

c nnected

A Message from Your Cowlitz PUD Commissioners: Standing Together to Keep Our Community Warm



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

As commissioners of Cowlitz PUD, we are deeply moved by the generosity and compassion shown by our community during this year’s *Weekend for Warm Neighbor* fundraising event. Raising **\$47,000** is more than a financial milestone—it’s a powerful reminder of what we can accomplish when we come together with purpose.

The Warm Neighbor Fund has been a cornerstone of our commitment to serving Cowlitz County for over 25 years. It exists because of you—our neighbors, local businesses, volunteers, and employees—who believe in helping others, especially when times are tough. This fund provides critical assistance to families who may not qualify for other programs but still face the very real challenge of keeping their homes warm and their lights on.

As we enter the colder months, we know that energy bills can become a burden for many. That’s why we want to emphasize: **Cowlitz PUD is here for you.** Whether through the Warm Neighbor Fund, flexible payment options, or energy-saving resources, our team is committed to supporting every customer with dignity and care.

We also want to recognize the incredible efforts behind this year’s fundraising success. From the creative Eat for Heat meal kits to the growing *Weekend for Warm Neighbor* event, these initiatives not only raise funds—they build community. They remind us that supporting local families and businesses goes hand in hand.

To those who donated, volunteered, sponsored, or simply spread the word: thank you. Your kindness is making a real difference. And to those who may need help this season, please don’t hesitate to reach out. We’re not just your public utility—we’re your neighbors, and we’re here to help.

Warm regards,

Commissioners Dave Quinn, Bruce Pollock & Duane Dalgleish

COWLITZ PUD VOLUNTEERS RAISE \$47,000 TO HELP FAMILIES STAY WARM THIS WINTER

As temperatures drop and the rainy season sets in, Cowlitz PUD is proud to share a heartwarming milestone: this year’s *Weekend for Warm Neighbor* fundraising event raised an incredible **\$47,000** to support local families in need.

This achievement reflects the dedication of Cowlitz PUD volunteers, the leadership of the Weekend for Warm Neighbor Planning Committee, and the generosity of our sponsors. With title sponsorship from **1898 & Co.**, and support from **Bell Lumber & Pole, Columbia Wellness, The Okonite Company, Pac Tech, JH Kelly, BlueScope, OneSource, Schnabel Engineering, Propel Insurance,** and **Lower Columbia Longshore Federal Credit Union,** the event was a true community effort.

For over 25 years, the **Warm Neighbor Fund** has been a lifeline for Cowlitz County residents who struggle to pay their electric bills but don’t qualify for other assistance programs. Entirely funded through donations, events, and employee contributions, the program continues to be a vital resource—especially during the cold, wet months when energy needs rise.



This year’s fundraising success was powered by two signature events:

- **Eat for Heat:** Since its launch in 2017, this locally sourced meal kit program has raised over \$80,000 for the Warm Neighbor Fund and supported local businesses with \$70,000 in purchases. This year, it partnered with United Way’s Day of Caring and FISH to expand its reach and impact.
- **A Weekend for Warm Neighbor:** Introduced in 2024, this annual event now includes the Warm Neighbor Golf Tournament. Last year’s inaugural weekend raised \$28,000. This year, the community came together to surpass that with a record-breaking \$47,000—bringing the effort within reach of its annual goal of \$48,000.

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HOLIDAY CYBERSECURITY

Scammers are active during the holidays. Stay safe with good cyber hygiene. Remember these tips:

- Secure your devices – Install those updates and set them to update automatically so you’re always protected.
- Stick to trusted shopping sites – While those deals on strange or unknown sites may look tempting, fake or hijacked sites can steal your money and accounts.
- Be smart with your credit and bank accounts – Financial institutions will never ask for your passwords, PINs, or MFA (multifactor authentication) codes via text, email, or phone call.

Report suspected email scams at us-cert.gov/report-phishing and identity theft to identitytheft.gov

Warmth in Action continued

Thanks to the generosity of our community, Cowlitz PUD is poised to exceed its fundraising goal and extend support to even more families this winter. If you or someone you know is struggling to keep the lights on, **Cowlitz PUD is here to help**. The Warm Neighbor Fund is just one of the many ways we’re working to ensure no one is left in the cold.

To learn more about the Warm Neighbor Fund or how you can contribute, visit Cowlitz PUD’s website cowlitzpud.org or contact our customer service team: **360.423.2210** Monday thru Thursday 7am – 5:30pm, excluding holidays or email us at customerservice@cowlitzpud.org.

HOW TO APPLY FOR WARM NEIGHBOR

- Complete the [application](#) on SmartHub, in our office, or print from our website cowlitzpud.org.
- Submit online, email, mail, or drop off the application and required documentation at our office.



LIGHTS IN THE PARK

December 12–24th
5pm, Tam O’Shanter Park

Benefitting The Warm Neighbor Program, Local Scholarships, and Community Improvements. Presented by Kelso Rotary and Cowlitz PUD.



VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY: HELP OLDER ADULTS IN YOUR COMMUNITY WITH TAXES

AARP Foundation Tax-Aide is looking for volunteers for Cowlitz County. Volunteer in-person or virtually. Go to aarpfoundation.org/TaxaideVolunteer



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

To attend contact mpetterson@cowlitzpud.org