



Heather n Yon

Heather Gardens Community Magazine

September 2025

Vol. 39, No. 7

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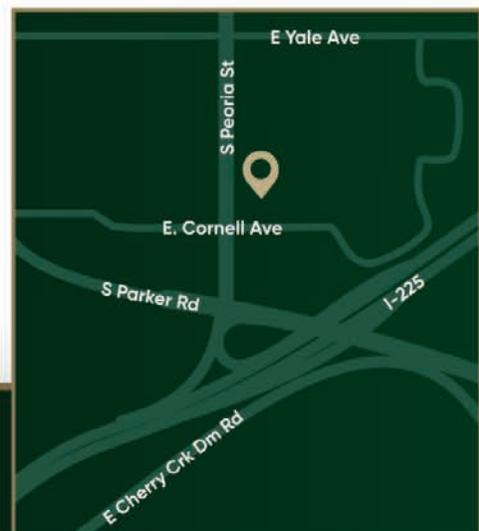
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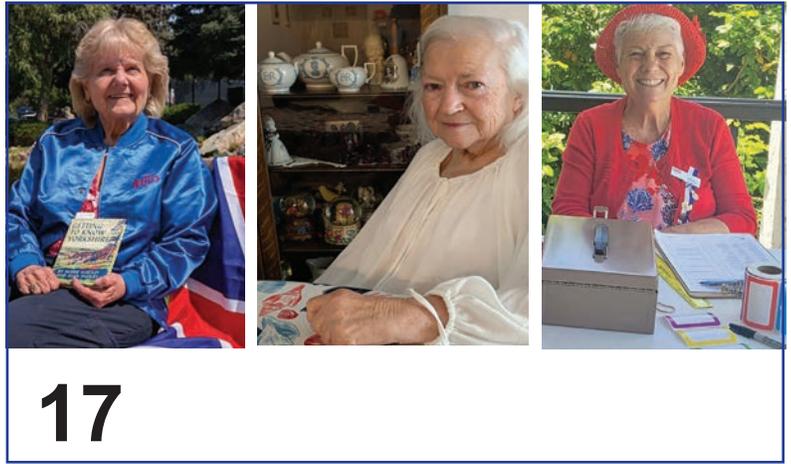
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Our Staff

Publisher

Bluefish Publishing

Editor

Susan Harman

bluefishpublishingco@gmail.com

303.521.8846

Photographer

Janis Farrell

jcfarrell225@gmail.com

Distribution

Matt Dunne

mdunne259@aol.com



Heather 'n Yon™ is published monthly for the residents of HG

Writers

Mary Hafka

mhafka@comcast.net

Gloria Leshner

gjlesher@gmail.com

Patricia McLaughlin

mpa1026@qwestoffice.net

Laura Reed

lreed@berkeley.edu

Classified Advertising

Brian Harman

720.373.0226

bfpublishinginfo@gmail.com

Advertising Sales

Susan Harman

303.521.8846

bluefishpublishingco@gmail.com

Trademark Owner:

HG Association

2888 S. Heather Gardens Way

Aurora, CO 80014

303.755.0652

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Heather Gardens Metropolitan District Appoints New Director

At a special meeting August 19, 2025, the Heather Gardens Metropolitan District Board of Directors appointed Cecelia Williams as its newest director, replacing Eloise Laubach, who resigned in June for health reasons. Board President David Kennedy reported that he and Vice President Steve Stratton had interviewed Williams on an earlier occasion. Kennedy, Stratton, and Linda Savage voted to approve Williams' appointment. Bill Archambault abstained.

Williams, whose first meeting as a director was August 28, had a 35-year career in high-level corporate management and served as the national director of a Fortune 500 corporation, where she managed a department of 400 employees and a budget of \$6 million. She said she is well-versed in organizational change, having been employed through five corporate takeovers, both on the buyer's and seller's sides.

In addition, Williams has been a licensed financial advisor, and a professional money manager for non-profits. She helped to raise substantial amounts of money for the Road Runner Food Bank in New Mexico, during the COVID-19 pandemic and, most recently, for the Frolics Club at Heather Gardens. Williams said she is looking forward to working with the Foundation Committee, which she will be chairing.

Heather Gardens Metropolitan District Approves New Gym Equipment, Hears Update on Golf Course, Decommissions Website

The Heather Gardens Metropolitan District Board of Directors convened for a second time in August, for their regularly scheduled meeting August 28, 2025. All members were present in the boardroom, including the recently appointed board member, Cecilia Williams.

Steve Stratton brought forth a motion from the Clubhouse Committee to replace some of the gym equipment, which is old and in disrepair. He recommended upgrading the equipment in phases and suggested that the first phase include replacing two treadmills, two incline trainers, and two upright bicycles, in addition to purchasing and installing an equipment rack in the alcove. The company currently maintaining the gym equipment, Commercial Fitness Solutions, submitted the lowest bid. The board unanimously approved the purchase, not to exceed \$60,000, to be paid for with Colorado lottery funds.

Linda Savage brought forth a motion from the Golf Committee to add language to the Golf Committee Procedure Memorandum stating golf leagues will be exempt from paying for meeting rooms regardless of the number of non-residents in the league, and that each league can determine the cap on non-residents for themselves, not to be governed by the district. The motion sparked lively discussion among the board and members of the public about whether the golf leagues were considered clubs and, therefore, subject to the same rules concerning non-residents as other clubs. Ultimately, the board unanimously approved the motion.

The board heard an update on the golf course from Greg Kohr (Director of Golf), Matt Martella, and Harold Borquez (Manager and Assistant Manager of Golf and Landscape Maintenance). They described some of the issues facing the golf course, including an aging irrigation infrastructure and an aging fleet of golf carts, both of which are at the end of their lifespans and require extensive and costly repairs on a regular basis.

Kohr discussed increasing golf fees to raise revenue. He mentioned that the fees at Heather Gardens are low in comparison to the surrounding area. Weekend rates and junior fees will increase by \$1 in 2026, and the golf committee will discuss an increase in weekday fees at a future meeting.

Martella and Borquez reviewed the proposal from the Larry Rogers Design Group and walked the board through a discussion of the irrigation plan, which includes new pipes, controllers, and a new pump house. They explained how the new system would give them better control, have fewer fail points, and conserve water. The \$2.1 million proposal can be scaled down and can also be implemented in stages, prioritizing the pump house, which currently experiences significant failures. Martella pointed out that the installation of the system could be delayed by two years once a decision is made, due to wait times. He said he was concerned that the current system would not last another three years.

Finally, at a special meeting August 19, 2025, the board entertained a motion to revise or decommission the district's website. Legal counsel Jennifer Ivey reviewed a new law that requires the website to be compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act. The cost of remediating the current website would be between \$5,000 and \$10,000.

Ivey pointed out that the district is not required to have a website and could choose to remove it rather than remediate the issue. She pointed out that the records on the website will need to be archived, and

one solution would be to decommission the website or “go dark,” essentially denying public access, but allowing the records to be housed there for retrieval if necessary. The board unanimously approved this option. Copies of the board meetings’ agendas will be posted on a bulletin board in the Clubhouse.

Whether or not the district’s agendas and minutes will continue to be posted on the Heather Gardens website remains to be seen. Heather Gardens Association President Sue McBeth said she would discuss it with the association’s attorney to determine if the association also has accessibility requirements.

Other actions taken by the board:

- Crystal Guise was appointed as chairperson of the Restaurant Committee.
- The RV Committee chairperson will handle administration, accounting, and archiving for the RV lot. Community Resource Services of Colorado will no longer be involved with the RV lot.
- At the recommendation of the Joint Budget and Finance Committee, the board approved a change to the district’s definition of capital projects, to read “any item with a life expectancy greater than one year and a cost of \$10,000 or greater.” This is consistent with the Heather Gardens Association’s definition.

Planning for 2026 Budget in Progress; 2025 Contingency Funds Going to Parking Structures

2026 Budget Planning Parking Structures 2 & 4 Fiber Optics Assessment

An emphasis on transparency and opportunities for resident input is abundantly evident in the planning for the 2026 proposed Heather Gardens Association budget.

At the HGA Board meeting, Tuesday, August 26, Board Treasurer Mike Pula noted various meetings where Budget & Finance Committee members will welcome residents to be present as planning and structuring the budget is in progress. Additionally, Pula was the primary guest speaker at the recent Town Hall meeting, on Tuesday, September 2. The recently launched Town Hall has become a popular forum for residents to gather information from board and staff, to ask questions and to voice opinions.

A significant component of the budget is the Long-Range Capital Reserves, with that committee chaired by HGA Director Bradford Archer and HGMD President David Kennedy. The committee has been meeting every two weeks, with that frequency expected to continue throughout the budgeting process, noted Kennedy.

Parking Structures: Concurrent with planning for the 2026 Budget, a major project set to finish in 2025 is repair of Parking Structures 2 and 4.

In a unanimous vote by email, the Board approved additional funds for the construction work on the parking structures and in the August 26, meeting voted in person to make the vote official. Additional funds in the amount of \$330,000 were approved, bringing the total budgeted amount from \$2,528,220. to \$2,858,220.

In stated rationale, the scope of work, including re-siding the upper deck garages, replacing the gutters on the upper deck garages and the additional change orders required to complete the project in 2025, caused the need for increased funding.

The Board voted to allocate 2025 contingency funds to be used in the garage project. Contingency funds are available in part by the carpet replacement project coming in under budget by \$225,000.

Definition of Capital Project: On recommendation of the Joint Budget & Finance Committee, the HGA Board approved the change in the definition of a Capital Project to be any item with a life expectancy greater than one year and a cost of \$10,000 or more. The change will take place on January 1, 2026. Previously, the definition which had been in place for many years was \$5,000 or more. It was felt that with rising costs, the increase was appropriate. The board’s auditing firm has been consulted regarding the change and agreed with the action.

Trash & Recycling Contract: On recommendation of the Maintenance Committee, the Board approved the contract with 5280 Waste Solutions to provide trash and recycling collections for the three years beginning October 1, 2025. The monthly charge for the first year is \$14,232. Additionally, there is a change order amount of \$1,664 per month to cover additional roll-offs as needed. Costs under the contract increase 5% per year. Projected costs for the three years will total \$601,354.

Google Fiber Optics Access Agreement: Discussion ensued regarding the paperwork from Google Fiber Optics as to a proposed agreement with the HGA Board for Google to access residential buildings in areas such as the electrical closets to provide a proposal to the Board. The Board decision was to ask Google to shorten and clarify their proposed access document before proceeding. The access is no-cost to Heather Gardens.

New Vehicle for Security Team: Based on the high mileage and repair needs of vehicles currently used by Security, the Board reviewed a proposal to purchase a Toyota Tacoma before year end. Residents on Zoom strongly objected that the \$50,000 cost for the truck is not justified at this time, considering that 2025 contingency funds already have been diverted to the crucial need to complete construction on Parking Structures 2 and 4. The Board was divided on the issue, with some

directors citing a need for a reliable vehicle, while others were cautious in appropriating funds at this time, considering the current use of 2025 contingency funds and the high cost of the truck. The final decision was to table the motion at this time.

Process for Interviewing New GM: Process for interviewing general manager candidates was discussed and is in planning, with applications coming in. In discussion on the Human Resources position to be filled, the Board reviewed the pros and cons of hiring for a full time or part time position. The overall stance was that the position will be full time.

In a recent change, HGA Board meetings are now held on the **fourth Tuesday of the month**—not the third Tuesday. Meetings are in the Clubhouse Boardroom, 1 p.m. Residents are encouraged to attend in person or by Zoom. The Board packet of the agenda, committee reports and motions to be made are posted to the website a day prior to the meeting. Visit www.heathergardens.org.

The next HGA Board meeting is slated for Tuesday, September 23.

Introducing the HGA Board Candidates

Meet the Candidates Meetings Coming Up

Heather Gardens residents David Baxter and Lee Nicholson have self-nominated for the 2026 HGA Board.

Current HGA Board terms expiring at the end of 2025 are those held by David Baxter, John Recob, and Bill Archambault.

With only two candidates to fill the vacancies, there is no need for an election. Board President Sue McBeth notes, “David and Lee will become 2026 board members as of January 1. Both will serve through 2028.” The third vacancy for 2026 will be appointed by the board before year end. Applications will be posted this fall.

McBeth adds that Meet the Candidates meetings will proceed as previously planned, based on the thought that residents enjoy the opportunity to ask questions and hear the views of those joining the board. Dates for the Meet the Candidates gatherings are slated for Friday, October 17, 6 pm, and Saturday, Oct. 18, 10 am, in the Clubhouse. Residents are encouraged to attend in person or by Zoom.

Background of the candidates:

David Baxter, B217:

Currently, Baxter serves as Chair of the Security, Emergency Preparedness & Community Resources Committee (SEC).

With over 25 years of leadership experience and five years of prior service on the HGA Board, Baxter notes that he “brings a deep understanding of both community needs and organizational governance. I have chaired three committees, consistently advocating for transparency, accountability, and resident-focused decision-making.”

As founder of Aging Strong in Heather Gardens, Baxter adds he has “worked to foster connection and independence for older adults.” Additionally, he has led initiatives such as “Who’s Steering the Ship,” to help residents understand board and staff roles. “I am committed to thoughtful leadership that keeps Heather Gardens a vibrant, well-managed and responsive community,” he states.

Lee Nicholson, CP3: In July, Nicholson was voted by the board to serve out the remainder of Bill Archambault’s term, which ends December 31, 2025. Archambault moved to the HGMD Board to assume a vacancy left on that board.

Nicholson is known in the HG community for keeping herself up to date by attending many meetings of various committees. She has lived in HOA communities for over 15 years, previously serving on the board of one.

Coming from “a strong communications background and training in crisis counseling, I love to encourage others, am thorough when given a task and will always research costs for better products, keeping in mind the residents’ wallets,” Nicholson explains. She adds that she has “a great sense of humor and loves making things simpler for residents in understanding processes.”





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HGA Board President Reports

Sue McBeth

Hotter Than Blue Blazes

When I was competing as a rider in Equestrian Horse Trials, there was a great horse show in August. "Hotter than Blue Blazes" was the name of the show, and it always lived up to its name! August 2025 has certainly been a hot one. And yet our grounds at Heather Gardens are being taken care of beautifully. Thank you to all of our Roads and Grounds employees. I offer you the following:

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Board Highlights

1. All of the managers for HGA and HGMD areas met with John Recob, chair of the Capital Expense Subcommittee, to discuss their capital expense needs. Capital Expenses are those items that are greater than \$5,000 and have a life expectancy greater than a year. This information will be used to formulate the 2026 Capital Reserve Budget for Heather Gardens.
2. Since the updated version of the HGA website gave us less functionality than we had previously, the CECC Committee decided to cancel the upgrade.
3. As we continue to add additional technology to our processes for Heather Gardens, a discussion took place and a decision was made to reinstate the Campus Technology Committee. It was decided that this group would be a Subcommittee of CECC.
4. The August Town Hall meeting took place on August 5 at 3 pm. This was a new day and time for this meeting. There was good attendance and Matt Martella, Manager of Golf and Landscaping, gave an excellent presentation.

As of August 6, General Manager Lary Herkal has moved on to other pursuits in his professional career. I, Sue McBeth, HGA Board President, have assumed the responsibilities of Facilitator/Coordinator for Operations at Heather Gardens and am working from the general manager's office at the Clubhouse. This is a temporary measure while we search for a new member of the Heather Gardens management team to assume the full-time role of general manager. If you know someone who would be a good fit for the position, please have them contact Evelyn Ybarra in the Management Office for the location of the position posting.

In closing, I want to remind you to plan on attending the Budget Workshops that are taking place the week of September 22 to 25. The sessions will take place in the boardroom and be available on Zoom. You may not be able to attend all of the meetings, but come to or listen to as many as possible. These are the meetings where you can give your input to help shape the 2026 Budget for Heather Gardens. I hope to see many of you there.

Until next time – grow where you are planted!



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A Note from the Editor

Hello
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September 22 marks the first day of fall. While I truly enjoy every season, autumn holds a special place in my heart.

The breezy, cool days, the leaves transforming into brilliant shades, cozy sweaters, hearty crockpot meals, and—of course—football!

The changing seasons are always a gentle reminder of life's constant transitions. As the leaves fall and trees let go of the old, autumn invites us to release what no longer serves us, creating space for renewal and growth.

I hope this season brings you good health, happiness, and many moments of simple joy.

Happy September!

-Susan Harman, Editor
Heather 'n Yon Magazine



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At HG, Daughters of the British Empire Embrace Philanthropy

A young America broke away from English rule in 1776. The hurt feelings from that bitter divorce took a while to heal. These days, though, the anglophiles among us are smitten with Britain. We revere Shakespeare, Austen, and Dickens. We admire Tolkien, Le Carré, and Rowling. We worship the Beatles and the Stones, and we eagerly watch old Monty Python episodes, BritBox mysteries, and every James Bond movie.

So, learning that some women living in Heather Gardens belong to the Chatsworth chapter of the DBE—The Daughters of the British Empire—prompted investigation.

Supporting the British Home. First stop: the internet. I learned that the primary goal of the DBE in Colorado is to raise money for the operation and upkeep of the British Home in Sierra Madre, California. The British Home, an elder care facility, is a 2 1/2-acre campus that includes seven cottages, and is licensed to house 41 residents. DBE chapters across the U.S. can, at their discretion, raise money to fund other charities, but each chapter must devote at least 51% of its earnings to the British Home.

Next, I chatted with three DBE members who live at Heather Gardens. The women I spoke with have different backgrounds, but all share a connection to that storied island nation, as well as a commitment to philanthropy.

Janet Arce, B232

If you live at HG, you've probably seen Janet Arce. When she's not out beautifying the grounds as a Green Team member, she might be at the Clubhouse, managing events and collecting donations to benefit worthy causes. Or you might see her coordinating activities at Seville, offering suggestions in her distinctive London accent. Arce is a longtime member of the DBE, first in Southern California, and now as a member of the Chatsworth chapter in metro Denver.

English ties. Arce grew up as the sixth of nine children (five boys, three girls) in Hillingdon, a working-class district in northwest London. These days the area's best known as the location for Heathrow Airport. "We were poor," Arce says simply, adding that unhealthy family dynamics affected the

children. Later, though, she remarks how her surviving siblings, despite their disadvantaged upbringing, all have a giving, generous spirit. Arce regularly keeps in touch with them.

Around 1970, Arce visited her brother-in-law and sister-in-law in Southern California, and loved the lifestyle. She and her first husband began the process of emigrating to America (her husband's brother was a U.S. citizen and sponsored them). Her first marriage, though, didn't last.

In the mid-1970s, Janet was working in a Sir Speedy printing shop in Pasadena. She met Ross, an accountant, who needed some print work done. After more print job encounters, the two took a shine to one another. They married in 1974.

Arce transferred her DBE membership to the Chatsworth chapter soon after she and Ross moved to Colorado in 2016. At that time, Marguerite Brunel was president of the DBE state board, Chatsworth chapter regent, and chapter recording secretary. Arce remembers thinking "you can't hold three positions like that and be effective at all three," so she assumed recording secretary duties. Later, Arce became chapter regent.

In the past year, Elaine Groundwell was named chapter regent. Arce is transitioning job duties to her. "It's hard to let go when you've done it for so long," Arce admits.

The Teas. Arce describes the "Strawberry Tea" and the "Victorian Tea," two of the DBE's most popular fundraising events. Both welcome the public. They are held in church rooms large enough to accommodate them.

Why the "Strawberry Tea"?

"Because we have strawberries," replies Arce, smiling. "We're also celebrating Charles III's birthday. And it's a membership drive . . . somebody volunteers to bring the strawberries. I make the cream. We've got all the cups and saucers and plates. We bring our own teapots. It's five dollars to get in, if you bring a dish, and ten dollars if you don't bring a dish."

For the Victorian Tea, some attendees arrive in period dress. Preparation begins well in advance.



Janet Arce registers guests and sells bags at a recent Strawberry Tea.

see page 19



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“We prepare the food, all the fillings and everything, buy the bread, the croissants, take it there . . . we sell things, like bags or Christmas tree ornaments. We have a silent auction and we have raffles . . .

“ . . . there are sandwiches and scones and cream (I make the cream again), and jam, and little cakes . . . you try to make it ornate, with three tiers of little sandwiches and pastries.”

During the events themselves, Arce is likely working in a booth or otherwise helping the event run smoothly in whatever ways she can.

“I’m not a leader,” Arce asserts. “That’s the daft thing. I always give the appearance that I’m a leader, but I’m not . . . if a job needs to be done, I’m going to make sure it gets done. And I don’t know what that makes me.”

Janet Arce might dismiss the label of “leader,” but she’s a take-charge person that others are inspired to follow.

Elaine Groundwell, B235

On the coffee table in front of us, Elaine Groundwell sets down a tray, which holds all the implements needed to serve ourselves tea. We pour our cups and start our chat.

Groundwell’s been a DBE member at the Chatsworth chapter a little over a year, taking over the role of regent from Janet Arce. She knew of the Daughters of the British Empire for the many years she lived in Southern California, but was working full-time and didn’t have extra time to follow up.

“So I kept [the DBE] in the back of my mind, and I moved to different states for different jobs, and wherever I’d go I’d think about it, but was just too busy with work,” Groundwell recounts.

“When I came here [to Heather Gardens], we were at a Seville dinner, and Janet came up to me and said ‘I hear that you’re from England,’ and I said ‘Yes,’ and she said ‘Well, I’m part of the Daughters of the British Empire,’ and that’s how it started.”

“She said, ‘Come join us,’ and I did, and it’s been great.”

Of her current chapter position of regent, Groundwell says, “One day Janet came to me and said, ‘I’m really stressed out, I’m doing too much’ – ‘Can you be regent?’” Groundwell replied that she didn’t know

enough to do the job. “Janet said, ‘Well, I’ll walk you through it,’ so I said I’d do it.”

As regent, Groundwell leads the monthly meetings of the Chatsworth chapter, which are usually held at the Rendezvous. (All of the chapters meet quarterly, usually at different restaurants.) And, of course, Groundwell’s plenty busy planning and prepping for chapter events.

English ties.

Groundwell’s dad and mom hailed from Yorkshire, England, near the city of Leeds. Elaine, an only child, was born in the Leeds-area town of Dewsbury. As a young girl, she and her parents left England to live in Ontario, Canada. They spent five years there. They then “went to Ottawa and got the paperwork” to move to Southern California. Canadian friends of theirs had relocated there earlier, and reported back that the L.A.-area job market was good for workers in the skilled trades (Groundwell’s dad was an expert tool and die maker).

Elaine Groundwell, sitting beside the Union Jack, sports a Beatles jacket and holds a book about Yorkshire.



The family secured Green Card residency. They lived in different SoCal cities like Inglewood, Cypress, and Fullerton.

Groundwell began her career in respiratory therapy. She later worked for group health insurance outfits, managing claim processing departments. Due to her work – and her somewhat restless spirit – she moved often. Among those destinations were Huntington Beach, Las Vegas, Reno, and later, Denver.

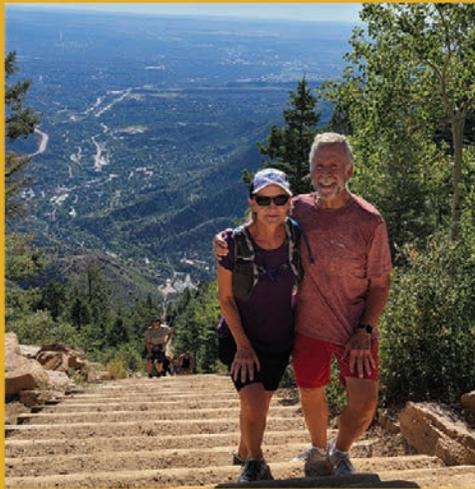
At one point Groundwell returned to England to live for a time, staying with a great-aunt near Batley (also

see page 42

IN MEMORIAM


 David Archer B234
 Marylou Cowan, B243
 Ralph W. Jordan, B220

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<< 3082 S Wheeling #408 Alpha F 2BR/2BA 1,550 sq.ft.

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<< 13606 E Bates #102 Alpha E 2BR/1BA 930 sq.ft.

Welcome to this adorable 1st-floor condo! Private primary bedroom w no shared walls. The kitchen features ample cabinets & large pantry. Enjoy gatherings in the large living room that flows seamlessly to the covered patio, perfect for relaxing & overlooking the lush green space. **\$194,900**

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This condo boasts a modern updated kitchen w SS appliances, LVP floors throughout, and updated bathrooms. Enjoy the beautiful golf course view from your fully screened in lanai!

For Lease:

13850 E Marina #605 Seville 1,092 sq. ft. 2BR/2BA

This updated property has been recreated by one of Denver's top builders with modern finishes and eye-catching upgrades. All-new Frigidaire stainless steal appliances, In-Unit laundry. **\$2,250/mo**

13500 E Cornell Ave #410 Alpha A 1,200 sq. ft. 2 BR/2BA

4th floor penthouse with vaulted ceilings! Electric fireplaces in both bedrooms. Updated kitchen with stainless appliances. Fully glass enclosed lanai. **\$2,195/mo.**

13850 E Marina #404 Seville 1,092 sq. ft. 2 BR/2BA

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3022 S Wheeling Way #210 Alpha A 1,200 sq. ft. 2 BR/2 BA

Newer appliances, ice maker in freezer and large utility room. Fully enclosed glass lanai! Laundry is just down the hall and parking right across the street. **\$1,850/mo.**

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13631 E Marina Dr. #407 Somerset A-B 2,068 sq.ft. 3BR/3BA
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13961 E Marina #314 Atrium A 2BR/2BA 1,290 sq.ft.
Fully Remodeled **\$299,000**

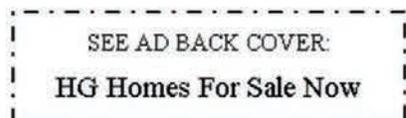
13606 E. Bates #304 2/2 1200 alpha A 1,200 sq. ft.
Close walk to clubhouse! **\$225,000**



3274 S Heather Gardens Way 3BR/4BA 1,650 sq. ft. \$410,000

13850 E Marina Dr #506 3BR/3BA 1,839 sq. ft. \$350,000

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Danielle Jurinsky

Aurora City Council AT-LARGE

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Focusing on what's important to Aurora...

Jobs & the Economy

As a successful small business owner and entrepreneur, Danielle knows firsthand what it takes to live within a budget, make payroll, and grow a business.

Public Safety

Danielle will continue to fight for a stronger, safer Aurora while bridging the gap between Aurora citizens and our local Aurora law enforcement.

Taxes & Fees

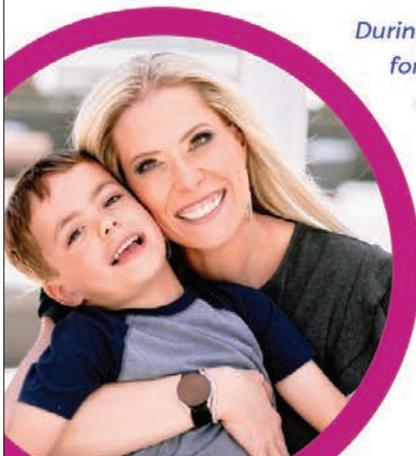
Danielle isn't a politician, she's a job creator and a single mom who works hard to live within her budget and believes government should do the same.

Development

Danielle will continue to ensure Aurora is one of the most business-friendly cities in the state and will continue to eliminate bureaucratic red tape and burdensome government regulations.

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Local Aurora residents know what's best for their neighborhood and unlike politicians, Danielle will listen to those needs and respond.



During a very dark time in my life, Danielle came through shining bright. I'm fighting for my life in stage 4 cancer. I fight alongside my wife and 3 children. Danielle sent us on a Disney Cruise and covered it all. She brought the community together and raised thousands for me to continue battling. I wouldn't have otherwise been able to afford my medical treatments. She helped connect me to many people who will potentially all be an intricate part of saving my life. Only time will tell. Danielle is one of the most humble people I know. I'm not endorsing her as a friend. I'm so honored to endorse her as family. -Dre Lane, Aurora Resident

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HG Clubhouse Events

Clubhouse Hours

Monday–Saturday 6 am–9 pm; Sunday 7 am–7 pm

Phone 303-751-1811, x5

Clubhouse Manager: Juanita Dominguez

Clubhouse Lead: Donna Stein (Clubhouse Sponsored Activities and Events)

Old Man Rock Party

Saturday, September 13,
6:00pm

Sandberg Auditorium
Cost \$10

Register online or stop by
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This band knows how
to get the whole crowd
dancing – maybe even
a conga line! If you love
standard rock, you'll be sure to have a good time.

Wine and beer cash bar will be available.

Bonus! Take your "registration" receipt to The
Rendezvous prior to the party and get \$2.00 off of an
appetizer or \$5.00 off of your entrée. Make a night of it!



Barbershop and Beyond – The Timberliners

Sunday, September 14, 5:30pm

Sandberg Auditorium

Cost: \$10

Register online or stop by the Activities Desk.

Under the direction of an up-and-coming local star,
Jadyn Johnson-Diaz, The Timberliners continue to honor
vintage barbershop style music while also exploring
music with a modern edginess. The Timberliners will be
presenting several quartets as part of their performance.
Should be a wonderful musical evening!

Flying W Ranch – Chuckwagon Dinner and Western Stage Show

Wednesday, September 17

Cost: \$97. for residents includes transportation,
chuckwagon dinner and stage show. Driver gratuity is
not included in the fee.

Register today online or at the Activities Desk. The
deadline for cancellation is Wednesday, September 3.

The bus will depart promptly at 3:15pm from the parking
lots of Buildings 243 & 244 on East Marina Drive. The
return time is approximately 10:00pm.

Dress for a cool fall evening. Consider adding some
western pieces to your outfit for the night, or not!

Vegetarian option is available. Request must be noted
at time of reservation at the Activities Desk.



Cripple Creek – Casinos and Fall Colors

Monday, September 22

Cost: \$38. for residents includes transportation.

Driver gratuity is not included in the fee.

Register today online or at the Activities Desk. The
deadline for cancellation is Friday, September 12.

The bus will depart promptly at 8:15am from the
parking lots of Buildings 243 & 244 on East Marina
Drive.

Watch Battery Replacement

Thursday, October 16

9 am — 1 pm, Sunburst Café

\$8.00 per battery

Bring watches, car remotes or hearing aids for new
batteries while you wait.

Active Minds – The Music of “Woodstock”

Wednesday, October 8, 2:00pm

Sandberg Auditorium

Join Active Minds for a musical program exploring
the legendary Woodstock festival of 1969. We will
cover the key performers and songs, as well as the
role Woodstock played in the musical and cultural
movements of the time.

No charge for this event. However, registration
is encouraged. Please register online or at the
Clubhouse Activities Desk.

AARP Driver Safety

Thursday, Oct 16, 12:45 pm -5:00pm

Location: Art Room

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This course will teach the current rules of the road,
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for AARP members payable (cash or check only) the
day of class to the instructor. Please be sure to bring
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Heather Gardens Annual Craft Fair

Friday and Saturday, October 24 and 25

Clubhouse

Free and open to the public.

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Saturday, October 4, 9:30-11am

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www.visitaurora.com/events/history-hike-the-smoky-hill-trail/

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www.denverartmuseum.org

Denver Museum of Nature and Science

Monday, September 15

303-370-6000, 9am-5pm
2001 Colorado Blvd., Denver
www.dmns.org

Longmont Museum

Saturday, September 13

303-651-8374, 9am-5pm
400 Quail Rd 80501
www.longmontcolorado.gov/departments/departments-e-m/museum

Museo de las Americas

Friday, September 5, 12-9pm

303-571-4401
861 Santa Fe Dr., Denver
<https://museo.org/>

US National Parks

Saturday, September 27

www.nps.gov/index.htm



Heather Gardens

Friday & Saturday
September 19 & 20

9am – 3pm
Heather Gardens Clubhouse

Your market adventure begins at 9am both days. Discover unique finds one booth at a time. Every item tells a story whether it's a secondhand item or an antique from way back when. There are plenty of deals to be found. Featuring over 40 vendors including some food items.

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COMMUNITY INSIGHTS

Budget Planning

It's budget season in Heather Gardens, and the Joint Budget & Finance Committee, the Capital Reserves Subcommittee, and staff are working on the 2026 budget. Budgeting for the Heather Gardens Association (HGA) and Heather Gardens Metropolitan District (HGMD) mirrors personal financial management: tracking expenses, projecting future costs, and ensuring that income and spending remain balanced.

The process begins with an evaluation of the previous year's expenses, using the HGA accounting system, Jenark, and the Community Resources Services (CRS) information for HGMD to categorize and track them. Staff and the controller maintain the records, while committees and treasurers of both organizations review them monthly, allowing for quick adjustments if spending exceeds expectations. During annual budget planning, participants provide input based on economic trends, vendor quotes, and inflation forecasts to estimate costs for the next year. Main expense categories for HGA include Maintenance, Roads & Grounds, Administration, Security, Insurance, and Capital Reserves. HGMD manages categories like Clubhouse, Golf, Restaurant, and Bond payment obligations.

Departments and committees also identify needs for 2026, such as compliance with new regulations, infrastructure repairs, or evolving maintenance demands. A crucial budgeting step is prioritizing "needs" over "wants," just as we as individuals must do in personal budgeting. Once expenses are projected, revenue is also estimated. For HGA, revenue is primarily from our HOA dues, while HGMD projects income from its facilities and from property taxes. The budget planning process ensures the balancing of projected expenses and income.

Operating vs. Reserve/Capital Budgets

HGA and HGMD each maintain two budgets:

1. Operating Budget – Covers recurring, routine expenses that keep daily operations running, including maintenance, administration, utilities, staffing, and smaller repairs.
2. Reserve/Capital Budget – Allocates funds for infrequent, large-scale projects like roof replacements, elevator upgrades, major equipment upgrades, or structural repairs. Reserves are essentially the community's long-term savings account.

Once costs are finalized, HGA calculates its 2026 HOA dues across six categories: Maintenance, Capital Reserves, Insurance, Gas & Electric, Water & Sewer, and the Recreation Fee. The Recreation Fee funds resident access to the HGMD amenities such as pools, the gym, tennis and pickleball courts, the golf course, the clubhouse and its offerings, and the restaurant.

Evaluating Dues – Are They Realistic?

Determining whether HOA dues are fair is partly subjective since it depends on individual financial situations. However, two facts guide the discussion:

- Protecting property values and residents' investments, which means budgeting responsibly for both regular maintenance and long-term reserves. Both require funding.
- Residents choose Heather Gardens for its active lifestyle and amenities, which require funding.

Transparency is essential. All financial and budget meetings are open to the public, giving residents the opportunity to gain clear insight into HG expenses and decision-making. During August and September, the Joint Capital Programs Subcommittee meets frequently to examine upcoming projects. During the meetings all kinds of options are discussed, such as postponing replacements, repairing instead of replacing, sharing costs and labor between HGA and HGMD. This careful review process feeds into the operating and reserve/capital budgets in both organizations.

see page 43

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SEPTEMBER CALENDAR: CLUBS, RECREATION & EVENTS

LABOR DAY - HG Management Offices Closed			
Mon 1	Tennis Club (every Mon) Men's Bridge (every Mon) Book Club Spanish Club (every Mon) Texas Hold'em (1st Mon) Mah Jongg (every Mon) Game Night (every Mon)	Tennis Courts Skyview Room Mountain View Room & Library Library Banquet Room Blue Spruce Room Skyview Room	8-10am 10am-2pm 10:30am & 1pm 11am-12pm 12:30-5pm 1-4pm 3-5pm
Tue 2	Hand (Knee) and Foot (every Tues) Mah Jongg (every Tues) Ping Pong (every Tues) Sevillians Billiard Club	Mountain View Room Blue Spruce Room Game Room Banquet Room Billiards Room	12-4pm 1-4pm 2pm 5pm 6:30pm
Wed 3	Tennis Club (every Wed) Cribbage (every Wed) Men's Poker (every Wed) Duplicate Bridge/ACBL (every Wed) Woodshop Club Rummikub (every Wed) CP1 Square Dance (1st & 3rd Wed)	Tennis Courts Sunburst Cafe Mountain View Room Blue Spruce Room Skyview Room Lodgepole Lounge Aspen/Blue Spruce Rooms Sandberg Auditorium	8-10am 12:30-3pm 12:30-5pm 1pm 1pm 1-3pm 5:30pm 7-9pm
Thu 4	Fun Gals Golf Tai Chi (every Thurs) Optimist Club (1st & 3rd Thurs) TOPS (every Thurs) Bowling League (every Thurs) The Green Team Time4Tap Bunco (1st & 3rd Thurs) Social Bridge (every Thurs) Writers Club (every Thurs) Ping Pong (every Thurs) Meditation Club (every Thurs) Kiwanis Club Men's Billiards (every Thurs)	Golf Course Tennis Courts Rendezvous Bar & Grill Blue Spruce Room Arapahoe Bowl Skyview room Sandberg Auditorium Blue Spruce Room Mountain View Room Skyview Room Game Room Skyview Room Skyview Room Billiards Room	7:36am & 7:48am 8-11am 8:30am 8:30-9:30am 10am 10am-12pm 11am-12pm c1-3:30pm 1-3:30pm 1-4pm 2pm 4pm 6pm 7pm
Fri 5	Tennis Club (every Fri) Men with Purpose (1st & 3rd Fri) Texas Hold'em (every Fri) Aging Strong	Tennis Courts Skyview Room Mountain View Room Arts and Crafts Room	8-10am 10-11am 12:30-5pm 1pm
Sat 6	Fitness Walk & Activities Showcase Mexican Train Dominoes (every Sat) Ping Pong (every Sat) Karaoke Club	Lodgepole Lounge Arts & Crafts Room Game Room Aspen/Blue Spruce Rooms	8:15am 12-3pm 2pm 3-5pm



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Sun 7	Social Bridge (every Sun)	Skyview Room	1-3:30pm
Mon 8	Texas Hold'em (all other Mondays)	Mountain View Room	12:30-5pm
Tue 9	HG Singers	Skyview Room	1-2:30pm
Wed 10	Red Hattitudes Personal Protection for Seniors (2nd & 4th Wed) Aviation Club	Rendezvous Bar & Grill Game Room Aspen Room	12:30pm 3pm 7pm
Thu 11	Let Us Remember 9/11	Sandberg Auditorium	3pm
Fri 12	HG Indivisible	Library	11:30am-12:50pm
Sat 13	The Breakfast Club Frolics Voice for Residents Old Man Rock Party	Rendezvous Bar & Grill Aspen/Blue Spruce Rooms Arts and Crafts Room Sandberg Auditorium	8:30am 2pm 3-4:30pm 6pm
Sun 14	We the People/Republican Club Movie Barbershop and Beyond – The Timberliners	TBD Sandberg Auditorium	2:30pm 5:30pm
Tue 16	Lifelong Learners Open House Caregivers Support Group Garden Club Educational Presentation Frolics: "A Little Bit Country, A Little Bit Rock & Roll"	Aspen/Blue Spruce Rooms Aspen Room Sandberg Auditorium Rendezvous Bar & Grill	10am 2-4pm 2:30-3:30pm 4pm
Wed 17	Ladies Golf Club Meeting Flying W Ranch: Chuckwagon Dinner & Show	Rendezvous Bar & Grill Flying W Ranch	1pm 3:15pm
Thu 18	Social Justice Discussion	Blue Spruce Room	10am-12pm
Fri 19	Men with Purpose	Skyview Room	10-11am
Sat 20	Garden Club Open House Saturday Afternoon Live Social	Garden Plots Blue Spruce Room	9-11am 3-5pm
Mon 22	Cripple Creek Casinos and Fall Colors Low Vision Support Group	Cripple Creek Aspen Room	8:15am 1:30pm
Tue 23	We the People/Republican Club	Aspen Room	10am
Wed 24	High Twelve Club #11 Masonic Club	Rendezvous Bar & Grill	11am
Sat 27	National Federation of the Blind	Mountain View Room	10:30am-12:30pm
Tue 30	HG Democrats	Sandberg Auditorium	6:30pm

See pages 24, 34 & 38 for more information on Events, Clubs and Recreation

Advertised Activities and Seminars

Mon, Sept 8: Bayer Ear Clinic (every Monday by appt.), Arts & Crafts Room, 9am-12pm (see ad p. 55)
 Thurs, Sept 11: Thrive Neuropathy Lunch & Learn, Rendezvous Bar & Grill, 11:30am-1pm (see ad p. 8)
 Fri & Sat, Sept 19 & 20: HG Flea Market, Clubhouse, 9am-3pm (see ad p. 25)
 Tues, Sept 23: Renewal by Anderson Lunch, Rendezvous Bar & Grill, 12pm (see ad 10)

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Boards and Committees Monthly Meetings

CECC (BR/Zoom) – 11am, Tues, Sept 2
Golf (BR/Zoom) – 1pm, Tues, Sept 2
Joint Long Range (BR/Zoom) – 10am, Wed, Sept 3
SEC (BR/Zoom) – 10am, Mon, Sept 8
RV Lot (BR/Zoom) – 1pm, Mon, Sept 8
Maintenance (Zoom) – 11am, Tues, Sept 9
Clubhouse (BR/Zoom) – 1pm, Tues, Sept 9
Civic Affairs (BR/Zoom) - 11am, Wed, Sept 10
Foundation Committee (BR/Zoom) - 1pm, Wed, Sept 10
Restaurant (BR/Zoom) – 3pm, Thurs, Sept 11
Personnel Policy (BR/Zoom) – 10am, Fri, Sept 5
Budget & Finance (BR/Zoom) – 10am, Mon, Sept 15
~~HGMD Audit & Finance (BR/Zoom) – 1pm, Mon, Sept 15~~ – cancelled
Joint Long Range (BR/Zoom) – 10am, Wed, Sept 17
ACC (Zoom) – 10am Thu, Sept 18
HGMD Board Meeting (BR/Zoom) - 1pm, Thu, Sept 18
HGA Board Meeting (BR/Zoom) - 1pm, Tues, Sept 23
Resident Orientation (BR/Zoom) – 10am, Wed, Sept 24

Budget workshops start the week of September 22nd

***For the most current information, please check
the Heather Gardens website under HGA/HGMD
Committee Meetings***

Heather 'n Yon Deadline: 9/18

SUBMIT TO:
bluefishpublishingco@gmail.com

**Aurora Townhall
Meeting with
Angela Lawson**

Sat, Sept 20, 10-11:30am
HG Clubhouse

Bible Study (Interdenominational) on every Wednesday, 9–10 am, Aspen Room (women); Blue Spruce Room (men). Join a lovely group of caring women dedicated to the study of the word of God. We welcome everyone. No sign-up. Just show up. Call Joyce Smith, 918-586-2954.

Join the men as they study the Bible in person with Pastor Bill Cheyne or online on Wednesday morning, 9 am. Saturday morning is only online at 9 am, <https://meet.google.com/vpk-rgxi-fja>.

Ecumenical Bible Study. (Formerly Six Stone Jars Catholic Bible Study), All Christian traditions: Catholic, Protestant, Orthodox, Other. Theme: Trust Jesus. We will begin by studying early Church history. Meets every Tuesday 9:30 – 11:30 am in the Mountain View Room. Drop in for a visit! Led by Eric Cline, D. Min., MA Biblical Exposition, 720-839-4289 or clinecellars57@gmail.com; also <https://www.godtalkshop.com/>

HG Women's Bible Study. We meet together every Thursday at 10 am on Zoom. If you would like to join us or have questions, contact Carolyn Morris at 303-885-7807 or motoringmorris@gmail.com. I can arrange help with Zoom if you need it.

Catholic Mass St Michael's Catholic Mass is held weekly at 1 pm Saturday, Sandberg Auditorium.

Chapel (Interdenominational Church Service) 11 am Sunday, Sandberg Auditorium. Pastor Bill Cheyne. We will continue the service on ZOOM for those who are unable to attend in person. Email Carolyn Morris for the link, motoringmorris@gmail.com.

- **Sunday Bible Study:** 10 am, Mountain View Room.
Leader: Pastor Bill Cheyne.
- **Coffee Time:** 3rd Sunday, prior to Chapel Service

Letters

Heather 'n Yon,

Are there others in Heather Gardens that feel what we have held dear to our hearts for generations are now being uprooted by a few who feel their rights are being infringed or situations are being forced upon them at board and committee meetings.?

At the July 24th HG District Board meeting one of the motions was to suspend the saying of the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag at future board and all committee meetings. This motion was made by the Board president. Because I was not able to unmute myself on zoom, I couldn't respond. I welcome the opportunity to do so now. The rationale the president gave was it forced people to repeat the pledge and use the words 'under God'. He felt it infringed upon his rights.

No one is ever forced to stand or say the Pledge. I would suggest those not wishing to do so remain seated with a closed mouth. Because now you have infringed on my right to honor our flag and our Creator at meetings. For any board or committee member to ask for a vote like this to make themselves feel better is beyond words.

Thank you,
-Jean Baldwin, B242

Heather 'n Yon,

Some residents have really taken advantage of the family swim hours bringing 12 members of one family (counted) one day and ten of another family. This greatly impacts other residents' enjoyment of the facility especially inside due to the noise. The pools here in this 55+ community were not designed to accommodate groups of the size we are getting and those who are hosting regular "family reunions" here are ruining it for all. Also, from a health perspective can we safely accommodate the large numbers in our small pools?

It was so loud and crowded in the indoor pool yesterday that seniors could not enjoy using the hot tub area or the lap lanes and many left saying so. Community pools are built to accommodate large groups

of children not our small pools at Heather Gardens.

The outdoor pool also with the open gate has non-residents just walking in to use it. The restaurant is public, and the pool looks public with the open gate. Seville restricts use but not the main Heather pool.

The outdoor pool was one of the things that attracted us to Heather Gardens but as new residents we have been very disappointed with the limited times that we can relax there.

- Janice Meyer B219

Heather 'n Yon,

Current advertised pool hours are M-S (6am-9pm) Sun (7-7pm) = 15 hrs daily x 6 = 90hrs plus 12 on Sun = 102 hours. Current Family Swim times = 4 hours daily = 28 hours a week, that leaves 74 hours a week for adult swim. Are 28 hours really TOO MUCH for those that have "littles" in their lives to be able to spend life hours with them at the pools that are supported by our HOA dues? I believe that CONSISTENCY and COMPROMISE is the answer! Year-Round Family Swim Time could make it easier for staff to schedule additional aqua classes, consistent hours are easier for front desk personnel and residents to remember and allows residents to schedule and include family swim times in advance.

I propose the following compromise; Year-Round Family Swim Time Outdoor Pool - Every Day when open 10am - Noon; Indoor Pool - Every Friday, Saturday, Sunday and Monday 3:30 - 5:30pm.

During Indoor Swim time; the 2 Lap Lanes closest to the window will be reserved for ADULT Swim.

In the past because of noise, I did my best to avoid lap swimming and hot tub soaks during aqua class times. Perhaps those that would rather not be around kids could use the same strategy and avoid Family Swim Time hours. Again, I believe this would be a fair compromise - not EVERY day but some days. Additional feedback from those that actually spend time at the pool may be warranted. We will never make everyone happy but hopefully we can find a compromise that will

work.

I am PROUD of where I live, and the Clubhouse is the heart of our community. It is convenient and I pay to utilize it via my HOA dues; I would rather not pay to go to a pool elsewhere

-Linda Worthey, B250

Heather 'n Yon,

I would like to notify my clients and friends that I will be leaving Heather Gardens, and I will no longer be offering my services to the community. It has been a pleasure to serve and connect with so many of you. Although this chapter of my life is closing, I will carry with me many meaningful happy memories.

-Jill Yant, B234

Heather 'n Yon,

Through the past 38 years, Mavis has written many Letters to the Editor. Today, as we plan our move to Texas to be near family, we are taking this final opportunity to connect with the wonderful residents of this community. Living here during our senior years has truly been a blessing, and we have deeply loved being part of such a remarkable place.

We have witnessed many changes—some good, some bad, and some challenging. Despite these ups and downs, our loyalty and love for the Heather Gardens community have never wavered. If we could recall every memory, we would find ourselves both laughing and crying, as many moments have touched our hearts.

Heather 'n Yon welcomes letters concerned with community issues. Letters must be signed, dated and include the writer's address and phone number. Letters may be edited for clarity.

Please submit letters to:
bluefishpublishingco@gmail.com
Subject line: Letter to the Editor

**Letters are due at 12pm (noon)
by deadline (see p. 30)**

Word Limit: 300

Thank you!

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Market Snapshot

June 2025 (Redfin data):

Median sale price: \$277,000 (-16.2% YoY) Homes.com, Redfin, Realtor.com
 Number of homes sold: 38 (-34.5% YoY) Redfin
 Median days on market: 39 days (-6 days YoY) Redfin
 Price per sq ft: \$208/sq ft (-9.96% YoY) Zillow, Redfin, Rocket

July 2025 (Rocket / market-reports)

Median sale price: \$308,000 (-2.2% YoY) Redfin, Rocket, Realtor.com
 Median price per sqft: \$226/sq ft - Movoto Real Estate, Rocket, Redfin

Interpretation & Insight

- Moderate rebound into July: After a steep drop in June, median prices rebounded significantly by 11% in July, narrowing the YoY decline to just -2%.
- Heating per-sq ft values: Price per square foot improved from \$208 to \$226—an encouraging sign of strengthening buyer demand over summer.
- Sales volume soft: June saw only 38 transactions, down sharply from prior year, indicating lower turnover and potentially cautious buyer sentiment.
- Faster movement: Days on market improved compared to last June, suggesting quicker sales despite the volume drop.



CarolGuzmanHomes@yahoo.com | 303.929.3157 | CarolGuzmanHomes.com

Letters

What stands out most is the way neighbors support and look out for one another. Residents consistently step up to volunteer their time, helping to keep our community running smoothly. There are those who go out of their way to keep Heather Gardens free of litter, demonstrating care and pride in our neighborhood. Many talented and kind people make a difference in our everyday lives, from the Green Team, The Foundation, the governing boards, restaurant and golf shop staff, community center staff, class instructors, and the entire Heather Gardens employee staff. Our apologies to anyone we may have missed.

Rich and I would like to extend our sincere thanks to everyone who attended our Farewell Open House. The outpouring of support was overwhelming and touched our hearts profoundly. We are especially grateful to our friends who coordinated the Open House, going above and beyond to make it special. Our sincere thanks go to Barb Tucker, Debbie Madril, Gretchen Ukele, Susie Craig, Susan Osman, Mary Ann Morris, Jennifer Price, Chris Rothwell and our Master of Ceremonies, Mark Price. We also wish to thank the A-Team from Ft. Logan for their impressive participation.

We love you all and thank you from the bottom of our hearts.

-Rich & Mavis Richardson, CP3

Heather 'n Yon,

I am writing to inform the Heather Garden residents of a new club that is starting on October 14, 2025. The Club will be called Torah Club and will meet 2nd and 4th Tuesday evenings from 6:30-8:00pm at the Clubhouse in a room TBD. The club is for Jewish and Christian women to discuss the five books of Torah: Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers and Deuteronomy. We will follow the weekly Parashat (portions) that Jewish people use all over the world. The members of the club will read the chapters before the meeting and come prepared to discuss and to listen to each other

in a supporting way. Please contact Trish Patterson at 301-802-7390. -Trish Patterson, B207

Heather 'n Yon,

I serve on the Aurora Public Library Board of Trustees. Unfortunately, our closest public library, the Iliff Square Branch on Iliff and Peoria is closing in October. But the good news is that the Mission Viejo Branch, a full-service branch, just SE of Chambers and Hampden is enjoying a revitalization. Fifty years ago, Mission Viejo Library opened its doors and became part of our community's fabric—where lifelong readers began, neighbors met and generations returned, grandparents now bringing grandchildren to programs they once enjoyed.

As a Library Board member, I'm proud to invite my fellow HG community residents to join us in celebrating this golden anniversary. Thanks to a generous \$75,000 grant from Aurora City Council, we have the opportunity to refresh our beloved Mission Viejo library. Our goal is to match that amount for a total of \$150,000 for building improvements.

With Mission Viejo only 7 minutes away, I hope it becomes the home library for many HG residents. I am supporting this capital campaign with my own donation by paying for advertising in this publication with the hope to inspire readers to join me in in this effort which continues to November 16.

Tax deductible donations to the Mission Viejo "150 for 50" campaign can be made online at:

- <https://www.coloradogives.org/donate/FriendsAuroraLibrary>
- <https://www.coloradogives.org/story/150for50>

Or by check payable to "Friends of Aurora Public Library":

- In person at the Mission Viejo Library
- By mail (Friends of Aurora Public Library c/o Mission Viejo Library, 15324 E. Hampden Circle, Aurora, CO 80013).

Every gift makes a difference, and all donations receive a prize! Sincerely,

-Carol Johnson, B220

Heather 'n Yon,

The Clubs at Heather Gardens are expanding! What's new? Personal Protection for Seniors! It has been a long road for us. We have been meeting as an independent group since January, but now we finally have "Club" status. We are very excited about this, since we will be listed in the *Heather 'n Yon* Magazine's "Calendar" and the "Clubs and Organizations" sections. In our meetings, we discuss, share, learn and practice way to avoid attacks at our age. Sometimes we may have a speaker or special presentation. Our facilitator, Don "Ditto" Schultz, is a very qualified martial arts instructor, who is very aware of our limitations. As a result, there will be NO big kicks, punches, breaking things, or throws to the ground!! Don't be intimidated: it's been very empowering for our group to learn what we can do. Come check us out at the Fitness Walk & Showcase on September 6, 2025. and at our Club Meetings on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of the month at 3 PM. Check the *Heather 'n Yon* Magazine Calendar for our location. For any questions you can call Melissa at 303-332-3180 or Ditto at 720-495-2067. We wish everyone a wonderful and safe Labor Day Weekend!

-Melissa Sugar, B216 and Don Schultz, B236



Making sandwiches for Tony Brenning to take to Meeker fire fighters. Photo submitted by Rudy Morris, B217

CLUBS & ORGANIZATIONS

Aging Strong in Heather Gardens

This new group will meet Friday, Sept 5, at 1 pm in the Arts & Crafts Room. The group's mission is to support residents who wish to age in place while promoting community responsibility and proactive engagement. Initial goals include outreach, community engagement, neighbor-to-neighbor support, information sharing, and resource building. For more information, contact: agingstronghg@gmail.com.

Aviation Club

The HG Aviation Club meets the 2nd Wednesday of each month at 7 pm in the Aspen Rm in the clubhouse. All you need to join is an interest in aviation ... you do not have to be a veteran, or a pilot or aircrew or any military, just have a keen interest in aviation, civil aviation and airplanes in general. Let us Remember 9/11. HG Auditorium Sept. 11, 3:00 pm. More than two decades after the September 11th attacks, chilling new claims are surfacing about a possible fifth plane intended to strike. While four hijacked planes carried out the devastating attacks, new information suggests another aircraft may have been part of the original plot — one that never reached its target. Was it grounded in time? Covered up? Or simply forgotten? This investigation digs into government documents, eyewitness accounts, and hidden details that may point to a fifth plane... and a deeper conspiracy. --Rudy Morris, 720-995-0484, rudymorris4@gmail.com

Book Club

The HG Women's Book Club meets on the first Monday of each month, to discuss the chosen book of the month. There are two sessions: No. 1 in the Mountain View Room at 10:30 am and No. 2 in the library at 1 pm. If you would like to see which books each Club will be reading in 2025/26, a list of Clubs No. 1 and 2 Titles is in the Book

34 Heather 'n Yon, September 2025

Club mail slot in the clubhouse. If you are interested in joining the Book Club, call Janet Arce at (720) 774-3368 for the 10:30 a.m. group, or Joanne Urias at (251) 518-5781 for the 1 p.m. group.

The Breakfast Club

The Breakfast Club (TBC) for Singles 50 Plus meets at 8:30 am on the second Saturday in Rendezvous Bar & Grill for breakfast. Call 303-794-3332 to make your reservation. Cost is \$20. TBC has grown in the past 20 years — it has three other chapters along the Front Range. We have ongoing activities, such as bowling, the Birthday Bash, eating at a new restaurant, and Happy Hour. Each month, there are also different activities planned, such as museums, sports events, plays, concerts, and day trips, to name a few. Come see! – Suzanne Harmes

CP1

We have Happy Hours on the 1st Wednesday of each month at 5:30 pm in the Aspen/Blue Spruce Rooms, where you are encouraged to bring your own drink and shareable snack. -Susan Osman, susanosman21@gmail.com.

CP2

We meet the second Tuesday of the month in the Aspen/Blue Spruce rooms from 5 - 8 pm in February and October. These are BYO drinks and a dish to share events. In April, August and December, we will be meeting in the Rendezvous Bar and Grill from 4:30 – 7 pm. Drinks and food as well as tax and tip are at your own expense. In June, we meet in the Picnic Pavilion. If you have any questions, please contact Sue Koscove, AR Representative for CP-2, at 720-314-1584.

CP4

Please look for an email from the AR with an invite to the monthly get together, telling you when and where the gathering will happen. -David Crum

Caregivers Support Group

The HG Caregivers Support Group meets on the third Tuesday of the month in the Aspen Room from 2-4 pm. All caregivers are welcome. Questions? Call Nancy Fuhr at 303-337-4890.

Democrats/HG

The Heather Gardens Democratic Club supports the Constitution, the rule of law, good government, participation by all eligible voters, and liberty and justice for all. Our usual meeting date is the 4th Tuesday of each month, but this September, that day falls in Rosh Hashanah, so our September meeting will be on September 30, when we will be attending and supporting a Candidate Forum, sponsored by the Heather Gardens Association. It will be in the Sandberg Auditorium on September 30, beginning at 6:30 pm.

The election in November will be for Aurora City Council and the school boards for Aurora Public Schools and Cherry Creek School District. In Heather Gardens, we will only vote for the two City Council at-large seats, plus the school districts, as our community is divided between those two school districts. The city council and school board races are technically nonpartisan, but the local candidates from both major parties will be invited to speak. All voters are invited—Democrats, Republicans and unaffiliated. The purpose is to inform the voters about the candidates. Please come and learn about the candidates you don't see in TV ads. –Marty Karnopp, chair.

Frolics

The Frolics Annual Member Mixer and Business Meeting will be held on Saturday, September 13, at 2 pm, in the Aspen/Blue Spruce rooms. Get the latest scoop on what's been happening this year and what we have planned for 2025-2026. Be sure to attend the monthly Traveling Troupe show

in the Rendezvous on Tuesday, September 16, at 4 pm. Our theme will be "A Little Bit Country, A Little Bit Rock and Roll." And remember we are always welcoming new members. The only requirement for membership is that you must want to have FUN. Any questions, please contact Susie Hayes at 303.745.1816.

Garden Club

The Garden Club is hosting an educational presentation September 16 in Sandberg Auditorium, 2:30 to 3:30 pm, with Arapaho CSU Master Gardener Eric Edge, who will address the fall and winter landscape challenges that include fall planting, winter pruning, and planning for spring success. Effective and efficient winter watering info may remind us that even though the water will be turned off for the winter at Heather Garden landscapes, we may have to haul some to the gardens occasionally to keep the plants happy. Everyone is welcome and will find something valuable, as there are multiple gardens throughout Heather Gardens! Reservations not required, refreshments served, and donations are accepted.

Another educational presentation is booked for 9:30 am Tuesday, November 18, in the Clubhouse. This will be a presentation on Plant Propagation by Master Gardener Richard "Duke" Earle followed by a Q&A session.

Reminder: don't crush any Japanese Beetles as the outcome will be an infestation instead of a reduction. When crushed, the beetles release pheromones that emit a strong scent that acts as a chemical signal shouting there is a good feeding and mating spot nearby to swarm. Better alternatives are Neem Oil or Nematodes as well as hand-picking the pests into soapy water. Targeting larvae underground with Milky Spore for Grubs will do well to reduce the life cycle of future generations.

The Club next meets on Saturday, September 20 at a Garden Open House, 9-11 am at the actual

Garden Plots, 13230 E. Marina. Stop by to see the "end of the season" garden and to enjoy some morning refreshments and fellowship with the gardeners. For information about leasing a garden plot, joining the club, or being added to the email notification list, call or text President Nancy Linsenbigler at 720-932-6990.

The Green Team

Do you have old electronics taking up space in your garage or closets? If so, there will be an opportunity to recycle them at the City of Aurora Electronics Recycling Events next month. Take your items to 3251 Lewiston St. for just \$5 per carload on the following dates: October 6-10 and October 13-17 from 8 am - 4 pm; October 11 from 10 M - 2 pm. However, flat screen TVs of all sizes cost \$10, CRT TVs & CRT monitors cost \$20, DLP and console TVs cost \$40. If you have questions, call (303)482-2207 Pedal Point LifeCycle Solutions (formerly Techno Rescue.) Our meetings are the first Thursday of the month from 10 - 12 noon in the Skyview Room. -W. Pfaffhausen

Heather Gardens Singers

New session starts Tuesday, September 9. We rehearse Tuesdays in the Skyview room from 1-2:30 pm. All skill levels of musicianship are welcome to come sing in the HG Singers chorus. There are two basic requirements for joining this group, 1. You love to sing alone or for an audience 2. You like having fun! We are pretty serious about entertaining our audience with well-done performances and we laugh along the way. In fact, we laugh several times in every rehearsal. One chorister said, "We have professional directing and excellent accompanying with amateur fun." Another said, "There is a strong atmosphere of camaraderie amongst the singers." Sounds like something you'd like to try? Here are a few more details: the dues are minimal and attendance is heartily recommended but we don't keep an attendance chart. For

more details call Tom Kappel 720-377-5756.

HG Water Conservation Taskforce

The purpose of the taskforce is to work on implementing the recommendations mentioned in the study to conserve the usage of (city) water in Heather Gardens (HG) for environmental and sustainability reasons and to substantially lower our HG water/sewer bill. For more information, visit our website www.hg-wctf.org or e-mail to hgwctf@gmail.com.

High Twelve Club #11 Masonic Club/HG

High Twelve Club #11, a Masonic Club at Heather Gardens, meets every 4th Wednesday (3rd Wednesday in November and December) at Rendezvous Bar & Grill at 11 am. The club invites all Masons and friends to these open luncheons where there is usually a guest speaker. The club is "dark" June, July, and August. High Twelve International supports students at George Washington University in a Master's program so as to serve in public service. Members include a retired attorney, retired teachers, retired police officer, retired Air Force and Army gentlemen, and many more! The contact is Walter Martin at 303-810-6189 for more information.

Indivisible/HG

Heather Gardens Indivisible meets the 2nd Friday of each month, 11:30 am - 12:50 pm, in the HG Library (Media Room). You are welcome to join us for lunch afterward at Rendezvous. Connected to over 1,200 groups nationwide, Heather Gardens Indivisible is a community of neighbors who choose to make a difference in the world, addressing the many problems we see with positive, forward-thinking actions. We address issues that concern us, such as wealth inequality, racial injustice, environmental threats, women's reproductive rights, gun safety, etc., with both education and action. Although people of any political affiliation are welcome, our

approach is progressive. Whether you can regularly attend the meetings or not, you are welcome to also sign up for our newsletter of information and action items.

Karaoke Club

The club meets on the first Saturday of each month, 3 - 5 pm in the Aspen/Blue Spruce rooms. BYOB and snacks. We have a huge inventory of great songs from which to choose and sing. Sing solo or with a group. For more information call Paul Spoutz, 303-564-1877.

Kiwanis Club of Aurora

Kiwanis meets on the first Thursday, 6 pm, for a business meeting in the Skyview Room, and on the third Thursday, 6 pm, with a guest speaker. If interested in participating, contact the club at jwmkiwanis@gmail.com. – James Martin, president

Lifelong Learners

CELEBRATE WITH LIFELONG LEARNERS. Heather Gardens Lifelong Learners is hosting an Open House on Tuesday, Sept 16 at 10 am in the Aspen/Blue Spruce room to celebrate our first full year of classes. It is inviting all residents and guests to help us celebrate. Enjoy some light refreshments and meet our committee members, facilitators, and listen to a keynote speaker on Healthy Living. If you haven't attended a Learners' class yet, this is the perfect time to learn more about our mission and see what 300 of your neighbors have discovered. If you have attended, come help us celebrate launching of the newest Heather Gardens program and get a preview of our new classes as we resume for the fall term. This fall we will be offering several new and exciting courses plus repeating two popular ones. Complete class descriptions are available at the Clubhouse by September 9. We are trying something new with one of our Technology Topics classes. A single class covering one of the Technology Topics will be offered via Zoom for FREE! Those interested in taking only that one session must still register

but the Zoom option will be listed separately from the full session of classes. Registration is needed so that we have your email address to provide the necessary Zoom Link. If you are taking the entire course, you have the option to attend in person or via zoom. No additional registration is required. If you have questions about this special FREE option or any of our classes, please attend our Open House. THEN go to the activities desk and REGISTER! You can always contact us at: heathergardenslearners@gmail.com.

Low Vision Support Group

Low Vision Support Group meets on September 22 (fourth Monday of the month) in the Aspen Room, 1:30 pm. Questions? Call Marsha Bengen, 720-535-5224

Meditation Club

Meditation for stress relief and general well-being. Join us for 20 minutes of deep relaxation and de-stressing from the hassles of daily life. We meet every Thursday at 4 p.m. in the Skyview Room. Questions: contact Darryl Stafford, 303-489-5292

Meet & Schmooze

HG Meet & Schmooze is a group of Jewish residents that meet at least quarterly. Other events are planned on an ad hoc basis. The group is primarily social and meets either in the Aspen/Blue Spruce rooms or the Rendezvous. We bring snacks, have speakers, celebrate holidays or just enjoy the company. Anyone can plan an event. For information contact Myra Lansky. myralansky@gmail.com

Men with Purpose

A group of men, with diversified backgrounds, gather to discuss timely topics regarding healthy aging and purposeful retirement.

Books and articles relating to these topics are discussed by group members. Leadership is shared. Men With Purpose meets the first and third Fridays of each month, 10–11 am, Skyview Room. For information, contact Gene Dawson, 720-535-9672.

National Federation of the Blind, Aurora Chapter

Meet other blind and low vision at the monthly meeting held on the fourth Saturday of each month in the Mountain View room from 10:30-12:30 pm. We discuss changes in legislation and government programs such as transportation, insurance, and more that affect us and how to effect change. Contact Peggy Chong, B220, 303-745-0473.

Optimist Club

The club meets on 1st and 3rd Thursday of each month for breakfast in Rendezvous Bar & Grill. Continental Breakfast 8:30 am / Meeting at 9 am. A continental breakfast buffet is \$10 per person. Optimist Clubs are dedicated to "bringing out the best in kids" through various service projects. We welcome anyone interested in finding out more. Contact Sue Brandreth, 248-701-9263 with questions.

Personal Protection for Seniors

We meet the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of the month at 3 pm in the Game (or Ping Pong) Room, unless otherwise specified. We discuss, share, learn and practice ways to avoid attacks at our age. We are lucky to have a highly qualified martial arts instructor who is very aware of our limitations. No big kicks, punches, breaking things, or throws to the ground. Don't be intimidated, be empowered! See what you can learn. Melissa 303-332-3180 and Ditto 720-495-2067.

Red Hattitudes

Ladies, if you are looking to have lunch with a bunch of fun-loving gals at the Rendezvous Bar & Grill, join the Red Hattitudes on the second Wednesday of each month at 12:30 pm. The Red Hats are a non-political, non-sectarian, group

of ladies who like to wear purple outfits with a red hat or fascinator. Please call Janet Arce for more details at (720) 774-3368.

Republican / We the People Club

Sunday Afternoon Movie Matinee – Free Event. September 14, 2:30 – 5:30 pm, Location TBD. CABRINI: An award-winning movie about Francesca Cabrini, an Italian immigrant who arrives in NY City in 1889, sets off on a mission to secure housing and health care for society's most vulnerable. September 23: We the People General Meeting: Current Event Conversation, 10 am – Noon, Aspen Room. Lunch in Rendezvous following the meeting – optional. SAVE THE DATE: Thursday, October 2: "Tip of the Spear" Lincoln Day Dinner. Guest Speaker Lara Logan, Award Winning Investigative Journalist, proudly presented by Arapahoe County Republican Party. Location: Stampede in Aurora. Menu: Catered Barbecue. Go to <https://arapahoerepublicans.org> for tickets and more details.

DATE CHANGE: The Candidate Meet and Greet scheduled for September 20 has been re-scheduled for Saturday, October 4. "Who and What is on Your Ballot?" 10 – Noon in the Aspen-Blue Spruce Rooms. Please join us to meet the candidates for Aurora City Council, Aurora Public Schools and Cherry Creek School Boards. We will also discuss the ballot measures for 2025. \$5 Breakfast Burritos and coffee will be served. All proceeds go to our candidates. We The People Club Stand for The U.S. Constitution, Common Sense Governance, Defending Life & Freedom.

Residents for Responsible Leadership (RRL)

This organization grew out of the Residents for Renewed Leadership, which was in action during the recall event in our community. Our mission is to instill unity in the community. We will continue to meet to encourage residents to become involved and knowledgeable by attending Board meetings, both of the Heather

Gardens Association Board and the Heather Gardens Metro District Board. These meetings can be attended by Zoom or in person. Times for meetings can be found on the Heather Gardens website. We also encourage you to attend The Heather Gardens Town Halls, held once a month. Meetings for RRL are held quarterly in the Blue Spruce room. All are welcome. For more information, please contact Nonean Price at nonean1127@hotmail.com or Nora Tracy at lenorat@comcast.net.

Saturday Afternoon LIVE Social Meets every 3rd Saturday in Aspen/Blue Spruce Room from 3 to 5 pm. Listen and or dance to the sounds of our wonderful Final Approach Band while enjoying your own beverage of choice and everyone can bring a snack to share. Free fun event. Bring your friends and make new ones! Any questions call Mary, 303-909-3988.

Singles Club/OPOCS

Pinochle and bridge groups are meeting, and social gatherings are ongoing. For information, call Jackie Clements, 303-988-3555. – Bernice Lucero

Social Justice Discussion

Meetings are held from 10 am – 12 noon, the third Thursday of every month in the Blue Spruce Room. You are invited to participate in the 'Unpacking the Society in Which We Live' roundtable discussion on Thursday, September 18 from 10 am-12 noon in the Blue Spruce Room. Our purpose is to effect change in behaviors through understanding, increasing our awareness, expanding our knowledge, fostering reconciliation and sharing stories of equity or inequity, inclusiveness or exclusiveness. Our speaker will be Johnneen Bufford, owner of FYZICAL. She will tell the story about her journey and the struggles she overcame as a Black woman starting a business in Aurora. - Diane Pritchard, dianekritchard@gmail.com and Bernie Hupperts, marlynber@gmail.com (co-facilitators)

CLUBS & ORGANIZATIONS

Spanish Club (Club en Español)

Practica y conversacion en español, 11 am–noon every Monday, Clubhouse Library. Miriam Colón, 303-261-2057.

Sevillians

To All Residents of Buildings 231, 232, 233, 234, 235, and 236: The Sevillians dinner will continue on the first Tuesday of each month in the Banquet Room of the Rendezvous Bar & Grill at the new time of 5 pm. Please email Janet Arce at: arcej1946@gmail.com or call (720) 774-3368 if you would like to be placed on the invitation list.

TOPS

TOPS (Take Off Pounds Sensibly) meets 8:30–9:30 am every Thursday, Blue Spruce Room. With a sense of teamwork, we encourage each other to eat healthy, lose the unwanted pounds and have fun along the way. TOPS Chapter 0366 in HG Clubhouse has celebrated 45 years of providing members with information and support in making healthy eating choices. TOPS is an international diet club. We have many success stories to share. Please visit us during one of our meetings to see what we are about. Guests are always welcome. Real People. Real Weight Loss. Men and women are welcome. For information, contact Lisa Jackson, 469-323-5434 or mljackson81@gmail.com.

Voice For Residents Forum

Fostering community engagement, education, and communications on current issues involving Heather Gardens residents, leadership and management. At the August forum, attendees began to explore the idea of forming an HG Resident Council. Join us Saturday, September 13, to further explore this idea and identify next steps: 3-4:30 pm, in the Arts & Crafts Room. Questions, comments, please contact Marilyn Macdonald at thevoiceforresidentsforum@gmail.com

Woodshop Club

The Woodshop Club promotes use of the woodshop and better

care of the equipment, focuses on safety within the woodshop, and helps develop new woodworking classes, fellowship, and training. Meetings are the first Wednesday of the month, 1 pm, Skyview Room. Member experience varies from beginner level to experienced woodworking individuals. You are invited to join this great energetic club, and have an opportunity to share your ideas and initiatives relating to woodworking. Come learn why the members all love working with wood — from designing writing pens to wall hangings and furniture. Direct questions to President John Sinning at heathergardenswoodshopclub@gmail.com.

Writers Club

Do you want to write your memoirs? Have you put poems or prose to paper? Have you thought of writing a book, but didn't think you could? Come meet with other writers at the HG Writers Club. Join us on Thursdays, 1-4 pm, Skyview Room. Club contact: Barbara Creswell, 651-485-3608.

Clubs/Organizations & Sports/Recreation

SUBMISSIONS

Email:

Gloria Leshner:
gjlesher@gmail.com

***Monthly Deadline is listed on p. 30**
300 word limit

*Please note: any submissions after deadline may not be included in the upcoming issue of

Heather 'n Yon

SPORTS & RECREATION

Billiard Club

The Billiard Club meets for Co-ed 8-Ball at 6:30 pm on Tuesdays. Check in BEFORE 6:10 pm in order to play. Men's 9-Ball is at 7 pm on Thursdays. Annual dues of \$12 are payable on Jan. 1 of each year. All new players are welcome. Questions? Call Connie Burns 303-695-0766 or Judy Brehmer 303-369-6258.

8 BALL WINNERS 7/17 – 8/14
July 29:

1. Otis Lawson/Judy Hein
2. Dee Moore Team
3. Brian Bucenec/Margie Sloan

Aug. 5:
1. Otis Lawson/Dee Moore
2. Lindy Davenport/Linda Gonzalez
3. Judy Brehmer Team

Aug 12:
1. Otis Lawson/Shannon Boyd
2. Ron P & Karin Marshall
3. Lindy Davenport/Judy Hein

9 BALL WINNERS 7/17 – 8/14
July 17:

1. Otis Lawson
2. Brian Bucenec
3. Leo Ferrin

July 24:
1. Scott Crowl
2. Ditto Schultz
July 31:
1. Doug Miller
2. Ditto Schultz
3. Roger Goldstein

Aug 7 :
1. Otis Lawson
2. John Manzanares
3. Brian Bucenec
Aug 14
1. Otis Lawson
2. Leo Ferrin
3. Brian Bucenec

Bowling League

Our league will start our 2025-2026 season on Thursday, September 4. We bowl at Arapahoe Bowl, 6850 S. Dayton, 10 am every Thursday. It is a mixed league; all bowlers are welcome. Please contact Mary Jo Prichard at mjpinsurance@hotmail.com, if you would like to get any additional information. We hope you will join us!

Bridge/Men's Monday

This group meets every Monday, 10 am–2 pm, in the Skyview Room. Questions: Tom Melton, 303-570-6584.

Bridge/Social

Open, casual, intermediate-level bridge is played on Thursdays in Mountain View Room and Sundays, Skyview Room, 1–3:30 pm. No reservations or partner needed. Please call before you come the first time. – Joanne Turner, 719-641-3644

Bunco

Bunco meets the first and third Thursdays each month, 1–3:30 pm. We gather in the Blue Spruce Room at 12:45 pm, and start play at 1 pm. For information: Carli Williams, carliwilliams@hotmail.com, 303-518-7337.

Cribbage/Afternoon

Afternoon Cribbage meets 12:30-3 pm Wednesdays, in the Clubhouse Sunburst Café. For information: Dean Lux, 303-353-4267.

Duplicate Bridge/ACBL

We play at 1 pm Wednesdays in the Blue Spruce Room. For partnership information, or with questions, call Linda Harder, 303-369-2032, or meeek045@outlook.com. – Linda Harder, Director

Fun Gals Golf

Fun Gals Golf is held every Thursday morning at 7:36 and 7:48 am for July - September. Enjoy a relaxing time on the course without a competitive atmosphere. No handicap and no score cards to turn in. All players are positive and supportive. Call the Pro Shop to sign up each week. For more information contact Sharon Westmoreland at 303-882-2929 (text or call). See you on the Links!

Game Night

Game night is held in the Skyview room from 3-5 pm every Monday. - Lynneal Woodard, kennwood.lw@gmail.com.

Golf Club/Ladies

September marks the final month of league play for the Heather Gardens Ladies Golf Club. This month's highlights include the club championship on September 3 and 10 and the 3rd Annual Chicks and Hens event on September 24.

GOLF GENIUS MEETING: This year the club has been evaluating a computer program called Golf Genius to record and track weekly scores. On September 17 at 1 pm in Rendezvous, there will be an all-member meeting to report on the results of that effort and to discuss how the club should move forward with the technology. All members are encouraged to attend and learn more about this undertaking and its impact on the club's success. A discussion regarding GHIN (Golf Handicap Information Network) will also be part of the meeting.

CLUB ELECTIONS: On August 20, the club held its annual election of officers. Congratulations to the following members who will serve in leadership positions during 2026.

- President – Lisa Matthews
- Vice President – Beulah Gould
- Secretary – Mary Kay Rohrer
- Treasurer – Nancy Reid

BATTLE OF THE GARDENS: The league is proud to announce that thanks to the stellar play of 17 club members, Heather Gardens retained the trophy in the annual Battle of the Gardens event.

While the players from Windsor Gardens were worthy opponents, the HG team prevailed. Thanks to the following league members for participating:

Linda Gonzalez
Marilyn Kaub
Jeanine Kilde
Cindy Koch
Florence Madonna
Lisa Matthews
Joan McGary
Bev Nelson
Betty Parko
Glenda Pitts
Nancy Reid
Sue Robertson
Liz Sanchez
Sharla Sheeks
Debbie Smith
Gina Studer
Nancy Wilson

CALENDAR OF EVENTS: Please add these important dates to your calendar.

- September 3 & 10 - Club Championship
 - September 17 – Golf Genius Information Meeting
 - September 24 – 3rd Annual Hens and Chicks Event
 - October 1 – Member/Resident Guest Day
 - October 15 – Fall Banquet
- All women interested in league play are invited to join HGLGC, regardless of skill level. Learn more about the club and get a membership application at the Heather Gardens Pro Shop and our website, www.heathergardensladiesgolfclub.com. The next board meeting will be at 1 pm, Wednesday, September 24. All members are welcome. Board meeting minutes are posted on the website.

Tournament Results July 13 (Step Aside Scramble)

1st Ellen Allie, Betty Parko, Charlane Plucheck
2nd Nancy Wilson, Nancy Reid, Debbie Smith, Sue Robertson
3rd Judy Nelson, Rosalie Einspahr, Ann Agee, Susan Craig
4th Colleen Kreft, Connie Burns, Joan McGary, Maureen McBride
5th Debbie Conlon, Margaret Shoup, Linda Gonzalez, Bonnie McMullen

Tournament Results July 23
Flight A

1st Nancy Wilson
2nd JoAnn Fitch
3rd Glenda Pitts
4th Beulah Gould
Flight B

1st Bonnie Soman
2nd Marilyn Kaub
3rd Susan Brennan
4th Nancy Reid
Flight C

1st Ann Agee
2nd Dee Moore
3rd Bev Nelson
4th Maria Cole
Flight D

1st Lisa Matthews
2nd Eileen Umhoefer
3rd Suzi Stolte
4th Betty Adams
Low Gross Awards
Flight A – Liz Sanchez
Flight B – Karin Bentley

Flight C – Linda Gonzalez
Flight D – Judy Brehmer
Chip-ins – Beulah Gould, Marilyn Kaub

Tournament Results July 30

Flight A

1st Colleen Kreft
2nd Beulah Gould
3rd Phyllis Joslin
4th Liz Sanchez

Flight B

1st Marilyn Kaub
2nd Susan Brennan
3rd Karin Bentley
4th Kathy Stebbins

Flight C

1st Linda Gonzalez
2nd Ann Agee
3rd Sharla Sheeks
4th Linda Hileman

Flight D

1st Suzi Stolte
2nd Connie Burns
3rd Eileen Umhoefer
4th Susan Craig

Low Gross Awards

Flight A – Nancy Wilson

Flight B – Margaret Shoup

Flight C – Debbie Smith

Flight D – Nina Churchman

Birdies – Marsha Swink, Gina Studer, Colleen Kreft

Chip-ins – Sharla Sheeks

Tournament Results August 6

Flight A

1st Beulah Gould
2nd Sheryl Warmbold
3rd Joyce Laffea
4th Brenda Lees

Flight B

1st Karin Bentley
2nd Betty Parko
3rd Margie Francone
4th Cindy Koch

Flight C

1st Linda Gonzalez
2nd Ann Agee
3rd Dee Moore
4th Linda Hileman

Flight D

1st Susan Craig
2nd Sharon Weiss
3rd Connie Burns
4th Judy Brehmer

Low Gross Awards

Flight A – Charlane Plucheck

Flight B – Bonnie Soman

Flight C – Bonnie McMullen

Flight D – Lisa Matthews

Birdies – Liz Sanchez, Kathy Stebbins

Tournament Results August 13

Flight A

1st Colleen Kreft
2nd Beulah Gould
3rd Brenda Lees
4th Nancy Wilson

Flight B

1st Gina Studer
2nd Margie Francone
3rd Marilyn Kaub
4th Bonnie Soman

Flight C

1st Flo Madonna
2nd Bev Nelson
3rd JoAnn Sterling
4th Linda Savage

Flight D

1st Lisa Matthews
2nd Gwen Alexander
3rd Sandy Costello
4th Maureen McBride

Low Gross Awards

Flight A – Charlane Pluchek
Flight B – Marsha Swink
Flight C – Linda Gonzalez
Flight D – Jeannie McCabe
Chip-ins – Debbie Schmeisser, Judy Phillips
-Publicity Chair, Suzi Stolte

Golf/Men's

The Heather Gardens Men's Golf Club (HGMGC) season is underway, but we still have room for anyone who wants to join. Pick up your application at the Golf Pro Shop. You may also download the application from Golf League Tracker (GLT) at www.golfleaguetracker.com/glthome/league. Send an email to jon.freyer54@gmail.com for login instructions. The application fee is \$50 and all applications must be turned into the Golf Pro Shop. If you have any questions, please contact the Golf Pro Shop, (303) 751-2390.

Congratulations to Fred Lowe, Jr. for winning the Heather Gardens Men's Golf Club Match Play Championship!

July 18 Results

E Flight

Tony Schierbeck
Neil Miller
Glenn Riggs

D Flight

Todd Reid
Cliff Creswell
Tom Smith, Robert Luevano

C Flight

Cal Green
Don Schultz
Mark Ethridge, Mike Benowitz

B Flight

Mike Steffens
Sam Thiessen, Russ Smith
Butch Shoup

A Flight

Fred Lowe Jr, Butch Harper
Chris Hughes, Dave Rose, Dave Schmit

Steve Hesser, Pete Profera

Closest to the Hole

#6 - Butch Harper
#8 - Gary Kessler

July 25 Results

E Flight

Glenn Riggs, Richard Apt, Tony Shierbeck
Bob Woods

Kenny Duncan, Jon Erion

D Flight

Lou Sillstrop
Blair Kittleson
David Croak, Robert Luevano

C Flight

Mark Ruhl
Greg Harter
Mike Benowitz

B Flight

Jim Stebbins
Wally Armistead
Gary Kessler, Mike Steffens

A Flight

John Bender
Fred Lowe Jr
Don Daily, Dave Rose

Closest to the Hole

#6 - Bob Woods
#8 - Phil Haas

August 1 Results

E Flight

Joe Robinson, Bob Woods, Mark Giarratano
Glenn Riggs

John Guise

D Flight

Tom Smith
David Croak, Robert Luevano,
Bob McElfresh, Phil Corliss, Blair Kittleson

C Flight

Fred Skirde
Greg Harter

Tom Merges

B Flight

Butch Shoup, Jeff Green
Martin Menard, Mike Steffens
John Good

A Flight

Chris Hughes
Fred Lowe Jr, Pete Profera
Don Daily

Closest to the Hole

#6 - Tom Smith
#8 - Sam Thiessen

August 8 Results

E Flight

Paul Spoutz
Glenn Riggs, Mike Corcoran, Phil Haas, Jon Erion

Kenny Duncan, Kelvin Klink

D Flight

Cliff Creswell, Joe DeCristofaro
Steve Miedema
Bob Streno, Bob McElfresh

C Flight

Cal Green
John McMullen
Tim Bessey, Eric Neel, Tom Merges

B Flight

Mike Steffens
Butch Shoup, Reg Craigo
Martin Menard, Doug Miller

A Flight

Butch Harper
Dave Warmbold, Russ Smith
Pete Profera, Tom Parko

Closest to the Hole

#6 - Mark Ethridge
#8 - Tom Smith

Hand (Knee) and Foot

Also known as Tripleplay, this is a variation of Canasta. Fun and easy to learn. We meet every Tuesday, noon–4 pm (starts 12:15 pm), Mountain View Room. Call Linda Serio, 303-396-2218, or just show up.

Mah Jongg/Monday

We meet 1–4 pm every Monday, Blue Spruce Room. If that room is not available, ask at the Activities Desk for our location. We play for a maximum of \$3, so bring your coins. All players are welcome, but you must have the latest Mah Jongg League card. If you are just curious about the game, feel free to drop by to observe. For information: Bobbie Klapp, 720-708-6738.

Mah Jongg/Tuesday

We meet 1–4 pm every Tuesday, Blue Spruce Room. All players are welcome. Please have the latest Mah Jongg League card. Social game: we do not play for money, only glory. Never played Mah Jongg? Come and observe, to see if you wish to learn. Free lessons can be arranged. Call Laurie, 720-210-8033, or Bobbie, 520-743-6849, for information.

Mexican Train Dominoes

We play noon–3 or 4 pm, every Saturday, Arts & Crafts Room. It's a game for everyone. – Mara Goskirk 510-333-9951.

Pickleball

Come and enjoy America's fastest growing sport with us. We offer fun experiences for players of all skill levels including open play and instruction as well as mixers and socials throughout the month. We provide paddles and pickleballs for new players and offer beginner instruction on Fridays by request. If you are interested in learning the game, please contact Jan Belt at janetbelt4@gmail.com for more information. Visit <https://www.hgpickle.org> for the latest club and schedule information and to find many informative pickleball links. Contact Jan Belt at 303-514-8526 or Linda Hileman at 720-256-7477 if you have any questions. If you would like to be added to our weekly email updates, let Ron know at ronhileman@gmail.com. We'd love for you to join us on the courts!

Ping Pong

Fun and great exercise. Come join us in playing doubles, 2 pm on Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday in the Game Room. You can also play by contacting the Activities Desk in the clubhouse. If you have questions, call June Brigandi, 720-495-0273

Poker/Men's & Texas Hold 'em

On Mondays, we play Texas Hold 'em (12:30–5 pm) in the Mountain View Room, except on the first Monday of the month, when we play in the Banquet Room. On

Wednesdays, we play Men's Poker (12:30–5 pm) in the Mountain View Room. On Fridays, we play Texas Hold 'em (12:30–5 pm) in the Mountain View Room.

Our Texas Hold 'em games are open to the ladies. Our men-only poker games consist of a variety of dealers' choice games. For information, please call Paul Reddy, 303-750-0442, or Larry Hill, 720-272-7765.

Rummikub

A rummy-like tile game that is played in tables of four. Easy to learn, fun to play. Lodgepole Lounge on Wednesdays, 1-3 pm. -Rosemarie Kessler, 303-337-7005.

Square Dance

Heather Twirlers invites all square dancers to join us every first and third Wednesday 7-9 pm, Sandberg Auditorium. The cost is \$7. If you are an experienced dancer, a newer dancer or feeling a little rusty in your dancing, it is an excellent chance to both experience the joy of dancing and improve your skills, while meeting new and old friends. You meet other dancers, have a lot of fun and get your exercise. Any questions call Beverly Nelson at 303-750-6632.

Tai Chi

Experience the ancient art of Tai Chi, a graceful form of exercise that integrates mind, body, and spirit. With slow, controlled movements, Tai Chi promotes relaxation, balance, and flexibility, while reducing stress and improving overall well-being. One of the best ways to learn Tai Chi is the step-by-step approach used by the Heather Gardens Tai Chi Club. The club meets on Thursday mornings from 8-11 am on the clubhouse tennis courts. The club is a residents only club. Please contact Dean Uyeno via e-mail at dean.uyeno@live.com prior to your first meeting for information that will help make your first experience enjoyable and productive.

Tennis Club

Recently, the days have been very hot! That is why during the summer months we play from 8 - 10 am while it is still cool. On Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays you will see us on the courts next to the clubhouse. We will be playing on the second and fourth Saturdays there, too. But, on the first and third Saturdays, we play on the Utah Park courts. With advanced notice, we can supply a racquet if you need one. Come join us or call (303) 587-9797 for more information. W. Pfaffhausen

Time4Tap Dance Group

Step in time with tap dance. Learn steps, combinations, routines and dances to a variety of music, tempos and styles. Make Time4Tap in the Sandberg Auditorium on Thursdays: Intermediate/Advanced meets from 11 am -12 pm and Beginning/Intermediate meets from 12 -1 pm. QUESTIONS? Call or text Julie Whalen at 303-550-5985 or email jwhalen97@comcast.net

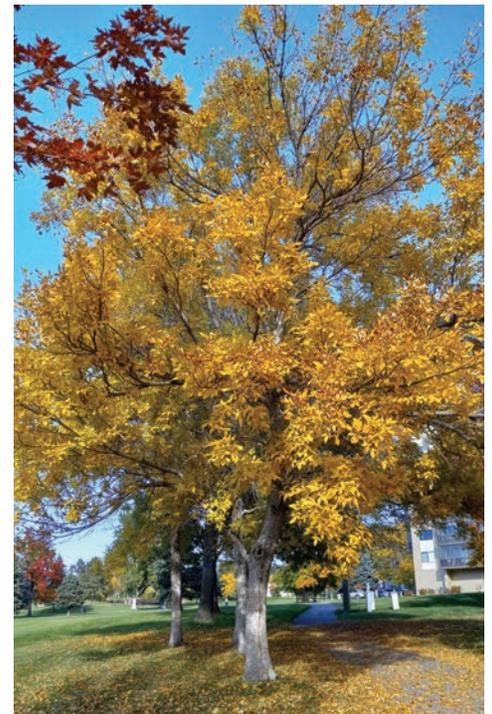


Photo by Janis Farrell

Daughters of the British Empire continued...

near Leeds). The stay didn't work out. "There really wasn't much to do except go to the pub," Groundwell says. "I tried to adjust and I couldn't." She returned to Southern California.

Groundwell plans to continue researching her ancestry. "I've done a lot on my dad's side, but I want to do more on my mom's side . . . I've seen some records, but not a lot. The Billingtons, which was my mom's maiden name, did come over on the Mayflower," she notes.

A bit about herself. "I'm not married, never have been, never wanted to be," Groundwell says. "I always took care of myself. I was very independent."

She maintains a love of music. "Yorkshire is known for its singers and dancers . . . my mom used to sing a lot . . . I took voice from a retired opera singer years ago, but found out I was just too terrified to go on stage!" Groundwell laughs.

But she's not afraid to sing a few lines of the old folk song "On Ilkla Moar Baht 'at" (in standard English, "On Ilkley Moor Without a Hat," according to Wikipedia). Her clear voice doesn't waver, and she sings in a Yorkshire dialect that is delightful.

Ruth Miller - CP5

Ruth Miller is a Denver native, "an endangered species," she laughingly notes. She grew up not far from Washington Park. She remembers riding her bike to the stadium at nearby University of Denver, a structure "which is no longer there."



Ruth Miller at home. In the cabinet behind her is a Queen Elizabeth II tea set.

Miller was married to Joe for 47 years, and is mother to nine children (!), eight girls and one boy. "I have 14 grandchildren and six great-grandchildren," she adds.

Miller's an ardent anglophile. "Ever since I can remember, I've loved English things," she says. For many years, though, she didn't realize that her

English connection was more than appreciation.

Miller was aware of some German ancestry, but didn't know about the English component. "I have English ancestry a few generations back," Miller recounts. "I had my DNA done, and it came back 51 percent English."

As for the "English things" Miller appreciates:

Her favorite authors are English: Georgette Heyer, a prolific writer whose "Regency romances" were bestsellers in the UK and abroad in the 1930s through 1960s; R.F. Delderfield, who authored the expansive "God is an Englishman" series; and C.S. Forester, who depicted 18th-century naval adventures in his many "Horatio Hornblower" books.

Miller was very impressed with the "Downton Abbey" Netflix series, which explores the lives of the privileged and servant classes at a WWI-era manor house. She also liked watching the long-running British comedy series "Doc Martin," as well as the lighter mystery series "Father Brown."

A chapter historian. Miller likes history – during our conversation she talks about Catherine the Great's genealogy and reign, and how the ruler encouraged Germans to settle in Russia – so it's fitting that she is the "historian" for the Chatsworth chapter.

Miller's been assembling a "chapter scrapbook," an ongoing project for which she collects various mementos tied to chapter events. "I'm into history and I'm into scrapbooking," she says, "so it sounded like a job I could do."

"Mainly it's photographs, some newspaper clippings . . . when I go to an event, I'll pick up napkins or flyers or whatever . . . it's not a formal [process]. It's just whatever people give me or I find that concerns our chapter."

Other chapter members know to keep mementos of events or other bits of information, and pass them on to Miller. In her role as historian, Miller says that she's learned a lot about the Chatsworth chapter and the larger DBE organization.

-Bill Kaluza, B232

Curious about the Colorado DBE and membership eligibility? <https://dbecolorado.org/>

COMMUNITY INSIGHTS continued...

Comparing Dues with Other Communities

Another benchmark for evaluating dues comes from the Joint Long Range Planning Committee (JLRPC), which annually reports on HOA 55+ trends and compares HOA dues across five similar 55+ communities in the Denver/Aurora metro area.

HOA DUES COMPARISON 2025					
Communities	Heather Gardens Association (2426 units)	Windsor Gardens Owners Association (2689 units)	Heritage Eagle Bend (Master Association 830 units + Traditions 371 units and Village 241 units)	Gleneagles Village Homeowners Association (345 units)	Green Valley Ranch Reserve (About 500 units)
Senior Community	55+ In Aurora	55+ In Denver	55+ In Aurora	55+ in Highland Ranch	55+ In Aurora
Constructed	1973-1986	1962-1973	2000-2008	1984-2001	2020-now
Unit types	Condos / attached homes	Condos / attached homes	Single-family detached and attached homes including duplexes, triplexes, 4plexes	Single-family detached and attached homes	Single-family homes and courtyard style homes
Sales Price Range for sales Aug 2024 - Aug 2025	\$162,000-\$525,000	\$139,000-\$399,000	\$520,000 - \$960,000	\$469,000 - \$739,000	\$430,000 - \$859,950
Heating (in unit) included in HOA dues	YES - 2086 Condos NO-340 patio/townhomes	YES	NO	NO	NO
Water & Sewer (in unit) included in HOA dues	YES	YES	NO	YES	NO
HOA Dues, Annual	\$7,860	\$8,348	\$7,584	\$4,952	\$2,940
Taxes, Annual (2024)**	\$1,798	\$1,100 (Included in HOA Dues)	\$2,973	\$4,000 (2023)	\$6,774
HOA Dues+ Taxes , Annual	\$9,658	\$8,348	\$10,557	\$8,952	\$9,714
Special Assessment	No	\$2,572* (2025)	No	No	No
HOA Fee, Monthly	\$655	\$696	\$632	\$413	\$245
HOA + Taxes, Monthly	\$805	\$696	\$880	\$746	\$810
Notes: -All data on homes sold from 300-500K deemed reliable from Denver Multiple Listing Service and Realtor.com. -Sales price range data for all sales last 12 months (source: Perplexity). * Windsor Gardens "Loss Assessment Expense" caused by 2024 hail storm. ** Taxes in HEB, Gleneagles, and GVR are significantly higher because of different special district financing policies.					

Amenities	Club House	Outdoor Pool	Fitness Center	Classes	Tennis	Pickle Ball	Golf	Restaurant Onsite	Indoor Pool	Patrol Security 24/7
Heather Gardens	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Windsor Gardens	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Heritage Eagle Bend	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Gleneagles	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Green Valley Ranch Reserve	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

This 2025 analysis found that Heather Gardens ranks in the middle of combined dues and taxes while offering the most extensive list of amenities. While HOA dues are sometimes debated, comparisons show Heather Gardens provides excellent value relative to similar, nearby 55+ communities.

Join our 2026 Budget Workshop Meetings

Resident involvement is critical to the process. Budget workshops for HGA and HGMD will be held September 22–26. These meetings allow residents to stay informed, ask questions, and share input. You should plan to attend. Detailed schedule for the Budget will be emailed to residents who are signed up to receive HG email blasts via Piler.

-Community Engagement and Communications Committee / Project Insight





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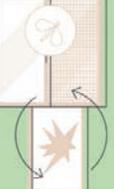
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*How Does The
 World Remind You
 You're Old?*
Mary Hafka

Years ago, I was playing bridge with a gals' group. During a break in the action, one of the women opined, "No one tells you that when you're old, you still feel young on the inside."

We were all about 50 at the time. It sounds funny today.

Because, now, I'm really old. But, like my bridge buddy of yesteryear, I mostly forget this fact.

Still, I'm reminded every time I try to stand up, when I've been sitting a while. Or when I have to climb the basement stairs, after starting a load of laundry.

(Senior joke: Now that I've gotten older, everything's finally starting to click for me. My knees. My back. My neck.)

They say that getting old isn't for sissies. But it's worse than that.

Getting old makes me want to put on my boxing gloves, and enter the ring. Because every time 30-something salesclerks address me as "dear," I think I'm entitled to punch their lights out.

When some younger person calls me dear, I bare my teeth, and snarl, demanding my senior discount. I think that's what they call being triggered.

My trigger finger already being itchy, I next take aim at the entire institution of the senior discount. This is because I forget how old I must look, until some perky young thing manning the checkout stand chirps, "Senior discount?"

I used to forget altogether to ask for a senior discount, but I'm evolving. If everyone wants to remind me that I look too old to be upright, the least I can do is rake back some money, for the insult.

When I first moved to HG, I was 48. The minimum age to live here, then, was 39 – not 55, as it is today.

I used to think the older folks I encountered sure found fault a lot. I pronounced complaining the National Pastime of HG, and wondered what anybody living here, in this paradise, had to whine about?

But now I understand that the people who I thought were cranky probably had just bent over to tie their shoes, and discovered they couldn't straighten up. It explains so much.

(Oldies joke: don't let aging get you down. It's too hard to get back up.)

Years ago, when I worked part-time at the Clubhouse reception desk, the variety and depth of complaints I fielded were memorable. People carped about matters that left my limited imagination in the dust.

But now, the worm has turned. These days, I'm the person who marches on the Clubhouse, and demands to know if residents got to vote on the scent of soap used in the women's shower? Or who decided that the Blue Spruce Room ought not, logically, to be painted blue?

I think this is called Karma. It's more fun to be the complainer than the complaint receiver.

Being carded is another sensitive subject. I prefer an entity such as Chambers Wine & Liquors, which cards everybody. It helps me maintain the illusion that I haven't been mistaken for Methuselah's mother.

(Old guy joke: You know you are old when the only females who pursue you are mosquitoes.)

Another way the world makes you feel old is when a text arrives, telling you your groceries have been delivered, but there's nothing on your doorstep. I recently met a neighbor scouring CP6, seeking his phantom grocery delivery on every neighboring porch. I wonder if he ever found it?

Stealing shamelessly from Jeff Foxworthy's comedy schtick, "You're Probably A Redneck," I present my version, "You're Probably A Geezer:

- If a perfect stranger drives up in an unidentified golf cart, and says you look like you need a

ride, you're probably a Geezer.

- If you only select the newer lounge chairs by the HG outdoor pool, which are four inches higher than the old ones – and therefore, easier to get up from – you're probably a Geezer.
- If your "smart" electronics make you feel as if your Mensa membership has melted, you're probably a Geezer.

I have a particular sensation of feeling condescended to by my AppleWatch. The other day, while cooking, I attempted to set the timer for 15 minutes. Somehow, instead, I summoned the Canadian North-West Mounted Police. They arrived at my door, on horseback, ready to evacuate me from the Saskatchewan Glacier.

Okay, that didn't really happen. But this does happen: I've learned to keep the arm bearing my AppleWatch still. Otherwise, whenever I perform a task, such as vigorously shaking out a rug, my ApplePhone wants to call me an ambulance.

"Did you fall?" The watch asks. "Are you okay?"

Followed by, "Can I notify your next of kin?" and "Shall I make arrangements to put you in a nursing home?"

Sometimes this watch just gets too pushy. I have the uncomfortable feeling, often, of being watched by my watch.

So when my AppleWatch hovers on my wrist, plotting, I know it has simply come to the inevitable conclusion – it's hitched its virtual wagon to an old person. Somehow, I feel sorry for it.

Or I would if I weren't distracted by my own pitiful condition. You know, it's scary when you start making the same noises as your coffeemaker.

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 Spacious open floor plan with gorgeous LVP flooring that runs throughout, enhancing the home's contemporary feel. The designer paint adds a touch of sophistication to every room. Equipped kitchen with top-of-the-line stainless steel appliances. **\$339,000**



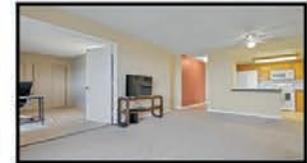
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