



## Legislative changes

The November election results kicked off a game of musical chairs in terms of our local Oregon State representation. Elizabeth Steiner, who had been our State Senator, was elected to be State Treasurer and announced her resignation from the Oregon Senate. By law, the commissioners of the counties represented by a departing legislator get together to appoint someone to replace them for the duration of their term. That legislative appointment must be made from the same political party



Oregon House District 34. Boundaries were changed in 2021 as a result of the 2020 census.

as the previous legislator, and [within 30 days of the vacancy](#).

On November 14, the two commissions met and [unanimously selected our current State Representative Lisa Reynolds](#) to represent

*Continued on page 6*

## County proposes changes to CPO program

By Bruce Bartlett, CPO 1 Vice Chair and Chair of CCI

In November, [we introduced readers to the Community Participation Organization \(CPO\) Modernization program](#), a long-anticipated effort by Washington County administration to change many aspects of the CPO system. This month, we are sharing thoughts on one of the elements of the proposal: changes to the Focus and Scope of the future CPO program. Changes are also proposed for descriptive language, membership and how

## Well & Good coffee shop now open in Bonny Slope

Monday-Friday 6 am-4 pm, Saturday & Sunday 8 am-2 pm, 11200 NW Thompson, [wgdelicious.com](http://wgdelicious.com)



A welcoming spot for coffee, breakfast, and lunch is now open at the corner of Thompson and South Road. After several years running

Well & Good in Tigard, Brandon Mosser decided the time was right to expand. He and his crew have transformed the space that previously held Gallagher Designs and Aurora Coffee with a clean modern vibe and plenty of areas to sit and gather with friends.

They serve the usual range of coffee drinks made with beans



from Sisters Coffee, along with a tempting array of house-made pastries. Breakfast dishes include

waffles, sandwiches, burritos, biscuits, and avocado toast. Breakfast is served until 2 pm. Lunch features grilled ciabatta sandwiches with cheese and ham or turkey, with house made pesto, Italian, or red pepper sauce.

Bonny Slope neighbor Nick Olson and his partners own the building that was originally Helen's Grocery. After Aurora closed earlier this year, there were five offers on the space.



The partners chose Mosser because of his prior experience and solid business model.

From the time they got the keys on September 21 until they opened on November 15, the team worked to adapt the kitchen and serving counter and create the variety of seating areas that now welcomes customers. A tiny room just for "Well & Good Junior" customers was created under the stairway.

"We aim to provide a top-notch experience for



every customer," says Mosser. "We train our baristas and encourage a friendly and cheerful attitude." He says they are always accepting applications to ensure they have enough staff.

The building is available to rent for private events after regular business hours. They're already booked for a holiday party for the Ironwood neighborhood. Contact them [through the website](#) or call 971-470-5577.

of the CPO program, LUT planning topics have not drawn wide-spread interaction from the community unless that planning was directly impacting a particular neighborhood. The Cedar Mill Town Center planning process of the early 2000's was well engaged because of the immediacy of the impact. Also, the county's [Urban/Rural Reserves](#) effort of the early 2010's was actively engaged by people directly affected but certainly not by the overall community. The [LUT Planning Work Program](#), the [LUT Transportation System Plan](#), state law mandated [Middle Housing](#), and

*Continued on page 3*

# Cedar Mill Business Roundup

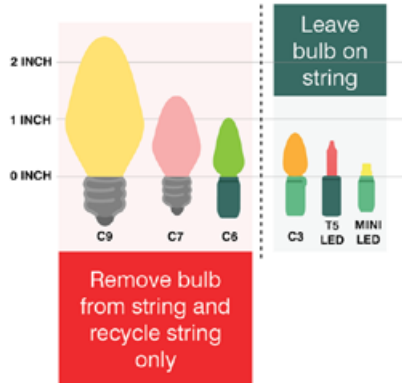
Do you have news or events or know of something that you would like to see covered in the Cedar Mill News? Please write to Virginia Bruce at [info@cedarmillnews.com](mailto:info@cedarmillnews.com)

## Walker Garbage holiday schedules, Recycle+ collection

If your route day is on Christmas Day or New Years Day, you can expect service on the next day. For updates in case of severe weather, visit the [Walker Garbage website](#).

If you are signed up for the Recycle+ service, it includes special collections a few times each year of specific items or materials for recycling or donation. You can set out string lights on your designated Recycle+ pickup day during the [special collection months of December and January](#).

Include: LED string lights; string lights with small bulbs;



and string lights without bulbs. Do NOT include: rope lights; novelty lights if you cannot remove the novelty bulb; inflatable yard figures, or other holiday décor.

## Free brake check with donated groceries

December 1- January 10, Monday-Friday, 6 am-5 pm, Du Fresne's Auto Repair, 10690 NW Cornell Rd.

Drive on in for [Du Fresne's](#) 21st Annual Free Brake Month. With a donation of a grocery bag of food we will do a free brake inspection, and if you need brakes the pad and or shoes are free. You just pay the labor. All donations will go to the Portland Rescue Mission.

## Help make the holidays better for those in need with gift cards

Donations accepted thru December 18, Sunset Credit Union, 1100 NW Murray Blvd. #100 (across from the Safeway Shopping Center)

Sunset Credit Union is teaming up with Family Promise of Beaverton to help brighten the holiday season and support those less fortunate. One simple donation can make all the difference for people of all ages. We've found that gift cards from places like Target, Fred Meyers, or just Visa Gift cards are the best gifts for giving to this worthy cause.

Sunset Credit Union is open to anyone who lives, works, worships or attends school in Washington County. To learn more, stop by our office at 1100 NW Murray Blvd, [visit our website](#) at or contact us at 503.643.1335.

## The Agency Portland celebrates its first year!

[The Agency Portland](#) has just celebrated its first anniversary providing local real estate services. Managing Partner, Dirk Hmura and Managing Broker, Andrew Misk launched The Agency Portland after having successful careers at local brokerages. Dirk and his team were pursued by The Agency



Beverly Hills to start the real estate company in Portland. They teamed up with Andrew and fast forward one year, the agency is now 30 brokers strong. Headquarters is in the flagship office at LifeTime Work, 500 SW 116th Ave., and at a boutique office on NW 23rd and Hoyt. Expansion plans to Lake Oswego and Vancouver are in the works as well.

## Enjoy chef-crafted holiday meals to go from Market of Choice

Sunday, December 1-Tuesday, December 31, Market of Choice, 250 NW Lost Springs Terrace. [Place orders here](#).

Market of Choice makes holiday dining effortless with a selection of exceptional, ready-to-enjoy meals and sides that taste like they came straight from your kitchen. With something for everyone, choose from chef-crafted main dishes, such as all-natural turkey, boneless



half-spiral sliced ham, and tender brisket, paired with an array of scratch-made sides. Complete your feast with delightful appetizers, decadent desserts, and thoughtfully curated wine pairings.

You also have the flexibility of à la carte selections or can opt for one of the Chef's Prix-Fixe dinners which serve two to eight people and are designed to bring warmth and joy to your holiday table without the fuss of cooking.

Order online by December 21st for Christmas meals, and December 28th for Hanukkah and New Year's meals. Pickup times are available from December 21-31. To learn more, please [visit our website](#).

## Cedar Mill Real Estate Market

It is cold in Portland! We are seeing downpours in the neighborhoods and snow on the mountain. The onset of winter brings a quiet real estate market typical of our

[historical seasonal patterns](#). This season brings some unique twists. Buyer traffic has shown greater resilience compared to 2023, and the lower interest rates in September were a big part of that. Still, inventory remains higher than usual and buyer traffic is declining.

There are some benefits for both buyers and sellers. This year, the market has been a bit more active. Buyer traffic typically drops a little faster during this time, but this year has shown a more gradual decrease. Lower interest rates in September are likely the reason, though rates have popped back up recently. Even with the September rate reduction, current traffic is similar to that seen in 2023 and is expected to continue its typical decline, especially since interest rates have risen. The year isn't over, but we have a short amount of time left before the major holidays bring everything to a halt.

Inventory this year has remained higher than in 2023. However, I predict a continued lowering of inventory for the remainder of the year. Even though we have a little more buyer activity, we also have more inventory to sell through. As we approach December, slower buyer activity is expected, and the number of days on the market will continue to increase. Lower interest rates may come into play, but the backlog from summer will likely keep inventory high for this time of year.

As of November, 50% of listings have had price reductions. This time of year, for buyers, the price reductions and high inventory will bring more opportunities to negotiate. Next spring I expect buyer demand to dramatically increase (as it typically does) and that will likely be paired with low inventory. I expect next year's home prices to increase, bringing multiple offers due to upcoming lower interest rates and a buildup of demand.

With almost 40 years as a realtor, I have vast experience helping buyers and sellers with volatile markets. It would be my pleasure to meet with you, to learn your plans, and to help you navigate this transitional period. This is a very complicated real estate market; I would love to help you understand it. Contact Jan Dempsey, Realtor with Windermere Group, at [jdempsey@windermere.com](mailto:jdempsey@windermere.com), or 503.706.6358.

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## CPO News

### December CPO 1 and 7 Joint Meeting: Proposed changes to the CPO system

Tuesday, December 10, 7 pm, TVF&R Station #68, 13545 NW Evergreen Street, and on [zoom](#)

*Note new location. Because our two CPOs share interests and issues, we are combining forces again this month to present information to our members.*

After community briefings from county service providers (Sheriff, Parks, Fire, etc) we'll learn more about the county's plan to change the Community Participation Organizations (CPOs) with a presentation from staff of the Washington County Office of Equity, Inclusion and Community Engagement that oversees the program. Labeled a [Modernization Project](#), the plan includes changes to CPO boundaries, appointing leaders rather than having them elected, and several other critical changes. Read about the proposed changes, attend the meeting, and then take a survey to collect community [feedback here](#).

Following that presentation, CPO 1 will hold its annual leadership election. The current slate of Virginia Bruce as Chair and Bruce Bartlett as Vice Chair/Secretary is running again. Nominations may be sent to [cpo1leaders@gmail.com](mailto:cpo1leaders@gmail.com).

If you can't attend our meetings, they are recorded and available on the [CPO 1 YouTube channel](#) for viewing at your convenience. Visit our YouTube channel and subscribe! The [CPO 1 Facebook Group](#) is a good place to discuss current issues and get timely updates.

The Washington County CPO leadership group, the Committee for Community Involvement (CCI), meets monthly and its meeting recordings can be viewed on the [CCI YouTube Channel](#)

### Neighborhood Meeting

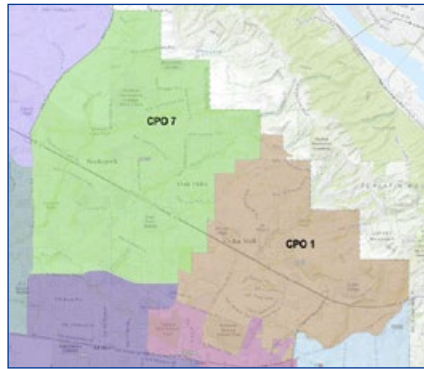
**Proposed nature-based park**  
Tuesday, December 10, 6 pm, TVFR Station 68, 13545 NW Evergreen

Prior to the Joint CPO1 & 7 meeting, Tualatin Hills Park & Recreation District representatives will discuss plans to develop a new park in North Bethany, previously named "Future Park at Heckman Lane."

No development applications were received by press time. If we receive any later, they will be shared on the Facebook group page.

*CPO changes, continued from page 1* even the [Significant Natural Resource](#) work on the [Community Development Code](#) was engaged by an extremely small percentage (~0.05%) of community members. A primary emphasis on LUT planning does not seem destined to attract significant engagement from the residents.

The "community updates" referenced in this guideline are essentially the so-called "Quality-of-Life" issues which the CPO Modernization project seeks to minimize. However, these issues are more immediately important to residents than the long-range effects of LUT planning projects. These issues derive from the county's unique form of governance in which [special service districts were formed to provide urban services](#). In CPO 1 in particular, there are fewer large planning efforts because most of the large parcels of land have already been developed.



*Changes to CPO boundaries are also part of the proposed county plan.*

The proposal seeks to discontinue CPO interaction with cities. The relationship of the CPO program to adjoining cities has been both cooperative and combative. For example, in 2005, Walmart proposed constructing a large store at Hwy 26 and Cedar Hills Blvd in the boundaries of CPO 1. To facilitate an easier application approval process, the land was annexed from the county into Beaverton. In spite of this, CPO 1 was recognized as an official group of record and was invited by the mayor of Beaverton to provide comments on the proposed development. Other recent CPO interactions with King City and North Plains have not been collaborative.

Clean Water Services (CWS) provides an illuminating, but complex, example. In 1970, a multitude of sewage treatment systems were [consolidated into the Unified Sewerage](#)

[Agency](#) (USA) in order to protect the Tualatin River. A healthy river is a public health quality-of-life issue. Its charter was expanded in 2001 to become CWS, which now serves the entire Tualatin River basin. In November 2024, CPOs 1 and 7 hosted a joint monthly meeting with CWS as the featured presenter focusing on local surface water drainage issues along with an overview of the organization. It was attended by a large audience who were very engaged in the discussion, primarily due to the drainage issues that affect their homes.

Approximately one third of the county's 600,000+ urban population lives in the county's Urban Unincorporated Area (UUA), not part of any city. New [Urban Growth Boundary](#) (UGB) expansions are guided by [Urban Service Area agreements](#) which mandate that the new urban areas [must be administered by cities](#). However, for the

foreseeable future, the civic "community" in the UUA will be affected by a combination of the support administered by the county (e.g. the [Enhanced Sheriff's Patrol District](#) and the [attempts to create Town Centers](#)), the service districts, and notably the decisions that cities make. Since residents see the areas impacted by the decisions of these multiple jurisdictions as their communities, an effective CPO program should provide a means to interact with them all if the program is to facilitate Community Participation.

For a project of this dimension, a framework document would be extremely valuable to delineate the process and desired outcomes to inform the community of the scope of the project. The [five guidelines](#) do not provide residents with a comprehensive overview of why these changes are desirable. The [Clackamas County Community Engagement Framework](#) is a good example of a guiding document, placing their participation/CPO program in a larger context. If Washington County would provide a similar framework, comments from all community members would be better informed and more useful.

Read The News online:  
[cedarmillnews.com](http://cedarmillnews.com)

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**Library News**

Cedar Mill and Bethany Community Libraries invite you to find event calendars, storytime schedules and more at [Library.CedarMill.org](http://Library.CedarMill.org). For more information, call (503) 644-0043, visit the website, or email [askuscml@wccs.org](mailto:askuscml@wccs.org).

Abbreviations: CML is Cedar Mill Library, 1080 NW Saltzman Rd.; BLA is Bethany Library Annex, 4888 NW Bethany Blvd, Suite K-2; BL is Bethany Library, 15325 NW Central Drive, Suite J-8y.

Libraries will be closed: December 24 and December 25. We will close early at 5 pm on December 31.

**Annual Kids' Library Fundraiser**

Your generous gift gives the children in our community the joy of cozy reading! Cedar Mill and Bethany Community Libraries are asking for the community's help in purchasing furniture for the children's areas at both libraries. Learn more and make your donation at [library.cedarmill.org](http://library.cedarmill.org).

**2024 Winter Reading Challenge**

Read and win December 1-January 10! Everyone is invited to participate in CMBC's Winter Reading Challenge! Help us reach our community goal of reading 5,000 hours. Count your reading and activities on a paper log available at either library or log your reading with the Beanstack app. Participants will have the chance to win gift cards to local businesses including Piccolo Mondo Toys. Learn more and register at [library.cedarmill.org/read-now](http://library.cedarmill.org/read-now).

**Holiday Book Sale**

Holiday and winter-themed books, CD's, DVD's, and gently read books suitable for gift giving will be available for purchase at CML beginning December 6. Visit the Mezzanine to find items for adults. Shop for kids at the Children's Book Sale table near the front door. Available while supplies last. CMBC's Book Sale at CML and in the libraries' amazon store is an ongoing fundraiser for your nonprofit community libraries. All Book Sale proceeds benefit library operations. Questions about donating? Call 503-644-0043 or visit the [Book & Media Sales webpage](http://Book & Media Sales webpage).

**Kids Grab and Go Crafts**

Friday, December 6, CML and BL  
 Pick up craft supplies at either library. Crafts are available on a first-come, first-served basis while

supplies last. One per child, please.

Find more fun for kids on the [Library Kids' webpage](http://Library Kids' webpage).

**Teens & Tweens Holiday Murder Mystery Party**

Friday, December 20, 5:30-7 pm, CML, Ages 11-18, Registration Required

Get cozy in your ugliest holiday sweater, sip hot cocoa and accuse your neighbor of murder most foul. Costumes encouraged!

Visit the [Library Teens' webpage](http://Library Teens' webpage) to find resources for teens and tweens.

**Adults**

**Learn Tarot**

Thursday, December 5, 5:30-7:30 pm, CML, Adults, Registration Required

Join Jenna Lynne Roberts, professional Tarot Reader, for an overview of the Rider-Waite-Smith deck. Bring a five-suit tarot deck that has detailed story-like images.

**DIY Fairy Doors and Fantasy Crowns presented by SCRAP PDX**

Wednesday, December 11, Time TBD, CML, Adults, Registration Required



Craft with a special Renaissance Fair theme brought to you by SCRAP PDX.

**Fencing with the Rapier presented by Academia Duellatoria**

Thursday, December 12, 6:30-7:30 pm, CML, Adults, Registration Required

Learn the history of the European rapier methods of combat and enjoy a lesson on fencing.

**Telemedicine**

Tuesday, December 17, 11 am-12:15 pm, BLA, Adults, Registration Required

Discover telemedicine options and walk through a virtual medical appointment.

# Celebrate Locally! Shopping, Events, Connections...

## Third Annual Cedar Mill Holiday Tree Lighting

Saturday, December 7, 4:45-6:30 pm (lighting at 5:45), Milltown Center, 12535 NW Cornell (next to Insomnia Coffee)

Join your neighbors in celebrating the magic of the holiday season



with lights, music, cookies, hot chocolate and cider. Cedar Mill Community Club turns on the Cedar Mill Holiday Tree's lights at 5:45. The Tumwater Middle School Choir sings from 4:45-5:20, and the Sunset High School Choir takes over from 5:40-6:30.

## Monthly Groups for Adults

Questions? Write [askuscml@wccls.org](mailto:askuscml@wccls.org) and visit [cedarmillbethany.libcal.com/](http://cedarmillbethany.libcal.com/)

### Writers' Mill planning for another year of writing

Sunday, December 15, 1-3 pm, CML and Zoom, free

Meet local writers at December's Writers' Mill meeting. Find out (and celebrate) what we've achieved this year, and help us make plans for 2025: speakers, topics, challenges and more. We love to welcome new members. Find out more at [portlandwritersmill.org](http://portlandwritersmill.org) or ask the librarians.

### Owl Book Group

Friday, December 20, 10:30 am-12 pm, CML, Ages 16+

Discuss "The Secret Life of Sunflowers" by Marta Molnar. Newcomers welcome! Email [askuscml@wccls.org](mailto:askuscml@wccls.org) to receive location details prior to the event.

We have two opportunities to support families in need through The Beaverton School District: Clothes for Kids—bring gently used winter jackets, coats, hats, gloves, and NEW socks and underwear in sizes K-adult, OR donate to Feed My Body, Feed My Brain to provide grocery gift cards.

The library will have an information booth, Sunset Credit Union will have games, and Sinful Delights Bakery will be giving out donut holes and also have donuts and cupcakes for sale.

Dress for the weather! Find parking in the library lot after 5 pm.

Sponsors for the event include Safeway, Sunset Credit Union, Pet Barn, Cornell Farm, Wildwood Taphouse, Insomnia Coffee, Cedar Mill & Bethany Community Libraries, David Brown Photography, Timmco Insurance, Sunset Athletic Club, Jan Dempsey Windermere Real Estate, and The Cedar Mill News. For additional information contact Jan Dempsey at [jdempsey@windermere.com](mailto:jdempsey@windermere.com), or call/text to 503.706.6358.

## NW Creations Night Market & Toy Donation

Friday, December 13, 6-9 pm, Summa Real Estate Group, 11830

### Voices in Verse

Saturday, December 28, 10:30 am-12 pm, Online via Zoom

Share your own poetry or listen to others read their favorites.

Learn more about library groups and events for adults on the [Library Adults' webpage](http://LibraryAdults webpage).

### Second Edition Resale

Tuesday-Saturday, 10 am-4 pm, and Sunday, 12-4 pm, 1050 NW Saltzman Rd.

Make winter wonderful at Second Edition Resale! Find unique holiday décor and gifts in the shop all December long. Bundle up with warm clothing for the whole family. New items daily.

Upcoming Themes: December 1-17: Winter Holiday/Christmas; December 17-22: Storewide Sale! No donations accepted; December 24-31: Second Edition closed for volunteer holiday week. No Donations accepted.

### NW Cedar Falls Dr. Ste 120

NW Creations Night Market is having their annual toy drive to benefit The Domestic Violence Resource Center. Host Bethany Marsh has curated 14 local vendors to be at this year's night market. As always, if you make a toy donation between now and the event, you will be entered to win a gift basket full of the evening's creators. All proceeds always benefit The Domestic Violence Resource Center.

## Very Merry Holiday Bazaar

Saturday, December 7, 10 am-2 pm, Anthology Senior Living, 910 NW 185th Ave

24 local vendors, refreshments and special appearances from Santa and Melf on the shelf. Come tour our community and shop for the holidays.

## KGW Toy Drive 2024

Now until Monday, December 16, Cornell Family Dental, 12889 NW Cornell Rd.

Please join us in donating a new, unwrapped toy to support the KGW

Toy Drive 2024. We are so grateful for our community support in helping to bring a smile to children and families for the Holidays. Stop by our office to drop off donations when you are passing by or coming for an appointment. Happy Holidays from Cornell Family Dental!

## Lightopia light show

Friday, December 6-Monday, December 30, Fri. and Sat. 5:30-9 pm; Sun.-Thurs. 5:30-8 pm, Gordon Faber Recreation Complex, 4450 NW 229th Ave, Hillsboro, free (ticket reservation required for Fri. and Sat.)

Drive through a glimmering landscape with colorful characters and holiday icons in bold, beautiful lights. Check back for updates on special events at Lightopia. More than 20,000 cars drive through Lightopia each year. New this year, reservations are required for Fridays & Saturdays only. All other times are first come, first served. See ticket information at this [wintereventpage](http://wintereventpage). Lightopia will be closed 12/9, 12/19, 12/24 and 12/25.

The 3rd Annual  
**Cedar Mill**  
**Holiday Tree Lighting**  
**Saturday, December 7**  
**4:45-6:30 (lighting at 5:45)**

Join us in celebrating the magic of the holiday season!

Enjoy holiday music, hot drinks and cookies, and support local families.

Bring gently used winter jackets, coats, hats, gloves, and NEW socks and underwear in sizes K-adult for donation to The Beaverton School District Clothes for Kids.

Milltown Center Plaza  
next to Insomnia Coffee  
12535 NW Cornell

For additional information, email us  
[CedarMillCommunityClub@gmail.com](mailto:CedarMillCommunityClub@gmail.com)

Legislative, continued from page 1  
Senate District 17. That leaves our House District 34 (the Washington County communities of Bethany, Oak Hills, Cedar Mill, and parts of Beaverton and Hillsboro) without a representative.

The board must consider three to five candidates nominated by The [Democratic Party of Washington County](#). We have heard that Sarah Beachy and Alexandria Goddard have applied for the nomination. There will be more candidates, but we were unable to determine who they are by press time. The board will likely make the selection during a special meeting in January.

## Receive emergency alerts with Everbridge

Do you want to get direct public safety and emergency information? Have you previously received alerts through the CodeRed system? In 2021, Washington County transitioned to a new emergency alert system, Everbridge. Everbridge allows us to send targeted emergency information to communities, including notifications for wildfires, floods, and missing persons. It also gives us a direct line to let you know if your neighborhood has a public safety concern. When signing up, individuals can choose their preferred method for receiving time-sensitive information, such as via landline phone, cell phone, email, text message and more. Even if you had an account before on CodeRed, you'll need to sign up again to keep receiving alerts. Make sure to register today to stay informed at [publicalerts.org/signup](https://publicalerts.org/signup).

## Share your input on Beaverton's vision for transportation

Beaverton is updating its Transportation System Plan, a guiding document for transportation policy, plans, programs, and investments in the system, such as sidewalks, bike facilities, and streets. The transportation system influences our lives in a variety of ways. Every trip to buy groceries, to get to school, to meet with a friend, to get to work, requires travel choices. Help shape the final plan! Share what is important to you [in an online survey by December 15](#). When you're finished, you'll have an opportunity to enter a drawing to receive a \$25 gift cards to a local Beaverton business.

## Cedar Mill Piano teacher's method reaches global students

What began in a Cedar Mill living room has evolved into a global movement that few could have predicted. When Joseph Hoffman started teaching piano to neighborhood kids to help pay for college, he noticed that traditional piano methods often left students feeling disconnected from the actual joy of making music.

"I wanted my students to love playing piano as much as I did," says Hoffman, who began developing a unique approach. Drawing from educational research and early childhood development theory, he created a comprehensive method built on the principle of "experi-



ence before explanation." His warm, engaging style has earned him the nickname "the Mr. Rogers of piano," resonating deeply with students and parents alike.

After establishing his piano academy in Cedar Mill in 2007, inspired by the remarkable progress of his in-person students, Hoffman began filming lessons in his living room and posting them online, hoping to share his innovative method with a broader audience. The response exceeded expectations: the videos captivated students far beyond Portland's suburbs. By 2016, the growing support enabled over 1,200 people to contribute to a Kickstarter campaign, raising more than \$318,000 to hire a team of designers and software engineers to develop a comprehensive online learning platform.

Today, Hoffman Academy reaches students in over 115 countries through HoffmanAcademy.com, and a YouTube channel with more than 240,000 subscribers. The core program—hundreds of high-quality video lessons, along with select printable materials and informative blog posts—remains free, embodying the motto "music education for everyone." The method weaves together multiple aspects of musicianship: students

learn to play by ear, understand music theory, sight-read, improvise, and even compose their own pieces. Through a multi-sensory approach that engages natural curiosity and creativity, students begin making music from their very first lesson.

In his video lessons, Mr. Hoffman uses everything from finger puppets to games to make learning engaging, particularly for young students. For a low monthly or annual fee, premium members gain access to an array of additional learning tools: play-along practice tracks help students master timing and rhythm, guided practice sessions keep them focused and motivated, and educational games like Mystery Melodies, Rhythm Shredder, and Staff Crawler reinforce musical concepts in playful ways. Premium membership also includes access to a comprehensive sheet music library and progress tracking tools.

Hoffman Academy has fostered a vibrant online community through its Parents & Students Facebook group, where families from across the world share performances, exchange tips, and build connections through their shared love of music. This virtual gather-



ing space helps bridge the distance between students from different countries and cultures, all learning through the same method.

The impact of this comprehensive approach reaches across continents. One international teacher who has worked in Korea, Japan, and Rwanda uses the method to bring piano education to communities where traditional lessons would be prohibitive. "I recommend Hoffman Academy to homeschool families and anyone who wants to learn piano but can't afford lessons," she reports.

While the online platform

continues to expand, the academy maintains strong ties to Cedar Mill, with Mr. Hoffman teaching weekly group classes at the local studio. The in-person program thrives under teachers trained in the Hoffman Method. Furthermore, Hoffman Academy has fostered significant community partnerships, including collaborations with Be Wildly Kind, a nonprofit dedicated to spreading kindness throughout Portland.

One of the most promising recent developments is a pilot pro-



gram with the Lang Lang International Music Foundation's "Keys of Inspiration" program, exploring how this Cedar Mill-developed approach can support group piano instruction in Title 1 schools. This partnership has the potential to bring piano education to students who might otherwise never have access to music lessons.

Hoffman also shares his teaching approaches at national music education conferences, metro area school districts, and through quarterly webinars attended by music teachers worldwide, helping to disseminate effective teaching methods beyond his direct reach.

Today, Hoffman Academy reaches far beyond its Cedar Mill origins, with new projects on the horizon. An online game called 'Sea Turtle Shuffle,' which helps students practice quickly identifying notes on the staff, is slated for release in the coming months, and students can look forward to a special digital advent calendar this December. What started as piano lessons in a local living room has grown into a program that brings music education to students worldwide.

The Cedar Mill location is at 12660 NW Cornell Rd. Learn more on the website at [hoffmanacademy.com](https://hoffmanacademy.com).

Read The News online:  
[cedarmillnews.com](https://cedarmillnews.com)

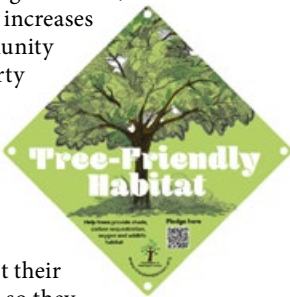
**Garden & Nature**

**Treekeepers of Washington County programs**

We work to protect and advocate for trees in urban unincorporated Washington County. Don't miss our upcoming events! All of them are free. [Visit the Treekeepers website](#) to learn more.

**Join Our New Tree-Friendly Habitat Program!**

A tree-friendly habitat is a place where trees are recognized for the critical role they play in the ecosystem by providing several essential services in support of all living creatures. The trees in our yards, neighborhoods and cities are living infrastructure, providing habitat to countless other plants and animals. They pay us back many times over by cleaning our air, cooling and shading our homes, alleviating flooding and pollution, decreasing air, noise and light pollution, offering health benefits, and by adding to the attractiveness and serenity of a neighborhood, which increases community property value. Our care of trees will protect their health so they can continue to contribute these benefits to us all.



Show your commitment to protecting trees and maintaining a "Tree-Friendly Habitat" by signing our Treekeepers Pledge and displaying one of our new signs! Whether the trees in your care are in your yard, in a public space, or in pots on your balcony, we welcome you to join us. Designed to inspire others to safeguard our urban forests, this durable 10"x10" sign is built for outdoor use. Made from sturdy aluminum, it's weather-resistant and perfect for yards, balcony gardens, or as a thoughtful gift to a fellow tree advocate. You can learn more about the program at the [Tree-Friendly Habitat website](#) or visit the [pledge page](#) to sign it.

**WCMGA events**

OSU Extension Master Gardener volunteers and the Washington County Master Gardener Associa-

tion (WCMGA) offer a lineup of classes, lectures and family friendly events year round. All events and details can be found on the [WCMGA events calendar](#).

**Mason Bee Cocoon Cleaning**

Saturday, December 7, 10 am-12 pm, PCC Rock Creek Campus, Building 4 (Room 103 and 104), 17705 NW Springville Rd., Portland, no registration required, free

We invite you to the third of three classes on mason bees led by Ron Spendal. In this hands-on workshop, you will learn how to extract, clean, and store mason bees. If you have cocoons ready for cleaning, bring them along. If you don't have cocoons, we have plenty for you to practice with. Attendance at the previous Mason Bee classes is not necessary to attend this class. Please visit the [event page](#) for more information.

**The Wonderful World of Plants We Can Grow**

Tuesday, December 3, 7-8 pm, Zoom, free, pre-registration required

This topic will be presented by Sean Hogan, owner of Cistus Nursery and Co-Founder and President of Portland Botanical Gardens. Our climate has so many plants that it can be difficult to choose. This is a festive sampling of surprises and new introductions—from olives to succulents, manzanitas to scheffleras—that love it here. Sean will also give an update on the progress of the Portland Botanical Gardens. Please visit the [event page](#) for registration.



**OSU Extension Garden Calendars offer timely help**

Fall is the perfect time to plant trees and shrubs! Before you know it, though, it will be time to prepare for gardening in 2025. OSU Extension Monthly Garden Calendars can help! Find [timely monthly garden tips](#) on garden planning, maintenance and clean up, pest monitoring and management, indoor gardening, house plants, and more.

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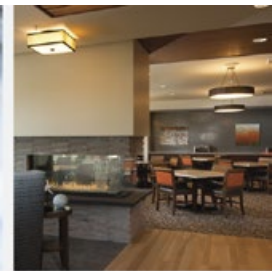
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We're offering an exclusive 3-month package designed to make your winter easy, enjoyable, and stress-free, with everything you need right at your fingertips.

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**SUNSET APOLLOS BAND**

Support the Sunset High Marching Band & Auxiliary

**Bottle/Can Drive**  
Saturday, December 14, 10 am - 1 pm  
Sunset Church, 14986 NW Cornell  
Please drop off any redeemable non-crushed cans, and plastic and glass bottles

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**Park News**

**Holiday Gift Card Drive**  
Now through December 8, any THPRD facility

Please bring your donations of gift cards to support Beaverton School District families in need. We are collecting gift cards, in any amount. Please bring your donation for drop off to [any facility](#).

**THPRD Winter registration begins soon!**

Winter Registration is almost here! Registration for in-district patrons begins on Saturday, December 7 at 8 am. Out-of-district patrons can begin registering on Monday, December 9 at 8 am. To register, visit the [THPRD website](#). Download a [PDF of the Activity Guide here](#).

**Join us in writing letters to Santa!**  
November 30-December 20, participating facilities, free

THPRD is offering mail boxes at select THPRD facilities to drop-off letters to Santa Claus! Children will hear back from our jolly friend in red! Near Cedar Mill, boxes can be found at the Cedar Hill Recreation Center, Sunset Swim Center, Tualatin Hills Athletic Center, and the Tualatin Hills Nature Center. For more information about locations, please visit the [THPRD website](#).

**Winter Break camps**  
Dates and times vary by location, registration required, fee required

Join us for a winter break camp starting in December. Fun filled days include activities, games, and water play at swim center locations. For more information needed to register and to see other winter camp locations, visit the [THPRD Winter Break Camp webpage](#).

**Volunteer at a THPRD Event**

THPRD is always recruiting volunteers to help out with a number of upcoming events. These events focus on a wide range of activities, like habitat restoration, garden work parties, and community celebrations. You can see what's on the calendar and sign up for any of these opportunities on our website at <http://www.thprd.org/volunteer>.

**Saqsqaq Park Presentation**  
Tuesday, December 10, 6 pm, TVF&R Fire Station 68, 13545 NW

**Evergreen St.**  
Please join us for a project update presentation for the previously named "Future Park at Heckman Lane." The park location is NW Heckman & 159th Ave. This new park will be located within a newly

developed residential neighborhood in the North Bethany area of Washington County. This project will develop approximately two acres of park along an established wetland habitat, and will connect the North Bethany Creek Trail from 160th to NW Shackelford Rd. Future amenities on this property may be limited by the presence of wetlands, slopes, and an existing sewer line easement.

This project is funded through the 2019 Metro Parks and Nature bond measure that aims to protect clean water, restore habitat and connect people to nature while centering racial equity and climate resilience. As a part of this bond project, the park's design will feature activities and amenities that help connect people to nature in a variety of ways and serve community needs.

**December Events from THPRD near Cedar Mill**

**Kids Night Out**  
Friday, December 6, 6-9 pm, Cedar Hills Recreation Center, 11640 SW Park Way, Portland, 97225, ages 5-10, registration required, \$59 (in-district) and \$74 (out-of-district)

Bring your child to Cedar Hills so you can go out or stay in! Drop them off for a fun night of games, a craft, pizza, popcorn and a movie!

**Joyous Kwanzaa Celebration**  
Friday, December 27, 5-8 pm, Tualatin Hills Athletic Center, 50 NW 158th Ave, free

Join us as communities come together to celebrate African American traditions of food, music, love, and unity. The event is in partnership with Beaverton Black Parent Union (BBPU). Please visit the [event website](#) for more details.

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**Arts & Entertainment**

**ISing Choir presents winter concert: Vivaldi, the Red Priest Revisited**

Friday & Saturday, December 13 & 14, 7:30 pm, and Sunday, December 15, 3 pm, Cedar Hills United Church of Christ, 11695 SW Parkway, \$14. [Purchase tickets on the ISing website.](#)

ISing Choir will be joined by Big Horn Brass Quintet, members of the Portland Chamber Orchestra, and organist Dan Miller. The concert begins with music colored by the darkness of winter and despair, then Vivaldi moves listeners to joy and hope with the popular "Gloria" and the Spring movement from the "Four Seasons" rewritten for the choir.

ISing Choir is a nonprofit dedicated to raising funds for other deserving nonprofits. Free will donations will be accepted at the concerts for the season beneficiary Rock'n Rooms to support their mission to assist children experiencing long hospital stays.

**Family Day at Grey Raven Gallery: Make & Take Crafts**

Saturdays, December 7 and 14, 12-4 pm, Grey Raven Gallery, 12695 SW Crescent St., Suite 150, free

Families are welcome to make and take crafts together using our art supplies! Spend time together and make some art to celebrate the coming of winter. Check out our curated selection of jewelry and small gifts while you're here and get some holiday shopping done too! Please visit the [Grey Raven website](#) to learn more.

**December events at the Reser**

Various dates and times, 12625 SW Crescent St., free and ticketed

In December, the Reser presents a variety of cultural and arts programs you won't want to miss including: Singer Kalani Pe'a with Hawaiian Christmas; [It's a Tony Starlight Christmas](#); The Klezmatiks; and much more! For the full schedule, please [visit the Reser events page.](#)

**Village Gallery of Arts December News**

Visit the [VGA website](#) for late-breaking classes and events!  
**ArtChat and Holiday Show**  
Sunday, December 8, 3-5 pm. Show runs December 3-December 24

Come hear our featured artists talk about their art and see our Holiday show. We have a myriad of affordable artworks in many different media! If you can't decide between all

the unique items for a special someone, gift certificates are available!  
**3D Featured Artist: Enola Bowers**

"I am self-taught by reading and watching videos. I thoroughly enjoy learning, growing and exploring everything having to do with wire wrapping, tumbling, and hopefully soon, my own rock cutting and cabochon making. I also collect all types of wonderful wood pieces from beaches to deserts to create tabletop holders, hangers and sun catchers." Enola calls her art Tangled Treasures.

**Big and Bold: Phyllis Meyer**

"Talismans appeal to me because of their magical power which brings luck and keeps away the evil spirits. I like working on a textured surface which has collage under the gesso on the surface. The primary media is acrylic with the addition of metallics, ink, Caran d'Dache sticks, and



*Talisman 3, acrylic and mixed media*

colored pencil. I hope the viewers respond to the bold painting as much as I enjoyed painting it."

**Free drop-in art activities for all Saturdays in December, 1-3 pm, no registration required, all ages**

December 7: Make Kirigami Trees; December 14: Make a Yarn Bird; December 21: Make a Snowflake. Projects take between 30 minutes to an hour. All materials provided. Gallery staff on hand for inspiration or assistance if needed.

**Children's Classes**

Thursdays, December 5, 12, and 19, 3:45-5:15 pm, ages 7-11, max 8 students, \$52.50, VGA Instructional Team

Join an exciting class learning a variety of art forms! A team of rotating instructors provides a chance to explore a variety of media and approaches while building artistic

concepts and skills. All supplies included. Featured projects: Printmaking, Cork and Pinecone Trees, Fused Glass Trees and Gnomes!

**Let's Dance fundraiser for free dance programs in schools**

Saturday, December 14, 7-10 pm, Leedy Grange Hall, 835 NW Saltzman Rd., singles, couples, and families welcome. Lesson 7-7:30 pm, followed by open dancing. \$15/adults, \$5/students, kids 10 and under free

[Leedy Grange](#) and [Impressions Dance Club](#) invite you to join in for this festive fundraising event that supports free dance and art programs in local schools. This year's Annual Holiday Fundraiser Dance includes a DJ's mix of Swing, Salsa, Ballroom, and Latin Music. More info can be found on the Leedy Grange and Impressions websites.

Dance lessons can have many benefits including teaching students to both lead and follow, to interact with their peers one on one, and to improve their social skills, all the while improving their dance moves! This year, fourth and fifth grade students at Terra Linda Elementary School participated in free social dance program where they learned Swing, Salsa, Merengue, and Line Dancing. The Beaverton School District put together a short video of the program that can be seen on the [district's YouTube channel.](#)

Whether you know how to social dance or not, this is a fun event with lots of friendly community members. All of our regular participants are happy to help you learn a few basic steps so you can get up and dance. Contact Cynthia Hively at 971-226-1119 for details.

Celebrate all month with seasonal decor, clothing, toys, and gifts!  
We've got it all!  
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Sign up to get The News in your inbox:  
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**CPO1** Neighbors Working Together!  
**Tuesday, December 10**  
7-9 pm on Zoom and in-person at TVF&R Station 68, 13545 NW Evergreen  
**Joint CPO 1 & 7 meeting**  
**CPO Program Modernization Project**  
Learn about the changes the county is proposing for the CPO program  
Open to all—visit Facebook or the web page for the zoom meeting link, and sign up for email news!  
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### Viva Village Events

Viva Village is a Beaverton-area grassroots organization of members and volunteers who focus on enhancing and expanding the ways we can age well. We provide connections, programs, volunteer services, and referrals so members can lead engaged, healthy lives. For more information visit the [Viva Village website](#). Please RSVP for all events by contacting [vivavillageor@gmail.com](mailto:vivavillageor@gmail.com) or 503-746-5082. Links for zoom meetings will be sent to those who RSVP. Members-only events are listed on the website and in the [web version of The News](#).

#### Viva Village events open to the public:

Not meeting in December: Viva Village Forum; Men's Coffee Break; Online Viva Village Book, Mystery Book Club. See you in January.

#### Women's Coffee (in person)

Wednesdays, December 4, 11, 18, 10 am-12 pm, New Seasons Market, 3495 SW Cedar Hills Boulevard

Coffee and conversation. RSVP recommended.

#### Age Café

Friday, December 6, 11 am-12 pm, Beaverton City Library, 12375 SW 5th Street

Small-group conversations exploring topics of interest to older adults. Interesting new topics each session. December Topic: Asking for Help/Self Care. Co-hosted by Viva Village, Beaverton Committee on Aging (BCOA), Beaverton City Library, and Washington County Disability, Aging and Veterans Services (DAVS). Registration for the Zoom link is available a month ahead on the library's website or check the Viva Village calendar for registration link.

#### Online Viva Village 101

Saturday, December 14, 10-11:30 am, online

An informational session for prospective members, volunteers, or anyone interested in Viva Village. Register on our website or contact the office for the Zoom link.

### This Holiday Season, Protect Your Packages

Don't let the Grinch take your holiday packages. The Washington County Sheriff's Office acts against package thieves in our community, but we can't do it without your help! Here are some tips to keep your packages safe and secure:

**Track your packages:** Use the tracking numbers provided and stay updated on the delivery status. Know when to expect your packages and plan to secure them promptly

**Provide delivery instructions:** Request packages to be placed in a secure location or ask delivery companies to require a signature before dropping them off

**Opt for in-store pickup:** When available, you can pick up your packages from a local store or delivery locker

**Do not leave packages unattended:** If you plan on being gone for an extended period, ask family, friends, or neighbors to pick up packages

**Stay connected:** Use text notifications to receive updates on your deliveries. Let your neighbors know if you had a package stolen so they can stay vigilant.

**To report suspicious activity or if you are a victim of package theft,** please call the non-emergency number at 503-629-0111. If you see a crime in progress, call 9-1-1. You can also file a police report online if

the crime fits the reporting requirements at [https://bit.ly/WCSO\\_Reporting](https://bit.ly/WCSO_Reporting). Let's work together to prevent crime in our community! Ask WCSO is produced by the Washington County Sheriff's Office.

#### BSD seeks applicants for Generative AI Advisory Committee

The Beaverton School District is seeking applicants for a new Generative Artificial Intelligence (AI) Advisory Committee. The committee will explore and develop suggested guidelines for the responsible use of Generative AI applications in BSD. The focus will be on ensuring that AI technologies are used to enhance teaching and learning outcomes for students and improve operational efficiencies for staff. The advisory committee will provide input to support safe and effective AI adoption.

Membership will include students, parents/guardians, staff, and administrators. The committee will meet monthly beginning in January 2025 and concluding in April 2025, though additional meetings could be scheduled if needed. Meetings will be on Wednesdays from 6-7 pm at the District Administrative Office; a light dinner will be served.

If you're interested in serving on this committee, [please apply online here by December 6.](#)

# Growing Eyes: Protecting Children's Vision Health

[Growing Eyes](#) is a new local, optometrist-led nonprofit dedicated to raising awareness of myopia's impact on children's vision and eye health, and how we can slow its progression.

## What is Myopia and How to Slow It

Myopia (or nearsightedness) is an increasingly common vision condition where distant objects appear blurry while close ones are clear. Myopia often starts in elementary school and tends to progress as the child grows, stabilizing in the late teens or early adulthood. Children with myopia may struggle to see the board in class and often avoid participating in school or sports, which can affect



their learning and social interactions. Individuals often squint to try to see distant targets more clearly which can cause headaches and fatigue.

Over the years, eye care providers and researchers have noticed more children becoming myopic, often earlier in life than their parents. A recent study estimated that 41% of children in the US are myopic, almost doubling in three decades. The change is happening because our world is becoming increasingly digital and screen-driven.

Because of this, younger children's prescriptions often change more rapidly. Unfortunately, they will end up with a higher prescription as adults—increasing their risk for certain eye conditions and dependence on glasses or contacts.

Myopia is commonly corrected with glasses, contact lenses, or surgery (in adults). Fortunately, there are methods available to slow future prescription changes by half! Using specialized contact lenses or compounded eye drops, eye care providers can slow myopia's progression. Sadly, these treatments are often not well covered by vision insurance, leaving families burdened with the cost of their child's deteriorating vision.

## How to Avoid the Onset of Myopia

There are simple ways to prevent becoming myopic! Research shows that spending at least two hours outside daily is the best way to prevent nearsightedness.

When indoors and using devices or reading a book, it is important to take routine breaks and hold reading material at a forearm's distance to reduce strain. It is best to limit a child's screen time, not exceeding two hours per day.

Regular eye exams can evaluate a child's risk for myopia and ensure their eyes are performing at their appropriate levels.

## How Growing Eyes Helps

Our goal is to provide families with tools to fully protect their children's vision. We do this by connecting families with eye care providers that offer full myopia management.

We also provide financial assistance to families in need of myopia management but unable to afford it. If you need help, please fill out our referral form on our website to request a financial assistance application.

Visit [GrowingEyes.org](#) to learn more about myopia, our mission, our interview with Everyday Northwest, and how you can support our cause.

## College Scholarship Opportunity

High school and college students in Yamhill, Columbia and Washington County take note! The Pioneer District Garden Clubs are offering a \$1,500 scholarship to students pursuing a degree in horticulture, floriculture, landscape design, conservation, forestry and several other related subjects. Applications will be accepted through March 2025. Use this [scholarship application form](#) to apply.

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Winter 2025 Registration

Opens Saturday December 7 Out of District: Monday, December 9



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