

UPRD KITCHEN REMODEL IS DONE!

This is a proud moment for the UPRD and our community during a tumultuous year. We are excited to unveil the remodeled “sterile kitchen” at the Community Center! We’ve dreamed of redoing the kitchen for many years and in early 2020 a grant for \$23,335 was secured to cover two-thirds of the remodel costs. Thanks to generous donations from our community, the UPRD raised an additional \$18,850, and after months of planning, the old kitchen was torn out in April and then the work began. Today, it's officially complete.

Cabinet contractor	5/19/2020	David Kreinbring	\$ 8,777.55
BOB-PUD, dump, digging	5/31/2020	Skamania County Parks & Rec District	\$ 1,542.40
kitchen electrical	7/18/2020	Tru Ridge LLC	\$ 9,277.00
Cabinet contractor	8/26/2020	David Kreinbring	\$ 6,462.00
kitchen sink	8/4/2020	George Morland	\$ 501.09
counter down payment	9/8/2020	Specialty Metal Fabrication, LLC	\$ 4,000.00
stove	10/10/2020	Boschler Hardware, MT Angel OR	\$ 400.00
microwave	7/10/2020	Boschler Hardware, MT Angel OR	\$ 179.00
counter down payment	10/13/2020	Specialty Metal Fabrication, LLC	\$ 4,374.75
kitchen plumbing	12/16/2020	Pronto Plumbing	\$ 674.21
kitchen finishing supplies	1/1/2021	Bruce Stocker	\$ 677.08
kitchen plumbing	1/22/2021	Pronto Plumbing	\$ 331.72
Kitchen Island	1/25/2021	Webstaurants.com	\$ 732.47
kitchen faucet	1/15/2021	George Morland	\$ 180.00
			\$ 38,109.27

None of this would have been possible without volunteer hours from Bruce Stoker, Bob Wittenberg, and many, many other community volunteers. If you'd like more information on renting our new community facilities, please call 509-972-6400.



Kitchen before, April 2020.



Kitchen after, January 2021.

FAMILIAR FACES FIND A NEW HOME

The Underwood Parks and Recreation District (UPRD) extends a warm welcome to the Underwood Community Council (UCC), which merged with the UPRD on January 1, 2021. The UCC has been a familiar presence at the Community Center over the years and instrumental in promoting center activities and general care of the grounds. UCC members Mary Kapp, Kathy LaMotte, and Lisa Brown have been critical in promoting blood drives, raffles, picnics, family events, the car show, and many other events. With this merger, Council members will officially become the "Underwood Community Committee", and continue their focus on events, while offering feedback to the UPRD Board in all other activities. The merger brings more efficiency to our resources and a closer-knit organization focused on our shared Community Center goals.

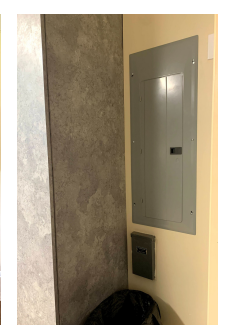
ADDITIONAL IMPROVEMENTS

While the kitchen project took most of our time and resources in 2020, we were still able to complete some additional projects on the property. The gym has new double-paned vinyl windows. We hired a general contractor, Keith Johnson, to refurbish the protective screens (necessary to protect the windows when balls are being used in the gymnasium and removable for events).

Another inexpensive improvement was the addition of the shade trees around the gazebo. In April, Blayne Meyers helped us plant 3 White Oak trees, 1 Big Leaf Maple, and a local Dogwood. The trees were watered by volunteers this summer. This spring we hope to add irrigation to the gazebo flowerbed & surrounding trees and to plant more trees, shrubs, and native plants. Our main area of focus will be areas near the parking lot and the gazebo and bench. If you are interested in helping with this project, please contact Alicia at aliciauprd@gmail.com.

the impact of covid-19

Although the board was able to facilitate some huge capital improvements at the Community Center in 2020, the UPRD was hit hard financially by COVID-19 last year. We had to close our doors on March 13, 2020, canceling multiple small and large gatherings, which help bring in revenue. The UPRD refunded over \$6,500 worth of Community Center rental income from events and had to cancel the 3rd Annual Show-n-Shine Car Show. The Community Council (now known as the Community Committee) had to cancel the Underwood Community Picnic. All combined, these events bring in at least \$8100 in revenue. Without our tax levy and the generous support of community members, this pandemic could have shut the UPRD doors forever. Many thanks to our friends and neighbors for helping to keep our park grounds and center open.



upcoming events

Community Clean-Up Day

We have a long list of tasks that need to be done at Underwood Park! Tasks include: pulling weeds, repairing bleachers, weed whacking, painting, spreading bark chips, removing trees, etc. If you are interested in helping coordinate this event, we would love to hear from you. Please contact Alicia at aliciauprd@gmail.com for more information.

Tree Planning & Planting

If you would like to help in the planning and planting of native plants on the property, we would love your help. We will also be looking for volunteers this summer to help water trees that we cannot irrigate. Keep watch for Facebook or Nextdoor posts labeled "Tree Hugger Help".

Blood Drives

Our community has hosted five Red Cross blood drives since June 2019. Overall, we've donated 183 pints of blood, helping save over 500 lives. In 2021, we plan to host six drives. Here are the next dates:

Tuesday, March 30, 2021

Friday, June 4, 2021

To Donate Blood:

Appointments are required and walk-ins are not accepted due to COVID-19. Appts tend to fill-up in advance. If no appointments are available and you want to be placed on a waitlist, please contact Lisa (email below). We *do* accept donors from other communities, in case you want to bring a friend or relative. You can make an appointment in one of three ways:

1. Sign up online: www.redcrossblood.org/give
2. Call the Red Cross at 800-733-2767 to register
3. Contact Lisa.Brown@TR.com

To Volunteer:

Each drive requires volunteers to coordinate check-in, provide health checks, sanitize all touchpoints, and help with donor flow. If you would like to volunteer, please email Lisa.Brown@TR.com.

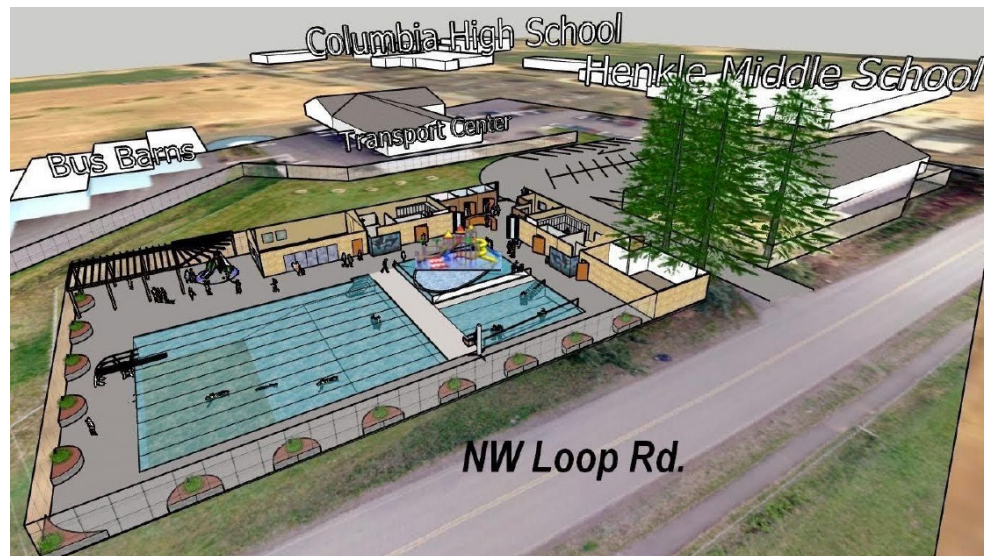
VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION

A grand total of 1,242 volunteer hours were recorded for the year in 2020. According to people who study this stuff, the monetary value of each volunteer hour is \$27.20, and that adds up to volunteers donating the financial equivalent of \$33,782.40 last year. Here's how it all broke down:

- URPD Commissioners, 377 hours
- Underwood Community Council Officers, 444 hours
- Community Volunteers, 99 hours
- Kitchen Remodel, 87 hours
- Marc's Trail and Grounds, 52 hours
- Blood Drives, 183 hours

Special recognition to the following individuals who really gave their all in 2020: Bruce Stocker with 74 hours on the kitchen; Lisa Brown with 138 hours given to blood drive coordination; Kathy LaMotte with 106 hours on Underwood News articles, and Bob Wittenberg with a whopping 242 hours on UPRD duties and park projects.

thank you volunteers!



Community Plans for the White Salmon Pool

WHITE SALMON POOL UPDATE

Since its inception 3 years ago, the Board of the White Salmon Valley Pool Metropolitan Park District has worked tirelessly to plan and build a new pool for our community. Things have come a long way since then, and we are excited to share this update on the project. The park district was created and funded with a perpetual levy in 2018 to build, operate and maintain a community pool for the White Salmon Valley. The borders of the park district are the same as the White Salmon Valley School District within Klickitat County, encompassing White Salmon, Bingen, BZ Corner, Husum, and Snowden. A 1.4-acre site has been leased for the facility adjacent to the Henkle Middle School campus between the Mid-Columbia Transport Center bus barns and Loop Road. The outdoor extended-season facility will include three pools: an 8-lane, 25-yard competition pool with a deep end diving board, a warmer pool for therapy and relaxation, plus a splash-pad and baby pool area. The facility will also include a community room for parties and community functions, two public and three private changing rooms, in addition to office space. Groundbreaking is scheduled to begin Summer 2021 with a goal of opening Summer season 2022. The build cost is estimated at \$2.6 - 3M. The park district plans to fund the project with tax levy funds, grants, donations, and possibly loans. Over \$1.1 million in levy funds and donations have been secured. Organizers have applied (and are well-ranked) for two Washington State grants totaling \$850,000. An application has also been submitted for a third at \$446,000.

How can residents of Underwood help open the new pool in Summer 2022? Consider supporting the project with a donation! And/or write to our state legislators to encourage their support for the project through state grants.

Keep up to date on information at www.WhiteSalmonValleyPool.org. To make a donation, ask questions, or to explore other ways to get involved, email hello@WhiteSalmonValleyPool.org

IMPORTANT FINAL NOTE

All Underwood communications are now posted to Next Door and Facebook. Nextdoor has replaced the Yahoo listserv as our main channel of communication. This site is very user-friendly and allows for document uploads, posting photos, and quick information-sharing with our list of contacts. To signup for an account, visit www.nextdoor.com. If you have problems accessing Nextdoor or want help setting things up, please contact Alicia at aliciauprd@gmail.com.