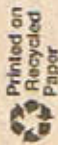


July 9, 2003  
Volume 19, No. 17  
50 cents



www.SNPonline.com

# BEXLEY NEWS

SUBURBAN NEWS PUBLICATIONS  
SNP

Also Serving Berwick and Eastmoor

© SUBURBAN NEWS PUBLICATIONS

## Leaders gather for support in light of graffiti attacks

By KATHLEEN L. RADCLIFF

Bexley News Reporter

The Columbus Jewish Federation and other sites wasted no time in cleaning up hate-based graffiti messages scrawled on their walls last week.

Joshua Platt, marketing and public relations director for the Columbus Jewish Federation, said staff members had been busy cleaning walls at the federation headquarters at 1175 College Ave.

"Other than damage to the buildings, at an estimate of approximately \$300, nothing was compromised," at the federation's building,

Platt said.

The facility also houses the offices of the Columbus Jewish Foundation, the Columbus Commission on Jewish Education and the Columbus Jewish Historical Society.

In addition to slurs scrawled in spray paint on the walls of the federation's building, messages were painted on nearby Beth Jacob Congregation, 1223 College Ave.; Temple Israel, 5419 E. Broad St. and the Villas at St. Therese, 25 Noe-Bixby Road.

In response, religious leaders announced their intention to stand together, showing the interfaith community's solidarity for tolerance, diversity and understanding, with a

gathering near the Holocaust Memorial at Trinity Lutheran Seminary, 2199 E. Main St. in Bexley, Monday.

"When this happens to one of our faith groups, it happens to us all," said Skip Cornett, director of the seminary's Center for Continuing Education and Lifelong Learning, in a written statement.

Robin Miller, director of communications for the Catholic Diocese of Columbus, said Thursday the graffiti had been removed from the walls of the Villas at St. Therese.

"Hopefully, out of all this, some good will come out of it," Miller said Thursday, regarding the interfaith response.

"My sense, from what police have told us, is this is believed to have been an isolated incident, (probably) from some people looking for excitement," Platt said.

In addition, Platt said police believe the painting began at Temple Israel.

"The reason behind the thinking is the spray paint was darker, and when they ran out, they stopped," Platt said.

"This was designed to scare people, and it's sad, but these incidents affect more than just the buildings spray-painted," Platt said.

"This is a crime against anyone in this

See LEADERS, Page 2

## LEADERS

Continued from Page 1

community."

Platt said the Columbus Jewish Federation will prosecute those responsible for the graffiti attacks.

"We're asking people to call the police and be good citizens," if they know anything about the incident, Platt said.

So far, that's not happened, Columbus Police Det. Terry Woodland said Monday.

"There are no new developments in the investigation," Woodland said. "We were hoping someone would come forward with information by now."

Those who have any information regarding the graffiti attacks are asked to call the Bias Crime Unit, Columbus Division of Police, at 645-4910.