

Library a gardening resource

Seed lending program starts at Monmouth, is open to all

By Emily Mentzer
The Itemizer-Observer

MONMOUTH — Whether you're new at gardening or a regular green thumb, there's one thing all planters need: seeds.

Monmouth Public Library's new Seed Lending Program provides a plethora of seed packets for the pleasure of gardeners young and old.

With no strings attached — no library card is needed — people may take home up to five seed packets per adult each day, said Vivian Byers, library aide.

"The object is to get people interested in growing their own food," Byers said.

Byers grew up in a depressed town on the Oregon Coast, and recalls the importance of growing her own food.

"If you didn't grow, you didn't eat a whole lot," she said. Now, she continues gardening — even though she swears she has a "black thumb" — because some foods she wants to eat are hard to find in the grocery store or else they are expensive.

Byers said people keeping regular gardens has fallen out of style, but it's making a comeback with emphasis on



EMILY MENTZER/Itemizer-Observer
Monmouth Library Director Krist Oberst looks over the planting and harvest calendar at the Seed Lending Library. Vegetables, flowers and some herbs are available, all free.

eating locally grown foods, free of pesticides and genetically modified organisms.

"People don't know how to grow it (food), or preserve it, or — what do I do with a rutabaga?" Byers said.

So far, the more than 1,000 seed packets in a variety of vegetables, flowers and some herbs, have been donated by various people and businesses. In the first week of the program, 213 vegetable packets were taken home, and 124 flower packets.

Byers said librarians are not Master Gardeners, but a

Facebook account set up just for the seed lending program will let patrons share their successes and ask questions.

"People can post pictures of their garden, brag about having the first tomato of the year, or post questions," Byers said.

Planters could also leave reviews about favorite varieties of vegetables or tips on planting.

One request Byers has: Don't let things go to waste.

"When they do grow their garden, we hope that if they have extra produce they're

not using, that they'll consider donating to neighbors or food banks," she said. "Pay it forward."

Throughout the spring and summer, the library will host a variety of gardening classes, including all about composting with worms and special workshops aimed at children.

The Seed Lending Program is open to everyone in Polk, Yamhill and Marion counties, no library card needed.

For more information: Monmouth Public Library, 503-838-1932.

Community is focus of police discussion

By Emily Mentzer
The Itemizer-Observer

INDEPENDENCE — Sgt. Tino Banuelos led a discussion about the state of policing in the U.S., but more specifically, in Independence.

About 20 people sat in on an open discussion format at Friday's Latino Roundtable, a monthly gathering to discuss topics of importance to Independence's mixed community.

Banuelos said with so many police incidents, particularly the race-fueled shootings in places like Ferguson, Mo., and most recently in Pasco, Wash., the Independence Police Department wanted to open communication with its community.

"We would like input from different perspectives," he said. "We want to regularly engage the community that we serve. With current events across the nation, it's more important than ever."

Some of the things Banuelos said he would like to cover at future forums include why the police functions the way it does and why officers respond in certain ways.

Independence PD tries to mirror its community, he noted.

"Of our 13 officers, including administration, three are of Latino descent," Banuelos

said. "Five are bilingual." The department is still not 35 percent Hispanic, which would be a true representation of the Latino community in Independence, but it's getting there, Banuelos said.

"We want to stay on top of this," he said. "In this line of work, part of what we want to do is educate the public on why we respond in certain ways. There's a lot of gray area in the decision-making that we have to make."

In addition to future forums with the Latino community, Banuelos said the police department has goals including meeting with high school students to get their perspective on police and community; putting together a citizen's police academy; growing the cadet program; and recruiting more citizen volunteers.

"We're not just a uniform; we're not just a badge," he said. "We're human beings who have families and care about our communities."

For more information: Sgt. Tino Banuelos, 503-838-1214; or via email to Banuelos.juventino@ci.independence.or.us.



Banuelos

Polk County nonprofit volunteers still learning relatively new IRS tax rules

By Emily Mentzer
The Itemizer-Observer

POLK COUNTY — Volunteers of service clubs and other small nonprofits may or may not have accounting

backgrounds, which can make things tricky come tax season.

"With a lot of volunteer organizations, the treasurer is probably whoever misses a meeting and gets voted

into it," Mike Blanchard of Dallas said while chuckling.

Blanchard, a certified public accountant with Johnson, Glaze & Co., said the tax rules for filing as a nonprofit changed a few years ago, but

volunteers are still getting used to the new system.

If a Form 990 is not filed for three consecutive years, nonprofits are decertified and published on a list showing which charitable organizations are no longer tax exempt.

A number of Polk County organizations are listed on the IRS website. Most recently, Monmouth Garden Club was added to the list of those organizations that have had

its exempt status revoked.

"It gets complicated when you change officers every year," said Diane Ostrom, Monmouth Garden Club president.

It makes it even trickier when past treasurers say they've taken care of things, but communication has lapsed, Ostrom added.

At the garden club, the last treasurer moved and the new person has a lot on her plate, Ostrom said.

It's not the end of the world if a nonprofit has been decertified by the IRS, Blanchard said, but it is much easier to stay in compliance than the alternative.

The IRS has established a process to get back to certification, he said, but it is painful. Blanchard said it took a year to re-establish a nonprofit that lost its certification a couple of years ago.

For more information: www.irs.gov.

Come experience
The Willows
One Day Event
Saturday, Feb 28, 2015
10 am - 3 pm

The Willows
Wedding & Event Venue
Paula Vincent
12455 Myers Road
Dallas, Oregon 97338
503-930-7383

| | |
|---------------------------------|--------------|
| Only the Best Sound | |
| Mobile DJ / Lights / Photobooth | 971-209-2817 |
| Divine Eats & Sweets Catering | 971-600-7855 |
| Just Us Girls Bartending | 503-991-4210 |
| Danner & Soli Rental & Staging | 503-580-6546 |
| Amelia's Flowers | 503-983-6088 |
| Paparazzi Jewelry | 503-871-8923 |

COMMUNITY CHAMPIONS

58th Annual Community Awards Ceremony hosted by the

DALLAS AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

A Formal Affair on Friday, February 20, 2015

Join us in celebrating the Champions in our Community!
Purchase your Tickets Today from City Hall in the City Manager's Office
from 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. for only \$40 (cash or check)

Winners Announced

Check out our website and facebook pages!!!
dallasoregon.org/awards ~ facebook.com/DallasOregonChamber

Dallas Area Chamber of Commerce
eMail: chamber@dallasoregon.org / 503.623.2564

VLC AUCTION AUCTION AUCTION

Y'ALL COME DOWN NOW, YA HEAR!

FREE DRAWING
Great Wolf Lodge Gift Card

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 27

- > 5:00 TO 6:30 PM - BBQ PORK DINNER
- > 5:00 TO 6:45 PM - SILENT AUCTION/VENDORS
- > 7:00 TO 8:00 PM - LIVE AUCTION!

DINNER TICKETS

Southern Flavored BBQ Pork Sandwiches with all the fixin's!!!

| | | | |
|-----------------|-----------------|------------------|------------------|
| Single Tickets: | \$3 in advance | Family Tickets: | \$12 in advance |
| | \$5 at the door | (up to 6 people) | \$20 at the door |

Dinner tickets available online at:
www.valleylifecenter.com OR at
Valley Life Center - 1795 SE Miller Ave. - Dallas

AUCTION INFORMATION

Donation/Auction information contact us at 503-623-4116
To view a list of items being auctioned, visit us at
www.valleylifecenter.com

AUCTION LOCATION: VALLEY LIFE CENTER - 1795 SE MILLER AVE. - DALLAS