

Neighbors meet neighbors

Neighbors were meeting neighbors — sometimes for the first time — Saturday morning in Beavercreek.

It was the initial effort in implementing the Clackamas County Neighborhood Watch Program

which Sheriff John Renfro hopes will be used throughout the county.

"Our Neighborhood Watch Program is unique in the state of Oregon," said Jerry Greene, crime prevention officer for county sheriff's

department. "It is a cooperative effort between police and fire agencies to make our neighborhoods safer places to live."

Under the program, whenever the sheriff's department makes a presentation on crime prevention, the appropriate fire agency is invited to provide information on fire safety.

"Our philosophy is that one cannot talk about resident security without taking fire safety into consideration," he added.

Greene noted that people sometimes receive different versions of how to protect their homes — one from a firefighter's point of view and another from the law enforcement viewpoint. How to lock doors and windows is one area of debate.

"Your life is more important than your property,"

acknowledged Greene. Still, he added that county law enforcement officials and firefighters were going to need to hash out some of the conflicting areas of thought.

In Beavercreek, interest in the program was spurred by three recent burglaries and an auto theft. Two neighborhood residents, Don Berger and Vince Fitzgerald, worked in developing the concepts of the program.

Last Saturday Beavercreek neighbors gathered to view a fire engine and rescue equipment for the Clackamas Fire District 54, in addition to the Oregon Sheriff's Museum Trailer and a sheriff's patrol car.

After a demonstration of equipment there was a house-to-house security and fire prevention survey conducted by the neighborhood coordinators.

Greene said police and fire

agencies in the county will participate in the Neighborhood Watch Program to whatever extent their manpower and resources allow.

Persons interested in having a Neighborhood Watch Program can work to organize a session by calling Greene at the Clackamas County Sheriff's Office in Oregon City.

Neighborhood coordinators would be trained to do security surveys and assist in Operation ID (a program used in seven states to encourage the marking and identification of personal property).

Safer neighborhoods will hopefully be the end result of the program.

Noted Greene: "If you get to know who your neighbors are, it winds up to be a safer neighborhood."



YOUNGSTERS DELIGHTED in a demonstration of how to use a fire hose.



ORGANIZERS OF SATURDAY'S event in Beavercreek were Don Berger and Vince Fitzgerald, pictured above.



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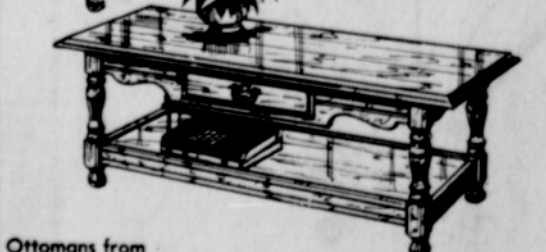
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Grafting said useful with space limitations

Grafting may be the answer for home gardeners who want to grow several kinds of apples but have space for only one tree.

"The first step in grafting fruit trees is to gather scion wood," according to Gray Thompson, Clackamas County Extension agent, home-urban horticulture.

Scion wood is the wood shoot which will be united to a growing plant. It should be cut from the whip-like growth on superior quality trees between early January and the middle of February when the parent tree is dormant, Thompson said.

For most grafting, one-year-old wood is preferable to older wood. It should be of average vigor and well-hardened and grown in sunlight.

Thompson added it should

be free of insects, diseases and frost injury.

"Wood the size of a lead pencil or about one-fourth inch in diameter will work best. Smaller or larger wood can be used, but it is more difficult to handle and might not give good results," he said.

Scion wood should be 12 to 18 inches long.

The actual grafting can begin in March or early April when the sap is rising freely.

One storage method is to place the wood in a plastic bag in the refrigerator. Or it can be buried in soil or sawdust on the north side of a building deep enough so it will remain cool even on warm days, Thompson recommended.



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CHILDREN PLAY at the Damascus Community Church school, where the Oregon Court of Appeals Monday upheld a Clackamas County decision which

denied the church a conditional use permit for operation of the school.

Church zoning denied

DAMASCUS — The attorney for the Community Church here said he will recommend to church officials that they appeal a lower court ruling that could eventually shut the school down.

"From what I can gather

of the opinion (of the Court of Appeals) together with my own feelings, is that the chances are we would be able to win with the Supreme Court," Rupert Koblegarde, attorney for Damascus Community Church, said.

The Oregon Court of

Appeals Monday upheld a Clackamas County land-use decision which denied the church permission to operate the school on a six-acre tract of land on Highway 212 near Rust Way.

The court ruled invalid one of the county's claims, but upheld the contention that the church school has a detrimental effect on the surrounding neighborhood.

The county also said the school must be on a 12.5-acre site because of its comprehensive plan, but the court held that the provision only applied to public schools.

"The main issue was the site-size requirement, and the court ruled in our favor on that," Koblegarde said. "It's not a complete strike out by any means."

County Counsel Keith Kinsman said he anticipated the appeal to the Supreme Court when he learned of the appeals court ruling.

"I anticipate the church will petition for review to the Supreme Court on this one," he said. "Part of the church's argument is that it is not subject to county provisions because they are a church."

Kinsman said the separation of church and state argument is one the county does not agree with.

He added that the county had denied the conditional use permit requested by the church in 1975 on two grounds, and that the fact that the court was split in its

decision does not mean the Supreme Court will look favorable on a petition for review by the church.

Chief Judge Herbert Schwab, who wrote the appeals court opinion, said the zoning law requiring 12.5 acres for the school applies only to public schools.

However, the court ruled in a split decision that the county had sufficient evidence to deny the conditional use permit based on increased noise and sewage disposal problems.

Judge Lee Johnson disagreed with the majority, saying the crux of the county's argument was based on the acreage requirement and that the noise and sewage issues were not fully developed by legal staff.

"I'll be recommending (to the church board) that we don't drop the ball at this point," Koblegarde said. "I think the issues are to important to give up. The county had very little evidence to support the noise-sewage argument."

There is another county suit that could be heard by the appellate court next month that seeks to shut the school unless it complies with the sewer and noise requirements.

However, if the church appeals to the Supreme Court, the hearing would most likely be held over until after the higher court makes a ruling, Koblegarde said.

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