



A publication of the Cedar Mill Business Association

Cedar Mill News

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May 2003

Featured Business

Walker Garbage Service

Like many other businesses in our area, Walker Garbage Service has grown and expanded with the growth in population. In the early days of Cedar Mill, people took care of their own garbage. In a lot of cases, this meant dumping it over the nearest ridge. Of course, back then there was less packaging, and folks re-used and recycled from necessity. It was common to burn your trash in big barrels all winter, and then dump all the ashes in a big pile in the spring. That's when you'd call the hauler. "Shoveling those piles of wet ashes was really hard work," recalls John Walker III (known as Buz), who started working in his father's business in the mid-50's after getting out of the army.

In 1948 John Walker, Jr., who was already running a service in Portland, and his partner Al Miller bought the original garbage hauling business, which had been started in 1941. Using an open-bed truck, they serviced approximately two dozen customers in Cedar Mill, for one dollar per month per can. By 1978, Miller had retired and the business was taken over by Buz and his son John Jeffrey Walker. Another son, Greg, is also now active in running the business. Their office on Cornell is located in the building that used to house the Wolf Creek Water District.

In the late 70's, area cities and counties agreed on a system of territories which means that each hauler has an exclusive service area. They are subject to review by the cities and counties in which they operate. "It ensures that customers get fair prices and consistent service. They review all of us every year," says Walker.

Most folks might not think garbage hauling would be a good career, but for some people it's

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Join the CMBA—see page 3

Next Meeting
May 20, 2003

Time: 12 noon

Place: Cedar Mill Community Library

Topic: Preventing Business Burglary

Speaker: Mary Nunnenkamp, Washington County Sheriff's
Office Crime Prevention Officer

Join us for lunch to learn about ways your business
can protect itself from intruders.

FREE pizza courtesy of Pizza Schmizza
(bring your own drinks)

Cedar Mill Business Association – a bit of history

Several years ago, local business leaders saw a need to build a stronger business community and to improve communication among businesses in the area. The CMBA was incorporated as a 501c6 organization in 1995. A directory of businesses was prepared and a business newsletter was distributed. The expanded directory is now online at cedarmill.org/biz. The Cedar Mill News is a renewed effort at the newsletter.

Patricia Walker (Walker Garbage) and her son Greg "hit the streets during a hot July in 1994,"

to contact local businesses and seek their participation. "I had the ulterior motive of raising money for the library," recalls Pat, who was one of the library's Board members. Regular meetings began and a board of directors was elected. Pat was elected as the first president.

Early CMBA members included Pat Mahoney of Mike's Auto Parts who served as the second president; Linda Teufel who currently serves as Secretary; June Newcomer (Mr. James Hairstyling) who is currently

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An early Cedar Mill Days Festival, the old Library in the background

Preventing business burglary

Business will always be a target for burglary. As long as there are people who want a quick buck, businesses must take precautions to protect their stores and offices. We asked Mary Nunnenberg, Washington County Sheriff's Office Crime Prevention Officer from the East Precinct, what business people can do to prevent burglary.

Q: What are some of the best things a business owner can do to protect themselves?

A: Proper lighting. Lighting that allows deputies to see inside the building – all the way to the back of the shop – is the most effective. Lights that face the street or parking lot can cause deputies' vision to be impaired.

Do not leave valuables out in plain view. Never leave cash in the shop over night.

Q: Are there any patterns of burglary going on that we should know about?

A: In the last several weeks, two beauty parlors in the area of Cor-

nell and Saltzman were burglarized. The suspect(s) are taking beauty products and cash. Entry was gained by breaking locks. Store owners may want to consult a locksmith to enhance their security.

Q: What help does the sheriff's dept. offer to businesses? Is there such a thing as a safety audit?

A: If store owners would like a security assessment they can call me (Mary Nunnenkamp, Crime Prevention Officer) at 503-846-5930.

Businesses should start a business watch. The concept of Business Watch is similar to that of Neighborhood Watch. Basically, more eyes are watching out for each other. Owners and staff are trained on how to respond to situations involving their business. For more information on Business Watch call Mary.

Q: Do alarms help? What is the best value in an alarm system (what type of system works best for the

money?)

A: I am not permitted to endorse or not endorse alarms. Store owners may want to talk with other shop owners to determine the alarm company they use. Shop owners may also want to discuss the use of cameras.

Another option for research is private security. Again, I am not permitted to endorse or not endorse private security.

Q: What are the particular vulnerabilities for small businesses? How can they be improved?

A: It can be an additional risk for a small business to have only one employee on duty at a time. Additional measures should be taken to enhance employees' safety.

So improve the lighting in your shop, get to know your neighboring businesses, and take your money home at night!

Come to our meeting on May 19 to meet Mary in person and ask her your own questions.

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Treasurer; attorney Elissa Ryan, who as Secretary was instrumental in writing bylaws and filing the incorporation papers; Peter Leonard, Library director; Gary Schutz, CPA; Jordan Stockton, a chiropractor who also served as President; Ken Findley Bales; Norman White, White Realty; Jane Boone, Air, Food & Water Analysis; and Rich Berry of Cedar Mill Bible Church. Many of these folks are still involved.

Cedar Mill Days

One of the CMBA's major fund-raising efforts was the "Cedar Mill Days Festival." Cedar Mill Days was first held in the parking lot between the library and Hi-School Pharmacy

on Saturday September 16, 1995. "We had a lot of publicity for the event," recalls Pat. "We were on tv, along with people from the library, and we had a big banner across the road."

Local businesses and organizations set up displays to introduce themselves to area residents. The event was originally scheduled to coincide with the library's annual rummage sale, which has also been suspended.

Entertainment was a big part of the festival, from "Johnny Limbo and the Lignuts," performing on a Teufel Nursery flatbed truck, to a local marimba band and the Sunset High Dance Team. Kids' activities included pony rides and an inflatable "bouncer."

At least one year, local Boy Scouts offered sweet corn, and TK's Smokehouse, which used to be located on Cornell, served up barbecue.

Perhaps it was too many rainy days, people busy with too many other activities, or just good old burnout, but Cedar Mill Days was last held in 1999. Some folks would

like to see it come back this year or next. If you're interested in getting involved, contact Virginia Bruce at cedarmill@teamweb.com.



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County and Landowner Come to Agreement on Thompson-Saltzman Road Improvements

School Safety Issues will be addressed

Washington County's Department of Land Use and Transportation has been hard at work to figure out a way to make safety and capacity improvements to the irregular intersection of Saltzman and Thompson Roads in suburban Cedar Mill. They have reached a compromise with a landowner according to which traffic flow will be improved, schoolchildren at Findley Elementary School will be protected, and everyone's favorite cows can keep on mooing in their back yard.

The County's Project Advisory Committee for the Thompson-Saltzman project had recommended making "ultimate improvements" at both ends of a new subdivision (see map). Due to the projected costs for right-of-way and construction, as well as the disruption to adjacent property owners, the County re-evaluated the scope of the project.

Instead of the "ultimate" improvements, the County's design team has identified a win-win



solution: to build an "interim" improvement. The interim road alignment will allow the County to construct intersection improvements with sidewalks, curb ramps and a new traffic signal, eliminating the dangerous offset. But instead of making the connection with the new subdivision to the west, Thompson Road will tie back into the existing Thompson Road near the school entrance. As part of this interim design, no improvements will be made at the southwest end of the subdivision until such time as the northeast

end is developed.

There are many benefits to this interim alignment plan. It improves pedestrian safety at the intersection. It improves traffic queuing and safety for the school. It saves the County roughly \$1.2 million in right-of-way and construction costs. Best of all, it allows long time landowners to actively graze their cows and live out their lives in their home without being significantly impacted by the road project. Here's to kids, cows and compromise.

If you would like to view this new, smaller-scaled design, a public open house is scheduled for Monday, May 12th, beginning at 7:00 p.m. in the Findley Elementary School Library. For more information on the project or the open house, please contact Matt Costigan, Engineering Project Coordinator at 503-846-7825 or via email at matthew_costigan@co.washington.

Sign up now to receive The Cedar Mill News by email: cedarmill.org/news/signup

Join the Cedar Mill Business Association: 2003 dues

Member name: _____
 Business name: _____
 Address: _____
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 Website URL: _____

Send my meeting notices by: Email Postal Mail Fax

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

Class One Voting Members: a person, firm, or corporation who owns business property or operates a business within the Cedar Mill area. Number of full time equivalent owners and employees in your business:

1-3 persons:	\$60.00
4-10 persons:	\$85.00
11+ persons:	\$110.00

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.

Regular Associate members:	\$60.00
Non-Profit Organizations:	\$35.00

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great. "They like it that they can get their work done early in the day, and they like working outside," says Greg Walker. "But it's important that they be the kind of person who can get up early and go to work no matter what the weather. It's not bad in the summer, but when it's cold and raining or snowing, you have to be able to just get out there over and over and do it."

"Back in the early 60's we had a lot more snow. One time there were drifts higher than our trucks up by the big bend on Saltzman (near what's now Bauer Oaks). Over here off Cornell the grader that was clearing the road hadn't lowered his scraper enough, and it just left a big hole full of snow in the road. A VW beetle came along behind and got stuck – it was completely buried! There were some people up in the Dogwood area that got stuck for 2 1/2 weeks during that storm," Buz remembers.

They're out early to collect garbage from customers on Cornell and Saltzman, Greg mentions.



Walkers' first recycling truck

"People wouldn't appreciate having to follow our trucks on these two-lane roads during rush hour," he says. "So we get done there before folks are out."

Recycling

Recycling seems like such a normal part of life, and garbage collection, that it's surprising to note that the first recycling service of any kind in the area was when Carl Miller began picking up newspaper in the early '80s. "There was some thievery going on back then, because there was a market for newspaper. People would leave it out on their curb, but someone else would collect it," recalls Buz.

The Walkers had the first truck in Washington County that was purpose-built for recycling (see photo). "We just wanted to get it as efficiently as possible," says Buz. He notes that it's much easier since commingling began. "The product is less salable, but more people participate, so it is better in the long run." Far West Fiber has a huge facility where the commingled recyclables are sorted – mostly by machine but some of it by hand.

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Other Services

For drop boxes, Walker refers customers to Washington County Drop Box Service, a cooperative company that was co-founded by Walker and several other haulers. Contractors used to landfill construction waste, but now companies pick up and recycle most of it.

For customers who suddenly find themselves with a lot of cardboard on hand, perhaps after a move, just call and they'll send out a special truck on Mondays or Thursdays at no additional charge. And they'll work with your business to set up or improve your recycling system. Just call Greg at 503-626-3677.

Join the Cedar Mill Business Association—see page 3



Cedar Mill Business Association

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