The Madhatter GHQ
by Virginia Bruce

Imagine starting a business two weeks after graduating from high school, and continuing in the same location for nearly 30 years! That’s one way to describe Ramona Ruhr’s The Madhatter Custom Sewing, Mending and Alterations. The small shop, located in the Milltowner Shopping Center courtyard (near Walgreens) is a fixture in Cedar Mill and a favorite of everyone who needs to get a little sewing done.

Ramona started the business as a gift shop. She’d been making jewelry for various boutiques around the area while she was still in school. Two weeks after graduating from Lincoln High, she rented the space from Odus Bales. Bales Thriftway was still located in the large building that’s now occupied by Walgreens, and Foster’s Dinette (later the Hob-bitt)

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and various others) was next door. “Mr. Bales didn’t want to rent to me at first because I was so young, but my father came in and talked to him and assured him I could handle it,” she recalls.

She sold consigned items in the gift store, which continued for about ten years. “One of my customers found out I could sew, and asked me to do some work for her. I just started doing more sewing, and eventually I bought a professional machine for the shop.” She acquired other, more specialized machines to be able to accomplish the professional-quality work she insists on. Eventually the gift part of the business just didn’t seem important.

She handles almost every kind of sewing. She can create original designs from photos or patterns for most types of clothing. She can repair almost anything, including upholstery, stuffed animals, purses and belts. She does all kinds of alterations, including “about 13 hems every day!”

She creates prototypes for manufacturers, and has helped several local people getting started in business. One local business that got started with her help is Bazoongi Kids. An entrepreneur came in with an idea for a line of fabric play structures and sleeping bags. Ramona made up the prototypes, and the company took off, now selling their products worldwide.

One of the Bazoongi Kids play structure prototypes

Trails, bridges planned for Tilbury Park

Tualatin Hills Park and Recreation District (THPRD) will host a neighborhood meeting on Tuesday, November 13, at 6 pm at the Cedar Hills Recreation Center, Room 3 to present the Preferred Master Plan that has been developed for this park.

Roger Tilbury Memorial Park will be the next Cedar Mill area park to receive improvements using funding from the 2008 Bond Measure. This steep and wooded parcel is located about halfway between Cornell and Leahy, with one of its planned entrances on NW 93rd.

Johnson Creek forms most of the southern boundary of the park. Residents of Trillium Hollow Cohousing, which is located at the southeast corner of the park, also plan to allow the public to access the park through their property on Leahy Road.

Planned amenities include a trail network, creek crossing, overlook, and a picnic area and playground with a nearby space for nature play. Natural areas in the park will also be restored.

Master planning on the project began in summer 2012. THPRD staff has worked with the consulting firm Greenworks to incorporate input from the neighborhood meeting held earlier this year to create the design.

At the neighborhood review staff will present the design and answer any questions you may have about the project. Visit the district’s website at thprd.org/bondprojects/project.cfm/93/RogerTilburyMem-Park/. A full-size image of the park plan is at thprd.org/pdfs/bond/doc/document1913.pdf

Arsenic and Old Lace at Sunset
by Elsie Garner, Sunset student

The fall play at Sunset High School debuts this month. This year’s cast and crew has put in an exceptional amount of work to put on Arsenic and Old Lace, featuring a suspenseful plot and a comedic cast of characters.

“It takes over 100 hours of individual effort to put on the fall play,” says actress Mia Vicino (Elaine Harper). “When we’re onstage, we put in tons of effort to make the show look as professional as possible.”

Enthusiasm from the community drives the high school theatre department, so the audience means the world to these aspiring actors. Show your support and enjoy a night of entertainment at Sunset High School.

Arsenic and Old Lace shows on November 15th, 16th, and 17th at 7:30 pm. General admission, sold at the event, is $10, $30 for a family, and $9 for students.

One of the Bazoongi Kids play structure prototypes

Continued on page 10
Welcome to Barrel

Barrel is a retail wine shop combining local and international wines, familiar favorites, and undiscovered gems. We emphasize wines that express their origins and lend themselves to a comparison between old and new world wine. Barrel also offers a small and unique selection of local and international beers.

Barrel is a wine bar where you can meet up with your best friends and make new ones. Our ever-expanding wine selection features wines by the taste, by the glass or by the bottle. We have something for every palate and every pocket. You are welcome to choose a bottle off the shelf and relax at one of our cozy tables to enjoy.

Barrel is a wine-centric venue that offers a menu consisting of everything we love to have with wine or beer, from classic artisanal cheese to locally made charcuterie. We keep it simple with classic snacks on our daily menu.

Be sure to consider our weekly wine tasting, Fridays from 5-8 pm. Taste new wines from our own backyard and from regions across the globe. Barrel is an event space and makes a difference in the lives of the more than 14 million children. 100% of the proceeds donated to the TFTLP benefit local children in need, or the libraries, schools and programs that serve them.

The UPS Store and Mail Boxes Etc. network is the exclusive sponsor of the Toys for Tots Literacy Program. Since launching the program in March 2008, over $2 million has been raised, helping to deliver hundreds of thousands of books to less-fortunate children across the country. For more information, please visit www.ToysforTots.Literacy.org.

Get LinkedIn

LinkedIn is a powerful online tool that can be used to connect business to business, and it offers unlimited networking potential. Rosalea Peters of WEO Media will present a free seminar on how to set up your LinkedIn business or company account, as well as reviewing business-to-business advertising options and new features that LinkedIn has recently made available.

The seminar takes place Tuesday, November 13, at 6 pm in the Sunset Credit Union “igloo” at 11000 Northwest Murray Boulevard #200. Space is limited, so please RSVP your attendance to rosalea@wecomedia.com by November 9.

New Life Insurance Product at Farmers

On October 13, Farmers rolled out a new Life Insurance product. The new “Term Value” offers reduced premiums and a wider selection of underwriting classifications for the insured. The policies are available in 10-, 20-, and 30-year terms and are very competitively priced. If you have ever considered obtaining Life Insurance coverage to better protect your family and loved ones, now is the time. For a rate quote or product comparison, contact Farmers Insurance Agency Owner Joseph LaParne at 971-228-8966. The office is located at 1070 NW Murray Blvd, Ste 6.

Books for Tots

The UPS Store, at 10940 SW Barnes Rd, in conjunction with The UPS Store locations across the country, invites you to stop by and donate to help a disadvantaged child through the Toys for Tots Literacy Program (TFTLP) any time between November 1 and December 31.

TFTLP seeks to help economically disadvantaged children compete academically by providing them direct access to resources that will enhance their ability to read and communicate effectively. This program gives you the opportunity to have a direct impact on the children in our community.

Just one dollar donated buys a book for a child in need. With your support, TFTLP can make a difference in the lives of thousands of books to less-fortunate children across the country. For more information, please visit www.ToysforTots.Literacy.org.

The UPS Store is open Monday thru Friday, 9 am-7 pm, and Saturday, 9-5. For more information, call 503-646-9999 or visit our web site at www.theupsstorelocal.com/3379

Village Gallery News

The Village Gallery’s featured artist for November is painter Nancy Cuevas. As a child, Cuevas created art by copying the artwork on the back of her dad’s Reader’s Digests. Her favorite media are oil, pastel, and charcoal, and her paintings range from larger than life-size to small scale. Her subjects include figures, portraits, still life and animals.

She says, “Setting out the paints, mixing color, and figuring out exactly what I am seeing is very meditative. My work takes on a life of its own. My subjects become very familiar to me as I deconstruct their physical forms and rebuild them again on two-dimensional canvas. There is something joyful in creating a set of moments...my moments.” Cuevas started teaching about five years ago. Her work can be seen at http://www.nancycuevas.com. For more info on her classes, please visit www.cuevasartstudio.com.

Learn to create custom marbled papers from artist Danny Rodriguez at his workshop on Saturday, November 3, 10-3 at the gallery. A fee of $60 includes instruction and all supplies needed to complete marbled papers you can take home. Advance registration is required. Please call the gallery at 503-644-8001 or stop by to register.

Other November classes include Children’s Art Classes with Kristi Roberts on Monday and Wednesday afternoons; Linda Rothchild Ollis’s “Acrylics for Brilliant Transparent Paintings,” on Mondays; Liz Walker’s “Techniques & Projects for Watermedia Painters,” on Wednesdays; and Emma Achleithner’s Traditional Watercolor Class on Thursday mornings. Please call the gallery at 503-644-8001 or visit their website at www.villagegalleryarts.org for additional information about these classes.

Village Gallery is located next to the Cedar Mill Library at 12505 NW Cornell Rd. and is open Tuesday-Saturday from 10-4, Sunday 12-4, and closed on Mondays.

Preorder Your Thanksgiving Side Dishes from The Wine Cellar

The Wine Cellar on Saltzman is helping to make your holidays merry and bright. This year, enjoy holiday side dishes custom-made for you by Chef Melissa Stanton. Melissa will lovingly (and deliciously) prepare classic sides like stuffing, mashed potatoes, and pumpkin pie. But that’s not all! Enjoy new side dishes like: corn bread stuffing, sweet potato bread stuffing, and roasted butternut squash. And for the carnivores out there: beer braised brisket, stuffed acorn squash, and five spice duck.

Continued on page 11

Little Lucky Blue, by Nancy Cuevas

Conducting interviews and writing stories for Cedar Mill News November 2012

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November CMBA Program: Printing Solutions for Every Company

How much are you spending on document management? It just might scare you. Chris Cunningham, Manager of Document Services for CTX-Xerox, will be the featured speaker at the November 14 meeting of the Cedar Mill Business Association.

She says, “Most companies recognize the importance of cost-effective and efficient document management—industry analysts report that as much as three percent of annual revenues are spent on document production. However, the expertise and time it takes to achieve those objectives can be difficult to realize. CTX can show you what you don’t know about your own input, throughput, and output through workflow optimization.”

Learn about affordable business solutions that level the playing field for every size company. For a preview, visit their website, www.ctx-xerox.com. [The Cedar Mill News is printed on a high-speed color copier with a finishing attachment at CTX.]

The Cedar Mill Business Association meets on the second Tuesday of each month, 11:45-1 pm at the Cedar Mill Bible Church chapel, 12208 NW Cornell Rd. Non-members are welcome to attend a couple of meetings for free. Visit cedarmillbiz.com for more information. There’s free pizza, coffee and tea, or bring your own beverage if you choose.

And you’ll definitely want to block out 11:45AM - 1:00PM on Tuesday, December 11, so you can attend the Annual Holiday Event. There will be lots of free food, live music, door prizes and much more. This is CMBA’s biggest event of the year and is held at the Sunset Athletic Club located at 13939 Northwest Cornell Road. Please remember: this is a CMBA members-only event—no guests are permitted. You must either be a current CMBA member or plan to join at the event to be able to attend.

In addition to the festivities, at the Holiday Event, we’ll also be voting on next year’s CMBA Board. Our current Board members who will be serving the second year in their term are: Sandi Proctor, Rosalea Peters and Steve Lovs. Nominations for the three remaining positions are: Joseph LaParne, Joanne Hollister and Sandy Sahagian. If you have any questions or comments, please send an email to admin@cedarmillbiz.com.

County ordinance clears way for Fire Station 68

In October, the Board of Commissioners of Washington County voted to approve Ordinance 754, which changes some language in the County Code to clarify conditions for siting public buildings in residential areas.

The ordinance was crafted to respond to a ruling by the Oregon Land Use Board of Appeals (LUBA), which cited ambiguous standards in the County Community Development Code, at the request of Tualatin Valley Fire and Rescue (TVFR). (See the August article for more information.)

A new building for Station 68, on Thompson Road at Evergreen, was proposed in 2010 by TVFR to serve residents in the northern areas of the district. Neighbors fought the proposal, concerned about traffic, disruption to the neighborhood, and congestion due to the nearby Findley School. Lawyers for the group pointed out inconsistencies in the code regarding compatibility and also with calculations of traffic that would occur as compared to a residential use of the site.

TVFR will have to get county approval for a new development application before construction at the site can resume. No word from the agency about a schedule for that, but they very likely will try to complete the process in time for the 2013 construction season.

Got shoes?

Bring unwant shoes to the Leedy Grange Flea Market on Saturday, December 1, 10 am-4 pm. Impact Sign Company is collecting good-condition shoes in all sizes to benefit Indigo Rescue, a local volunteer animal rescue organization that assists county animal shelters by taking animals that have run out of time or are having difficulty in the shelter environment.

The Flea Market will be packed with vendors offering everything from pre-owned housewares and clothing to collectibles, antiques, holiday decorations and LOTs more. And the Girl Scouts are still collecting hard-to-recycle clean plastics marked with the triangle/number.
Safe Routes to School for Tualatin View

Sidewalks, ADA ramps, stairs, curbs, crosswalks and road improvements will make it much safer for the students of West Tualatin View Elementary to make their way to the neighborhood school, once construction is completed on this project, funded by a grant from the Oregon Department of Transportation.

Erik Furby, Engineering Assistant for Washington County, explains, “The project came about when a few community activists got together with the school district to apply for a “Safe Routes to School” grant from ODOT. Because roads in the area are under County jurisdiction, we at Washington County capital projects are managing the project.” The project will build a sidewalk on the south side of Leahy Road from 90th to 88th, and on Stark St. between 88th Ave (north leg) and 88th Ave (south leg). Furby says, “We will also be improving ADA access at the 90th/Leahy and 88th/Leahy intersections and replacing the ramp from 88th/Leahy onto the school property. This construction will be taking place from June to August of 2013.”

The school district, in addition, has stated that they will be improving ADA access on the school property also. This will be taking place in the spring of 2013, prior to the county construction project.

We applaud the persistent involvement of neighborhood residents in bringing various agencies together to improve conditions for everyone.

Public Hearing for Glenridge proposed development

A public hearing will be held to review the development application for an 18-unit apartment complex, “Glenridge Commons Apartments,” on Thursday, November 15 at 2:30 pm in the Auditorium of the Washington County Public Services Building, 155 N. 1st Avenue in Hillsboro.

Neighbors on Glenridge Drive have expressed concerns about traffic and on-street parking, among other issues regarding the development. The area is zoned for 9-12 units per acre, despite very poor access to the nearest through streets of Murray and Cornell.

Developers have added parking to the original design for the 1.54 acre property since the first neighborhood meeting last spring, and are now asking for hardship relief regarding the half-street improvement that the county is requiring. All interested parties are invited to attend.
**HOLIDAY HAPPENINGS**

**Second Edition Holiday Event**

On Tuesday, November 13, at 10 am, Second Edition will be magically transformed for the holidays—with beautiful holiday decor and household items. Then, for our annual Holiday Open House on Saturday, November 17 from 1-4 pm, glamorous holiday outfits will be unveiled and offered for sale, along with jewelry for all ages. Enjoy delicious light refreshments. Come find a great look for the holidays at an unbeatable price! Second Edition is an ongoing fundraiser for the Cedar Mill Library. Located at the east end of the library building. 503-644-6395.

![Photo from the 2011 SAC Holiday sale](Image 29x351 to 245x517)

**Ninth Annual Holiday Art and Gift Show at SAC**

On Wednesday, November 14, from 10 am-8 pm, Sunset Athletic Club will hold their annual Holiday Art and Gift show raising money and collecting food for the Oregon Food Bank. Find imaginative gifts handcrafted by local artists and see some of the artists demonstrate their talent. Canned food donations will gladly be accepted for the Oregon Food Bank. Find imaginative gifts at the French American International School’s Holiday Market, on Saturday, December 8 from 9 am-4 pm. This market is one of the most anticipated holiday venues in the Portland area, known for the breadth and quality of vendors and for its spirited atmosphere.

Over 45 local vendors will be selling distinctive items such as handmade hats and handbags, soy candles, bamboo clothing, French linens, bonsai, soaps, brightly colored children’s ponchos, jewelry, ceramics, and crafts. Sample gourmet cheeses or enjoy a luscious pastry, tart or baguette sandwich at the Parisian Café, sponsored by the Alliance Française. A local wine specialist will offer a selection of wines perfect for serving and giving this season. There will be entertain-

**Thanksgiving Eve Family Service**

Sunset Presbyterian Church invites everyone to their 6:30 pm Thanksgiving service. Dr. Jay Barber will bring a brief Thanksgiving message with a time for everyone to make a note on what they’re thankful for. For more information and directions, visit [www.sunsetpres.org](http://www.sunsetpres.org).

**Holiday Market at French-American School**

Don’t miss this holiday market with its distinctly international atmosphere! Sample crêpes, pastries, wine, and gourmet cheeses while shopping for unique and special gifts at the French American International School’s Holiday Market, on Saturday, December 8 from 9 am-4 pm. This market is one of the most anticipated holiday venues in the Portland area, known for the breadth and quality of vendors and for its spirited atmosphere.

**Oak Hills Holiday Bazaar**

The Oak Hills Holiday Bazaar will take place from 10 am-5 pm, Friday, November 30 and Saturday, December 1. As in years past, many of the vendors are Oak Hills residents and the rest are all from the Portland area, making this a perfect opportunity to “shop local” and support local crafters and artists. Vendors who wish to sell wares should contact event organizer Ruth McArthur at 503-645-3022 or ruthmcarthor@frontier.com for information and an application form. Hurry because there are just a few tables left.

**Holiday Tea at The Fanno Farmhouse**

The Beaverton Historical Society is sponsoring an elegant Christmas Tea at the Historic 1839 Fanno Farmhouse on Friday, November 30 & Saturday December 1, 11:30 am-1:30 pm. The house will be decorated for Christmas. Enjoy holiday music, and a traditional tea catered by Carrie Schubert of the Beaverton Bakery.

Tickets are $25 each. For reservations contact the Beaverton Historical Society at [info@historicheverton.org](mailto:info@historicheverton.org), (503) 430-0106, mail your check to P.O. Box 1825, Beaverton, OR 97075, or drop by the center at 12412 SW Broadway, Beaverton.

**Holiday Happenings**

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**Cedar Mill’s Leedy Grange presents a monthly Flea Market**

Every first Saturday 10 am - 4 pm

Leedy Grange Hall
835 NW Saltzman Road (at the Saltzman entrance to Thriftway)


## County line adjustment for Bonny Slope West?

_by Virginia Bruce_

A meeting was held in early October for landowners of the area known variously as Area 93 or Bonny Slope West. This parcel was brought into the Urban Growth Boundary by Metro in 2001. Because it’s in unincorporated Multnomah County, and now separated by a Rural Reserve area from the City of Portland, it has been difficult to proceed with the necessary planning to allow urban development to occur.

At the meeting, landowners heard from a variety of jurisdictional staff and elected representatives about the costs and benefits of a potential county line adjustment that would bring the area into Washington County, which seems to nearly everyone to be the logical move before putting any county effort into it.

Nearly everyone in the packed Leedy Grange Hall raised their hands when asked if they would consider it. At least one of the opponents later said she was only worried about the effect on wildlife. Between the buffers prescribed by Clean Water Services, and the potential of THPRD acquiring much of the area surrounding Bronson Creek, it is felt that natural area protection would improve.

The preliminary concept plan that was developed by Multnomah County in 2010 called for fairly dense development. Chair Duyck expressed his opinion that if the area were brought into Washington County, it would not be so dense. Less traffic on county roads, and less pressure on service agencies, plus the appeal of larger lots for “executive homes” were some of the reasons for this.

Many details remain to be worked out before any action is taken. We’ll let you know when there’s more to report.

**Background in the October 2010 article:** [cedarmill.org/news/1010/area93.html](http://cedarmill.org/news/1010/area93.html)

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There’s been a lot of discussion lately about fluoridated water, since the Portland City Council approved a measure to add the chemical to its water supply on September 12. Because some of the water distributed by Tualatin Valley Water District comes from Portland Water Bureau’s Bull Run source, people have been wondering if that will affect our water.

But surprising to many of us, Cedar Mill lies in the Wolf Creek section of the Tualatin Valley Water District, which has been fluoridated since 1963 after residents voted for it. It is mentioned on our water bills, but who reads those??

Tualatin Valley Water District Commissioner Marilyn McWilliams says, “The part of the district closer to Tigard, the Metzger area, is not fluoridated because that area never voted to have their water fluoridated. If Portland should begin to fluoridate their water, it just means that we will not have to add fluoride to the Bull Run water in the Wolf Creek area as we do now. For those customers who live in the Metzger area, it may be that we will have no choice but to provide fluoridated water to them too, since they receive exclusively Portland Water Bureau water.”

“We have not gotten many decisive answers from the Portland Water Bureau staff because there is a chance a referendum will delay or prevent the fluoridation. So until Portland settles the issue, we will continue providing fluoridated water to the Wolf Creek part of the district, and continue providing non-fluoridated water to the Metzger area. Of course, Beaverton also adopted fluoridation a few years ago, as has Forest Grove. So many people in the Tualatin Valley receive fluoridated water, and some do not.”

Now we know!

Cedar Mill Garden Club Monthly Meeting

The Cedar Mill Garden Club will be holding their monthly meeting on November 28. This month’s meeting will feature floral designer Ruby Warren as she and two other designers lead the group in a hands-on demonstration of holiday decorations. Each member will create their own design and participants are asked to bring greens and other appropriate items from their gardens and homes, as well as clippers, gloves and a container. The club will provide oasis and flowers. The meeting will be at 11:30 am at the Beaverton City Library in meeting room B. For further information about the Cedar Mill Garden Club and their activities, contact President Barbara Cushman at 503-649-7741 or visit their website www.thecedarmillgardenclub.org and Facebook page www.facebook.com/cedarmillgardenclub.
Free College Planning Seminar

On Wednesday November 14 from 7-8:30 pm, college consultant Kathy Connor will be hosting a free seminar entitled, “The Nuts and Bolts of the College Application Process,” for anyone in the community who is interested. Connor is a graduate of Stanford University and is currently completing her certification degree for College Counseling at UCLA. She wants to give teens and parents tools to help choose a college, how to find the best fit, how to apply and where to find the money. The seminar, part of the Parents of Teens program, will be held in Room P103 at the Cedar Mill Bible Church at 12208 NW Cornell Rd, Portland OR 97229 and is free of charge. For questions, email parentsofteencommunity@gmail.com.

Education Under Fire Screening

Last month, the Education Under Fire organization announced the release of their DVD documentary about the persecution of the Baha’i faith in Iran. The goal of the film is to raise awareness and support for mistreated followers of Baha’i. The Cedar Mill Library has responded to this call for action by hosting a screening of the film on Saturday, December 1, from 2-4 pm in the upstairs Community Room. There will be a Q and A after the screening. Refreshments will be served. Those who wish to order their own free DVD today can do so at www.educationunderfire.com/freedvd.

AARP Driving Skills Class

The next session of the AARP Driver Safety Class will be held on Fridays, November 2 and November 9, from 9 am-12 pm, at the Cedar Mill library. The class is designed to sharpen the skills of any drivers over age 50. Attending and completing the class may also make drivers eligible for an insurance discount. Classes are three hours long, and the cost for the two sessions is $12 -14 dollars. Payments can be made to the instructor on the first day of class. For more information, contact Gary Standley by email at usnudt@juno.com or by phone at 503-640-4404. Further details can also be found online at aarp.org/drive.

Blues at Beaverton Historical Society

The Beaverton Historical Society’s monthly meeting will take place on Tuesday, November 13 from 7-8:30 pm at the Beaverton History Center. This month’s meeting will focus around a historical blues concert with local musician Jason Thomas, the Blues in the Schools director for the Cascade Blues Association. He is a guitar teacher and plays in many top local bands, including the Stingers who will represent Portland at the IBC in Memphis in February, 2013. Jason has an entertaining and educational program that tells the history of the blues through music.

Growing Garlic

How to grow garlic and other Alliums will be the topic at a workshop with Chip Bubl, OSU Extension agent. Chip has been the Columbia County Agricultural Extension Agent since 1979. He teaches Master Gardener programs in the Metro Counties and at numerous other locations across Oregon. Always an informative and entertaining speaker, Chip brings his expertise and humor exploring growing garlic and other alliums in the home garden. Tuesday, December 4, 7:35, First Baptist Church, 5755 SW Erickson Ave., Beaverton. No registration and no cost. Find more at: www.metromastergardeners.org/washington

Free leaf collection

Falling leaves and heavy rain can wreak havoc on our storm drainage system and cause rising water in neighborhoods. Street sweepers are not designed to pick up yard debris, so instead of blowing or raking leaves, grass clippings and pine needles into the street, bring them to a free drop-off event sponsored by Clean Water Services. 8 am-4 pm on Saturday, November 17 and Saturday, December 8 at Home Depot, 13700 NW Science Park Drive.

We’ll also collect non-perishable food for the Oregon Food Bank. Visit the Clean Water Services website at cleanwaterservices.org or call our Leaf Line at (503) 547-8116 for details.

Get The News online: cedarmillnews.com
The Nature of Cedar Mill

River Otters!!

by Lauretta Young

Our house abuts a wetland near the Bethany Wetlands conservation area. This area gets water from Willow Creek and Bronson Creek. Over the years we have enjoyed seeing the typical birds as well as the occasion rarity. But this past month brought a new visitor to the visible pond—a North American River Otter.

When I first noticed movement and diving in the pond I thought it must herald the return of our Hooded Mergansers who come back in the winter. These diving ducks fish for tiny minnows and frogs. When I looked more closely it was apparent this was a HUGE animal. This animal was very active, moving rapidly across the pond and doing gymnastics, with its sleek tail appearing as it rolled around in the water. From my spotting scope I could clearly see it was a River Otter with a very large and furry tail and rather adorable facial whiskers.

This otter spent about an hour scooping up fish, frogs and possibly crustaceans from the pond. It would come up after going under water with both paws full of something and would stuff its mouth. I could see it chewing with gusto in my scope.

In the 15 years I have lived here, I had never seen an otter. We have an abundance of another furry species—the Nutria. They look like “two lumps” in the water, moving slowly across the pond. Nutrias are abundant in local parks and along water ways. These animals are vegetarians—I often see them at the sides of the pond munching on grass and weeds and sometimes cattail roots. They move very slowly and have rodent-like tails. The Otter was fast, sleek, and had a tail that was thick and furry. What a treat to watch this mammal have its lunch.

I have not seen the otter since, and I imagine that with the large amount of rain it would navigate from where it usually lives. I read online about a Bronson Creek project to protect otter habitat. Generally I have seen otters more in wild places, such as when we are hiking along a river, or fishing, crabbing, or bird watching on lakes. I certainly have never seen one in a city but it makes sense that where there is water and food the otter might thrive.

Look outside and maybe you’ll be awed by something unusual.

Lauretta Young is currently the Medical Director of the Integrative Self Care Initiative for Students project at OHSU Medical School. She also has a custom bird tour business where she takes tourists and locals on bird watching outings to learn about the marvels of nature. See her web site at Portlandbirdwatching.com.

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When Norm Thompson headquartered in Hillsboro, they brought several huge projects to Madhatter. One involved removing and replacing incorrect labeling on 1000 items of clothing. The labels had the wrong washing instructions, and had to be corrected and taken back to customs for approval. Another time, she and some helpers sewed about 2500 snaps that were falling off.

She has taught upholstery, and can renovate and recover furniture, boats, RVs and other applications. She created all the upholstery for the renovation of the Hobbitt restaurant in 2004. She also makes custom duvet covers and other bedding.

Customers sometimes come in with sports apparel that they want to modify. “They get ideas about how to make something work better,” she says. “Maybe a shorter zipper, or another fastener, or letting out or taking in a seam.”

Her prices are very reasonable. Hemming for a pair of jeans is $10, pants with cuffs are $15. Lengthening or shortening coat or jacket cuffs is about $20. There’s no extra charge for a rush job, but “people often tip me a little something if they appreciate the quick service,” she says.

Over the years she has created hundreds of wedding dresses, prom dresses, christening gowns and costumes. She can also make expert alterations to these special-occasion items so that they fit perfectly and are comfortable to wear. “I had to cut down the bodice for a wedding dress for a customer who was 4’9”. It came out great and she looked lovely,” Ramona recalls. “I try to be conscious of the little things, such as the way a wedding dress looks from the back, because that’s what people will be looking at during the ceremony. You also have to be careful not to make the bridesmaid dresses too short, so that they can be comfortable moving around in them.”

It’s gotten a lot harder in recent years to find fabrics for original designs. “JoAnn is good for craft materials, and there’s the Mill Ends Store, and Fabric Depot. For specialty items, I used to use Oregon Tailor Supply, now I get upholstery materials and sports fabrics from Rose City Textiles. If I still can’t find what I want, Britex is a mail-order supplier,” she explains.

In addition to the flexibility she enjoys by having her own business, and the variety of projects that come in, Ramona really enjoys her customers. She’s kept up with many of them as they grow up, get married, and have families. And people often stop in just to chat as she works. “We’ve really been part of each others’ lives over the years,” she says.

She’s often accompanied in the shop by one or more of her dogs, a lab, and a rescued lab cross. She sometimes barks ferociously when you approach the shop, but is very friendly once you enter.

At home, she also has a couple of rescued cats, and a quarter horse and a pony. She has always loved animals. “My grandfather had burros and horses. When I would visit, he’d give me a bucket of grain and a rope halter and show me how to catch a horse to ride. I remember riding when I was only six years old. My mother was appalled when she found out, but I loved it!”

Her family moved to a rural home on Springville Road when she was young, and she still lives there with her mother, who now has failing health and requires 24-hour care.

Madhatter GHQ is located at 12505 NW Cornell in the courtyard area of the Milltowner Center. The shop is open Monday to Saturday, after about 1 pm and until 6 pm. Occasionally Ramona needs to care for her mother, but there’s usually a note on the door explaining her absence. Call Ramona Ruhr at 503-643-3772 for more information.
Business News, continued from page 2

mashed potatoes, and original cranberry sauce. However, if you’re looking to add a little gourmet flavor to your Thanksgiving dinner, try her savory oyster stuffing, fully-loaded mashed potatoes, or zesty orange cranberry sauce. Of course, no meal would be complete without a fresh-baked apple or pumpkin pie or New York style cheesecake.

Call or come by to order your Thanksgiving sides and they will be ready for Wednesday or Thanksgiving morning pick-up.

The Wine Cellar is located at 525 NW Saltzman Road. Contact them at the shop at 503-643-5655 or 503-704-5805 mobile.

Virtue of the month: Enthusiasm

“And whatsoever you do, do it heartily”. Colossians 3:23

Enthusiasm is being filled with spirit. It means “God within.” When we live with enthusiasm, we are excited about life, and are open to the wonders each day holds. We do things wholeheartedly, with zeal and eagerness, holding nothing back. We allow the excitement of the moment to fill us....

The Practice of Enthusiasm: “I am excited about my life...I put love and joy into what I do... I smile, laugh and have a good sense of humor... I have a positive spirit.” Linda Kavelin-Popov.

Brought to you by Virtues Connection Portland, on Facebook at https://www.facebook.com/groups/143085841889. For more information, contact Delaram at 503-267-0202.

Will and Trust Planning

Free Seminar: What you need to know about Will & Trust Planning Attorney at Law Dean Shade will show you how to create a Will or Trust and discuss the differences between the two. This free seminar will be held Tuesday, November 14 from 6-7 pm at Sunset Credit Union, located at 1100 NW Murray Blvd., #200. To reserve your spot, please send an email to cuteam@sspfcu.com or call the credit union at 503-643-1335. Space is limited so please reserve your spot now.

Summit Dental Food Drive

Summit Dental in Cedar Mill will be hosting their second annual Food Drive in conjunction with the Oregon Food Bank. Donations can be dropped off at the office during normal business hours, Monday-Thursday from 8 am-5 pm. Summit Dental will be collecting food from November 15 to December 14. Dr. Hagedorn will match the amount of food donated during this time, so bring in your donations today! Last year, Summit Dental donated over 80 pounds of food to the Oregon Food Bank. You can read more about the food drive at www.summitdentalhealth.com or call the office at 503-644-7202.

Dance Beginners Welcome

To show their appreciation to Cedar Mill News readers, Impressions Dance Club is offering 50% off all introductory dance lessons between now and Thanksgiving. The Introductory Program includes three 30-minute private lessons plus admission to one of their Friday group classes and open dances. Community Dances are held every second and fourth Friday at the Leedy Grange. For detailed information visit ImpressionsDanceClub.net or contact Cynthia Parent at 971-226-1119.

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Mountain Man Nut & Fruit Co. snacks at Pars

Pars Market on Cornell Road will now offer delicious Mountain Man snacks in a single-size portion. Some of the most popular mixes will be available for just $2.95. For information on having Mountain Man products in your store contact Joanne Hollister at 503-701-4005.

Back and Ready for Business

Dr. Lauren McCabe of Cedar Mill Chiropractic Clinic will be returning from maternity leave November 12. Chase Henry Avolio was born September 26 weighing in at 8 pounds 4 oz. Also, both doctors at Cedar Mill Chiropractic Clinic are now in network with Aetna. Please call 503-646-3393 to schedule your appointment.

TriYoga workshop at SAC

Yogini Kaliji will visit the Sunset Athletic Club Mind/Body Studio, November 9-11, for a three-day workshop. Tri-Yoga unites breath and focus with dynamic and sustained postures to create greater flow of prana. Kaliji is the founder of TriYoga, a practice taught by over 1000 certified teachers worldwide. Contact Joan Gunness for details and to enroll: jlgunness@aol.com or 971-235-7621.
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