

State of the City Address

BY LOU OGDEN, TUALATIN MAYOR



On January 29, more than 200 people joined us for the 2014 State of the City. This year's theme was "I Love Tualatin" and there are many reasons for all of us to recite that chorus.

Folks were greeted at the door by young people from the Tualatin Youth Advisory Council, Tualatin Teen Library Committee and Stand Up Tualatin. While everyone enjoyed hosted refreshments the Tualatin High School jazz ensemble provided background entertainment.

The formal presentation included Colors presented by Tualatin Police Color Guard, National Anthem by Tualatin High School Crimsonnaires, introduction of our sponsors, and a brief video featuring your City Councilors discussing the 2014 year in review which you can view at this link: www.tualatinoregon.gov/citycouncil/i-love-tualatin-2015-state-city.

The state of Tualatin is tremendous. 2014 was a big year. We saw a major facelift of our community this past year with the significant development in the heart of our downtown. We have resurgence in our economy, with more than 100 new businesses, growing existing ones, and over 1000 new jobs. We have embraced major policy issues including our city facilities, marijuana, light rail, local transit, and more. Yet, we continue to maintain the highest level of city services, while managing new growth and change in the community without compromising the things we love about Tualatin.

In 2014 the City was awarded a grant for \$1.6 million from the State of Oregon to extend the Tualatin River greenway trail from the Library along the River under I-5 to Brown's Ferry Park. This was matched by our funding partners, CenterCal Properties who offered \$600,000 and Washington

County who contributed another \$750,000, bringing the total to over \$3.2 million. Tualatin has achieved HEAL (Healthy Eating Active Living) Gold Level and recognized by First Lady Michelle Obama in her program Let's Move Cities and Towns.

Perhaps the most active place in town is the Juanita Pohl Center. Joe Lipscomb recently shared what their Aging Task Force has done in the past year including meeting with City Committees to discuss needs for older adults, convening discussions of becoming an Age-Friendly City, and sponsoring workshops. Their work plan for the coming year includes working on local transit and walkable community.

It's been a great year for the arts in this community with three major installations. Our Centennial piece, Dynamic Continuum is a stunning 3D mural which you can find in the Tualatin Library. We admire the new Lazy River Sculpture in Commons Park whenever driving Martinazzi Avenue and we have Dean the Mastodon watching over the new Nyberg Rivers development.

I love our volunteers! With over 3,700 people sharing their time to improve our community, in 2014, we had almost 29,000 hours of service. Just last month we had more than 250 folks join in planting Trees for a Million.

The City, neighborhoods, businesses, non-profit agencies, and others join to do great work. An example of this partnership was the community cleanup this summer in Stoneridge. Leading his neighborhood, Omar Lopez teamed up with Horizon Church Pastor Armando Juarez, former TTSD School Board Manny Trujillo, Republic Services, and the City of Tualatin, bringing the Latino neighbors together for a day to clean up their neighborhood and build community.

We have been working with Metro on the SW Corridor project. Many jurisdictions are involved in this massive planning effort to determine what our High Capacity Transit needs and desires are for the future. For Tualatin, this could be light rail, bus rapid transit, or perhaps no high capacity transit at all. However, we won't know these answers without working with our partners at Metro, TriMet, Tigard, Portland, King City,



Durham, Sherwood, Beaverton, Washington County and ODOT. This information, along with lots of input from our Tualatin residents and businesses, will determine the future of high capacity transit along the I-5 western quadrant of the region.

We are also improving our Local Transit. Trimet has been working closely with our city staff and our community to identify the needs for enhanced service to help people get around town, including a circulator bus and a new line down Tualatin-Sherwood Rd.

Seventeen years ago the Tualatin Chamber worked with TriMet to establish the Tualatin shuttle service. This year, TriMet, in partnership with Ride Connection, installed

larger buses and is now running the shuttle as a pilot project which is the beginning of a local circulator system to serve our neighborhood and businesses connecting them with WES and the express busses.

We are not only planning for transportation, but also for future growth in the Basalt Creek area between Tualatin and Wilsonville. The Council looks forward to community input as we work through this planning process. How much of this area will be Tualatin? How many new homes should be built and how many more jobs can be created in this area?

Next summer construction will begin on perhaps the most significant transportation solution in Tualatin, extending 124th Avenue south from Tualatin-Sherwood Rd connecting with a new arterial in Basalt Creek and then to I5. This will provide a sorely needed transportation link for our community.

The City Council approved our economic development strategic plan in 2014. Tualatin is home to over 1,400 businesses, 25,000 jobs, and for the fourth month in a row, the lowest unemployment rate of all cities in Washington County, perhaps in all of Oregon.

We have much to look forward to in 2015. We are in the process of a City Facilities Study regarding future needs for city buildings. We will reevaluate our parks and recreation needs as part of Parks Master Plan Update and continue our work planning for the Basalt Creek area. We will continue our community discussion on local bus service and light rail and its implications on Tualatin, and we will revamp our development code to allow business to flourish while protecting our quality of life. It will be a very busy year. I'm excited about the future and I look forward to working with the community on these important issues.