

HOUSING The Portland Observer

Making A Home Safe, Not Unsightly

If your house falls victim to burglary, chances are an unlocked door was the entry point. However, according to Joe Freeman of J.P. Freeman, a national security research firm, if the doors are locked, burglars will consider one more option - windows.

In 1992, four of 10 burglaries occurred using windows for primary access. Freeman said when both doors and windows are secure, most burglars will set their sights on another home.

According to Dave Culver,

president, Pella Window & Door Co. of Oregon Inc., a local distributor of Pella Wood Windows and Doors, security does not have to mean loud sirens and bars over every ground floor window.

"Professionals and consumers have more standard security options for new and replacement windows than ever before," said Culver. "We recommend looking for windows that are effective against tampering and do not sacrifice other factors such as energy efficiency and durability."

Culver said multi-point locking systems are a popular security feature. These systems secure windows, patio doors and French doors at the side, bottom and top. In a well-designed system, all three points activate with one handle. The ease makes homeowners more likely to keep windows and doors locked, while the design reduces frame warpage caused by the uneven pressure of dual lock handles. The American Society of Testing Materials gave the multi-point system its highest

security rating for doors.

Finally, Culver suggested contacting the local police department's crime prevention bureau for specific recommendations of lock and window brands with added security features. Bureaus generally recommend anything that will slow a burglar down - even using double-paned glass since it takes longer for burglars to get through.

For a free informational package about selecting windows and doors for the home, call 1-800-847-3552.

Spring Plants to Upgrade Neighborhood

A troubled apartment complex once known as "crack alley," is getting a touch of spring. Tenants and neighbors of the Maya Angelou Apartments at North Mason and Borthwick were scheduled to gather Saturday to plant flowers and shrubs donated by local nurseries and growers.

The beautification of the complex (once closed by police because of rampant drug dealing and gang activity) symbolizes a community-wide effort to reclaim the apartments for the families and children of the neighborhood.

Housing Our Families, a women's non-profit community development corporation, is in the process of renovating the complex. Since acquiring the property in August 1993, they have been working to physically rehabilitate the apartments and to increase the safety and liveability of the entire area. Over the past nine months, Housing Our Families has held four community forums and has met with hundreds of neighborhood residents to identify their concerns and to assist them in developing projects to address their needs.

The Spring Planting Day was planned by a group of community residents working together to take back their neighborhood from drugs, gangs, and physical decay. The event is organized in partnership with the Master Gardener program and Taproots, a volunteer group which collects donated plants from local nurseries.

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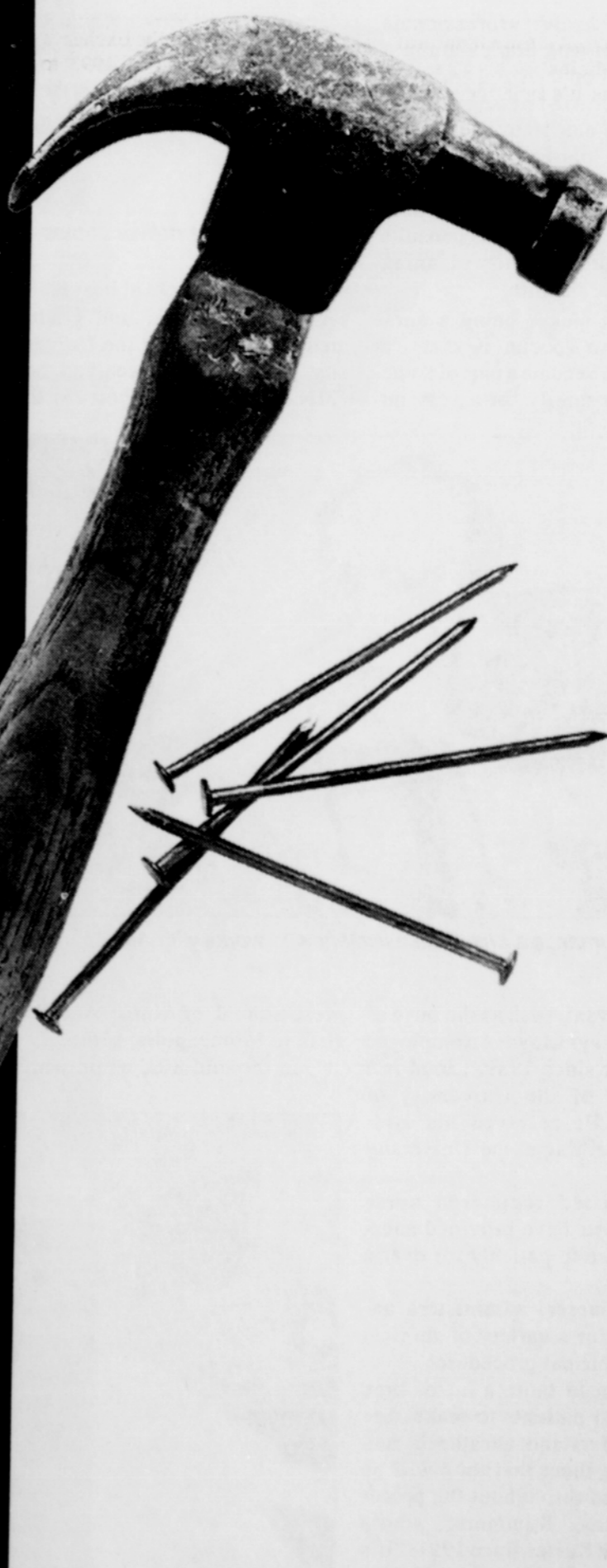
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