

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Julia Johannesen
Media Spokesperson
971-801-4633
jjohann2@uoregon.edu



City of Tualatin

City of Tualatin invites community to participate in Holiday Festivities

TUALATIN, OR (Nov. 23, 2022) – Starting on Friday, Dec. 2, and continuing through Sunday, Dec. 4, The City of Tualatin is hosting a Holiday Lights Parade from 7 to 9 p.m. in multiple neighborhoods. The North Parade on Friday will take place in neighborhoods around Community Park and Jurgens Park. The South Parade on Saturday will take place in neighborhoods around Ibach Park and Tualatin High School. Finally, the East Parade on Sunday will take place in neighborhoods around Atfalati Park and Browns Ferry Park. These parades are designed to encourage community members to come together and celebrate the holidays while social distancing. Community members can sign-up to decorate their vehicles and be in the parade or they can watch the parade drive by from their residences. There is currently a nationwide rise in cases of COVID-19, the flu and the respiratory syncytial virus (RSV), so now more than ever it is important to unite the community safely.

According to the CDC, RSV can be dangerous for some infants and young children with an estimated 58,000-80,000 children younger than 5 years old being hospitalized due to RSV infection. The hundreds of families and children that gather for city events in a close setting can allow for sicknesses to spread quickly. However, social distancing six feet away from others can prevent the spread among people for a prolonged period. The holidays are a time when many people travel and visit family and friends. It's a great opportunity for the community to celebrate the year and spread joy, but they need to stay safe and healthy in the process.

Community members are itching to celebrate the holiday season. The City of Tualatin is looking for people to sign up to decorate their motor vehicles and be a part of the parades through the neighborhoods. Putting decorations on the car can be a fun project to prepare for the holiday season with your loved ones. Once the parade starts, passengers can wave to their neighbors and share the holiday spirit from their cars. And if you can't be in the parade you can watch the parade drive through your neighborhood and look at their decorations. The parades will last about two hours so you can pull up chairs and watch the parade go by.

"There are so many people in the Tualatin community that want to celebrate the holiday season but are worried about their loved ones," Mayor of Tualatin Frank Bubenik said. "With the Holiday Lights Parade, Tualatin residents don't have to sacrifice their safety and can take part in the holiday fun." With the Holiday Lights Parade taking place in three different areas, residents from all over Tualatin can participate.

City of Tualatin Recreation Manager Julia Ludemann said, “After looking at solutions for a holiday event for the city in 2020, we came up with the idea for a holiday parade through the neighborhoods. Since then, we have continued the tradition and it still serves the purpose of celebrating the holidays and keeping the community safe—especially with RSV cases on the rise.” Keeping holiday spirits alive and kids safe has been a challenge. According to KGW News in Portland, Multnomah County health officials are urging families with babies and toddlers to avoid holiday gatherings. One way that families can stay involved in the holiday festivities is by bundling up their kids to sit in their front yards and watching the holiday parade drive by.

The City of Tualatin has been one of the fastest-growing cities in Oregon throughout the last 10 years. Tualatin is home to 27,000 residents and is located just 12 miles south of Portland. Tualatin takes pride in being welcoming to new residents and businesses. Tualatin’s population is diverse, well-educated and closely involved in the community. With over 200 acres of community parks and recreational activities, there are endless opportunities for community involvement. 84 percent of residents rated the overall quality of life in Tualatin as "excellent" or "good" in the most recent satisfaction survey.