **Application Deadline:** Wednesday, February 28, 2018, by 4:00 p.m.

City to Form Citizen Advisory Committee for New Energy Policy

By Zac Moody, Community Development Director

The City of Talent has been working with members of Rogue Climate and Rogue Climate Talent to develop a working draft of Talent's first-ever Energy Element—a list of policies and strategies regarding energy conservation and generation. The current draft contains policies that address the improvement of energy efficiency in existing buildings, the pursuit of developing more renewable energy technology in Talent, and the establishment of greater energy resiliency in times of disaster.

In October, the City began to translate action items and objectives from Talent's 2030 Clean Energy Action Plan with the intent of creating an Element draft that was appropriately formatted for the public planning process. In January, Talent City Council approved the formation of a Citizen Advisory Committee (CAC) for the Energy Element. Before the end of February, the collaborative process between City staff and Rogue Climate members will be complete, and a functioning CAC will be needed to continue the process for the ultimate incorporation of the document into the City's Comprehensive Plan.

Participants in the CAC will be providing subjective and critical insight into the crafting of the energy-related policies. It is highly desired that the CAC membership be made up of diverse perspectives, both personal and professional.

Contact: Zac Moody, Community Development Director, 541-535-7401, zmoody@cityoftalent.org. **Application Deadline:** Wednesday, February 28, 2018, by 4:00 p.m.

Turn That Light Off

By Connor Shields, Energy Efficiency Coordinator

Striving for energy savings in your life can often come at a cost unless you're turning lights off for a living. I have lots of information on State and Federally funded programs that can help you fund installations and upgrades in your home—from insulation to dryers and water heaters—and I want to share them with you, weekly at what I call the Energy Desk.

Energy Desk
Tuesdays, 11 a.m. – 1 p.m.
Talent Library Lobby

Energy Desk is a place for the people of Talent to gain access to information about cash rebates for upgrades like the ones mentioned above and free weatherization services for low-income households. For business owners in Talent, the desk also has information on cash rebates for you as well.

Please stop by if you can and let's chat! If you can't make it to the library during these hours, I would be happy to chat with you about the resources I have by phone or email, Monday through Friday, from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. **Contact:** Connor Shields, 541-535-1566, cshields@cityoftalent.org

Let's start a conversation about how you can save energy and money. One tip right off the bat: turn that dang light off.

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SPACE
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