

c nnected

A Message from the Board of Commissioners



Pictured from left to right, Commissioners Duane Dalgleish, Bruce Pollock, and Dave Quinn

As your Board of Commissioners, we take great pride in working together to support our dedicated staff in delivering energy that is safe, reliable, cost-effective, and sustainable. Every decision we make is guided by one core principle: putting our community first.

In recent years, we've made it a priority to be more present and accessible—whether through events that benefit our Warm Neighbor Program, expanded community outreach, or initiatives that strengthen our connection with you, the people we serve.

This month's newsletter highlights some of those efforts, and we hope you enjoy reading about the ways we're working to make a positive impact. It's an honor to serve Cowlitz County, and we're proud to call this community home.

WARMTH IN ACTION: HOW COWLITZ PUD'S WARM NEIGHBOR FUND POWERS HOPE IN THE COMMUNITY

For more than 25 years, the Warm Neighbor Fund has been a beacon of support for families across Cowlitz County, helping those who struggle to pay their electric bills but don't qualify for traditional government assistance. Entirely fueled by community generosity—through donations, events, and contributions from Cowlitz PUD employees—the fund reflects the spirit of neighbors helping neighbors.

A Recipe for Impact: Eat for Heat

One of the most innovative and heartwarming initiatives supporting the Warm Neighbor Fund is **Eat for Heat**, a locally sourced meal kit program launched in 2017. Participants pick up meal kits filled with ingredients from nearby farms, restaurants, breweries, and wineries, then prepare them at home—bringing the community together around the dinner table.

Eat for Heat has not only fed over 2,000 people but also raised an impressive \$80,000 for the Warm Neighbor Program. In addition, it has injected \$70,000 back into the local economy by supporting small businesses. Its success has earned national recognition and forged a meaningful partnership with United Way's Day of Caring, further strengthening its community roots.



A Weekend of Giving: The Warm Neighbor Golf Tournament

Building on the momentum of Eat for Heat, Cowlitz PUD introduced A Weekend for Warm Neighbor in 2024, featuring the first-ever Annual Warm Neighbor Golf Tournament. This event expanded outreach efforts

continued on p. 2



Should You Trust e-Mail Attachments?

- e-mail is an essential part of life in many ways. Most of us receive receipts and bill notifications, just to name a few examples of e-mails that may contain attachments. Hackers use e-mail attachments to avoid detection. Getting you to open a PDF, or other attachment, with malware and fraudulent contact information inside is a way to phish information from you. Remember these rules for dealing with e-mail attachments:
- If you didn't request the attachment, don't open it.
- Go directly to the company's official site or app to download a copy of your bill or itinerary if you have any doubts at all. It is always safer.
- Verify official contact numbers and addresses from other sources outside of the e-mail.
- Ignore attachments that create a sense of urgency to act without thinking.
- Cowlitz PUD either mails your bill or, if you sign up for e-bill, notifies you via email of your bill availability on the SmartHub app or from the official site: <https://cowlitzpud.smarthub.coop/>.

Warmth in Action continued

and encouraged participation from across the region. The result? A weekend filled with camaraderie, community spirit, and over \$30,000 raised for families in need. The 2025 Golf Tournament is now sold out.

A Community United

Together, these programs showcase the power of collaboration, creativity, and compassion. Whether it's through a shared meal or a round of golf, Cowlitz PUD and its partners continue to find meaningful ways to support the Warm Neighbor Fund—and the people it serves.

As the Warm Neighbor Program grows, so does the impact of every donation, every event, and every volunteer hour. It's more than assistance—it's a promise that no neighbor is left behind.

Weekend for Warm Neighbor, September 11th, for **Eat for Heat** meal pick-up 3pm-5pm, and September 12th for the Golf Tournament.

For tickets to **Eat for Heat** or Sponsorship inquiries, contact adietz@cowlitzpud.org or 360.501.9146.



SAVE THE DATE

Cowlitz PUD and Community Mediation Center's
FREE Resource Fair | 10.9.25
LCC Student Center 10am-2pm
Activities . Community Resources . Food



HELP A FELLOW NEIGHBOR IN NEED

Would you like to help your fellow neighbor in need? Give a little by enrolling in Round Up for Warm Neighbor!

Ways to Donate:

- SmartHub – Open Bill & Pay, select Warm Neighbor, and follow prompts. You can choose a one-time round-up, monthly round-up, or a certain dollar amount each month.
- In-person – Donate in our office or in the Drive -Thru.
- Bill Stub – Mail your payment in with the bill stub marked for Warm Neighbor and a dollar amount.

Connected is published by Cowlitz PUD

961 12th Avenue | PO Box 3007, Longview, WA 98632 | 360.423.2210 | Toll Free 800.631.1131 | cowlitzpud.org

Board of Commissioners meets the second and fourth Tuesday of each month at 2pm.

To attend contact mpetterson@cowlitzpud.org