



Neighborhood focus: Fourth Plain Village

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BY SCOTT HEWITT, Columbian staff writer

Fourth Plain Village is really three neighborhoods.

Close to Fourth Plain and Grand boulevards is the quiet, older, World War II-era ranch settlement that's been inhabited by some of the same folks for decades.

North of there, tucked below state Highway 500 and the Bonneville Power Administration transmission lines, is a different world.

"I'm the only homeowner on my block," said resident activist Robb Peck, who edits the neighborhood association newsletter. "It's all renters up here, and the renters tend to change every six to eight months. And it's not because they're moving on to better things."

The neighborhood is approximately three-quarters rentals, Peck said. The 2006 crime rate, 242 crimes per 1,000 residents, doesn't top the entire city, but it's up there. (The average is 133 crimes per 1,000.)




"There are quite a few awesome people who try very hard to make this a nice neighborhood," Peck said. "But overall, I guess it's a rougher neighborhood."

It's a diverse neighborhood, he said, with many Spanish and Russian speakers. The neighborhood association has been printing its newsletters in three languages, but there's been little response.

"The board is working really hard to get up and running" after a hiatus, said resident Del Frigault, a former neighborhood chairman who stays as involved as his time allows, he said.

Fourth Plain Village's hidden gem is the fascinating little southeastern corner of the neighborhood - the Algona-Hazelwood area right alongside Burnt Bridge Creek. Squeezed onto tiny, winding streets, it's a hidden red-brick village all its own.

-Scott Hewitt

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Robb Peck and son Sean explore the neighborhood. (BEN CAMPBELL/The Columbian)

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