

Putting it all together

AUG 2, 2011 | 1 COMMENT

[Share](#)

By **Starla Pointer**
Of the News-Register

Dudley Frost doesn't create with oils or clay. His creates with land and space.

"Blending the site and the product is my art," he said.

His skills served him well as a residential developer in California and Arizona before his retirement. And they still serve him well with activities such as serving on the board of the Community Home Builders self-help housing agency, overseeing the Sunrise Rotary Club's Artists' Village project and volunteering at the Evergreen Aviation Museum.



Dudley Frost is part of a five-member Spruce Goose crew on Wednesdays. He calls the Evergreen Aviation Museum "an amazing place" where planners effectively blended the exhibits to create a pleasing experience for visitors. He said he also admires his fellow volunteers, who bring so much knowledge to the job. --Tom Ballard/News-Register

He spends Wednesdays at the museum, where his job is photographing visitors in the cockpit of the Spruce Goose. On a busy day, he may get more than 15 groups of six requesting cockpit photos.

Frost enjoys arranging and blending the pieces of the puzzle - in the museum case, the people and the structure of the plane - to show off each to best advantage.

"I guess I'm a typical developer," he said with a laugh. "I always have an image in mind and try to blend things."

Frost and his wife Gail, also an active volunteer, came to McMinnville five years ago. They settled in a then-new subdivision on what once was Elks Park.

Turkey Rama's Fireman's Dance was held there for years. "Our house is on the dance floor," Frost joked.

He figures their daughters, Vickie Davis and Debbie Frost, might have danced there when they were attending Linfield College in the 1970s.

Vickie is now teaching P.E. in Beaverton and Debbie serving as a rehabilitation consultant in West Virginia. The Frosts also have a son, Kirk, who attended Northern Arizona University in Flagstaff and now makes his home there.

Frost himself studied business at the University of California at Berkeley, where he graduated in 1952. He was in the Army ROTC program in college and joined an Army engineering unit after graduation.

"The Air Force didn't have engineers then, so my unit was assigned to them," he said. As a result, he sports an Air Force emblem on his museum docent's vest, along with his Army insignia.

Stationed in France during his two-year stint, he rehabilitated World War II runways and developed new ones.

The experience had a big impact on him. In addition to teaching him construction skills, the Army helped him learn "to blend together people to build things," he said.

After leaving the service, he took a surveying job with the California Department of Transportation, then moved into its real estate section. He then struck out on his own, launching a 40-year career as a residential developer and builder.

His companies, Cavalier Homes and Morrison Homes, were involved in subdivision and condominium projects in California and Arizona. He also served on city planning commissions for eight years in California.

Along the way, he followed in his father's footsteps by becoming a Rotarian. He has belonged to Rotary clubs for 30 years in five different cities.

It's rewarding to be part of a group with a common goal, he said. "If you're able to do that, you should do it."

When he moved to McMinnville, he chose the Sunrise club, which meets early in the morning. It's a small but mighty group, whose members pitch in whenever and wherever they're needed, he said.

That was the case with the Artists' Village, staged in conjunction with Turkey Rama. It grew out of an art show the club had been hosting as part of the event.

Members wanted to develop a large-scale, freestanding event to showcase Northwest art, and settled on Linfield College's Oak Grove as a venue.

It not only offered the space the club needed, but also a unique, beautiful setting, Frost said. "The elegance, the feeling you have when you arrive ... that can't be beat," he said.

Frost's job as developer of the Artists' Village was the same as it would have been as developer of a subdivision - "to create a layout that will enhance the product."

He considered the size, capacity and features of the site, including the positioning of the sun at various times of day. He also analyzed the product - the art - and the market - the people who would come to see it.

He came up with a layout featuring 63 tents pitched in the shade of tall oak trees. He positioned bands at the edge of a grassy area where people could sit or dance.

The layout, taking the pattern of spokes on a wheel, led people from one area to the next.

During the event, Frost roamed the site, talking to artists and visitors to get their impressions. He enjoyed seeing things run smoothly.

However, he also was keeping an eye out for improvements that could be made. He's already thinking about next year.

Starla Pointer, who is convinced everyone has an interesting story to tell, has been writing the weekly "Stopping By" column since 1996. She's always looking for suggestions. Contact her at 503-687-1263 or spointer@newsregister.com.

JOHN PAUL JACKSON

Aug. 27, 2011
1pm and 6pm

REGISTER NOW

Looking out for your well-being, it's what neighbors do.

PROVIDENCE
Newberg Medical Center

GREEN GROCER

100% Organic
Local
Farm Fresh
Hormone & Antibiotic Free
BPA Free
Wine Selection
Meats and Seafood

251 NE THIRD ST.
MCMINNVILLE
503-472-5740

CLICK & FLICK
MOVIE LISTINGS

Most Read | Most Commented

- Carlton man dies in motorcycle crash (3426)
- Fair continues in four-day run (2868)
- Clackamas puts OMP's playoff run to an end (2759)
- Evergreen fire does not appear to be suspicious (2552)
- Fire destroys home under construction (2328)
- Letters to the Editor - July 30, 2011 (2154)
- Newberg Fire Department ambulance involved in crash (1840)
- Cat killer gets 30-day sentence (1756)
- Fire guts showpiece home (1389)
- IPNC celebrates quarter of a century (1363)