

Keep Access Clear

Open space in rights-of-way and around power poles, transformers and meters assures PUD crews easy access for emergencies and routine maintenance

To keep electricity flowing safely and reliably to our customers 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, NWCPUD must keep power lines and other equipment rights-of-way clear of trees, shrubs and other objects that could disrupt the delivery of electricity or threaten public safety.

When trees or tall shrubs come in contact with power lines, they can shut down that line and disrupt the transmission of electricity. Because vegetation conducts electricity, when a branch touches a line, electricity flows through a tree to the ground below. The tree becomes electrified and anyone who touches it can be seriously injured or killed.

Plants do not have to touch power lines to be dangerous. Electricity can jump or arc from lines to trees growing close by, causing power outages, fires and serious injuries to people nearby.

It is the PUD's responsibility to maintain our facilities so they are reliable and safe. Our tree trimming and removal program is part of this commitment to our customers and employees.

It is also required and regulated by state and federal law.

Property owners should never trim trees near power lines. Instead, contact NWCPUD at (541) 296-2226.

Our specialists will determine whether trees in or adjacent to the right-of-way area or power lines are a hazard.

When it is necessary to remove trees, our crews work with property owners to minimize the impact. We trim and remove trees that interfere with transmission, primary (high voltage) and secondary (individual service) power lines within our easements and rights-of-way.

PUD ratepayers can prevent potential problems before they start by not planting new trees beneath power lines. Keep rights-of-way clear of recreational vehicles, building materials and debris

so PUD crews may access their equipment easily. Customers also should avoid planting plants or shrubs at the base of transformers, meters and power poles. ■

Budget Pay Customers Catch Up This Month

If you are a current Budget Pay customer, April is "Catch Up Month," as it compares your electricity use during the past year to calculate your budget payment for the new year.

Customers using more power than their budget payment covered in 2010 will be required to pay the balance to qualify for the program this year. If your actual payments were less than your budget payments, you will have a credit going into the new budget payment cycle.

The Budget Pay plan makes budgeting for and paying electric bills easier. The program helps customers avoid large power bills in the winter and summer by spreading the cost of electric service evenly throughout the year.

When you sign up for Budget Pay, your monthly payment is calculated by dividing the last 12 months' cost of energy (May to April) by 11.

To qualify, you must have been a NWCPUD customer for at least 12 months at the same address and have an account with a zero balance. Billing for the new cycle begins in May.

To sign up for Budget Pay, contact our office at 541-296-2226. ■

Economic Grant Applications Available for 2011 Projects

Northern Wasco County PUD is offering \$25,000 in grants to fund local economic development projects in 2011.

The PUD board instituted the economic development grant program in

Bragging Rights:

Announcing NWCPUD's Newest Board Member

NWCPUD has sworn in its newest board member, Dan Williams.

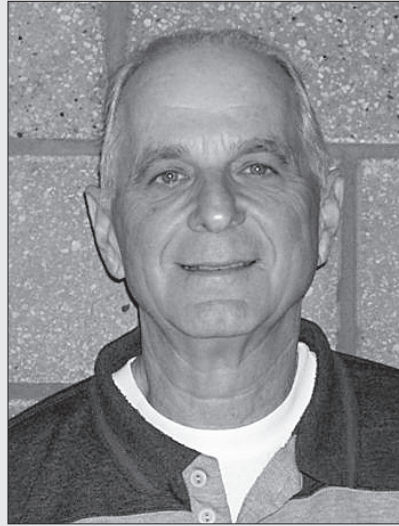
Dan represents Subdivision 2, a position that was vacated when Bill Ward moved from the area.

A graduate of The Dalles High School, Dan has lived in the city for 56 years.

He has a long history of helping to make The Dalles a better place to live. Dan has served on boards of various civic and nonprofit organizations, including Columbia Gorge Community College, the Columbia Gorge Community College Foundation, the Columbia Gorge Discovery Center, and The Dalles Civic Auditorium. He also was a member of The Dalles City Budget Committee for 13 years.

Prior to opening his own CPA firm in 1979, Dan worked as the controller/assistant manager for The Dalles Cherry Growers. In 1997, Arlene Way became his partner and they operated as Williams & Way until 2004.

In addition to serving on the NWCPUD board of directors, Dan is currently a member of Wasco County Search & Rescue.



Board member Dan Williams represents the utility's customers in Subdivision 2.

1996 to provide a helping hand to nonprofit organizations within the utility's service territory.

Funds have supported facilities and programs that may not have been developed otherwise in education, the arts, recreation, sports, culture and historic preservation.

Grant requests must be for the development or improvement of infrastructure within the PUD service territory and have an expected life of at least five years.

Private, for-profit ventures or projects that have received PUD economic development grant funding twice in a five-year period are not eligible.

Applications for the 2011 grants are available at the NWCPUD office at 2345 River Road.

Completed forms must be submitted before 5 p.m. May 6. A maximum of \$10,000 will be awarded per project.

Last year, the PUD awarded Economic Grants to five groups: the Columbia Gorge Discovery Center for its raptor exhibit; Home at Last Humane Society to purchase a used truck to service multiple recycling locations; Dufur School District for construction of a 30x96-foot greenhouse; The Dalles Area Chamber of Commerce to purchase an electric vehicle to shuttle tourists from Patterson Park to The Dalles Dam; and The Dalles Civic Auditorium to refinish the floating hardwood ballroom floor.

For more information about the PUD's Economic Grants for the funding process, call Linda Wilson at (541) 298-3302. ■

NORTHERN WASCO COUNTY PUD

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

April 8-9

Northwest Cherry Festival.

Friday: lip sync contest, 7 p.m., in the TDWHS Auditorium.

Sat.: parade, open air market, live music, Recirculation Art Sale at The Dalles Art Center; Mid-Columbia Senior Center breakfast and more.

Featuring three new events: Rivermark Community Credit Union's Children's Fun Center, Westwind Gallery Cherry Festival Art Show and the Rogue Ales Hospitality Center.

For information about all of the events, call 296-2231 or check the community calendar at www.thedallescchamber.com.

April 9

Cherry Bomb Dodgeball Tournament.

Two levels of amateur play: youth (ages 11-15) and adult (ages 16 and up).

Registration fee is \$30 per team. Six-person teams with two female players.

Registration form on the Northern Wasco County Parks and Recreation District website, www.nwprd.org.

April 23

Cherry Blossom Run.

3K/5K/10K walk/run begins at 8:30 a.m. at Dry Hollow Elementary School. Preregister or sign up the day of the race.

For information, contact Steve Thompson, (541) 296-6398 or sstevee47@yahoo.com.

April 26

Northern Wasco County PUD Board Meeting.

6 p.m., 2345 River Rd., The Dalles.

To list an item in the Community Calendar, nonprofit community organizations are encouraged to call (541) 298-3302.