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**NEWS RELEASE**

**For Immediate Release**

Date: 02/07/2020

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**Jackie Konen Named Tualatin’s 2019 Employee of the Year**

The City of Tualatin employs over 150 individuals for a myriad of functions. Some employees ensure residents have access to high-quality drinking water; others maintain the infrastructure in our parks. Regardless of position, there is an expectation that employees espouse shared principles including teamwork and respect. The City's Employee of the Year Program recognizes employees that excel in their positions, and in those shared principles.

Jackie Konen, Volunteer Program Manager, was selected as Tualatin's 2019 Employee of the Year. Jackie's work brings her into contact with many city departments and members of the community. Her colleagues say, "She is a true professional, providing expertise in liaising with our surrounding agencies and charitable organizations." Among her many duties, Jackie is responsible for recruiting volunteers to assist with tree plantings in various neighborhoods throughout the city. The *Put Down Roots in Tualatin* program invites people to get dirty, breathe fresh air, meet new people, get a sense of achievement, and affect our environment. A recent event on the Saum Creek Trail brought 175 volunteers together to plant 1,300 native trees, shrubs, and pollinator-friendly flowers.

Her colleagues say, "Jackie is constantly looking for ways to improve her work, even though she already does an outstanding job." The result of this is the regular reimagining of volunteer opportunities to best fit the city's needs and the volunteer's interests. It also means the city's volunteer program evolves to adapt to current trends in volunteerism. She finds a way to energize others with her encouragement, kindness, strength, and unflagging cheerfulness. She is a thoughtful mentor and inspires those around her to do their best.

City Manager Sherilyn Lombos said, "Jackie is one of those people that make a difference every day. She is determined, humble, and kind. She is a fitting recipient of this honor." The Tualatin City Council will recognize Jackie at their April 13, 2020 meeting.