



# Cedar Mill News

Volume 3, Issue 2

February 2005

## Featured Business

### Nails Sophisticates

For some of us, there's nothing quite as relaxing as sitting back in a comfy massage chair and having a pedicure. There are several nail shops in the area, but the one with the most elegant and relaxing atmosphere has to be Nail Sophisticates located in the little strip at the southeast corner of Murray and Cornell.



Lana Cao started this successful business about seven years ago. She and her husband ran the store until last year, when daughter-in-law Kim Cao took it over. "My father-in-law retired, and Lana was scaling back her hours. My kids are a little older now, so since we wanted to keep the business in the family,

I bought it," says Kim. Lana still comes in, but just when she wants to so it's a good deal for everyone. Since Kim took over, they've added more pedicure spa stations and redecorated, but they still offer the same friendly and professional service.

Kim Cao was a young girl in 1981 when her family boarded a boat with 120 others that took them from Vietnam to Thailand. "My dad wanted us to go to America. He died before we could do it. We were lucky because one of my brothers was the captain of the boat." Kim and her mother along with seven sisters and four brothers lived in a refugee camp in Thailand for a year, and then came to Vancouver, Washington with the assistance of the US government. A church in Vancouver helped the family get started.

Most of her family remains in Vancouver. Kim met Lana's son San Cao and moved to Washington County after they married. "My husband's family is all in

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### Next Meeting

### Cedar Mill Business Association

Tuesday, February 15, 4 pm

Place: Cedar Mill Community Library

Topic: Our Citizens Participation Organization (CPO #1)

Speaker: Bruce Bartlett, CPO #1 President

Join us to learn more about what the CPO does, explore some current issues, and give your input about what the CPO should be addressing.

### Elk trails and Wapato paths

By Nancy Olson, co-author, *Cedar Mill History*

Many early transportation routes in the Tualatin Valley began as Indian trails routed around geographic obstructions. And the Indian trails probably began as natural animal paths. Later, several of these routes were improved by the pioneers after they established themselves here. In those early days it was a vast wilderness with Cedar Mill just being a part of the whole.

One Indian path started in Oilton, south of St. Johns, and passed through Bonny Slope, at the north end of Cedar Mill. H. Ross Findley's diary recorded...

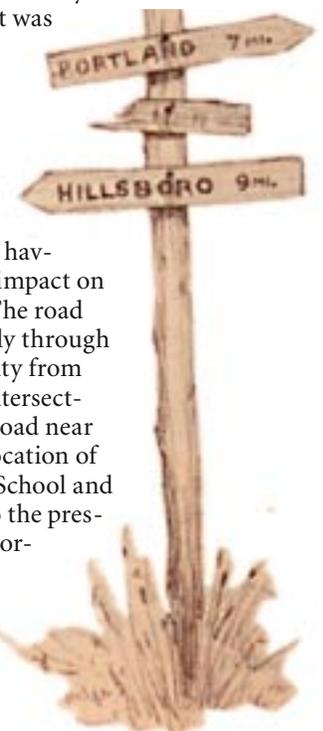
*It was probably made by the ancient Wapatoes, Tualatins and the Sauvie Indians [with] foot prints and horses as they traveled back and forth from the fishing grounds along the Columbia and Willamette rivers to the wapato swamps and camas beds in the Tualatin Valley. It was no doubt their main route of travel until the forest and undergrowth blocked their trail and they had to choose a shorter route which chanced to be the Springville Trail...*

It is quite likely that Springville Road began as an Indian trail, as the Wapato chief Caseno had a residence at the location of modern Springville just downstream from the St Johns Bridge. On the Surveyor General's township sketch of 1855, the track is mapped as the "Road from the Plains to Bakers." Baker, a Springville business man, and perhaps others with economic interests, improved the Indian trail until it could accommodate grain wagons from the Tualatin Valley. The users

of this steep road, to spare the heels of their horses and oxen, had to drag fresh-cut well limbed trees at the wagon tail to slow it down. Even today, the steep part of Springville Road is in primitive condition, little changed from the 1850s.

The Plains-Linnton Road, which is modern Germantown Road, brought tidewater access within eight or ten miles of the Tualatin Valley wheatlands. It was built around 1844.

The Old Mountain Road, or the Plains-Portland Road, was the route having the most impact on Cedar Mill. The road passed directly through the community from NW 143rd, intersecting Cornell Road near the current location of Sunset High School and continuing to the present Barnes-Cornell junction. Running in a southeasterly direction, the Old Mountain Road conformed with modern



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Nails, continued from page 1

high tech,” Kim explains. The Cao’s came from Vietnam to Minnesota in 1975. San went to Portland State and now works at Intel. Kim’s family in Vancouver has a restaurant and operates other businesses.

Last summer the shop was one of the victims of a couple of vandalism incidents when BB pellets were shot through the windows. Her shop was spared the first time, but about two weeks later presumably the same vandals hit again. They broke the brand-new windows of her neighboring shops and this time broke hers. She



Lynn, Lana and Kim Cao

believes that the Sheriff’s department has apprehended the suspects.

As if that wasn’t enough, now they’re having to contend with the Cornell Road project. “It has slowed our business down a little, but our regular clients are loyal and it hasn’t bothered them,” Kim says. She mentions that quite a few of their customers are men, and they do a lot of pedicures for seniors who find it difficult to get to their toenails!

The shop offers full nail sculpting with acrylic, gel, and silk, plus fills and repairs. They also do regular manicures and they have four spa chairs for pedicures. Other services include facial and body waxing, European facials, body massage and special occasion makeup. They’re located at 13405 NW Cornell, and they’re open Monday-Friday 9 am–7 pm, and Saturday 9 am–5 pm. You can phone them at 503-526-2052.

### The Cedar Mill News

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Trails, continued from page 2

Barnes Road for less than a mile, then branched off on a route that in most places was some 800 feet north of present-day Barnes Road. Near the summit of the Tualatin Mountains, it descended to Sylvan and proceeded to Portland by Tanner Creek Canyon, now known as Canyon Road.

West Union Road joined the Old Mountain Road near the Union Schoolhouse and Cemetery site and that is probably why the school and cemetery were established there. While the west end of the road through Bethany and West Union was established earlier, the Cedar Mill link, now called NW 143rd, was developed some

time later. The Schoolhouse is gone but the Cemetery remains.

Roads, like everything else, have a past, a present and no doubt, a future, ever changing to accommodate those who use them. Next time you are stuck in construction traffic or become confused due to the demise of familiar route landmarks, think of the deer and elk from long ago who started those routes.

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## Cedar Mill History Project Update

The Cedar Mill History Project is gaining momentum. The next big milestone will be to apply for IRS non-profit status. Once that's done, we can begin to raise funds to accomplish our many goals. One fundraising idea that we're already working on is an annual calendar with historic Cedar Mill photos.

So far, we have begun taping Oral Histories with the help of John Wickham's video students from Stoller Middle School. We plan to make copies of these interviews available in the library, and eventually edit them together to make a program on Cedar Mill history that can play on cable access and in the JQA Young house.

The JQA Young House has finally been acquired by Tualatin Hills Park & Recreation

District. (See the October 2003 edition of Cedar Mill News for more information on the house – archives online at [cedarmill.org/news](http://cedarmill.org/news).) A committee will be formed to determine how to proceed with its renovation.



*J.Q.A. Young house, c. 1903*

We've started planning for the first Old Cedar Mill Days in May 2006. We need to determine all the various activities for the celebration and start to recruit par-

ticipants. For sure, however, there will be a parade along Cornell (which should be finished right about then) with old-time vehicles and folks dressed in pioneer outfits. We'd like to see schools involved in the parade. If it's a success it will be an annual event. Rob Lewis, well-known local wagon maker, has agreed to participate.

We are actively recruiting new members to help us build the organization. We want all the area's "old-timers" to join us and contribute their knowledge of our past. We would love to find an attorney and an accountant to help us with the "501(c)3" status. Whatever your skills or interests, if you're interested in finding out more about Cedar Mill's fascinating history you're welcome to join us. You don't even have to live in Cedar Mill!

Our next meeting is February 17, from 6:30-7:45 upstairs in the Cedar Mill library, and everyone's welcome. For more information contact Virginia Bruce. A short presentation about the project is available at [cedarmill.org/history-project](http://cedarmill.org/history-project).

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## City of Cedar Mill?

by Virginia Bruce, editor

After Beaverton Mayor Rob Drake spoke to the large crowd attending January's CPO #1 meeting, people have begun to talk about the possibility of incorporating Cedar Mill as a city. Our state representative, Mitch Greenlick, is planning to introduce a bill in the legislature that would at least make such a move possible. Currently state law allows existing cities to veto incorporation by any community within three miles of its border. Greenlick's bill would change that.

On January 12, *The Oregonian's* Washington County Weekly "Community Snapshot" posed the question, "Do you foresee a city of Cedar Mill?" and responses were published in succeeding Thursday editions. Opinions ranged from skeptical to enthusiastic.

City-forming certainly isn't something to be undertaken on a whim. Damascus, incorporated last November, is the first new city to be formed in 22 years in Oregon. Still, many area residents wish to explore the idea. A non-profit organization, Northwest Small Cities Services, ([nwscs.org](http://nwscs.org)) has offered to help us weigh the pros and cons.

What do you think? Is this something we should continue to investigate? Send your comments to [vr@teamweb.com](mailto:vr@teamweb.com).

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