the meeting. Additional information about TOPS is available by carring Bev, 998-6227 or Ezzie, 952-0214.

JC Garden Club

Junction City Garden Club will hold its monthly meeting Tuesday at 12:30 p.m. in the recreation hall of the Scandia Village, 1225 W. 10th Ave. Members will be making arrangements for the tables.

Guests are always welcome to attend the group's meetings. Dessert

and gardening comments are enjoyed by all.

Grange Reports

LAKE CREEK GRANGE

By RUTH FALK

Jim Just will speak to the community about limiting the loss of farm land at the next meeting of Lake Creek Grange on Monday.

Just is one of the founders of 1000 Friends of Oregon and the 2001 Activist of the Year. His presentation will be preceded by a potluck supper at 6:30 p.m., which is also open to the public.

Residents who are interested in knowing more about the status of land use planning at the present time in the local area are encouraged to attend this talk.

Long Tom Watershed Council

By ALISSA MANSKE Feb 28, 2002

(Excerpts reprinted with permission from King County Department of Natural Resources and City of Eugene Stormwater Management Program.)

The watershed is a place where hills and plains and people's lives are connected by falling rain and flowing water. Each one changes the watershed day by day, bit by bit, while going about the business of living.

Human actions can be subtle or very dramatic. Cutting forests, clearing land, laying concrete and asphalt, and building houses and towns, pro-

duces changes in the watershed.

Water quality deteriorates as water drains from cities, industrial campuses, and roads carrying pesticides, oil, and heavy metals into streams and ground water. In these circumstances, streams and fish habitat are often damaged. Being aware of potential problems and what can be done to remedy them can make a difference.

There are many seasonal concerns. Leaves, yard debris, and other plant materials plug storm drains, sometimes flooding portions of neighborhood streets. Yard debris tossed in drainage ditches and waterways absorbs oxygen needed by fish and aquatic plants and may contain herbicides or pesticides which can be released into the water as plant materials decay. A solution to this dilemma is to use leaves as mulch in the garden or landscape. Since leaves break down faster than coarser material, the result is more fertile soil. Another option is to take leaves and yard debris to Lane Forest Products or Rexius to be recycled.

On exposed ground, sediment run-off such as sands, clays, and silts can affect adjacent properties and clog catch basins and storm drains. When sediments enter waterways they block sunlight, limit plant growth, and harm aquatic habitat by removing oxygen. This problem can be dealt with by covering exposed soils and preserving vegetation to prevent erosion. Provide temporary cover to exposed soils with seeding, mulch, mats, blankets, or plastic sheeting with anchors. Plant permanent vegetation when possible.

The watershed, the water cycle, and the lives of individuals are all connected. Any action, anywhere, affects the land, the water, and ultimately people. It is important to remember that everyone lives downstream.

The next Long Tom Watershed Council meeting is March 26 at the Veneta Community Center. For more information, contact Dana Erickson at 683-6578.



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