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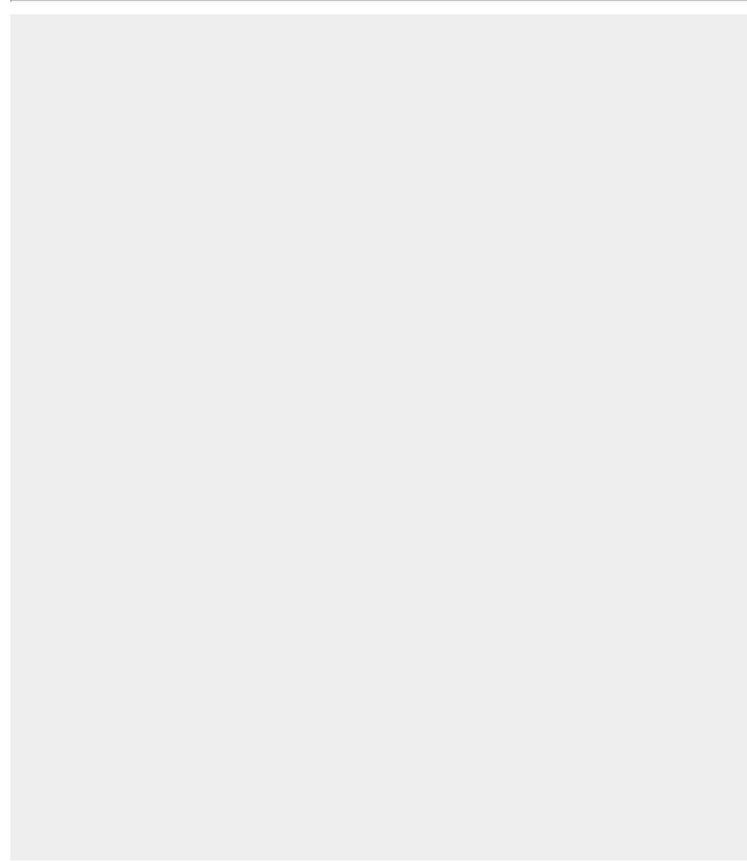
Vanek's completes transition to new look in downtown Beaverton

Created on Tuesday, 22 November 2016 | Written by [Mandy Feder-Sawyer](#) |

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CONTRIBUTED PHOTO - Vaneks Shoe Repair celebrated a fresh new look of the Broadway business. Four generations of the Vanek family have mastered the art of shoe repair.

Vanek's historic shoe repair store got a new look just in time for Shop Small Saturday in Beaverton.

The family-owned business is ready to showcase the art of shoe repair.

The city of Beaverton held a ribbon cutting celebrating the new look at Vanek's Shoe Repair, 124650 S.W. Broadway St., Nov. 17. The business unveiled its new signs, windows and door, exterior brick and window display area.

Vanek's received a storefront design services grant from the city of Beaverton in 2015. The business worked with a city-selected architect, Ascent Architecture, to create an affordable design highlighting its shoe repair and retail services. The Vaneks also received a 50/50 matching storefront improvement grant in 2016 for the project. Local contractor Feinauer and Sons worked on the project.

The Vaneks' 100-year shoe repair legacy began with Karel Vanek, who studied the shoe repair trade from masters in the Czech Republic. After completing his training, he brought his family and shoe repair skills to the United States.

Karel Vanek taught the shoe repair business to his seven sons. #Carl Vanek, one of those sons, served in the Navy prior to the Great Depression. After serving his country, he settled down in the Portland area and taught the shoe repair secrets of old Europe to his two sons, two grandsons and two son-in-laws.

Carl David Vanek, Carl Vanek's youngest son, continued the 100-year legacy by teaching his four sons business.

Today, they work hand in hand as father and son at Vanek's Beaverton Shoe Repair in downtown Beaverton. Carl David Vanek has more than 40 years of

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shoe repair experience, and Joseph Vanek, more than 15 years of shoe repair experience.

Joseph Vanek pointed out that repairing shoes is economical, while at the same time, customers retain the comfort of broken in and comfortable pairs of shoes.

The Vaneks not only repair shoes, they also sell Western Boots, rugged work boots and custom orthotics made to prescription.

People who have moved away from the area still ship their shoes to Vanek's. "We have a gentleman who moved to Maui recently send his shoes for repair. We have very loyal customers," Joseph Vanek said.

Through Beaverton Community Vision, people said they wanted to support local businesses, such as Vanek's, and beautify downtown areas. The City of Beaverton offers a number of programs to assist local businesses with exterior and interior improvements.

For more information on these programs, visit BeavertonOregon.gov/Incentives.

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