



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

2019! The New Year brings new possibility, new wishes and new hopes. Talent City Council, with new members Eleanor Ponomareff and Jason Clark, are jumping right in with Goal Setting for fiscal year 2019/2020. You can count on seasoned members Stephanie Dolan, Emily Berlant, Daria Land and John Harrison to set the sails for the upcoming year. Don't forget to keep your eye on our website calendar. Join us on any first and third Wednesday at 6:30PM in the old Town Hall, to participate in your City

government.

Talent is working hard on the City's current housing needs, which now coincides with an effort to complete adopted strategies of our Housing Needs Analysis (HNA), within the City Comprehensive Plan. This important work will create more land use efficiency within Talent, realizing Talent's stated commitments to use our lands efficiently, while preserving important agricultural and natural resource lands. Through these upcoming processes we are considering changes to density, how to encourage and incentivize affordable housing, as well as exploring creative housing designs. These types of changes can affect every area of Talent, which is why we strongly encourage residents of Talent to watch for community announcement and meeting schedules during 2019. Starting in the first quarter, we will be having open houses to hear ideas and more public meetings, as we perfect our strategies. Oregon land use law requires a City to grow efficiently within its limits, in order to preserve the natural resources we hold so dear. Please be heard during this most worthwhile effort.

With gratitude,
Mayor Darby Ayers-Flood

Talent Police Department



We would like to take this opportunity to introduce the community to our newest officer. On December 5th, 2018, Officer Michael Bates was sworn into the Talent Police Department during the city council meeting. Bates grew up in Ashland, graduating from Ashland High School in 2010. He graduated from Southern Oregon University in 2014 with a degree in Criminology/Criminal Justice. Prior to joining Talent Police Department (TPD), he was employed for 5 years at the US Fish & Wildlife Forensics Lab in Ashland as an evidence/lab technician. More

recently, he spent the last 3 years as a Veterans Administration Police Officer at the VA Domiciliary in White City. An interesting fact about Bates, he is a black belt in Karate and instructed it while in high school. He also held several world titles in tournament martial arts while attending Ashland High. Bates is currently attending the Oregon Public Safety Academy in Salem for the next 4 months. Upon returning to Talent after the academy, he will ride with a training officer for approximately 3-4 months. We hope to see him working on his own late summer/early fall of 2019.

Got Resolutions? Preventing Waste Helps Check Off the Common Ones

The allure of fresh start is why many of us feel passionately about our New Year's resolutions. The opportunity to change our lives, using the past as a guidepost, gives us hope and makes us feel in control of our future decisions.

If you're still contemplating your aspirations for 2019, here's a case for choosing to adopt a zero waste lifestyle, and check off some of the most common resolutions in the process!

Stay Fit & Healthy by learning how to shop, cook, and eat without single-use plastic packaging.

Buy fresh fruits, veggies, and bulk items like grains and legumes. By keeping the environment in mind when shopping, you'll automatically be buying foods that are better for your body.

Spend Less Money in learning to simply say "no".

Saying "no" is a major aspect of going zero waste. Learning to identify an impulse buy from a necessary purchase builds a strong foundation for living with less waste and keeping more money in your bank account. Practice being a clever squirrel and save those nuts!

Learn A New Skill or Hobby through a resolution of going the extra "Green Mile".

There are plenty of plastic-laden packaging options that don't have a wide selection of zero waste alternatives. However, making your own foaming hand soap, or formulating your own all-purpose household cleaner by combining natural products found at your local grocery store, are great ways to start, AND they work just as well as the commercial options. Zero waste skills are always FOR THE WIN!

Practice Self-Love by showing your love of the health of our environment.

Living a zero waste lifestyle requires a high level of thoughtfulness. And when thoughtfulness becomes part of one aspect of your lifestyle, it begins to bleed into other areas. If you're committed to putting in the effort to take care of the earth, why wouldn't you do the same for yourself?

Although New Year's resolutions are often a simple reflection of who we'd like to be, it's a step in the right direction of thinking about "What's best for me?". Often "What's best for me?" is what's best for everyone! Please consider trying your hardest without judging yourself in response to the end result. After all, we are ALL doing the best we can.

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 January 17th and February 21st. 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 scan-derson1@charter.net.

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City of Talent
Edited by Gabriella Ciprazo
www.cityoftalent.org
541-535-1566
gciprazo@cityoftalent.org

Talent Community Development to Host Information Fair

Community Development will be hosting its 2nd Annual Community Development Information Fair on Tuesday, February 5, 2019 from 6PM – 8PM in the Talent Community Center. The purpose of the Information Fair is to encourage conversation among residents, community groups, city staff and state and local government agencies about community development in Talent, including planning for growth and development; promoting quality of life and supporting the City's vision for the future. This event is an opportunity for our citizens to get engaged in projects that interests them and get connected with those heading up the projects.

The Information Fair is intended to be informal and offer the opportunity for conversation about subjects of interest to our residents. The Talent Community Development Department is currently offering volunteer groups and organizations as well as local agencies table space at this year's event. Space is limited, so if your group, organization or agency is interested in being part of the conversation, please reserve your space soon. The last day to reserve your space is January 22, 2019.

For more information or to reserve a space, contact Zac Moody, Community Development Director at 541-535-7401 or by email at zmoody@cityoftalent.org.

Talent Public Works Department IPM Update Talent is Buzzing to Bee Pesticide-Free!

By Bret Marshall, Director

After several years of community-wide interest and discussion and seven focused months of meeting, studying, drafting, learning and trial and error, the Public Works Department is very pleased to announce that on December 5 2018, the City Council unanimously adopted Talent's Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Policy.

The IPM applies to all City-managed lands, including our parks. The IPM's goals include:

- Phasing out synthetic pesticides (include glyphosate) by the end of 2021;
- Prioritizing prevention, manual maintenance and ecological and other non-chemical control methods and using pesticides (other than organic low hazard pesticides) only as a last resort;
- Safeguarding the health, safety and welfare of people, pollinators, (we are a Bee City, after all!) pets and the environment; and
- Educating Talent community members as to the health and environmental hazards of pesticides, and working towards phasing out the sale, provision, use and disposal of such pesticides.

Our staff have been testing out different organic pesticides and natural control methods over the last several months and we will continue to collect data, refine our results and seek creative solutions (including weed steaming!) to help make our community safer.

This achievement was an effort by many people in our community, and special thanks to our Mayor Darby Ayers-Flood, Councilor Stephanie Dolan, Parks Commissioners Gordon Mobley and Jesse Lunzman, Together for Talent volunteers Jim Thompson and Dolly Warden, consultants/facilitators Rhianna Simes, Lisa Arkin and Kristina Lefever and also to Bradley Wilson and Gerlinde Smith for designing and maintaining beautiful pollinator gardens in our City to show us all how this can be done without synthetic pesticides.