

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, Rotary was formed as the world's first service club in Chicago in 1905 and has since grown into a global network of 1.4 million neighbors, friends, leaders, and problem-solvers who see a world where people unite and take action to create lasting change – across the globe, and in our communities; and

WHEREAS, Rotary is well established throughout Thurston County and is home to 9 individual Rotary clubs serving our local communities; and

WHEREAS, from July 1, 2024 – June 30, 2025, West Olympia Rotary is celebrating its 50th Anniversary and their 50 years of service to West Olympia and beyond; and

WHEREAS, West Olympia Rotary was instrumental in establishing South Puget Sound Community College's Foundation in 1982, which has gone on to support our community college's students with millions of dollars of scholarships, as well as professor and other college support; and

WHEREAS, West Olympia Rotary created its own endowment fund that provides resources to support 6 scholarships annually for graduating students from Olympia schools, and since 2006 has awarded scholarships to 91 students; and

WHEREAS, West Olympia Rotary has supported and hosted 40 inbound exchange students from 22 different countries and 38 outbound exchange students to 18 different countries, 21 pairs of summer exchanges between 7 countries; and

WHEREAS, West Olympia Rotary has developed a generous Charities Fund that supports non-profits and schools throughout West Olympia and beyond, and has grown to distribute more than \$25,000 each year to our community; and

WHEREAS, West Olympia Rotary has been a key partner in helping secure funds from Rotary International to support health, water, and sanitation projects in rural Bolivia; and

WHEREAS, West Olympia Rotary was an active participant in raising funds and providing volunteer services for the development Rotary Point at West Bay Park; and

WHEREAS, in honor of the 50th Anniversary, the West Olympia Rotary Club has pledged to raise \$50,000 to install a new "Life is Water" art installation at Rotary Point, which is being carved by Squaxin Island Tribal artist Taylor Krise; and

WHEREAS, West Olympia Rotary has grown its membership to nearly 80 individuals who live by the Rotary motto of "Service Above Self", and continuously work to make Olympia and our world a better place to live; and

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Olympia City Council recognizes the 50th Anniversary of the Rotary Club of West Olympia and does hereby proclaim August 13, 2024, as West Olympia Rotary Day.

SIGNED IN THE CITY OF OLYMPIA, WASHINGTON THIS 13th DAY OF AUGUST, 2024.

OLYMPIA CITY COUNCIL

Dontae Payne

