



# City of Tualatin

## MEDIA RELEASE

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### INFORMATION FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

#### NEWS RELEASE

#### For Immediate Release

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#### **Tualatin Celebrates Volunteers During National Volunteer Appreciation Month**

**TUALATIN, OR** — In recognition of April as National Volunteer Appreciation Month, the City of Tualatin proudly celebrated the individuals, families, and groups whose volunteer service strengthens the community and builds a brighter, more connected future.

*“Tualatin is stronger because of the passion and commitment of our volunteers. Their generosity shapes the heart of our city and inspires us all.”* — Mayor Frank Bubenik

In 2024, more than 750 volunteers contributed approximately 16,000 hours to a wide variety of City programs. From planting over 2,000 trees and tackling trash in the *Put Down Roots in Tualatin* program to supporting Library programs and students at Bridgeport Elementary through the *Homework Helpers* initiative, these dedicated individuals have made a lasting impact across the city.

Volunteers also removed invasive species and litter from local trails and restoration sites through *Do It Yourself* projects. Over 250 youth volunteers gave their time to the *Library Summer Teen* program, *TEAM Tualatin*, and a range of community events.

Volunteers from the Tualatin Historical Society preserve the city’s heritage, while the Juanita Pohl Center’s Guest Services volunteer team leads recreational activities and provides a welcoming environment for all. Members of the Community Emergency

Response Team (CERT) support safety initiatives, and City Advisory Boards and Committees help shape Tualatin's future. The Friends of the Library group continues to

support programs and collections. Additionally, students from middle and high schools bring fresh energy and ideas to volunteer roles, and local corporate teams regularly join in to maintain parks and bring magic to community events.

The City of Tualatin extends heartfelt thanks to every volunteer and is pleased to honor three standout contributors for their exceptional service:

### **Outstanding Adult Volunteer**

#### **Blake Buchanan-Munro – Storytime Assistant and Homework Helper**

Blake joined Tualatin Public Library's volunteer program in 2022 as a program assistant and became an instant hit with the kids and librarians. When a Storytime Assistant was needed for Mondays, Blake offered to volunteer. She has been getting silly with stories and keeping Storytimes lively and safe for three years.

In the same year, Blake joined the Homework Helpers to provide critical reading, writing and math support to children at Bridgeport Elementary. The City of Tualatin deeply appreciates Blake's 188 hours of energetic service and her positive impact on our youngest learners.

### **Outstanding Youth Volunteer**

#### **Ava Marsh**

Ava Marsh began volunteering in the City of Tualatin in 2019. Ava has served as a Community Event volunteer, often recruiting her friends and family to help bring the magic to Blender Dash, Viva Tualatin and Pumpkin Regatta. Ava also gives her time to TEAM Tualatin as a summer youth volunteer. In this program, she is instrumental in maintaining city assets, parks, trails and greenspaces. Ava takes on leadership responsibilities for TEAM and sets the standard for work ethic, initiative and positive attitude.

In 2021, Ava joined the Tualatin Youth Advisory Council (YAC). In YAC, Ava has been able to use her ideas and her voice to advocate for youth and represent the voice of youth to City Council. Elected by her peers, Ava has served as co-chair for two years, and she represented the City at the National League of Cities Conference, bringing back new ideas to implement in Tualatin.

Ava's service in multiple City programs influences the livability of Tualatin, and will benefit our community for years to come.

## **Outstanding Volunteer Group**

### **Tualatin Rotary Club**

The Tualatin Rotary Club has been active in our community for 45 years. The Rotary Club focuses on giving service in 5 areas: club service, community service, international service, vocational service and youth service. This group of 44 members has a long-standing history of achieving significant improvements with measurable outcomes in each of these areas of focus.

Rotarians address the community need for educating and mentoring the youth of Tualatin. They mentor and fund the TUHS Intercambio, they raise funds and have awarded over \$300,000 in scholarships, they give free books to students through their Books on Wheels program and they give every third grade student in our community a dictionary.

Tualatin Rotary also dedicates time and resources to the environment through their involvement in City litter clean ups and restoration work. Rotarians have been cleaning up Tualatin Road twice yearly for 20 years. For the last 6 years, they have joined in the City's Hug a Street program for litter clean up and have been planting trees with the Put Down Roots in Tualatin program. The Tualatin Rotary Club is truly outstanding in their service to youth, the community and the environment.

### **Join Us**

The City of Tualatin is grateful for every volunteer who donates their time and talent to make our community stronger. To learn more about how you can get involved, visit [www.tualatinoregon.gov/volunteers](http://www.tualatinoregon.gov/volunteers).

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