

# Tualatin Chamber Seeking New Organizer for Annual Crawfish Festival

*Event Draws Over 10,000 to Tualatin Over Two Days for Family Fun and Food*



After 25 years of organizing the Annual Tualatin Crawfish Festival, the Tualatin Chamber of Commerce is looking to hand over the oven mitts and boiling pot.

Chamber Board Chair Kevin Ferrasci O'Malley said: "We're proud that we've been very good stewards of the Crawfish Festival. When we originally took over the Festival, it was in danger of going out of business. Over the 25 years, we've grown it to a sound financial footing and added some very popular attractions. However, the Crawfish Festival has become so big that we don't have the staff resources

to continue to manage it effectively. Since this year's Crawfish Festival is being held in tandem with Tualatin's 100th year anniversary, it was a natural time to make this transition."

The Chamber is the organizer for the annual Tualatin Crawfish Festival, presented this year by Columbia Bank and held August 9-10th. This year's theme is "Claws for Celebration", celebrating 100 years for the City of Tualatin with fun, food and a big fireworks display on Saturday, August 10th.

Friday night's events and activities include a Mystery Box Crawfish Cook Off, concert by the band Hit Machine and a special demonstration, "The Evolution of Dance", celebrating 100 years of dancing styles and trends.

Saturday's activities and events include Pancakes on the Lake breakfast, Crawfish Crawl 5K Run/Walk, Parade, Crawfish Eating contests for kids and adults, a birthday Centennial Celebration with cake and a fireworks show.

Admission is free on Friday for everyone and Saturday admission is \$4 for adults; \$2 for seniors over 55 and

youth age 6 – 17; children from ages 2 – 5 receive a discounted admission of \$1 and kids under 2 are FREE.

"Of course it's hard to let the Festival go but like any parent, you hope your kids grow up and go out on their own and that's where we feel the Crawfish Festival is at this time," stated Moholt. Moholt also said the Chamber will help with the transition to help ensure the Crawfish Festival continues to be a successful event and a point of interest for people to visit Tualatin and support the local economy.

The Tualatin Crawfish Festival is the country's oldest crawfish festival, beating out festivals in places like Louisiana, Texas and Mississippi. It began in 1951 to celebrate the new Veterans of Foreign Wars hall built on Seneca Street. Back then, organizers pulled crawfish right out of the Tualatin River and sold them in the park.

The 2013 Tualatin Crawfish Festival takes place Friday, August 9th and Saturday, August 10th throughout the city of Tualatin. For additional information about the Tualatin Crawfish Festival visit [www.tualatincrawfishfestival.com](http://www.tualatincrawfishfestival.com) or call the Tualatin Chamber of Commerce at 503-692-0780.

