



2017  
CELEBRATE  
TUALATIN  
AWARDS  
CEREMONY  
& LUNCHEON  
*Presented by*  
  
COMCAST

**NEW BUSINESS of the YEAR AWARD** *This award goes to the new Tualatin business that not only opened their doors in 2016, but also became a true member of the community supporting local organizations and the chamber. This is a business who fully embraces the philosophy of bringing business and community together.*

## NOMINEES

### **Izumi Japanese Steakhouse**

Family owned Izumi Japanese Steakhouse made a big splash in Tualatin in a few short months after opening its doors first to the Chamber in October, and then the rest of the community in November. An authentic Japanese restaurant that offers much more than excellent cuisine, the warmth and passion of owner, Allen Song, combined with his friendly and professional staff (all local residents!) host a wonderful meal and entertainment for all. New to Tualatin, Izumi jumped right in to help with complimentary catering at a preview event for the Mobile Maker Space; participated in the Turkey Drive and Oregon Food Bank; and donated to the Tualatin Elementary School and Tualatin High School's drama department. Allen is a big supporter of the Chamber, welcoming everyone and utilizing his close location to the Chamber to test new recipe's and drinks he creates and wants to feature! The restaurant also donated a variety of gift baskets and VIP Chef Experience packages to the Chamber's Holiday Auction. A mixologist at heart, Allen is very passionate about Asian beer, whiskey and sake. He infuses his own and is excited to educate the community and make it available for meals, happy hours, special events and fund-raisers. Always looking for ways to give back, Izumi has quickly endeared itself to the community, making many friends along the way.

### **Lugano Café & Catering**

After opening her doors to the new Lugano Café last April, owner Sylvia Hartman didn't hesitate when it came to the Chamber and joined in the same month! Since then, the café has quickly established a reputation for excellence in food, friendliness and atmosphere. Sylvia's homemade fresh food and desserts are unique and in demand and, even though she is up at the crack of dawn to bake for her customers, she always greets everyone with a smile. She has been grateful for all the support others have given her and her business and is not shy about returning the favor whenever she can. She graciously donates gift baskets and gift cards to help support local fundraisers and chamber events, including the Chamber's own grand opening after the office move in May, Women In Networking events, and the Holiday Auction, and regularly offers her space for AM Networking events. Sylvia also supports local artists, featuring their work with a six-month showcase on the walls of the café. She has

provided an alternative to the coffee chains, offering a neighborhood café with a warm and friendly welcome.

### **Sharky's Woodfired Mexican Grill**

Making its Oregon debut, Sharky's Woodfired Mexican Grill opened its doors in February 2016. Owner and community advocate, Charise Sargent embraced the community spirit Tualatin is known for and immediately sought out ways she could incorporate local heritage in her restaurant. Prior to opening, she went to the Tualatin Historical Society and picked out prints and old photos of Tualatin for their décor. Sharky's also provided 30 jobs to local residents and students, starting them above minimum wage with generous benefits, a team culture and promoting from within. Since opening their doors and joining the Chamber, they have been actively supporting many of our local non-profits, schools and community programs. They are generous with donations to school programs with gift cards and baskets; and are diligent with fundraisers for Tualatin and Byrom Elementary Schools, Hazelbrook Middle School, Park Academy, the Wetlands Conservancy, Tualatin, Tigard and Sherwood High Schools, along with Tualatin Youth Football. Sharky's also contributed to Magic Wheelchair, building a costume wheelchair for a local boy and held a special fundraising event when Clark Lumber burnt down. Aside from providing a family-friendly environment with original, made-to-order recipes with natural, organic or locally sourced ingredients, they take great pride in being part of the community and giving back.