



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

Smoke is the topic of discussion of many elected officials regionally, statewide and nationwide. I am glad officials are talking about it. I will keep you posted!

Talent's newly formed Economic Development Commission is actively meeting. One of their missions is to maintain communication to better inform opportunities. Currently they are busy preparing a survey to get citizen feedback in order to assess what's working and what could be improved to help determine Talent's future needs. The survey can be taken online at: www.talentoregonsurvey.com or you can get a copy at City Hall at 110 E. Main St. Thank you to this

incredible team of dedicated Commissioner's for asking us what we think. Your voice matters!

A resident who moved here a couple of years ago asked me, "why there weren't more meetings?" about Oregon Department of Transportation's construction project on Hwy 99. The perspective of a long range project became real in that discussion. I recalled, as the newest Council member in 2013, having our first vote to fund the sidewalks and driveway aprons, as Talent's only contribution to ODOT's project. Mayor Bill Cecil was strong on transportation; he made sure Talent received its benefit from the extensive road project. There was only support at the public hearing; for its better business climate and more importantly, to improve safety along the Hwy for those walking to the bus stop or in to down town. It is hard to believe all that started nearly 8 years ago. That is when it struck me; long range planning really does take a long time.

That discussion reminds us about the next big road project which will be Valley View Rd, with plans going back 5 or more years. During the Valley View Rd. open house in 2015, many residents attended to choose the preferred design. The community's chosen design was adopted into our Transportation Systems Plan. For more information about any of our long range projects, visit our website at www.cityoftalent.org or call Community Development at 541-535-1566.

Grateful to serve,
Mayor Darby Ayers-Flood

Debunked: Tackling Five Myths About Recycling

By Jamie Rosenthal,
Talent Zero Waste Team

Myth #1: If an item has the recycling arrows on it, it's recyclable. No – not always. Those little arrows refer to the type of plastic resin the item was made from, not how recyclable it is. But most communities, including Ashland & Talent, can recycle plastic bottles, jugs and rigid containers. Please recycle plastic bags at your local grocery store, or at the Ashland Recycle Center — not in your recycling cart.

Myth #2: It's harder to recycle now. The items allowed in mixed recycling carts in Ashland and Talent are the same currently as in the past. What has changed is the impetus to reduce non-recyclable items in the carts and do a better job of recycling correctly. If you are checking your local list of what is allowed in your cart, while avoiding the urge to "wishfully" recycle items you're unsure about, you are doing great work!

Myth #3: Compostable products like cups, plates and cutlery can be recycled. No! Composting and recycling happen in completely different ways. Compostable serviceware CANNOT be recycled in your recycling cart, or in your green debris cart.

Myth #4: Lids are recyclable. Yikes, no, this is not true. It doesn't matter if

the lid is made of the same material the item itself is made of. Lids of all kinds – tin can, bottle, and rigid plastic tub lids - get easily trapped between pieces of cardboard and paper during the sorting process, contaminating other streams of material.

Myth #5: Of the 3-R's (Reduce, Reuse, Recycle), if I'm recycling, I am doing my very best for the planet. Unfortunately, no. Reducing and reusing are far more important than recycling. If you'd like to go the extra green mile, consider buying used instead of new. Did you know that buying a refurbished computer instead of a new one saves 139 pounds of waste, 7,300 gallons of water, and 2,300 kilowatt hours of energy required to manufacture a new one?

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 October 18th and November 15th. 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.

Do you know where your water meter is?

There are benefits to knowing where your water meter is.

- Please take a minute to locate the City water meter that services your home or business. Make sure it is clear of debris and or vegetation.
- Public Works needs access to take readings and perform routine maintenance. If you have a leak, quick and easy access saves time and potential damage. Remember do not pile dirt, plant foliage too closely, or place pots or lawn ornaments on or around the meter box. Doing so not only makes access difficult but may also damage the meter.
- Can't find your meter? Give Utility billing a call at (541) 535-1566. We would be happy to help.

Tips to consider:

- Call Utility Billing: Turning off your water takes a special tool. Do not use a wrench – you could damage or break the valve. If you damage a valve, you could be responsible for cost of the repairs. For assistance, call 541-535-1566.
- For non-emergency call at least 24 hours in advance: We will Schedule someone to come out and turn your water off at no charge.
- Need Your Water Turned Off Frequently? Consider installing a shut off valve between the City water meter and your residence or business. Then you can shut the water off yourself with no need to call ahead or wait.
- It is important to keep the meter box lid in place. This helps protect the meter from damage as well as freezing in colder temperatures
- Have an emergency? We are here to help. Call Utility Billing at 541-535-1566 8:30am to 5:00pm., Monday through Friday. For afterhours emergencies, call 541-535-3828 when the message starts to play press 9 to be connected to the on-call staff member.

Need More Information? Contact the Public Works office.

- **Hours:** Monday – Friday from 7:00am to 3:30pm.
- **Phone:** 541-535-3828
- **E-mail:** BMarshall@cityoftalent.org

Volunteer Service Awards

The Volunteer Service Award will now be awarded on a *quarterly* basis hosted by the City of Talent.

Nominate your favorite local volunteers at Talent City Hall or online at bit.ly/VSanominatons.

Election Schedule

The Jackson County General Election will take place on **Nov. 6, 2018.**

For further details, visit www.cityoftalent.org/elections.

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TURA and the Gateway Project Pt. 8

By Ryan Pederson,
TURA Board Member

October brings big news and continued progress! The Gateway Development Agreement was signed in September and pre-construction activity is already underway. Below are lot-by-lot details of the deal, as well as a review of the costs and return on investment. Maps and 3D renderings can be viewed on the Gateway Project web site and on large posters on the property.

To help bring additional affordable housing to Talent, TURA is selling the land for the 60-unit senior housing to DOSO Properties for \$1. TURA is also paying the System Development Charges (SDCs) for this part, most of which go to the City of Talent. The building will be rent-protected, yet include efficient features like underground parking and rooftop solar. DOSO Properties' expertise with affordable housing projects helped bring this unique opportunity to Talent, meeting some of the affordable housing need with features that fit Talent's values.

Near the Ganges neighborhood will be pedestrian connections and 20 new townhomes. DOSO will purchase the land for this at appraised value (est. \$520k-\$560k) and pay the SDCs. The townhomes are estimated at 1400 square feet (sf) and will be sold at market rate, providing additional "missing middle" housing.

In the center of the site will be an open green space surrounded by pedestrian paths. TURA will develop this portion. The estimated cost is \$230,000 for hard surfaces, grass, landscaping, and utilities. Art and other decorative elements are not included at this point, but could be added later.

Along Valley View near Hwy 99 a new 2500-5000 sf commercial building with plaza area is planned, supporting an active use like a brewery. The infrastructure may be built early on, with the final design and building to follow when a tenant is secured. TURA is also selling this land to DOSO for \$1 and paying the SDCs (est. \$96k). The goal is to catalyze the development additional active, pedestrian-oriented downtown space.

Off the roundabout, the street that will eventually connect to Wagner Street will begin, providing access to business parking and connecting to the new neighborhood. TURA will complete this portion before the other construction begins, at an estimated cost of \$150,000. Look for this road construction to begin within the next 6 months.

On the property next to the roundabout, DOSO will prepare the site with utilities and infrastructure, and will have the first option to purchase the lot (at market rate) for development. If DOSO chooses not to develop it, it can be sold to another developer, and DOSO would be reimbursed for its initial investment. The site could support 1- or 2-story commercial use.

The last lot, just South of the picturesque opening planned at the intersection of Hwy 99 and Valley View, is reserved for locally-grown non-profit Talent Maker City (TMC). The agreement with DOSO recognizes that TURA is working separately with TMC on an agreement for that site, which TURA will continue to refine in upcoming meetings.

TURA's total investment in the project is expected at \$3.2 million, including land and costs back to 2016. But the resulting investment of over \$20 million will create property taxes that pay it back in 10-13 years from project completion, depending on how fast land values go up. A recent Mail Tribune article stated a 45-year return, but that calculation only included the City of Talent taxes, whereas TURA collects taxes across many districts. The City of Talent's portion is just under 17% of TURA's total. In addition, Talent gains the community and economic benefits of this exciting new development.

Thanks for reading and staying involved!

NO IMPACT MAN FILM SHOWING October 26

The Talent Zero Waste Team and Southern Oregon Master Recyclers in Action (SOMRA) are presenting the second in it's film series, "No Impact Man" on Friday, October 26 at 5pm at Fire District 5 at 5811 S Pacific Hwy Phoenix OR just north of Colver intersection. Join us to see the true story of author Colin Beavan, who went completely "green," in order to send a message about saving the planet by giving up virtually all the pleasures of modern day living -- transportation, gas-power, shipped food, electricity and public waste disposal in a life-consuming effort to completely remove his environmental impact. Quoting our very own local movie critic, Lynne Likens, "It's a quirky movie, definitely not Hollywood; the family interactions are familiar, the sacrifices manifold".