



Tualatin Historical Society Newsletter

JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2011

*Founded in 1986, the Society's mission is
to preserve, promote and interpret the rich and colorful history of Tualatin*

Save the Date...

Paleontology Theme Opens Evening Program Series

In partnership with the Ice Age Floods Institute/Lower Columbia Chapter, THS is offering new evening programs to attract folks who cannot attend our Wednesday daytime meetings. The first joint event Thursday, January 13, 7 pm will feature Mike Full, Yamhill fossil hunter, and David Ellingson, science teacher at Woodburn High School, whose students are excavating the skeleton of an ancient bison. The program offers hands-on opportunities with molars and bones similar to exhibits at the library and THC. A \$3 donation is suggested to help cover speaker expenses and materials. See www.opb.org for an Oregon Field Guide clip on Mike's underwater discoveries in the Yamhill River. Call 503.885.1926 for future programs dates.

When We Were Kids in Tualatin

Kids from the 1950s-1960s will share stories they thought they were getting away with at the Wednesday, January 5 THS monthly meeting. Del Judy, herself a mom at the time, will emcee the program which starts at 1:00 pm.

Among the panel members remembering life in the village will be Marty Brown, the principal's son, who recalls double trouble at home if he were disciplined at school. Was Don Silvey, contractor who co-founded Silco Construction and later moved/upgraded Tualatin Heritage Center, really a brat in those

days? Did Christine Nyberg and Art Sasaki escape doing farm chores? Where did youth like John Brosy hang out when they had time on their hands? Would kids today learn to drive on a tractor like Bill Avery?

Come join the fun and remember your own adolescent days with bobby sox, duck tails, petticoats, belt-less jeans slung low (like now?), and Lucky Strikes or Camels smoked behind the woodshed. This meeting will be recorded as part of the Society's oral history documentation.

Prehistoric Tualatin Topic of February Program



"Tualatin in the Ice Age," the 2011 anniversary program by the Tualatin Historical Society, takes the audience back 15,000 years, when giants roamed the earth and floods inundated the Valley.

The program is slated for **Sunday, February 6, at 2 pm in historic Winona Grange Hall**. If we find it's legal to do so, there will be a ribbon-festooned balloon floating 400 feet over Tualatin to show how high the water was when the ice dams burst.

Seven speakers will show and tell about crashing Missoula ice dams, 400-ft. deep floodwaters, artifacts that were washed down from the north, and the prehistoric animals who roamed these lands and whose ancient bones have been unearthed.

Yvonne Addington will tell the story of the local mastodon bones that were found because of an old settler's memory, then mislabeled, misplaced and nearly lost.

David Ellingson will show the ancient bison, horse and other mammal bones he and his Woodburn High School students have dug. Danny Gilmour, PSU graduate student, highlights his work studying and dating ancient bones. Mike Full, a retired police officer, will show and tell about the fossil bones he has recovered in the Yamhill River.

Rick Thompson, with the Ice Age Floods Institute, will tell how the floodwaters shaped Lower Columbia and North Willamette Valley topography. Mark Buser, also with the Ice Age Floods Institute, will tell about the Willamette Meteorite and the Fields Park near where it was found. Scott Burns, PSU professor, will describe the effects of the ice dam breaks and show a brief "flood movie."

The speakers' books and publications will be available for purchase. Refreshments follow the event in celebration of the Society's 25th birthday. \$5 suggested donation.

President's Column

by Yvonne Addington

What's Going on Here?

The perks of being elected to serve as president of the Tualatin Historical Society again next year are many. "Surely you jest" say some of my family and friends. "You've got to get a life or just take it easy". I respond with "Better to wear out than to rust out". I have met a lot of people in the 40 years I worked for the city, county, and the state. There is no salary for the job of preserving Tualatin area's history but the personal satisfaction of giving back to your hometown just can't be matched.

Back in 1962, I typed a PSU college paper for John George (later a dentist) who dug up the Tualatin Mastodon. After many twists and turns those bones are now on display at the Library and Heritage Center. Several years ago, Dr. Robert McDonald, an Aloha chiropractor and Avery family member, gave the historical society the sacrum of a Harlan's ground sloth found near Fanno Creek and it is now at the Center. And he says he has one more vertebrae to give.

Tualatin's prehistory grows. Now there is fresh interest in telling the story about the Ice Age and the great Missoula floods that inundated our Valley with 350 to 400 feet of water over 10,000 years ago. So last week we were meeting or talking with PSU's Scott Burns, Virginia Butler, Danny Gilmour; University of Oregon's Ed Davis; Woodburn high school teacher David Ellingson who with his students have dug up an ancient bison, horse and other smaller mammals; Mike Full, a retired police officer who has found fossil bones in the Yamhill River, Mark Buser, Rick and Sylvia Thompson of the Ice Age Floods Institute, Lower Columbia River Chapter, Eirik Thorsgaard, of the Grand Ronde Cultural Resources Department, Washington County Tourism Director Terry Goldman, and Bill Baker, of Total Destination Management, discussing ways to tell about our pre-historic Tualatin area, including the possibility of an Ice Age museum and improved visitor information for the area. Reconnecting the

dots of all interested in prehistory is quite exciting to an old fossil like me. My sister Yvette Saarinen and I were invited to see Mike Full's collection in McMinnville just last week.

Then comes the THS project of trying to re-create the history of the Tualatin Fire Department, established in 1936 and the succeeding Tualatin Rural Fire Protection District from 1946-1989. It has since merged with Tualatin Valley Fire and Rescue and is the largest fire district in the state. Most records of the two fire departments were destroyed so the committee members who volunteered to help us have been seeking, receiving and identifying almost 2000 photos, news articles and many stories of public service, dangerous work, sad and happy times. This brings me in touch with old friends such as Henrietta Barngrover Conover, daughter of first fire chief Bill Barngrover, her daughter DeeAnn Conover Meharry and Donna Andrews Adams, granddaughter; the Barngrover family members come from all over, some as far away as Lacey, Washington, and Elko, Nevada (Veta Repcik and Larry Barngrover). Retired firemen Gordon Scott, Jerry Hess, Bob Romine, Craig Daufel and others have met with old timers Robert Krise (92), an original signer of the 1937 incorporation of the Tualatin Fire Dept. Former chief Russell Washburn and son Jim, Don Anderson and Guy Scull came in to talk; Helen Ladd Petersen of Lacey, Washington (92) emailed us regarding the time in the 1930s when her family house burned to the ground when she was a kid. It was the impetus for the first fire department. There are others who have served the citizens of Tualatin, including Gary Tol and Ken Warren. A report is due in February, 2011.

Part of the reconstruction of fire department history includes a conversation with a former Tigard High School classmate Stuart (Heath) Rutherford who tells about his parents volunteering as airplane spotters in Tigard during WWII, then finding out from Ron and Cathy Snyder that there was an airplane spotting tower next to Snyder Park in Sherwood. Dick Pileggi confirms that most all local mothers were expected to serve as night time airplane spotters to provide 24 hour protection and says he might have a copy of the

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airplane identification chart. Then coffee with Randy Spang, a retired Washington County Deputy Sheriff who worked Tualatin Patrol. We relive the many experiences of a growing Tualatin during the 1960s and 1970s, municipal judge stories, and dealing with an outlaw motorcycle club in Tualatin and civil unrest which affected many communities in the Portland area.



Photo above: Some of the Fire Dept. history buffs gather to share their stories and photos.

Most every week or so, I stop to have coffee and a chat with Earl Itel and Ike Kirkbride about the good old days. The Itel family ran the Tigard-Tualatin school buses for years. They still farm and have been supporters of Tualatin Historical Society. Earl has referred me many times to old timers like Lloyd Koch, Bob George, Dick Pileggi, and Larry Lee. So last week, Pileggi and I had coffee with Bill Galbreath of Cipole, a descendant of Sam Galbreath who ran a ferry on the Tualatin River (Tualatin was once called Galbreath). So I got to see family pictures and stories about the good old days in Cipole area, including a school called the Sandpit School. Bill Galbreath was a municipal Judge of Milton-Freewater when I was Tualatin's municipal judge. We served on a state board of judges in the 1960s.

How exciting it was to visit again with former bosses who were in town last summer—former Governors Victor Atiyeh, Barbara Roberts and John Kitzhaber. And enjoy talking to Linda Moholt and many others at the Tualatin Chamber of Commerce lunch.

And for the Christmas program, we got to hear from Althea Pratt-Broome and daughter Rebecca Pratt about Christmas in the Sweek House. “Gad-about”? Maybe. But such a privilege to be connecting with old timers and people I sincerely respect ...and be able to give back to my hometown. Thank you so much.

~ Yvonne Saarinen Addington

357 Memory Bricks and Counting!

Tualatin Historical Society members and friends continue to come up with wonderful memories for our patio. It is quite amazing how many thoughtful words can fit onto 3 lines of 17 spaces. Kim Fisher has been remembered by friends and family with six bricks. She was an extraordinary volunteer with the Lumiere Players, Byrom and Hazelbrook schools. Bud Smith's family honored his years as a dad and brother. Bud was a THS member and volunteer as well.

John and Margaret Bowles won the brick raffle at the November annual meeting. Dave and Diane Overby and Arne and Colleen Nyberg got bargains at the Fall Wine Tasting and Auction. We will be honoring the Garden Corner with an 8 x 8 brick with their corporate logo. Jonn has provided the hanging baskets and annual flowers each spring for the patio garden.

You may have noticed a brick order form was included with your membership dues reminder. Maybe now would be the time to make a gift of a brick, or honor a family member who was just married or has a new baby. We appreciate everyone who has supported Tualatin Historical Society in these ways. Installations occur approximately twice a year.

Antiques Given to THS Now for Sale

Come by the Heritage Center and look at three antique furniture pieces which were recently approved for sale by the THS board: a finely-crafted tall chest of (6) drawers, an oak wash stand, and a child-size roll top oak desk with chair. Each has been appraised by Charles Harbick but the best offers by February 15 will be accepted. Proceeds will be applied to the THS general fund. Heritage Center neighbors and new members Shin and Flora Nishikawa remembered that a historical society can be a worthy recipient of tax deductible contributions like these.

Pratt Family Members Share Winter Memories at 1858 Sweek House

Rebecca Pratt and Althea Pratt-Broome provided glimpses of life at Sweek House as part of the December THS monthly program. Excerpts from Rebecca's presentation follow. For a full transcript with photos, contact the Heritage Center. A DVD tour of the 1858 Sweek House and full interview of Althea is also available for purchase or check out from the Heritage Center.



Snowy Sweek House in 1996

The Sweek House was a wonderful place to grow up, our family having moved there in 1955 when I was only seven months old. I learned from an early age to love the old things that were not just for display, but used on a daily basis. We had a more old-fashioned lifestyle compared to most children of our time. For instance, when I became older, my task on Friday afternoons was to make the butter. We used the Sweek's old churn and molds. Bread was always baked on Saturday in the wood stove along with beans in an antique pot. When the pipes froze, we hauled water from the well, and baths were taken in a tin tub in front of the fire. The big yard and out-buildings were a wonderland for play with my sisters and cousins. In later years, when others saw the house as a backward oddity or historic landmark, to me it was simply home.

We have no record of how the Sweek family celebrated Christmas or other special holidays. We can imagine that it was very much the same as other pioneer families celebrated, with parties, homemade

decorations, gifts, and good food. The THS publication "Tualatin's Past Remembered: The Second Generation Tells Its Story" (written by Ann Martinazzi) describes how the town's Little Red Schoolhouse opened its doors to the community:

On Christmas Eve families from all over the country crowded into the school house where the children put on a program. Gifts were distributed from the candle-light tree and to end the evening the desks were pushed to the side and dancing was enjoyed. Kerosene burning reflector lamps along the walls provided light for the evening festivities. (p. 10-11)

Among the early teachers at the schoolhouse was Ann Thompson who roomed in the Sweek house, and later donated a small, ornate child's bed to Althea. It is now in the small bedroom we call the nursery where we slept as children. My sister Deborah slept in the tiny bed and then my own children took naps in it when they were young. It is now filled with antique dolls and toys.

Althea moved into the Sweek House in October, 1955. Soon after, she discovered some elegant crystal icicles in the dirt floor of the woodshed. She collected all she could find and has brought them out to hang on the tree every Christmas since. Also found in the house were punched tin reflectors for tree lights, patented in the late 1920s. Althea still hangs them on her tree, continuing the Sweek family tradition.

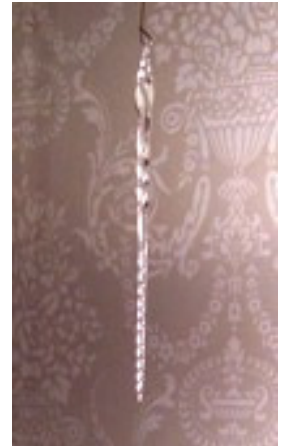


Photo above: One of the icicles found.

Althea's first Christmas at the Sweek House was eventful. The flood of 1955 came all the way up to the driveway, but not into the house. The water had subsided by Christmas Day.

On Christmas morning, as she prepared dinner for her entire family, including her grandmother from California, Althea smelled smoke. When she opened the door to the dugout basement, a blast of smoke and flame met her. The old wood-burning furnace, which had recently been converted to oil, had caught fire! The fire department was only a few blocks away and was able to put out the flames before they

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spread, but not before the large cedar posts holding up the back wing of the house were charred. Althea lit all five fireplaces to keep everyone comfortable for the festive day. The furnace could never be used again.

We attended the two-room St. Paul Lutheran School in Sherwood (built in 1905) for our elementary years. This was another old-fashioned experience that I loved. We sang around the old upright piano every day. Christmas was a time for special songs and a student service in the church chapel. I always loved the walk to the church on the frosty grass, and the beautiful carved altar in the sanctuary.

There was always singing at Christmas in our family. My father was the Minister of Music at the First Christian Church in Portland for 57 years. He made a tremendous contribution to this rich and meaningful part of our lives. When we were young, we sang in the Children's Choir, which Althea directed for eight years. The highlight of these years was a performance of Benjamin Britten's *Ceremony of Carols*. The harpist from the Oregon Symphony orchestra accompanied us. We moved up to the adult church choir when we were old enough, and also sang in school choirs. Carols in three part harmony were heard everywhere we went together and accompanied all our Christmas labors.

This is Sandra Lafky's account in the THS book "War, Change and Growth: Tualatin in the 1940s-70s" describing a special landmark we all looked forward to at Christmas (p. 56):

I remember the huge fir tree near the intersection of Boones Ferry and Tualatin Road, across the street from the corner brick store. Each December it was decorated with strands of colored lights. I believe the fire department did this. That was before people decorated their houses with lights, so the tree seemed quite extraordinary and beautiful to me, as a child.

I, too, remember being walked into the dining room every year the first night the tree was lit across the street. Althea would make us keep our hands over our eyes until she told us we could look—it was always so exciting! In later years we would watch the fire trucks put up their tall ladders to place the lights. The tree blew down in the windstorm in the winter of 1995, falling on the roof of the dental building. It was a tragic loss of an old friend.

Althea's love of cooking led her to experiment with many historic recipes and dishes from around the world, although we had our own family favorites. We children were pressed into service cracking and chopping nuts for cookies and breads and cutting up many pounds of dried fruit for fruitcakes that were put in crocks to "ripen". Annual gifts to family and friends included gingerbread cookies



Holidays at the Sweek House Today



Christmas is still beautiful at the Sweek House. Treasures are brought out of their boxes and placed around the house. Our children have their own special Christmas memories of sitting by the fire, making gifts and decorating. Althea always set up a tiny live tree for them in the nursery bedroom. We still have some of their hand-made ornaments, as well as those we made as children. Three generations of the Sweek family lived in the old house, and today Althea, is still making holiday memories for family and friends that will be treasured forever.

FAVORITE GINGERBREAD MEN

2 $\frac{3}{4}$ cups all-purpose flour	$\frac{1}{2}$ tsp. grated
$\frac{1}{4}$ cup brown sugar, packed	lemon rind
$\frac{3}{4}$ cup light molasses	$\frac{1}{2}$ tsp. salt
$\frac{1}{2}$ tsp. soda	1 tsp. hot water
2 tsp. ginger	$\frac{1}{2}$ cup shortening
1 egg, beaten	1 tsp. vinegar
1 tsp. cinnamon	

Sift flour, measure and resift 3 times with soda, spices and salt. Cream shortening, add the sugar in 2 and 3 portions, creaming each time until fluffy. Add molasses and egg, beat until smooth. Fold in the dry ingredients gradually, then add lemon rind, water and vinegar and blend thoroughly. Cover dough and chill. Roll out small portions at a time on a lightly floured board $\frac{1}{4}$ inch thick. Cut in shapes of snow men, Santa Clauses, etc., using a cookie cutter or cardboard pattern. Transfer to greased, floured baking sheets with a spatula. Bake at 350° for about 20 minutes or until cooked through and browned. Decorate.



Membership Renewal

Time has arrived to renew your membership in the Society for 2011. Your membership is vital to our continued success and we appreciate your support.



new members!

John & Kim Bartholomew
Lynn & Dagmar Haight
Flora & Shin Nishikawa

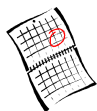
Thank you, renewing members (as of 12/22)~

Dona A Adams
Yvonne Addington
George & Evie Andrews
Bill Avery
Art & Diane Barry
June Bennett
Jack & Gerry Brosy
John & Margaret Bowles LM
Al & Beth Bauman
George & Patt Bowlsby
Jack Broome & Althea Pratt-Broome LM
Charles & Barbara Chicks
City of Tualatin LM
Lois Dalton
Mike Dalton
Craig & Judy Daufel LM
Robert De Lisle
Robert & Catherine Dexter
D. Keith Dickson
Ken & Rosa Lee Dickson
Lt Col Thomas H Disch, Jr
Abigail Elder
Margaret Buswell Fuhrwerk
Joan Fuller
Lloyd & Kay Gooding
Jean M Graham
Lorraine Hager
Michael & Linda Halseth
Duffy Hamilton
Vince & Jackalyn Harbick
Jon Hartman
Paul & Patricia Hennon
Don Hesterley LM
Betty J Hoen
Lindy Hughes
Mary Ann Hulquist
Del Judy
Lucy Laeser
Herb & Laurine Lafky
Margie Larsen
Mary Leslie

LM indicates
Lifetime Member

M. Irene Little
James & Irma Markel
Rochelle Martinazzi
Toni Martinazzi
Vicci Martinazzi
Helen Mason
Larry & Eleanor McClure
Debra Meisinger
Michael Meriwether & Rev. Penelope Christianson
Ned & Diane Miller
Tom & Sharon Miller
Scott Morrill
Dolores Nelson
Bob & Kathy Newcomb
Arne & Colleen Nyberg LM
Ellen Nyberg LM
John & Mary Nyberg LM
Karen Nygaard LM
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Karin Olson
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Norm Parker & Loyce Martinazzi LM
David Parker
Gay Paschoal
Dorthea Pennington
Frances Perry
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Helen Peterson
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Beverly Robinson
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Erik & Diane Steckmest
Tom Stern & Jane Brown
Eric & Teresa Stone
Donald Sunde
John & Suzanne Sweek
Edith Torgeson
Gerry & Chris Tunstall LM
Jim Waddell
Mike & Kathy Walsh
John & Dawn Westphal

Heritage Center January Event Calendar



Tualatin Historical Society Program "When We Were Kids in Tualatin"

Wednesday, January 5, 1:00pm

Long-time residents share stories of "the good old days" when Tualatin was truly a small town. Bring your questions and learn what life was like before freeways, traffic lights, busy shopping centers, 17 churches and 5 schools.

Pilates

**Thursdays, January 2, 9, 16, 23, 30,
11:15am–12:30pm**

\$10 per class drop-in/ \$8 per class w/ 10 class pass

Pilates will safely nourish your back, your abdominals and restore elasticity to your entire body. Its energizing and restorative qualities leave you feeling uplifted and energized!

Knitting and Crochet Workshop

Friday, January 7 and 21, 10:00am - Noon

Bring a project or start one. Help is available. All levels welcome.

Dulcimer Jam

Sunday, January 9, 1:00 – 3:00pm

Donations accepted.

Enjoy the beautiful sounds one of the oldest instruments around.

"Places to See, People to Meet"

Wednesday, January 12, 11:00-1:00pm



Local travelers swap tips and tales of favorite trips overseas and around this continent. This first session will feature Middle Eastern countries and following historic trails that opened the Western U.S. Sack lunches and maps welcome. Coming up: ocean and river cruises. Future sessions based on participant interest.



Bird and Nature Walk

Wednesday, January 13, 9:00am

We will look for lingering fall migrants, arriving winter ducks and geese and enjoy resident sparrows, finches, and other songbirds. This 1 ½ hour walk around Sweek Pond is led by the Wetlands Conservancy. For information, call 503.691.1394.

February Event Calendar

"Valley of the Giants"

Sunday, February 6, 1:00pm

**Location: Winona Grange
8340 SW Seneca St., Tualatin
\$5 suggested donation**



In commemoration of the opening of the Tualatin Heritage Center in 2006, the Tualatin Historical Society presents a look at some aspect of Tualatin history. The next "look" will take us back in time to what Tualatin was like some 15,000 years ago when the area was home to giant animals, long extinct, and was periodically deluged by tumultuous icy floods. It was the Ice Age, and the presenters will show and tell the story of our ice-age past and the evidence that is still visible today. **NO WEDNESDAY MEETING THIS MONTH.**

Pilates

Thursdays, February 3, 10, 17, 24

11:30am – 12:30pm

\$10 per class drop-in/ \$8 per class w/ 10 class pass

See class description under January events.

Knitting and Crochet Workshop

Friday, February 4 and 25, 10:00am - Noon

Bring a project or start one. Help is available. All levels welcome.

Bird and Nature Walk

Wednesday, February 9, 9:00am

We should find a variety of ducks and geese, as well as migrating warblers, and wintering song birds. This 1 ½ hour walk around Sweek Pond is led by the Wetlands Conservancy. For information, call 503.691.1394.

Clothing Swap

Friday, February 11, 7:00 – 8:00pm

Recycle, Reduce, and Reuse and attend this clothing swap. Bring something, take something. All sizes of women and teen clothing and accessories. This popular swap is held quarterly. For information, call 503.716.8910. Swap to save a planet ...and some green!



Dulcimer Jam

Sunday, February 13, 1:00 – 3:00pm

Free! Donations accepted.

Enjoy the beautiful sounds of one of the oldest instruments around.

Your 2011 Tualatin Historical Society Board

Executive Board:

President: Yvonne Addington
 Vice-President: Christine Tunstall
 Secretary: Doris Gleason
 Treasurer: Barbara Stinger

Directors:

Evie Andrews
 Adrienne Heathman
 Kurt Krause
 Newsletter Editor & Center Director- Larry McClure
 Art Sasaki
 Historian - Rochelle Smith

Honorary Board Members:

Loyce Martinazzi and Karen Lafky Nygaard
 Website - Lindy Hughes, See our current and past newsletters in color and other articles of interest at www.tualatinhistoricalsociety.org.

Comedy Opens 2011 Play Season at Heritage Center

Lumiere Players opens its sixth season of community theatre February 25 with "Hallelujah Girls," a comedy set in a church converted to day spa. Several feisty females in Eden Falls, Georgia, gather there every Friday afternoon to forget their problems. Carlene's given up on romance, having buried three husbands. Nita's a nervous wreck from running interference between her problematic son and his probation officer. Mavis' marriage is so stagnant she's wondering how she can fake her own death to get out of it. The comic tension mounts when a sexy ex-boyfriend shows up unexpectedly and a marriage proposal comes from an unlikely suitor. Join Lumiere for one of their 11 weekend performances and at a special THS rate of \$10. **Friday/Saturday, February 25, 26, 7:30pm & March 4, 5, 6, 11, 12, 13, 18, 19, 20 Sundays 2:00pm.** For reservations, call 503.692.9796.



Welcome to Kurt Krause, newly-elected member of the Tualatin Historical Society board. Kurt brings extensive corporate experience to the Society and has also written on Oregon's winemaking industry which he shared at a popular monthly meeting of the Society.

Tualatin Heritage Center
 Tualatin Historical Society
 8700 SW Sweek Drive
 Tualatin, OR 97062
 Phone: 503.885.1926 Fax: 503.692.5876



The Center is open to the public weekdays from 10am to 2pm. The Tualatin Historical Society holds open program meetings in the Center at 1:00 pm on the first Wednesday of each

Tualatin Historical Society
 P.O. 1055
 Tualatin, OR 97062

Corrections:

The Tualatin Historical Society strives to be accurate, fair and complete in its coverage, and corrects significant errors of fact. If you see an error in the newsletter, please call 503.885.1926 or email us at larry.mcclure@gmail.com or lindy.thc@gmail.com. Thank you.