

WHITE SUPREMACISTS START LEAFLETING MORE SUBURBS

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Author: Diane Struzzi and Kirsten Scharnberg, Tribune Staff Writers. Tribune staff writers Phat X. Chiem and David Mendell contributed to this report.

Matthew Hale, the leader of an East Peoria-based white supremacist organization, confirmed Tuesday that his group has begun a massive outreach campaign in the wake of a deadly July 4 weekend shooting spree linked to a former follower.

In a telephone interview, Hale vowed "to reach every white man, woman and child in the Chicago area in the next two years."

Authorities in several suburbs north and west of Chicago acknowledged that residents last weekend found literature from Hale's "Creativity" movement hanging from their doorknobs or thrown onto their driveways.

A 32-page pamphlet, which makes claims about Jews running the media and the purported differences between the races, was distributed in at least four communities--Schaumburg, Rolling Meadows, Palatine and Waukegan.

But Hale's efforts may prompt even more scrutiny of his organization, the World Church of the Creator. The group was thrust into the spotlight after authorities said former member Benjamin Smith was responsible for a two-state shooting rampage that killed two people and wounded nine.

Officials of Schaumburg, Palatine and Waukegan said Tuesday they were researching whether the pamphleteering violated their littering or solicitation ordinances. Some said they also may contact their state's attorney and the Illinois attorney general's office.

"It's unsightly and unsettling to have that message littering our community, and we will do everything we can to prevent that from occurring," said Palatine Village Manager Mike Cassady. "We still believe the 1st Amendment doesn't allow someone to go and litter in our community."

Several Rolling Meadows residents said they had received the literature and were appalled by it.

"It's sickening. We don't want that type of material here," said Cindy Kristich, a real estate agent who lives on Yarrow Lane. "I guess they have a right to freedom of speech, but I don't appreciate someone from outside the neighborhood coming in and stirring up trouble."

Hale said dedicated teenagers disseminated the World Church literature in the suburbs. He declined to identify them.

According to Devin Burghart, spokesman for the Center for New Community, an anti-racism group based in Oak Park, communities should not ignore hate-literature sweeps, but should respond swiftly and boldly,

The center plans to kick off a public awareness campaign Thursday about hate-group activities in the Midwest by visiting the cities where Smith allegedly shot his victims.

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