



# Cedar Mill News

Volume 2, Issue 6

June 2004

## Featured Business

### Cedar Mill Farmers' Market—veggies and more!

Every Saturday from now through September, The Cedar Mill Farmers' Market will tempt us with a wide array of fresh fruits, veggies, plants and homemade crafts, along with prepared foods to eat at the market or take home. Now located in the western end of the Sunset Mall at Murray and Cornell (the Safeway center), the market enters its fifth year of operation.

The market was begun in the summer of 1999 by Leilani Esping and her husband Michael, along with friend Rhonnda Edmiston. "Hollywood Farmer's Market board members met with us to help us create a timeline to open," says Esping. "Then Duyck's Peachy Pig Farm, Dot's Bakery and Rossi Farms met with us to give us feedback on what they needed. They were the ones who said we were creating a community event and that is sure what it is!"



Vendor Jen Peterson, Dina & Mark Gross

Longtime volunteer Dina Gross took over the operation. Dina remembers, "In the second year my husband, Mark, started helping quite a bit with set-up at 6 am and take-down after 1:30 pm, and our involvement grew from then on. When Leilani moved away, Rhonnda Edmiston and Mark and I agreed to keep it going. That first summer, while Leilani was moving, we were able to transition into the coordinating roles. Rhonnda maintained the office work for the next year. She'd been with the Market since its infancy and finally, in 2003, decided to devote her volunteer time to other interests."

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**Join the CMBA—see page 3**

## Next Meeting

### Cedar Mill Business Association

Tuesday, June 15, 2004. 12 noon

Place: Cedar Mill Community Library

Topic: The Cedar Mill Farmers' Market

Speaker: Dina Gross,

Join us for lunch to find out about our summer source for fresh veggies and crafts

FREE sandwiches courtesy of SubWay  
(bring your own beverage)

## History in the News

### Lost Park provided summer fun in old Cedar Mill

Around 1923, Cedar Mill became the location of a popular recreation spot known as Lost Park. Nestled in 150 acres of forest between NW Cornell and Damascus roads, from 113th to 107th avenues, the park was a regular gathering place and provided the area with a variety of recreation. On warm afternoons, residents living nearby met there for entertainment, and later as its reputation grew, many Portlanders would motor out to spend the day at Lost Park.

The park originated as a summer activity for Cedar Mill pioneer descendant Frank Hall Reeves and his family. Reeves built several large plank-and-cable swings for his three children and their friends, and also dug a swimming hole in Cedar Mill Creek which he called Alder Brook. The water maintained a 45 degree temperature throughout the summer. For his wife, Winnifred, and her friends, Reeves provided stone stoves with sheet metal tops.

Lois Reeves Jordan recalled that her father once designed a "wobble-wobble," or a suspended pole used as a balance beam. Reeves offered \$5.00 to anyone who could walk the length of the log but when local children grew proficient at treading the pole, Reeves quickly withdrew the offer.

By 1926, the park's popularity prompted Reeves to open the attraction to the public. He improved the facilities to include a large picnic area, stoves, swimming pool, two baseball fields, horseshoe pits, swings and other children's play equipment.

According to a handbill, the park boasted, "a commodious swimming tank, supplied



The swimming tank at Lost Park, c. 1927 (photo courtesy of Lois Reeves Jordan)

with clear sparkling water from Alder Brook and numerous springs." The tank was paved on the long sloping sides but not on the bottom so when too many swimmers were in the pool it was apt to become muddy. Adjacent to the tank were rough lumber dressing rooms (rumored to contain a lot of knot holes!).

Long shady trails named Alder Lane, the Loop and Lover's Lane were designed for hikers who wished to escape to the forest.

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## The Nature of Cedar Mill

# The ground beneath our feet

By Virginia Bruce with information from Scott Burns, PSU Geology Dept.

Cedar Mill is built primarily on two layers composed of basalt and silt, with a frosting of lava on our eastern margins.

The underlying rock in our area is Columbia River Basalt. This was laid down by enormous lava flows from volcanoes near the Oregon-Washington-Idaho border around 14 to 16 million years ago. At this time, there were no intervening mountains to slow the flow, which finally solidified here after a trip of some 350 miles.

Our dark grey basalt is fairly soft and deteriorates into clay. In Bonny Slope there are only a few feet of soil above the basalt bedrock, as many a developer has discovered. This area is also full of springs resulting from groundwater escaping through cracks in the basalt. Many houses in the area need sump pumps in the basement to remove the seepage.

Most of the landscape features in the Willamette Basin were formed by compression resulting from the Pacific plate diving under the continental plate during the last 5 million years. This caused "downwarping and

uplifting," resulting in hills and basins. The Tualatin Hills are part of an "anticline," which is a curving formation of uplifted terrain.

The layer of soil in the Tualatin Valley, primarily in areas below 350 ft., is the result of silt, known as "loess," which was deposited on the floodplain during the Missoula Floods. These were a series of some 40 floods around 15,300 to 12,700 years ago, resulting from the rupture of ice dams in the area which is now Montana. Each time an ice dam ruptured vast amounts of water rushed down the Columbia basin and entered the Tualatin Valley near what is now Lake Oswego. The silt left behind was distributed by wind to cover the bedrock around the valley.

Probably the most interesting feature of Cedar Mill geology is the existence of lava tubes near our eastern areas. These were formed by the eruptions of three small volcanoes which are located near where Highway 26 goes into the tunnel. One of these volcanoes is called Elk Point, the others are unnamed. They are relatively young, having formed approximately 244,000 years ago. These light grey lava flows are known as Boring Lava, not for their lack of interest but because it was first identified near Boring, Oregon.

A lava tube is a tunnel formed when the surface of a lava flow cools and solidifies while the still-molten interior flows through and drains away. One of these lava tubes was found during excavation for St. Vincent's Hospital in the late '60s. It took 6000 truckloads of concrete to fill up the collapsed lava tube to create a stable foundation for the hospital.



Gardeners in the area have reported feeling cold air coming out of the ground from cracks in a lava tube. There are several other tubes that open to the surface, but all are on private property.

For more information on local geology, visit the library for a copy of *Geology of Oregon*, by Elizabeth Orr.



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*Lost Park, continued from page 1*

The wooded portion of the park was also designated as a wildlife preserve with a variety of birds and squirrels fed by park employees, while Cedar Mill Creek held an abundant supply of crawfish.

The northeast corner of the park contained "Mazama Lake," constructed and named in honor of the Portland outdoor organization, the Mazama Club. In the spring of 1926 the Mazamas sponsored an excursion to the area described in the club records: "Leave Fourth and Stark Streets on Southern Pacific Train at 7:50am. Buy one way ticket to Beaverton. Hike over Canyon and Barnes Roads covering many fields and trails to Cedar Mill. Stop for lunch in the playgrounds of the New Lost Park. After lunch travel on Barnes Road to top of hill and the home stretch by way of trails and woods, arriving at 16th and Jefferson Streets. Fare, 40 cents, Distance about 10 miles."

Although Reeves lived in Portland, he maintained the park from his summer home on the property. The three Reeves children and their mother accompanied him to Cedar Mill to spend their summer vacations. Reeves believed in keeping the children occupied with various duties at the park. Lois collected the 25¢ admission charge, Gordon worked at the concession stand and Irma served as lifeguard.

When the Depression of the 1930's reached its peak, people could no longer af-

ford the time or the cost of recreation. As a result, Frank Reeves and his brother Burton subdivided the property. Lots and partially constructed homes were sold for \$1,000 - ten dollars down and ten dollars month, which provided a housing solution in the depressed economy.

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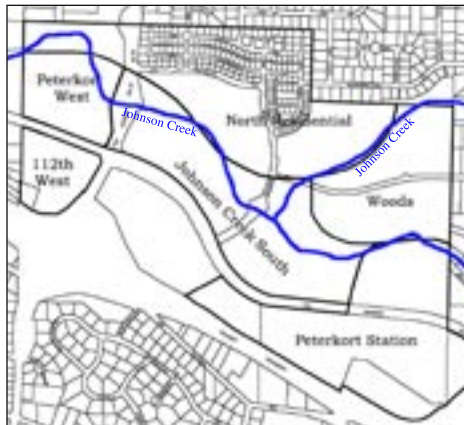
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## Next Peterkort development takes shape

Renaissance at Peterkort Woods is the next phase of the Peterkort residential development slated for construction in Cedar Mill. The 223 units of "upscale townhomes" will be built on approximately 20 acres in the area east of Valeria View, the road that links Barnes Road into the current Morrisette subdivision (see map). Renaissance Development of West Linn (renaissance-homes.com) will build in five phases during the next four years. The first phase will consist of 42 units, an outdoor pool and spa, and a clubhouse, which will be used as a sales office until the units are sold.

The Renaissance website says, "This community will feature village units as the core, forest units

around the perimeter backing preserved open space." Prices for the units, which will all be for sale, range from "the mid \$200s up to as much as



\$600,000 for the premier forest units with top-of-the-line packages," according to Renaissance president Randy Sebastian. "These will be really beautiful buildings in the Northwest Lodge style," he continues. Timber, stone, and other natural materials will help create the look. Renaissance already has

a waiting list of "priority interest" customers. Call Kim Whitman, VP of Sales & Marketing, 503-557-9100 for more information.

The property will be developed under the Washington County Master Plan, according to Marty Sevier, of MLS Associates, who has been working as a project consultant with the Peterkort Corporation for years. "Mayor Drake has promised us that he will never force us to annex into Beaverton," says Sevier. "We will look at annexing into Beaverton when it's appropriate."

The first public hearing for the development was held on May 20, and a decision had not been issued at press time. The application process is expected to be finished around the end of July. "Renaissance wants to have models open next spring," Sevier notes. "We plan to start building this summer," Sebastian mentions.

Beaverton submitted a letter to the hearings officer requesting connectivity to Morrison and Taylor streets as part of the development. Beaverton spokesman Joe Grillo says these

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streets need to be opened up to prevent all the traffic from flowing onto existing streets. (Taylor connects to Leahy Road to the east.) "There won't be any connectivity in the near future, because these roads are not up to standard at this point," says Washington County planner Al Boesel, who has been working on the project for the County.

The Renaissance property is split by two branches of Johnson Creek. Renaissance is only purchasing the developable land. This "sensitive area," still belonging to the Peterkorts, is expected to be transferred in some way to Tualatin Hills Park & Recreation District (THPRD). THPRD planner Pat Flanagan says they will likely put a trail somewhere in the streamside buffer area or nearby. It's not been decided yet whether the land will be developed as a park or left as an undisturbed wild area.

"We've been working with THPRD all along. They don't want half a stream," says Sevier. "It's a matter of timing. When both sides have been built out, we can look at the park issue."

Tri-Met has no plans to develop transportation access to the area, but spokesperson Mary Fetsch likes the idea of building some kind of pedestrian access to the nearby Sunset Transit Center.

## Join the Cedar Mill Business Association

**Class One Voting Members:** a person, firm, or corporation who owns business property or operates a business within the Cedar Mill area. **Class Two Non-Voting Members:** a person or organization having a demonstrated interest in the Cedar Mill Business Association area and whose membership the Board of Directors approves by majority vote.

Please send this form with your check, payable to:  
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Both classes of membership:  
1 year @ \$70 pro-rated from 6/04 -12/04: \$40  
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Send my meeting notices by:  Email  Postal Mail  Fax

Include my business in the Cedar Mill Website Business Directory ([www.cedarmill.org/biz](http://www.cedarmill.org/biz)).  
 Contact me about creating a web page linked from the Cedar Mill Website Business Directory.

Farmers' Market, continued from page 1

There's a lot of work involved in running the market. Gross explains, "Since the market runs for at least four months—a full one-third of the year—just the in-season time alone is a huge time commitment. For several weeks in April and May running the market is a lot like running any small business, with marketing and bookkeeping work. There are a couple of months "off" in the winter when work only involves answering a few phone calls. Preparation begins in earnest in February when the phone calls come pouring in from vendors and musicians seeking to participate in our market.

"In the spring, we work with the property owner/manager—currently Pan Pacific Retail Property, Inc., manager of the Sunset Mall property—to secure a site for the market. We also have to secure insurance yearly. We get up-to-date on Oregon Department of Agriculture rules, such as food safety requirements, which affect the market and our vendors. We register with the state's Farmers' Market Nutrition Program so that our farmers are able to accept coupons. We make sure that updated information goes out to local publications. When our venue and insurance coverage are confirmed, we send updated applications and rules to all former vendors and several dozen new potential vendors who have contacted us. And of course we do our taxes!

"As we take in dozens of applications, and knowing our stable weekly booths such as Master Gardeners, we create a map of the market for each of the 17 or more weeks the market will be open. Every week tweaking the site map is like completing a puzzle, fitting a new mix of vendors together in a way that works best for everyone. Each Friday evening, we work up a final site map for the following day (taking into account expected weather conditions and all vendor cancellations, additions, and other input) and we chalk the booths onto the pavement of the site. (It can be difficult working around parked cars in our site, and sometimes we deal with surprises such as dumpsters parked and left in the middle of the market).

"We're up the next morning before 5:30 with the van and trailer loaded up and on site by 6 am to get vendors to their booth spots, and get our "Kids' Place," the Master Gardener booth, information booth, musician canopy, and other equipment into place. Our day doesn't end until clean-up is done near 3 pm and then we get home and unload our vehicles, so Saturdays are easily ten-hour workdays for the both of us.

"During the week, there are hours of phone and email exchanges with vendors and with community groups who might come out to the market to share information or to perform or fundraise. There is ongoing work on advertising, sign maintenance, press releases, and so forth. Once the market is rolling, we have

paperwork for the Farmers' Market Nutrition Program (for both WIC and Senior clients. Coupon records are maintained and coupons are submitted weekly to DHS for reimbursement. Other weekly bookkeeping tasks include maintaining records on booth fees, collecting payments and issuing receipts. We pay our musicians a little, but always wish we could pay them fairly. I dream

that some day local businesses will step up to sponsor music each week at the market."

The Cedar Mill Farmers' Market is registered with the state as a non-profit corporation, but currently doesn't have enough of an educational component to get IRS non-profit status. The market also belongs to the Oregon Farmers' Market Association, which has helped them with documentation and many other things. The association website ([oregonfarmersmarkets.org](http://oregonfarmersmarkets.org)) includes a "produce table" for shoppers indicating what's in season, along with loads of support for market organizers.

Food vendors must meet county food preparation and handling standards. Market staff approve crafts or other items offered for sale. Booths cost between \$25-40 depending on size. Community groups are welcome to join the market for fund-raising or information distribution—contact Dina for more information.

"We need volunteers!" she exclaims. "We have some lovely helpers who come to spend an occasional Saturday with us, helping custom-

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ers find items ("Where can I find white peaches this week?" or "Does anyone have heirloom tomatoes?"), carrying items to customers' cars or anything else that comes up. We'd also welcome help with weekly prep or for off-season tasks such as advertising. If you think you might be interested in helping out, we'll find something you'll enjoy doing. Benefits include all those great intangibles like knowing you're supporting a wonderful community event and spending time out in the sunshine meeting lots of fun people. And there are other more tangible benefits, adjusted to fit the volunteer, but usually some great fresh produce rewards are involved!"

To volunteer, or with other questions about the market, call Dina Gross at 503-617-1719 or email her at [dina@thegnar.org](mailto:dina@thegnar.org). They also have a small website at [cmfmarket.org](http://cmfmarket.org)

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