

In Your Neighborhood

Fourth Plain Village faces end of line

FOURTH PLAIN VILLAGE — Due to lack of support, a city neighborhood association is closing shop. Fourth Plain Village Neighborhood Association, bordered by Grand Boulevard to the west, Fourth Plain Boulevard to the south and Burnt Bridge Creek to the east, is seeking new leadership — or else.

Karen Archambeau, association president, said she and her fellow officers have served for nearly two years — longer than the neighborhood's one-year-old existence.

However, efforts to find new officers have failed. "In January, we took our newsletter door to door to approximately 900 residents, asking for help," Archambeau said. "We didn't get one response."

The neighborhood's recently completed spring cleanup day drew no volunteer support, but plenty of people willing to take advantage of the free day, Archambeau said.

"So that's probably our last official function as a neighborhood association," she said.

People interested should call the Vancouver Office of Neighborhoods at 696-8222.

117th/119th team gets OK

SALMON CREEK — Folks living near Highway 99 east to Northeast Salmon Creek have reason to celebrate.

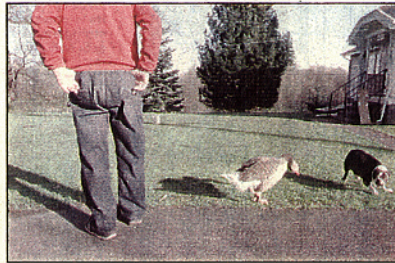
They're getting a new roadway. Recently, Clark County Commissioners approved a formal plan to redesign Northeast 117th and 119th streets from Highway 99 to just east of Salmon Creek Avenue. State and federal monies, along with impact fees, will pay for the \$1.5 million to \$2.5 million project. Construction is set to begin next year.

The project also calls for Northeast 117th Street to be extended from Highway 99 to 119th Street. In addition, 23rd Avenue will be developed as a circulation road between a new 117th and the old 119th streets. New intersections will be created at 117th and 119th and at 119th and Salmon Creek Avenue. All associated roads will be widened to three lanes with bike lanes and sidewalks.

It is not yet known what will happen with North-east 26th Avenue, which runs south of the new 117th Street. The two roadways intersect on a steep hillside, which could make for hazardous conditions, so 26th could be cut off from that intersection all together.



Gussie lets Willis' dog Boomer know who's boss when it comes to sharing his attention.



With a honk and a hiss, Gussie warns away those who might take time away from her and Willis.



Gussie shows her affection towards Willis Lemmon by rubbing her neck up and down his pant leg.

A Fowl for a Friend

Willis Lemmon finds companionship from an unlikely source... Out of the sky

CAMAS — Gussie waddled into Willis Lemmon's life one day and fell in love.

But this isn't your typical story of: goose meets man, man feeds goose, goose leaves man for next bread crumb. It's more of an unconditional affair, a seasonal courtship, the feathers of youth annually reuffed.

Yet it's also a tale of controversy and conflicts. Gussie won't put up with certain things, such as Willis' wife, his dog and the other geese that like to hang around. She honks. She hisses. Her jealousy strains their relationship at times, but Gussie always seems to end up back in his arms, and he in her wings.

The romance started, innocently enough, about four years ago, when Willis, and his wife,

Marjorie, spotted a couple of geese wandering around their Lacamas Creek property.

That night, the couple tossed some corn on the ground and went to bed, expecting their visitors to have a nice meal and move on. Instead, the birds took it as standard fare. They stayed for months and have returned each spring for the twice daily feedings.

During the past couple of months, the Lemmons have entertained about 100 ducks, a dozen raccoons and several other small animals including a seagull, an opossum, a beaver and one persistent goose — Gussie.

Gussie looks like a typical bird of her species but acts more like a puppy that has been left home alone all day. She begs for attention. Her gray-shaded feathers ruffle whenever Willis comes near. Her orange-lined eyes widen when he walks outside. Her hunched honks turn up to fog horn level when she sees him.

"I think somebody raised her as a pet, then had to turn her loose for some reason, like they moved or something," Willis said. "She sure likes to rub my knees."

Willis retired from the James River Corp. paper mill in 1980 and developed diabetes soon afterward. He spent a lot of time in front

of the television, Marjorie says, wasting away.

"That took up his time but it wasn't very fulfilling," Marjorie said. "This, on the other hand, has been a riot."

Willis now has a schedule to keep. Twice a day, he slices up bread to feed his new friends. The 78-year-old's awake by 3 a.m. and still passing out food by 8:30 p.m. In-between, he takes long walks to keep his circulation going.

As Willis starts to stroll up the driveway, Gussie lets out a series of honks, straightens her question mark-shaped neck into an exclamation point and begins to waddle toward him. She wiggles with glee as her mouth stretches skyward, like it's waiting for her mother to drop in a worm.

Gussie now follows along on those daily walks with Willis, causing quite a commotion on Camas streets.

"It's been very entertaining for him and for a lot of other people," Marjorie said. "It's like they can't believe what they're seeing. Here's Willis walking a goose through town."

Recently, Gussie went a webbed-foot farther. She jumped in the car when Willis wasn't looking. Now, he throws down a sheet of plastic and takes her along for rides.

"I enjoy the animals because Willis enjoys them so much," Marjorie said. "I really think (a higher power) sent Gussie and the rest of them. It's been a blessing."



Willis hugs his buddy Gussie.



Willis and Gussie walk to feed some of the other fowl behind his Camas home.

Calendar 24 25

- TODAY**
 Fruit Valley Neighborhood Association, CPR training, 7 p.m., Fruit Valley Community Center, 3000 Unander Road. Cost is \$10.
 SALT LAKE CITY
 Harney Heights Neighborhood Association, 10 a.m., Community A.M.E. Zion Church, 3005 E. 13th St.
MONDAY
 Clark County Heights, 7 p.m., Fruit Valley Community Center, 3000 Unander Road. Agenda: Election of officers.
TUESDAY
 Rosemead Neighborhood Association, 7 p.m., Rosemead Community Center, 33rd and C streets. Agenda: Election of officers and board members, final plans for spring cleanup.
 Northwest Hazel Dell Neighborhood Association, 7 p.m., Sheriffs Office West Precinct, 9102 N.E. Highway 99. Agenda: Adoption of bylaws, officer nominations.
 Shumway Neighborhood Association, 7 p.m., Discovery Middle School, 40th and F streets.
 Riverview Neighborhood Association, 7 p.m., Haney School, 2212 E. Evergreen Blvd. Agenda: Neighborhood Action Plan.
 Community Housing Resource Center, free home-buyer workshop, 6:30 to 8 p.m., Felicia Fire Station, Northwest 116th Street and Lakeshore Avenue.
 Hough Neighborhood Association, 7 p.m., Hough Elementary School, 1900 Danville St. Agenda: Officer elections.
 Meadow Homes Neighborhood Association, 7 p.m., Unitarian Universalist Fellowship Church, 4505 E. 18th St.
WEDNESDAY
 Finest Neighborhood Association, 7 p.m., Finest Elementary School, 10201 N.E. Ninth St. Agenda: Election of officers, park cleanup, benefits of annexation.
 Ogden Neighborhood Association, 7 to 9 p.m., Moose Lodge, 800 N.E. Fourth Plain Blvd.
 West Hazel Dell Neighborhood Association, annexation incorporation, 7 to 9 p.m., Jason Lee Middle School, 8500 N.W. Ninth Ave. Topics: parks, fire services, roads, state and local revenue sources.
 Vancouver Heights Neighborhood Association, social at 6:30, meeting at 7 p.m., Marshall Elementary School, 6400 Mackinaw Blvd. Agenda: Neighborhood Action Plan.
THURSDAY, APRIL 19
 Carter Park Neighborhood Association, 7 p.m., Discovery Middle School, 40th and F streets. Agenda: Election of officers, growth memorandum position, NWCA remodeling at 30th and Main.
 North Garfield Heights Neighborhood Association, 7:30 p.m., Kamie Retirement Center, 1000 N.E. 32nd Ave. Agenda: Progress of Grant homes development.
 Northcrest Neighborhood Association, 7 p.m., Merin Luther King Elementary School, 4801 Idaho St.
 Junata Neighborhood Association, 7 p.m., St. Luke's Episcopal Church Binyon, 426 E. Fourth Plain Blvd.
 West Minnehaha Neighborhood Association, 7:30 p.m., First Evangelical Church, 4200 N.E. St. Johns Road.

To get your neighborhood news or calendar items into The Columbian, contact Edwin Newton no later than 10 a.m. Tuesday. You may reach him at 737-4006 (voice), 699-6033 (fax), or via the Internet at vanpaper@aol.com.