



# Cedar Mill News

Volume 4, Issue 8

August 2006

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## Featured Business

### Sunset Science Park Federal Credit Union

Electro Scientific Industries, Inc. (ESI) which was founded in 1944, was one of the first businesses in the Sunset Science Park area of Cedar Mill. A group of eight ESI employees decided that they wanted to have their own cooperative financial institution. They formed a Board of Directors and in 1960 proceeded to found Sunset Science Park Federal Credit Union (SSPFCU). At first it was only ESI employees who were eligible to join the Credit Union, and it was located in a "broom closet" in one of the ESI buildings.



Eventually they decided to expand to serve the other businesses that grew up in the Sunset Science Park. During the first 30 years of operation, they moved to several locations along Science Park Drive. In 1994 SSPFCU had the opportunity to purchase the building at their current location, on NW Murray across from the Safeway shopping center.

The Credit Union is run by a Board made up of members who are volunteers. About a year ago, the Board of Directors decided it was time to expand a little bit more, and now if you are an employee of a small business in the Cedar Mill Community, you can join SSPFCU.

### What's a Credit Union?

Jenny Bevard, who has been with SSPFCU for nine years, explains, "Our members have a voice. Credit Unions are owned by members and banks are owned by stockholders. We are here for our members, not the bottom line or stockholders. We have very few fees & low loan rates. We live by the

motto: People Helping People."

Bevard continues, "In the true spirit of Credit Unions we have maintained a core field of membership, which has always been the companies on Science Park Drive. We feel our niche is staying small and maintaining personal relationships. We have chosen to grow a little by expanding our field of membership to owners and employees of small businesses in the Cedar Mill community."

SSPFCU has everything a bank can offer. They are full-service and offer many products from mortgage loans, consumer loans, ATM/debit cards, free home banking and free bill pay. Their website (sspfcu.com) offers everything from an online loan application to loan calculators. They are part of an ATM network

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### Next Meeting

### Cedar Mill Business Association

Tuesday, August 15. 7:30 am

Place: Cedar Mill Community Library

Topic: TBA

The Cedar Mill Business Association's meetings are free and open to anyone interested in business in Cedar Mill

### History in the News

### The Bauer Family—steam engines to subdivisions

By Nancy Olson, co-author, Cedar Mill History

When my husband and I first moved to Cedar Mill in 1964 we purchased a house and several acres on Saltzman Road where we lived for nearly 25 years. The home was built by Willard Bauer for his first wife on part of the 80 acres purchased by his parents in 1929. This was where Willard Bauer grew up with his sister, Gladys, who later married into the Peterkort family. It was my neighbor Willard who more than anyone inspired Linda and me to pursue the history of Cedar Mill. He had great stories and great photographs from the past.

It was in 1905 that Willard's grandparents, German immigrants Gottlieb and Caroline Bauer, arrived in Cedar Mill with their children Henry and Lena. The fam-



Gottlieb Bauer, 1930 (photo courtesy Clifford Bauer)

Gottlieb Bauer and his sons, Henry, Richard, Clifford, Arthur, Otto, and Herbert, worked together raising wheat and dairy cows. Their baler and thresher were driven by a wood-burning steam engine.



Bauer boys with horses, around 1916. Willard Bauer is the toddler in the center. (Photo courtesy Mrs. Art Bauer)

ily rented land and eventually purchased 80 acres on a portion of the future Sunset Science Park in 1919. Henry and Lena were joined over the years by five more brothers.

Clifford recalled that the engine was pulled by a horse-drawn water wagon that was filled twice a day during harvest time. Creeks and

*Continued on page 4*

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see page 7

# Bike advice and more at the Market

By Kat Iverson, Treasurer, Washington County Bicycle Transportation Coalition

Farmers on bicycles? Maybe not, but there are bicycles at the Farmers' Market. The Washington County Bicycle Transportation Coalition (WashCo BTC, or if you're really in a hurry, BTC) has a booth at the Cedar Mill Farmers' Market.

In 2000 we started as a chapter of the Bicycle Transportation Alliance. Last year we applied for independent, 501c(3) non-profit status, and we recently received

an official IRS recognition. We are dedicated to promoting bicycle transportation, education, and advocacy; protecting bicyclists' rights; and improving bicycling conditions throughout Washington County. We teach bicyclists the skills needed to ride in traffic, and we work with the county to improve the roadway infrastructure for bicyclists. We contributed to a recent improvement in Cedar Mill when two of us met with a technician at the corner of Thompson and Saltzman, where bicyclists had trouble being detected by the traffic signal. We rode every which way through the intersection while the technician adjusted the video detectors. Now bicyclists should be able to get green lights at that intersection.

Last year we were looking for a venue to show our presence, become better known in the community, provide a service, and make some money. We applied for booth space at some farmers' markets, and Dina Gross at the Cedar Mill Farmers' Market was glad to have us. This is our second year there, providing bicycle safety checks and selling helmets, maps, and a medical information form to put inside helmets (in case of emergency). We also distribute several free maps published by ODOT and the Washington County Visitors' Bureau. Stop by for any of these or for a chat with bicyclists. We may be able to help with route suggestions, or other advice. Even if you're not a bicyclist, you're welcome to stop by and learn why bicyclists behave the way we do.



A BTC volunteer helps would-be bicycle commuters plot a safe route

the official IRS recognition. We are dedicated to promoting bicycle transportation, education, and advocacy; protecting bicyclists' rights; and improving bicycling conditions throughout Washington County.

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We hold regular monthly meetings at the Elsie Stuhr Center in Beaverton. See our web site at [www.washcobtc.org](http://www.washcobtc.org), or call 503-516-6733 for more information about our meetings and classes.



Andrew Eickelberg has a new helmet fitted at the BTC booth

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 See page 5

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# Sustainably grown coffee at Farmers' Market

Sierra Alta de la Costa Sur Coffee was founded in 2001 as a humanitarian effort to help the family farmers in the little village of Chanquiahuitl, Jalisco, Mexico. The villagers grow some of the best coffee available.

Sierra Alta now has a small roasting operation based out of its SW Portland location. These roasted beans are currently available at the Cedar Mill Farmers' Market every Saturday morning from 8 AM to 1 PM. The price is very reasonable and it's a great feeling to know that the people growing the beans are making a decent living. Plus, it's

Jose's and other family farms. Ever since, he has been overseeing production and helping with the harvest. The farms are located about 200 miles southwest of Guadalajara, high in the Ejido Ayotitlan of Jalisco, Mexico. Paying fair wages and a fair price for the coffee, Mike began importing these high quality 100% Organic Shade Grown Green Coffee Beans earlier this year.

Many of the young people move away for jobs as Jose did, coming to the United States. If the farms can become sustainable, the young people will work their land and earn a living with a thriving coffee farm.

When the growers are paid a fair wage and fair price for their coffee, they strive and take great pride in their work and their farms.

Sierra Alta Coffee is dedicated in helping these family farms to achieve sustainability. All our efforts are to realize an alternate source of income and a more diverse revenue base for these families.

When the coffee market drops out again they won't have to experience the poverty and destruction of the family units as the bread winners migrate to the cities or risk illegally crossing into the United States to earn enough money to feed their families back in Mexico.

Sierra Alta also has a Mexico Office located in the little Mexican town of Minatitlan, located in the bordering state of Colima. Sierra Alta de la Costa Sur Specialty Coffee is a transparent conduit working for the coffee grower co-ops in order to help market and distribute their export-quality 100% organic shade-grown coffee beans.

Ninety percent of all proceeds from coffee bean sales are given to the farmers and co-ops. Sierra Alta Coffee donates school supplies for the children as well as shoes and

clothing each year. The last two years Sierra Alta was able to donate a computer for use in the village of Chanquiahuitl.

Sierra Alta Coffee was helpful in educating co-op members about the care and quality controls needed for the specialty coffee market. A feasibility study using this information was compiled relating to the construction of a coffee processing facility centrally located in the Sierra Manantlan Biosphere Reserve in the small town of Chancol, a center for the indigenous people and the Union of coffee grower co-ops.

Sierra Alta Coffee is also assisting local residents establish an eco-tour business offering tours into the Sierra Manantlan Biosphere Reserve. With plans in progress, rustic cabanas are being constructed for multi-day excursions into the coffee growing regions, to visit these remote coffee plots. On horseback or hiking in on foot, visitors will see the indigenous coffee farmers, living as they have for generations on the forested slopes of the Sierra Madre Occidental of Western Jalisco.

Sierra Alta's intentions are to continue offering these coffee beans and spotlighting the growers. We hope to gain name familiarity, and to let the coffee consumers discover for themselves how good this coffee is; from a region of Mexico 'The Si-



terrific coffee!

This is high quality coffee 100% Shade Grown Arabica Beans. Known for its low acidity, full-body flavor and apricot after-taste, this coffee will sure to please coffee lovers.

In 2000 Mike Watson, co-founder of Sierra Alta Coffee, LLC, met Jose, who told him stories of back home. He spoke of how magical the land is and how great his mother and father are. He spoke of the mountains where he was raised, and told how they were enchanted. Mike needed to see firsthand this place called Sierra Manantlan. He wanted to see what sounded like an impoverished paradise complete with the magic of Brujos, cattle rustling and wild west adventures.

Amid all this beauty, Mike found coffee plants growing at

Sierra Manantlan Biosphere Reserve.

For more information about ordering these fine organic shade grown roasted or green beans please contact: Mike Watson by Phone: 503-519-3030 or email: [mjw@lacostasur.com](mailto:mjw@lacostasur.com) or stop in at their booth at the Farmers' Market some Saturday.

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A Bauer team uses a steam engine to make silage, a way of storing animal feed for the winter (Photo courtesy of Clifford Bauer)

Bauer family, continued from page 1 ponds supplied the water that was transferred to the steam engine through rubber hoses. When work on the Bauer farm was completed, the family used their equipment to harvest crops for other farmers in the area, including Joe Murray.

Caroline Bauer died in 1927 and Gottlieb in 1935. Henry, the eldest son, by this time had purchased

his acreage on Saltzman Road and built the house where Willard was born. In 1982, this land was sold for development into a housing subdivision called Bauer Woods. Several other "Bauers" were built over the years.

The Bauer clan members were scattered throughout Cedar Mill. Willard's childhood home remains standing on Saltzman Road.



Bauer family and friends rest at the end of a hard day baling hay (Photo courtesy Herbert Bauer)

## Donate "gently-used" children's books

By Natalie Farci

My friend Kristen Coldwell and I have been in Girl Scout Troop 645 for five years now, and this summer we decided that we wanted to do a children's book drive for our Silver Award Project. This project is required to be over 40 hours long.

We started by finding out which charities needed and accepted

gently used children's books. Although most shelters and charities would only take new books, we did find a few places that will accept the books we collected: The Women's Shelter in downtown Portland, St Joseph's Shelter in Mt. Angel, Campo Azul Migrant Camp in Western Washington County, and a school in the Gulf Coast region.

In addition, Dina Gross, the coordinator of the Cedar Mill Farmers' Market, has a friend who runs a library in Mauritania in northwest Africa. She is planning to take a suitcase full of books with her when she returns later this year.

The books we want to collect are children's books for kids anywhere between infant and teenager. So far we have only collected a few bags from our neighborhoods, and we have been keeping them in our homes or garages.

Although some of the charities are a little far away, it will be our job to deliver the books, with the help of our parents, to each of the shelters.

We are required to finish this project by the end of August, and are looking to collect a lot more books. If you would like to donate your gently used children's books



Kristen Coldwell collects books at the Market

to these good causes, you can either bring them to the Cedar Mill Farmer's Market (Saturday morning from 8-1) or you can call me at 503-466-2304 so that we can pick up books from you.

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# Speed zone changes at Sunset High on Cornell

During the recent legislative session, the school zone speed law was changed again. People had been complaining about the 20-miles-per-hour 24/7 law, and so now there will be three separate speed limit configurations: School Zone 20 mph when children are present; School Zone 20 mph when lights are flashing; and School Zone 20 mph on School Days 7 am ñ 5 pm.

The stretch of Cornell adjacent to Sunset High School falls into the latter configuration. The new signs were installed last month. The speed limit outside school hours will be 30 mph, and will be 20 mph between 7 am and 5 pm on school days.

Beaverton annexed this section of Cornell several years ago, and so it's the Beaverton Police Department that enforces the law. This stretch of road was the source of many photo-radar tickets as motorists learned to adapt to the 24/7 limit. Things should be a little better now that the 20 mph limit is only in force during school hours and days.

Be careful driving along there anyway—I witnessed a frightening accident when a student crossed Cornell (not in the crosswalk) and was struck by a motorist who pulled into the left-turn lane and didn't see her. The girl recovered from cracked ribs and facial contusions, and hopefully now uses the crosswalk!

SSPFCU, continued from page 1 and offer free service at over 24,000 ATMs in the US and Canada.

Judy Makela is the CEO, and has been with the organization for 27 years. Rhonda Baggarley is the Assistant Manager and has worked at SSPFCU for 18 years. The other four employees, Debbie (11 years), Trish (10 years), Stephanie (9 years) and Jenny (9 years) do "all the jobs," and don't have titles. The organization prides itself on its personal relationship with customers.

They joined the Cedar Mill Business Association at about the same time that they decided to open membership to area businesses. They felt it would be a good way to introduce their services to local companies and also give back to the community by getting involved. Bevard has joined the CMBA Board of Directors.

"We want to stay small and local," says Bevard. "We know 99% of the people who walk in here, and that's the way we all like it."

SSPFCU is open Monday through Friday from 9-5:30. You can call them at 503-643-1335.

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## The Nature of Cedar Mill

### Willow Creek Flora and Fauna

By Bruce Bartlett, Bonny Slope resident

I live at the headwaters of Willow Creek. Up here in the Bonny Slope area, Willow Creek is a seasonal creek which dries up in the summer. Willow Creek eventually flows into Rock Creek and then into the Tualatin River. Recently the Rock Creek Watershed Partners started a tour of Willow Creek in my backyard.



Water from the subdivision next door drains through a water-quality vault directly into the Willow Creek headwaters. Marsh buttercup makes the site more attractive while the roots will filter the water and the leaves provide cooling shade.

When I first explored the three acres I eventually bought, it was a wonderful tangle of second-growth woodlands. This wild area was very inspiring and I tried to minimize the impact I had on the property while building a house on it. This meant leaving many of the firs and cedars standing.

The garden beds incorporated the existing native plants: Oregon Grape, mallow, blue-eyed grass,

mimulus, snowberry, cascara, vine maple, service berry, sword ferns and trilliums. Very little use of herbicides and no use of pesticides has been made. Herbicides were used initially to control the invasive non-native plants and poison oak.

The back part of my yard consists of a meadow surrounded by oak trees with Willow Creek running through it. Around the creek bed is a camas field (Camassia quamash - [www.paghat.com/camas.html](http://www.paghat.com/camas.html)). The camas was here when I bought the property and I have made all efforts to maintain and increase the camas. The ripe camas seed heads are all that is visible this time of year.

Since I built my house, subdivisions have grown up around me and storm drain pipes now feed water into the creek rather than water flowing in a sheet across the landscape. The creek channel is not straight and has been allowed to fill with plants to filter the water. When there is a large summer shower, the water from the neighboring subdivisions washes into the creek. When this water hits an impediment, the soap from car-washing foams up. Last summer, after the heavy rain shower in August, there were mounds of soapsuds 5 feet high in the creek.

Many flowers live in the streambed: False Nettle has pink/purple flowers. Marsh buttercup is the spreading plant with "buttercup" flowers. Nightshade is the spreading plant with purple flowers. Red twig dogwoods were planted.



View from the deck shows a trail wandering among the towering oaks and planted beds. The stream is at the rear of this view.



A pleasing mix of natives and hardy ornamentals eliminates the need for chemicals and excessive watering

The groves of Oregon White Oak (*Quercus Garryana*) support many birds including woodpeckers and other insect feeders. Leaves and fallen branches are used as mulch in the garden beds. In the time I have lived here, all the native squirrels have been replaced by the introduced, larger gray squirrel. Much the pity, it is more akin to a rat than wildlife.

Looking at the evergreen trees in the area, you will observe the dead brown ends on the east side branches. This winter we had a week of freezing at night and thawing during the day. The east wind blew persistently. The wind desiccated the freezing/thawing branches and killed them. Looks like it will make the trees more lopsided. I checked with a forester who said the killing was not caused by acid rain. The first signs of that would be dead moss and lichens which are much more sensitive to pH than trees.

The headwaters of our creeks and streams do much to clean the surface water and support amazing communities of plants

and animals. The work that the Rock Creek Watershed Partners is doing to educate people on the importance of these areas is essential to preserving and enhancing them.

For more information about the group, see their website at [rcwp.org](http://rcwp.org) or contact Amanda Wilson, Stewardship coordinator at 503-629-6305, extension 2953.



Stumps were left in place for visual interest and wildlife habitat

# Gain or drain? – county taxes and the unincorporated areas

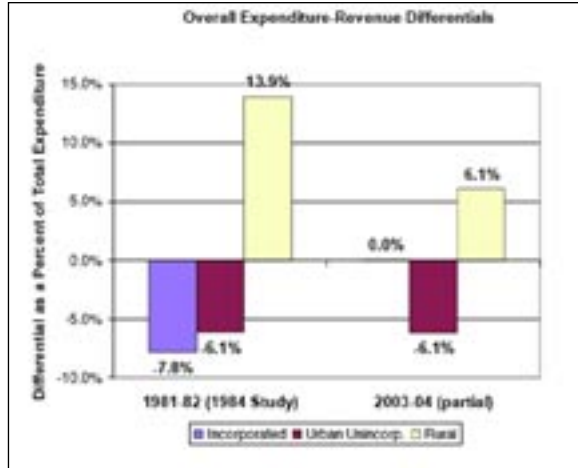
by Virginia Bruce

In 1984, Washington County commissioned a study to determine where tax revenues were being distributed compared to where they were collected. At that time, it was shown that residents of incorporated areas of the county (cities) were paying more than they were receiving in services, residents of

years. In March, County Auditor Alan Percell presented early findings to a group of mayors and county commissioners.

The updated study was conducted by the consulting firm Public Knowledge, LLC, under contract with the County Auditor's Office. They compared expenditures with revenue sources among three geographic areas: cities, urban unincorporated neighborhoods and rural areas.

"Based on these preliminary findings, the Washington County of today has reduced net transfers out of cities to almost zero," said Percell.



rural areas received considerably more than they paid, and urban unincorporated areas, like Cedar Mill, paid in a little more than they received.

Results from the 1984 study set the stage for 20 years of policy direction for the county, including adoption in 1986 of the county's strategic plan ("County 2000") and the creation of special service districts, such as the Enhanced Sheriff's Patrol District (ESPD) and the Urban Road Maintenance District (URMD) which we all pay for with our county taxes.

In 2005 the county began to update the study to find out if these and other measures were having the desired effect of balancing revenue and expenditure. Preliminary results show that the county has decreased net transfers across major geographic areas over the last 20

"Transfers exist, but they have shrunk significantly when compared to the situation in 1984 and need to be viewed in their policy context, including state and federal mandates."

The final study was due to be released last spring, but there have been delays in reviewing the material, says Percell. "We have to go through the entire report that we received from the consultants to check the figures." However, says Percell, "Our conclusions aren't changing much from the March report. The final report will just have more detail."

In overall terms, the current study shows city residents receiving roughly the same level of service as their revenue contributions support, the largest percentage change of the three geographic areas in the

study's overall findings since the early 1980s. Urban unincorporated residents are receiving 6 percent less than they support, roughly the same differential as measured in the 1984 study. Finally, the current study shows rural residents receiving a transfer in of about 6 percent, a differential that was reduced by more than half when compared with the 1984 findings.

Cities such as Tigard and Beaverton have been claiming that they subsidize residents of urban unincorporated areas. But the cities don't appear to be ready to conduct their own assessments. "One of the local cities asked us to include them in our study," Percell mentions. "We said we'd be glad to provide

them with our methodology, but we couldn't do a study for them. So we just don't have that side of the equation." The county's study does indicate that unincorporated residents are using city library facilities, but there is no clear indication of anything beyond that. In fact, the Washington County Sheriff found that claims of excessive Beaverton Police expenditures in unincorporated areas were not true. Perhaps the cities don't want to spend money to prove themselves wrong.

More information about the study can be found at the County Auditor's Web site at: [www.co.washington.or.us/serviceincidencestudy](http://www.co.washington.or.us/serviceincidencestudy).

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