



# AVIAN FLYER

APRIL 2022

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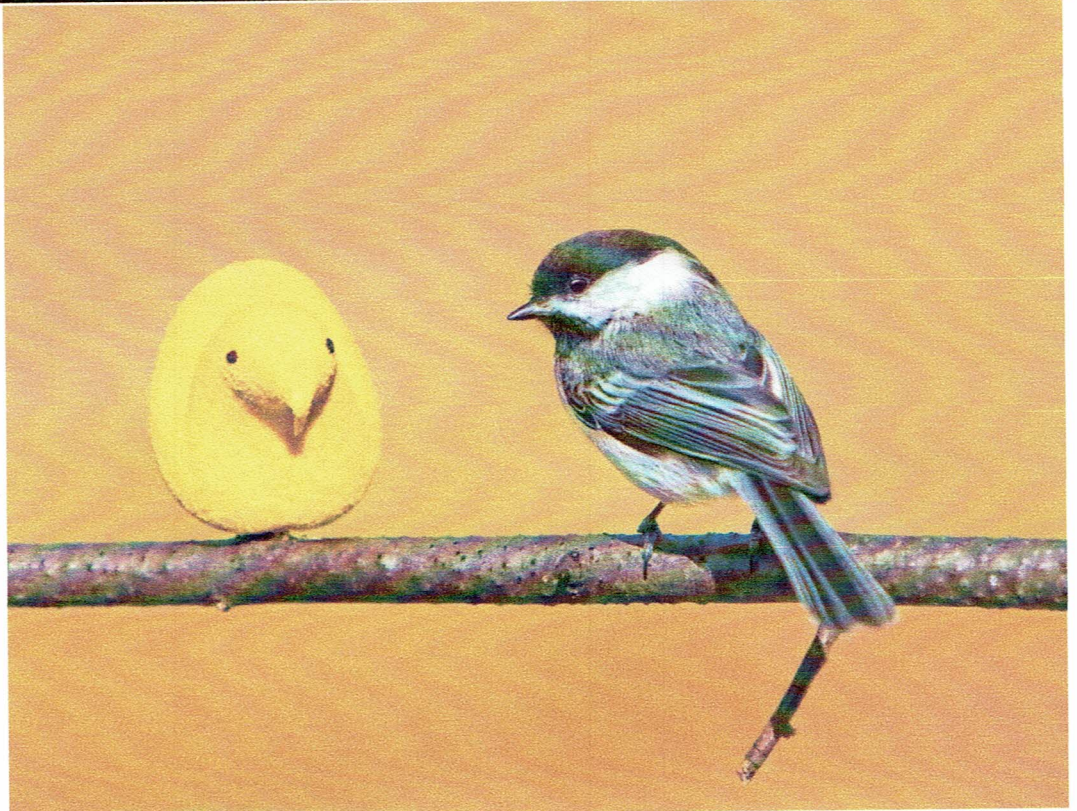
### PUBLISHING AND DISTRIBUTION

Beth Murphy

ARTICLES, ADS AND PHOTOS  
ARE WELCOME  
AND ENCOURAGED!

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## TIME FOR THOSE APRIL SHOWERS! (Oh, if they were only confined to April!)

Your friendly neighborhood Editor, here. Since I cannot seem to get folks to send me pictures of their birds, how about captions to pictures? Check out the picture above and send me a funny caption for it and I will publish what I receive in the next issue! Come on and show us your creativity! Just send them to:

[thedovenest@yahoo.com](mailto:thedovenest@yahoo.com).

This month's issue features an article about weaning canaries, something many people are starting to do right now. There is a feature about the adorable and ever popular Society Finch, and an interesting article about the experiments with Budgies that revealed how birds avoid crashes in tight places (like zooming through tree branches). This month we get advice from a vet on helping a baby bird with

sour crop, and some life advice from a spring robin.

If you have become frazzled with the chores of a busy breeding season fitting into our regular busy lives, you can kick back and relax with a spring word search puzzle on page 8.

Don't forget—this is YOUR newsletter. Suggestions, articles, bird related ads and of course pictures are welcome and encouraged! It is my privilege to be your editor, but the content needs to be what you really want to see, share and learn about (sprinkled in with some humor, of course!)

Wishing you a blessed Easter and a wonderful spring!





## 2022 Officers

President	Sandra Foote-Gregory	503-792-3582	sfoote@xpressdata.net
Vice President	Maymelle Wong	503-459-8213	mmwong@easystreet.net
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## Committees

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Website			
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Facebook:			



Our March meeting was held both in person and with Zoom. More members were able to participate. It was a privilege to see each one of you. Your input is very important to our club.

It is now April with showers which has sure helped with our flowers. Easter is here this month also. This must mean that we should have a lot of eggs. With eggs come baby birds. Seven days later we will be banding. I hope banding is easier for you than it was for me. The first baby bird took me one hour to get the band on. Thank goodness there were only two birds in that nest, three babies in the next and four in the next one. Banding birds is taking up a lot of my time. I hope it is easier for you. Our bands have all been sold for this year. If you need more join another club to get their band.

We will be voting to see if our club would like to change our monthly meetings to Saturday instead of Sunday. Your vote counts.

One of our members placed an order with one of our advertisers and was giving the wholesale price because he is a member of our club. It pays to remind our advertisers of your membership with the Columbia Canary Club.

Hector Diaz will be hosting our snacks for this month. Thanks, Hector.

*Sandy*





## **April Show Committee Report**

Our fall show is set for Friday and Saturday, October 28-29, 2022. It will be at the Oregon State Fair in Salem, Oregon. We have an amazing group of volunteers who have already stepped forward. It takes many different people to make a show happen. Everyone is needed. At this moment 28 different people have agreed to take at least one role! Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!

If you haven't yet made up your mind how you can help, here are some of the places we need you:

Friday set up 11:00 – 3:00 pm

Friday evening registration 6-9:00 pm

Saturday morning registration 7 – 9:00 am

Show Secretary, prepares record forms and gathers them at the close of the show.

Colorbred Canary Secretary, records class placings during show.

Colorbred Steward, brings birds to the show table during show.

Type Canary Steward, brings birds to the show table during show.

Type Canary Secretary, records class placings during the show.

Raffle volunteer, assists those organizing the raffle.

Take Down, Saturday 4 – 6:00 pm

Awards sponsors, donate \$25 towards each division awards

I know we are going to have a terrific 2022 show. It is all our great people who make it happen. Please let me know how you can be a part. All of us working together make the show happen. Thank you for doing what you can.

Dan Pitney, Show Manager

## **Columbia Canary Club March 2022 Meeting Minutes**

The March Columbia Canary Club meeting was held at our new location the Clackamas Community Clubhouse on Sunday, March 13th. The general meeting was called to order by club president, Sandra Foote-Gregory at 2:00 pm. Thank you to Dan Pitney who got Zoom up and running for this meeting and 9 members attended via Zoom.

Treasurer Carol Groenevelt reported that the November 2021 show's refundable deposit from the Oregon State Fairgrounds as well as the final \$51 in entry fees from the show had been received and deposited. The minutes and the treasury report were approved as they appeared in the Avian Flyer. As of March 13th, there are a total of 83 paid members for 2022.

Discussion was had about the club obtaining non-profit status. Board Member Cynthia Nelson agreed to investigate what it would take to obtain non-profit status for our club and will report back at the April meeting.

It was brought up that it would be easier for some members if monthly meetings took place on Saturdays versus Sundays. Sandy will check with the Clackamas Community Club and see if that is even an option for the balance of 2022 and report back at the next meeting.

Sandy asked the members at the meeting if people were interested in bringing in donated items to the monthly meetings and having a live auction to raise money for the club. This could be items that you are no longer using that are in good condition, all members agreed that this was a good idea and will start at the April meeting.

Show Manager, Dan Pitney confirmed that the State Fairgrounds has been reserved for October 28-29th 2022 for our show. Set up will be on Friday, October 28th and the show will be a one day show on Saturday the 29th. The Budgie club have been invited to attend our show again this year, we are waiting to hear back from them on if they plan on attending. Dan is putting together a list of open volunteer positions that we will need to fill to make the show run smoothly. We will be having another show committee meeting (by Zoom) in April, time and date to be determined.

Respectfully,  
Michelle Senior, Secretary



## **Weaning Canaries – Encouraging Fledglings to Accept the Adult Diet**

Whether they are hand or parent-reared, young Canaries usually need some encouragement to switch from the nestling to adult diet. This change-over period can be quite stressful, but there are a number of steps you can take to ease the transition.

### **The Transition Period**

Pet Canaries feed their chicks largely upon sprouts, soaked seeds and Egg Food or hard boiled eggs. Once the young fledge, which usually occurs at age 16-20 days, they will be fed by their parents for an additional 2 -3 weeks. During this time, they will also begin to pick at food and eventually learn to eat on their own. Fledglings benefit from watching their parents and siblings...chicks that are hand-reared are at a disadvantage in this respect, but will also respond to the ideas and foods mentioned below.

Hard seeds are a novel food for young Canaries, and acquiring the skill needed to open them takes practice. A high protein diet remains important right through the first molt (which usually begins within 2 months of fledging), but eventually seeds should replace egg-based foods as their staple.

### **Caution: Stress and Weight Loss**

While it is important to encourage youngsters to accept hard seeds, bear in mind that dietary switches, and the loss of parental care, are very stressful events. Stress can depress the immune system...if the birds are also losing weight, serious health problems can quickly take hold. So it's important to keep them feeding, even if this means that the transition to adult foods will be slow. Continue to supply young birds with their favorites, such as egg food and sprouts, especially if they appear to be losing weight and slowing down. Canaries have little in the way of food reserves, so be sure to seek veterinary advice quickly if your birds decline in condition.

Make all introductions gradually...even healthy foods may cause digestive upset if suddenly taken in large quantities. And, as most parents will tell you, mixing with favorite foods, and other trickery, is critical if any young "creature" is to accept a new diet!

### **Useful Weaning Foods and Techniques**

Couscous soaked in hot water is used by many breeders as a transition food. I use soaked, crushed seeds in place of couscous, but several of my former coworkers at the Bronx Zoo report that Canaries eat it readily, and remain in good weight while adjusting to a seed-based diet. If you opt for couscous, I suggest that you offer soaked, ground seeds as well.

Crushed softbill pellets (i.e. Softbill Select) can be mixed into the foods that the youngsters are accustomed to (typically Egg Food or a similar product). This will provide additional nutrients and introduce new tastes. Seeds that are just beginning to sprout are one of the best foods to introduce. Most young Canaries relish sprouts; while pecking at the sprout the birds invariably hit the seed itself, and in time will begin to consume it as well.

Mix some soaked seeds from your adult canary diet in among the sprouts to encourage further experimentation. Once your birds are eating softened seeds, add crushed or ground hard seeds. Coffee grinders or pestles can be used to break up seeds and render them easier to consume.

### **March 2022 Treasurer's Report:**

<b>Income:</b>	
<b>Membership:</b>	<b>\$ 50.00</b>
<b>Bands</b>	<b>133.80</b>
<b>Expenses: None</b>	
<b>Total Bank Deposit:</b>	<b>\$215.55</b>
<b>Current Bank Balance</b>	<b>\$13,605.36</b>





## The Bengalese or Society Finch

(*Lonchura striata*)

Known in the United States as the Society Finch, it is not a naturally-occurring species, but a fertile hybrid. It is the most domesticated of the "finches" [it is actually a *Munia*] but its ancestry is the subject of debate. Nobody is quite certain which wild finches the Bengalese is descended from, but the Striated Finch and the White-rumped *Munia* are thought to have played a considerable role in their development.

They are well adapted to captivity and do well in the company of humans. They breed well and are good foster parents for other finch-like species.

It has been found the best "pairing" for fostering is to use two males, this works better than either two females or a male and female pairing. Two males will usually accept eggs, or even partly grown young without any hesitation.

It is mostly accepted that these birds have been bred in Japan for some 250 years, and over the years, breeders have managed to breed lots of color variations including fawn, chocolate brown, pied and etc. There is also a very attractive crested variety of the Bengalese. Over the centuries individual color patterns have been developed. For instance, one Japanese family may have developed all white birds with black wings, while another family may breed ginger birds with white heads etc. Development of these strains has taken several generations of the one Japanese family to perfect.

These birds are a very close flock species and tend to all roost in the one nest if kept in a group. This tends to make breeding harder in an aviary situation, and they breed better if kept as single pairs in individual breeding boxes [as used for Canaries and Budgies]. This close flocking behavior is also responsible for their American name of "Society Finch".

They are cheerful little birds that are quite easy to look after. They are also quite easy to breed provided they are, of course, adequately sexed. Obtaining a female-male pair can present a difficulty because both sexes look exactly the same at first glance. However, it is possible to determine gender by behavior since males tend to

display to impress and court females. The best way of using this method to sex Bengalese is to place a single bird in a small cage and completely isolate it from its own kind [both sight and hearing] for several hours; then introduce another Bengalese to the cage. If the first bird is a male it will immediately display to the newcomer. Unfortunately this does not necessarily mean the introduced bird is a female. But if the first bird does not display it is almost certainly a hen.

However, a quicker and more sure method of sexing is to compare both the head width [in a line across the top of the head between the eyes], and the shape of the under-side of the beak. The male has a much broader head than the female; and the male's under-beak [where the beak meets the feathers of the neck] is a "V" shape and the hen's more rounded like the bottom of the letter "U". In both these methods the two birds should be held side by side to compare.

Feeding is simple, as all they require to remain healthy and breed well is a diet of small millets, green-food, grit and fresh water. They will not usually take live-foods, but it has been found they will often accept house fly pupae, which they crack like seed. This is particularly useful if they are being used to foster species that require a high protein component to be successfully reared.

The origin of most color mutations is known. From what we see in the literature, the pied (variegated) mutation is the oldest one. Pied (short for piebald) means that there is color breaking or patches of white interrupting the color of the bird.

The fawn mutation had arisen in Asia a long time ago most likely in a population of pied chocolates. Much more recently, the gray and the ino mutations arose in Europe and even more recently the pearl mutation arose in Japan. Many of these color mutations can be combined along with feather mutations to give dozens of unique combinations.

"Selfs" are solid color birds. The best evidence indicates that these birds are repressed peds and not wild type birds. They were derived from taking different colored peds and breeding the least white to the least white to obtain birds with no little or no white at all. Selfs often are "leaky" meaning they throw out white feathers usually under the beak or between the legs.



## **Budgerigar (Parakeet) Study Reveals how Birds Avoid Crashes In Tight Quarters**

If you observe wild birds, you've no doubt marveled at their ability to fly through dense brush without touching a single branch. In NYC, I've twice been surprised to see pigeons flying at full speed through amazingly tight spaces when pursued by Red-Tailed Hawks. Bats utilize echolocation to perform similar feats, but with few exceptions (i.e. the Oilbird, please see below), birds lack this adaptation. So how do they do it? According to a recent study (Current Biology, Oct., 2011) at Australia's Vision Center and the University of Queensland, some species rely up-on vision alone.

### **"See-Compare-Adjust Course"**

Researchers worked with Budgerigars (Parakeets) that had been trained to fly an indoor course that allowed for careful monitoring. They were able to show that the birds used their vision to sense and compare the speed at which they passed background images, and then adjusted their flight path accordingly.

As birds move forward, objects that are near seem to speed by quickly; objects that are further away appear to go by at a slower pace. So, as a bird gets closer to an object, the eye nearest it will perceive that object to be moving faster than objects seen by the other eye. The bird will then veer away from the nearby obstacle to avoid a crash.

This "sounds good on paper", as they say, but what amazes me is the speed at which birds perform these maneuvers. Add to that the complex, ever-changing environments and wind conditions to which birds in flight are subjected, and you'll realize what skilled navigators they are.

### **Monocular vs. Binocular Vision**

Budgerigars and most other birds have monocular vision – that is, eyes that are set widely apart on either side of the face. This orientation is ideal for flying as described above, because each eye is usually seeing a different object.

Hawks, herons and certain other predatory birds have, in common with us, binocular vision...forward

facing eyes that can focus on a single object simultaneously. This allows for effective hunting. I wonder if they are able to navigate with the same efficiency as Budgerigars (perhaps not – I have observed several hawk-crane-heron accidents). Most fly in relatively open environments, but Sharp-Shinned Hawks and some others are known for pursuing prey through dense tree cover.

### **Specialized Navigators: Owls, Oilbirds and Swiftlets**

Birds of all kinds have other amazing flight adaptations that enable them to survive. The nocturnal, cave-dwelling Oilbirds and Cave Swiftlets can fly and feed in complete darkness, aided by a form of echolocation similar to that used by bats.

In certain owls, one ear is located slightly higher on the head than the other. Sound reaches each at a slightly (very slightly, I imagine!) different time, and can be used to triangulate the sound's source. By triangulation, Barn Owls can locate and capture an unseen mouse that is over a football field distant from them! Perhaps this ability explains why Barn Owls are among the most widespread of all birds of prey...I've observed them several NYC neighborhoods, and they nest on every continent except Antarctica.





## HOW TO HELP A BABY BIRD WITH SOUR CROP

*By Dr. Don Harris, DVM*

One of the most common problems that send a baby bird to the vet is a condition called "sour crop." Sour crop is actually "crop stasis," a condition in which the baby has a crop – or gullet – full of hand-feeding formula that has gone bad. The term "sour crop" describes the condition of the crop's contents, but it's rarely a disease unto itself. In the vast majority of cases it's actually a symptom of other illness.

The danger of crop stasis comes from the spoiled food itself. Just as any other kind of food will go bad if it's left in a warm room for too long, so undigested formula will accumulate toxins and bacteria – and threaten the bird's life.

Crop stasis is a condition in which the crop ceases to function. In other words, the crop stops emptying. An owner will approach the baby for a scheduled feeding and observe that most or all of the food from the previous feeding is still there. It's important to mention here that you should never give additional food to a baby that still has a full crop. Crop stasis is an emergency situation and you should call your veterinarian immediately.

### Treating Sour Crop in Birds

So, how does a veterinarian go about treating the condition? In order to stabilize the patient, the spoiled food must be removed – as quickly as possible. In most patients, formula can be removed through a feeding tube passed orally. Depending on the particle size of the formula, either a standard red rubber or a ball-tipped metal feeding tube can be introduced into the crop. The crop contents can then be sucked out.

Sometimes, though, the doctor will have to thin the spoiled formula by introducing warm water or electrolyte solutions into the crop before removing the food. The crop is then gently massaged and the contents aspirated. It is important to palpate the tube in the crop during aspiration to prevent the crop wall from being suctioned against the end of

of the feeding tube. Once the crop has been reasonably emptied, it should be rinsed by repeatedly filling it with a warm balanced electrolyte solution, massaging the crop and mixing its contents, and aspirating the fluid until clear.

### Dehydration and Sour Crop in Birds

The vast majority of babies presented for crop stasis will be moderately to severely dehydrated. The lack of fluid intake from the static crop combined with the continued high fluid losses that accompany much pediatric illness results in fluid deficits that can be life threatening. So, once the crop has been emptied, the vet will tend to the fluid needs of the patient, usually delivering fluids intravenously.

Babies that have not fully feathered often require environmental temperatures of 85 to 90 degrees Fahrenheit. Those that are ill are less able to thermoregulate. So, your vet should take special care to make sure hospitalized patients are kept warm. High humidity should also be maintained to avoid contributing to dehydration.

As far as drugs are concerned, the bacterial overgrowth in the crop and the remainder of the gastrointestinal system (GI) must be addressed. While antifungals may ultimately be useful, antibacterials are far more urgently needed.

Once first aid has been provided, your veterinarian should perform a detailed physical exam and collect appropriate samples for a thorough diagnostic evaluation. Remember, crop stasis is a symptom, not a disease, so the underlying problem must be identified and resolved if the baby is to thrive.





## ATTENTION ALL FINCH BREEDERS!!

Could any finch breeders that have finches to sell contact the lady whose email message is listed below? This is a strong indication that we need to follow through with what we publicly state on these occasions. It is also an opportunity to sell finches that you didn't sell then or have had born since. Thank you for helping our club maintain a good reputation and attract new members!

From: NANCY ASHTON

<nashton184@icloud.com>

Subject: Recent CCC bird sale

Date: February 26, 2022 at 12:02:40 PM PST

To: sfoote@xpressdata.net

Greetings!

My name is Nancy Ashton, and I was the person who voiced irritation at a sale advertised to last until 3:00 p.m. when it closed before the specified hour. May I have an address to write a complaint letter about this decision? Also, may I have the names of breeders willing to sale me finches at a price requested at the sale.

Thank you,

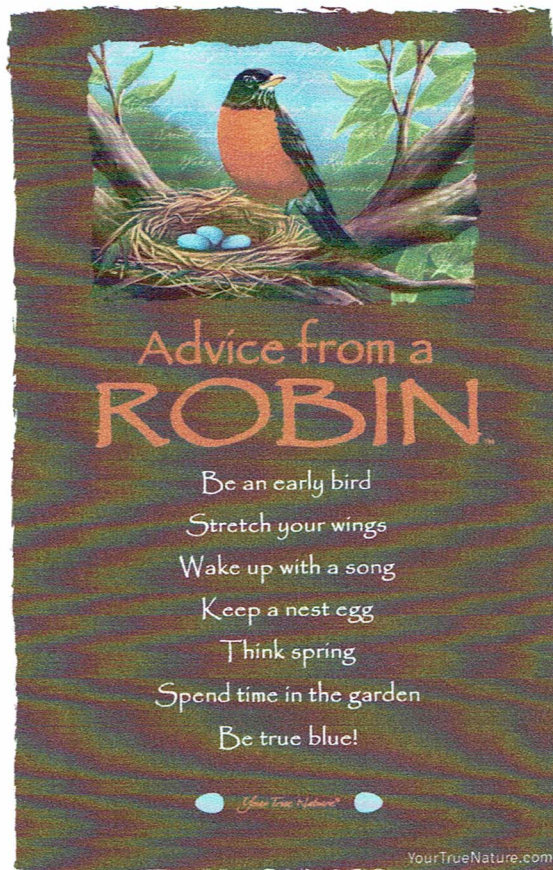
Nancy Ashton

971.335.0844

33628 SE Francis St.

Gresham, OR

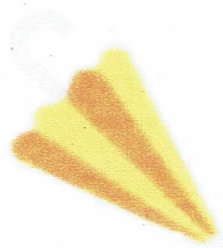
97080





# Spring Word Search

C H I C K E J U N E G R W O W  
H P U D D L E M A P R I L H S  
I B L O H B U N N Y E B O M E  
B A S E B A L L T T E U M A E  
S U M A M A T C H A N T F R D  
H O T S P R I C I N G T L C S  
N E S T T A P I H E A F O H O  
E G S G E T R A I N B O W L R  
E G S S Y R E W S O L Y E E A  
A S E H B U F N N S O L R S I  
E G R O W O F L L Y O Y S S N  
A N U W E F M A Y Y M V R O C  
S A N E R A N B O W S H E S O  
U M B R E L L A E A S T E R A  
T H A S P R I N G P U D D E T



APRIL  
BASEBALL  
BLOOM  
BUNNY  
BUTTERFLY  
CHICK  
EASTER  
EGGS

FLOWERS  
GREEN  
GROW  
HATCH  
JUNE  
MARCH  
MAY  
NEST

PASSOVER  
PUDDLE  
RAINBOW  
RAINCOAT  
SEEDS  
SHOWERS  
SPRING  
UMBRELLA





**APRIL MEETINGS**

Sunday, April 10, 2022

Board—1 pm / Show Committee—1:30 pm

General Meeting —2 pm

Zoom Too thanks to Dan Pitney!!

**REFRESHMENTS BY: HECTOR DIAZ**

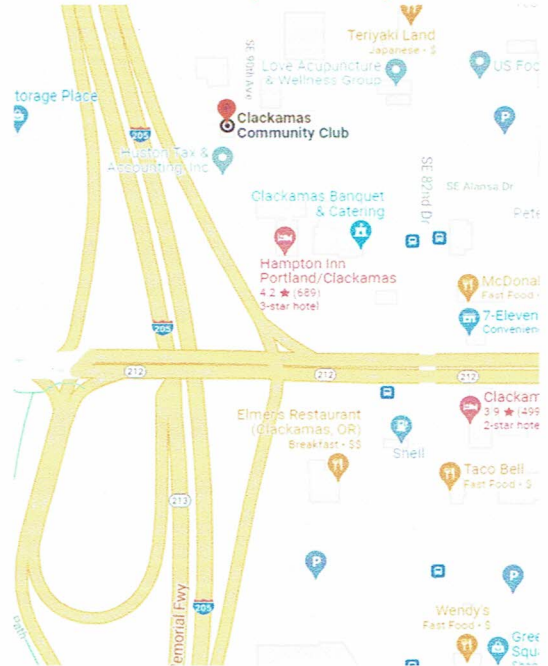
**PLEASE REMEMBER THE NEW MEETING VENUE:**

**CLACKAMAS COMMUNITY CLUB 15711 SE 90th Ave, Clackamas, OR 97015**

**DIRECTIONS TO CLACKAMAS COMMUNITY CLUB**

**FROM THE SOUTH:** I-205 North to Exit 12 for OR-212 E toward OR-224 E/Damascus/Estacada. Use middle lane to turn right onto OR-212 E. Turn left at the 1st cross street onto SE 82nd Drive. Turn left onto SE St. Helens Street. Turn left onto SE 90th Avenue. Destination will be on the left after a right hand curve. Smaller of the two buildings. (Was once a residence.)

**FROM THE NORTH:** I-205 South. Take exit 12A to merge onto OR-212 E toward Damascus. Merge onto OR-212 E. Turn left on 82nd Drive. Turn left onto SE St. Helens Street. Turn left onto SE 90th Avenue. Destination will be on the left after a right hand curve. Smaller of the two buildings. (Was once a residence.)

**CLACKAMAS COMMUNITY CLUB MAP**  
**15711 SE 90th Ave, Clackamas, Or 97015**


**Columbia Canary Club**  
**P.O. Box 2013**  
**Clackamas, OR 97015**



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