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Cedar Mill News

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****featured business****

Mr. James Hairstyling a mainstay of Cedar Mill

Back in 1965, when Richard James and June Newcomer bought into the business, Bales grocery was next door in the building that now houses Hi-School Pharmacy. They've seen the area grow and change around them. "Mike's Auto Parts was a lawnmower repair shop," recalls James. "I remember once Mr. Bales got shot during a robbery at the grocery. And Cornell was only paved through to Miller Road." But things have stayed pretty much the same inside Mr. James Hairstyling, and that's the way everyone likes it – customers and staff alike.

Mr. James has been styling for 45 years. He's now finding his expertise in the old styles coming back into demand among kids who want to emulate styles of the Swing Era.

"We have some of our original clients who are bringing their grandchildren in for haircuts now," June mentions. A large play area welcomes children to the shop, whether they're there for a cut or just accompanying a parent. And every child who gets a haircut gets to select a small toy from the "grandma catchers," an assortment of inexpensive toys in the waiting area.

The shop does everything connected with hair – coloring, cutting, styling, perms – and nothing else. No nails, no facials, just hair. They also carry a wide range of hairstyling products for sale. "And we'll do special orders if it's something we don't have," says June Newcomer.

She and James have been married for 47 years. They met at the Oregon State Hospital, where Newcomer was a nurse. "He was just out of the Navy one and one half months, and my girlfriend said 'There's a fella over there who wants to meet you.' It just

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Cedar Mill Business Association

Next Meeting: **Tuesday March 18, Noon**

Brown Bag - bring your own lunch

Location: **Cedar Mill Library Community Room** (upstairs)

Topic: **Highway 26 Improvements**

Speaker: **Steve Harry, ODOT Community Affairs Manager**

**CMBA is open to all Cedar Mill business people
-come check us out!**

Highway 26 widening will change traffic patterns

Join us at the next meeting of the Cedar Mill Business Association, where we'll hear from ODOT representative Steve Harry about the current work and future plans for Highway 26 (Sunset Highway). The meeting will take place at the Community Room of the Cedar Mill Community Library.

The Oregon Department of Transportation has completed the environmental impact study and is moving forward with design work for improvements on the Sunset Highway (U.S. 26) between Murray Boulevard

and Oregon Highway 217. The department estimates that the project will go out to bid in early to mid 2004. The currently estimated cost for the project is \$24 million.

The improvements are designed to continue the widening that has been underway east of Highway 217. Highway 26 will be widened to three lanes in each direction with extra lanes for traffic exiting to Highway 217, Cedar Hills Bl. and Murray Bl.

The Barnes Road westbound on-ramp to Highway 26 was removed

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Highway 26, continued

during the West Side Light Rail and Highway 217 Interchange realignment projects. It will be replaced as part of this project.

The project will eliminate the “weaving” conflicts for westbound traffic between the Highway 217 on-ramp and the Cedar Hills Boulevard off-ramp, where cars must weave right to exit onto Cedar Hills and left to enter 26.

These traffic improvements will be accomplished using an elevated ramp to separate conflicting traffic from the westbound mainline. Also known as a braided ramp, this structure will create some visual impacts in the area. According to the current design proposal, the Cedar Hills Bl. offramp will pass under the 217-Sunset ramp.

Traffic entering westbound Highway 26 from Highway 217 will merge with mainline traffic west of the Cedar Hills Bl. interchange. Traffic from northbound Highway 217 can merge with U.S. 26 traffic, but traffic going to Cedar Hills Boulevard must exit and turn west on Barnes Road.

The intersection of Barnes and Cedar Hills Bl. is already congested at peak times. It is unclear what the impact may be on traffic on Barnes Road. Although all the 217-to-Cedar Hills Bl. traffic will be routed onto Barnes, the traffic currently coming down Barnes to access 26 westbound will now be able to enter 26 near the Sunset Transit Center.

The Environmental Impact Study, completed in January 2003, found that there would be little impact on the existing environment. Most of the widening will take place within the existing roadbed, by eliminating the

center median strip.

New “wetland enhancement” is planned for the area where Cedar Mill Creek will pass beneath the highway which, according to ODOT, “will be beneficial to downstream water quality and hydrology. They will also provide habitat improvements for resident fish and wildlife.”

During the initial round of public hearings, there was much testimony from residents of nearby housing regarding traffic noise. ODOT is planning to add noise walls along the north side of the addition between Cedar Hills Bl. and Murray.

There are no public meetings scheduled at this time, but once the design process is further along, more meetings will be announced.

“The world is run by those who show up”

This motto appears on the monthly newsletter of CPO#1, the Citizen’s Participation Organization that represents Cedar Mill.

Among the presentations at a recent meeting, Metro Councilor Susan McLain presented information on Metro’s Goal 5, relating to environmental impacts involved in growth. Rick LaManna, our new Director of Services and Standards at the Sheriff’s Office provided an update on the Enhanced Sheriff’s Patrol District levy.

The CPO newsletter is available online at extension.oregonstate.edu/washington/newsletters/cpo/2001/cpo1/cpo1news.htm. Meetings are on the first Tuesday of each month in the auditorium at St. Vincents Hospital. Come along and find out what’s going on!

Mr. James, continued

went from there!” They originally had partners in the business but bought it outright 15 years ago. They still stay friends with all their old partners, though.

“In the early days, all our stylists were employees. But state laws changed and now they’re mostly contractors,” says Newcomer. But Zoanne, a tall redhead, started working there as her first job twenty years ago and continues as one of the top stylists. She is one of the rare breed who listens to the client and gives them what they want, rather than what she wants. She’s happy to give advice, but if you want your hair to grow long, she won’t cut it short.

The shop has hours to accommodate everyone. Zoanne takes late appointments (up to 9pm) several days a week, and early morning appointments are also available.

June Newcomer has been a member of the Cedar Mill Business Association for five years and is currently serving as Treasurer. In previous years, she’s worked as a tax preparer during tax season, but this year she’s a student, taking classes at PCC.

You’ll find friendly and skilled people and reasonable prices here. “I was looking the other day, and found that we’ve only increased our price \$6 since 1983. We only raise them about once every five years,” June notes.

Cedar Mill Business Association

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