

In 2023, UPRD accomplished a few minor things, and two really BIG ones:

1. After four toilet over-flowing events over the years, we finally found a plumber willing to crawl under the floors and replace all the drain piping throughout the community center, replace fresh water supply line, and replace the failing hot water tank. We are hoping clogged toilets is history! This entire project was completed for under \$30,000. This after bids as high as \$74,000! Thank you Devco Mechanical, out of The Dalles, for your amazing work for our community!
2. A very successful fundraiser was put on August 13th "Light at the End of Tunnel 5 Fire". Thank you to all who came! A huge thank you to our sponsors: Soluna Vineyards, Dawn McSweyn Realty, Carmen's Kitchen, Gallagher's Rug and Carpet Care, Manny's Lonchera, Everybody's Brewing, Aniche Cellars and Hawkins Vineyard. This fundraiser brought in \$11,760. Of that, we raised \$6,468 for our wonderful volunteer Underwood firemen, who serve our neighborhood. This will help them improve their equipment to better serve our community.

The UPRD has accomplished so much, yet there is still so much work to do!

UPRD list of accomplished tasks from 2017-2022:

Community Building:

- Insulate the gym
- French drain
- Paint the gym
- Red cross affiliated
- Remove old generator
- Remodel kitchen
- Replace electrical unit
- Install stage curtain
- Redo lights throughout the center
- Frame/reinforce and insulate attic
- New floors in meeting room
- Paint meeting room
- Create upstairs emergency center
- Upstairs Emergency room window
- Replace gym windows with double painted vinyl



Park Grounds:

- Plant shade trees
- Update Park irrigation

Cottage:

- Remodel bathroom
- New floors throughout
- New kitchen with dishwasher
- Hook ups for both clothes washer and dryer

Post Office:

- Replace gutters on post office
- Upgrade plumbing to prevent overflow

For 2024, we are planning and researching several projects:

1. **PRIORITY:** Re-side and update the Post Office building. The existing siding is painted CDX plywood – not rated for this kind of use. It is in bad shape. Also, we will replace some single-pane aluminum-frame windows, replace the big roll-up door, paint, and make a much more presentable building that will last longer. We have secured 3 Current bids for this project: 1. \$50,00 + many adders, 2. \$76,000 + only a few adders, 3. \$114,000 with no adders. We are seeking grant funding help for this one!
2. Resurface gym floor. This includes sanding, repairing holes, and painting both basketball and pickleball lines in the gym. Current bids are \$15,700, \$15,900, and \$12,000. We expect this project to happen in late March, 2024.
3. Re-model the restrooms in the Community gym. After the above-mentioned overflows, in the bathrooms, it is time to replace the flooring, replace rusted stall doors and dividers, and fix the holes in the ceilings. No bids received yet. If you have any leads on a contractor who might be willing to take on this task this winter, please contact Bob – uprdbob@gmail.com.
4. Resurface and line the tennis court and outdoor basketball court. We are in the process of applying for an RCO grant to upgrade outdoor athletic facilities. We will also add new pickleball lines, along with tennis and basketball lines. No bids received yet.

If all of this was not enough, we have so much more to do. Some 'in the works' projects include new bleachers for the baseball field, repairs to the irrigation system, safety modifications and improvements to the play structure, improve playing surface of baseball field, improved heating/air conditioning in the meeting room. The 'biggy' is to re-side the Underwood Community Center building. Rough estimates for this run around \$150,000 to \$200,000. This must be grant-funding supported. If you are someone who would like to work on grant writing, please contact Alicia – aliciauprd@gmail.com

The UPRD goal/purpose continues to be to preserve and improve your park through the wise use of YOUR money!

Vision of UPRD

We have looked back at where we've been now, let's pivot to the vision of where we are heading. There is one major project that we must complete: the residing of the Community Center, the vinyl siding is cracking and we would like to restore the profound historical beauty of the building using modern-day materials that will last a long time. The outside courts are getting more usage, so resurfacing the basketball and tennis courts and adding pickleball to the mix is high on our list. The Community Committee has been chipping away at fundraising for a new play structure and working on grants, the intention is to get the play structure completed using only grants and donations. Leading up to Covid we had softball in the spring, which unfortunately was short-lived. Our goal is to be ready for the next teams that want to play on the fields with usable, safe bleachers. Our beloved Mark Robbins trail also gets a lot of activity so we would like to enrich it with some workout stations to encourage our healthy community. Inside the building, the acoustics in the gym have been a challenge. The pads hanging from the ceiling are mostly effective but we are looking at options that are more aesthetically pleasing and don't interfere with the sports. Lastly, every time we have a community event, we learn how to do it better, our goal is to have a few more community events every year and expand our exercise offerings. We encourage you to email us or come by our monthly meetings with feedback on these ideas or any that you have.

Playground Committee Update



The committee working to improve and replace playground equipment at the Community Center met November 14th. Members discussed replacing the play surface cushion for proper drainage and safety, along with painting and replacing the hardware on the swings. Next steps include deciding on a budget, timeline, fundraising, grant writing and equipment selection. The next meeting is scheduled for January 23rd, 7pm at the Underwood Community Center. To make a donation or join the committee, please contact Robin McConnell at ucc.robinm@gmail.com

Friends of Underwood 501(c)3

On October 30th, Community Committee members met to create a new organization called Friends of Underwood. The new organization will replace the Community Committee. Friends of Underwood is currently applying for 501(c)3 status in order to apply for grants, as well as hold fundraising events in support of the UPRD. Friends of Underwood will continue to host community events such as the Community Picnic, park and road clean up, and serve as a means of communication and collaboration with residents of Underwood. For more information or to volunteer, please contact Ivy Carpe at businesswithivycarpe@gmail.com or Robin McConnell at ucc.robinm@gmail.com



Community and Itinerant Kitchen

We are thrilled to share some exciting news with you – our community kitchen has received official approval from the health department to operate as a community and itinerant kitchen! This means that our kitchen is now available for rent, offering a fantastic opportunity for local entrepreneurs and aspiring chefs. This will benefit the community in many ways, generate income, support local businesses, and bring community awareness.

If you have a passion for cooking or a business idea in mind, consider renting our community kitchen. It's a win-win – you get a top-notch kitchen to bring your ideas to life, and our community benefits from a more dynamic and diverse local business scene.

For more information on renting the community kitchen, please contact Alicia Beyer at aliciauprd@gmail.com Or Ivy Carpe at 541-788-4557

Kudos to Lisa Brown from the Red Cross

Underwood's own Lisa Brown was recently recognized by David Hunt from the American Red Cross for her success and dedication to hosting Blood Drives and Recruiting Blood Donors. This award goes to one Blood Program each year. To date, the Underwood Blood Drives have collected 743 pints of blood. Each pint of blood saves up to three lives, giving hope to 2,229 individuals in need of blood. Lisa Brown and Underwood continue to host six Blood Drives each year. The next blood drive is scheduled for February 28, 2024. Reservations will be available soon.



Spaghetti Night Recap



For the second year running, Spaghetti Night returned to the Underwood Community Center. On Saturday evening, November 11, Hood River's *County Line* country-fusion quartet provided the musical backdrop as Underwood residents and friends enjoyed robust spaghetti served over piping hot noodles along with salad, rolls, and a choice of several delightful desserts. Everybody's Brewing in White Salmon generously provided a keg of their excellent IPA, while Underwood's AniChe and Hawkins wineries made certain we had plenty of Vino Rosso to wash down the spicy spaghetti. All proceeds and donations go towards improving and replacing our aging playground equipment. Thank you, Underwood community!!