

Heather 'n Von

January 2024

Vol. 37, No. 11

The Official Newsmagazine for HG
www.heathergardens.org



*Heather Gardens is
blanketed in snow after two-day
snowstorm in January 2019*

Photo by Anne Hummel-Gillis



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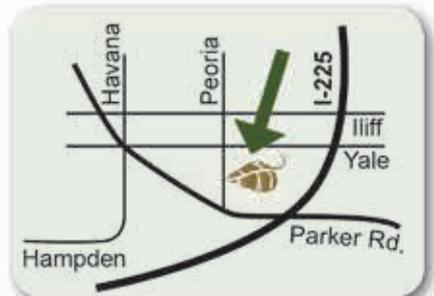
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TO HG RESIDENTS:

It is the intent of the Editors to provide information of interest to its readers, to afford persons with varying and differing views opportunity to air responsible opinions on matters of community interest and to promote community and enjoyable life pursuits.

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

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HGMD approves hiring litigator, additional restaurant staff

The HGMD Board of Directors held a special meeting on Thursday, Dec. 7. All directors attended and HGMD attorney Jennifer Ivey.

Director Eloise Laubach moved that three items be removed from the day's agenda. It died for a lack of a second. One motion she objected to was hiring a litigation attorney regarding HGMD's dispute with HGA. Laubach asked who Peter Forbes was, and who picked him?

President Daniel Taylor replied that HGMD's attorney, Jennifer Ivey, had recommended Forbes to him. Because Ivey's law firm does not do litigation, she recommended Forbes, a lawyer she had worked with before. Forbes, when introduced on Zoom, commented that his "primary goal in a case is not to win, but to resolve a dispute." He has worked 20 years with special districts in Colorado.

HGA Director Linda Hileman commented, "If you go down this path, and HGA does as well, it's just going to cost the community thousands and thousands of dollars."

Candice Compton, B220, asked, "Could you table this [decision] for one month?" She noted a new HGA board would be installed in January with new members who "seem more amenable."

The board did not table the motion, and approved hiring Forbes. Despite several residents asking that a following motion be tabled for a month, the board also approved terminating the management agreement with HGA on Dec. 31, 2024.

The board approved asking for a detailed accounting of the wages and benefits of employees whose hours were billed to HGMD. Taylor remarked that HGMD could not assess whether the charges were reasonable without the information. Treasurer Rita Effler added that — as HGMD now is retaining a separate auditor — "we need this information for the audit."

The board approved hiring additional restaurant staff, including a chef and two part-time servers. Restaurant Committee Chair Robin O'Meara explained the additional staff was budgeted for 2024, but was needed immediately, for the 2023 holiday-banquet season.

Other items approved by the board:

- removed HGMD from the Comcast contract because the RV lot has installed its own security measures.
- redistributed capital funds that had been appropriated for 2022 and 2023 projects — \$339,131 to 2024. The net amount for 2024 capital expenditures will be \$941,491.
- extended the hours for family swim, over the holidays, to 10 am–noon and 2–4 pm daily, starting Dec. 23 and ending Jan. 2, 2024, when classes resume.

After its regular meeting, the board adjourned into executive session.

• • •

The HGMD Board of Directors held an open-forum meeting in Sandberg Auditorium on Saturday, Dec. 9. Director Eloise Laubach did not attend.

Taylor said the meeting was a "carryover from Thursday (Dec. 7)," as time ran out to answer questions.

He invited attendees to ask questions.

Taylor proceeded to speak for an hour, however, without taking any questions. O'Meara interjected that time was running out and questions needed to be taken — as the Saturday Catholic mass needed the room at 1 pm. Taylor insisted, "I know, but I need to respond" to inaccuracies. He continued to list historical events regarding HGA's failure to provide good management over HGMD properties.

Al Lindeman, CP5, gave his email address, offering to furnish to anyone a copy of the letter he sent to *Heather 'n Yon*, explaining his reasons for supporting a recall of four HGMD directors (see page 31).

Martha Karnopp, B214, noted she is an attorney who is providing legal advice to the petition circulators, free of charge. She said that four directors are voting as a block — which is never a good thing.

Another audience member asked if HGA would be willing to do a forum, such as this, in January? She added, "I object to using lawyers, not because of the expense, but because they impede communication."

Taylor noted that terminating the management agreement would not occur until the end of 2024. Negotiations could continue throughout the coming year.

• • •

The HGMD Board of Directors held its regular meeting on Thursday, Dec. 21. All directors attended, as did Jennifer Ivey and attorney Peter Forbes.

President Daniel Taylor announced he was seeking a chair for the Clubs/Activities Committee.

The board approved paying the insurance premium to the Colorado Special Districts and Liability Pool (\$565,288). Treasurer Rita Effler noted that HGMD had added coverage for volunteers. A hail-and-wind-damage rider was included and explained.

Following discussion, the board approved tabling a motion to approve changes to its Election Procedure Memorandum (PM). Ivey explained that Colorado statutes already cover some of the changes proposed and it dangerously tries to regulate speech on signs. She suggested the board let her review the measure, and make recommendations. It was tabled.

The board approved a motion to update the signers on its Key bank account, as some directors no longer on the board still are listed.

The board adjourned into executive session. When it returned to a public session, the board passed a motion, made by O'Meara, which read: "I move to direct Peter Forbes, legal counsel for HGMD, to file a complaint seeking relief based upon the Heather Gardens Association's breach of the Management Agreement."

O'Meara added, "This complaint does not mean we cannot get together in the 60 days that the complaint is being authorized. There is always time to talk."

The motion passed. Laubach voted no. Taylor adjourned the meeting.

HGA Board statement on Management Agreement dispute

In the interest of respecting the confidentiality restrictions within the Management Agreement (Article VII, paragraph 1, letter e.), the Association Board (BOD) has not been able to be as transparent as you deserve, or as forthcoming as we would have liked. However, based on statements made by HGMD over the past few weeks, the Association BOD now feels that the confidentiality portion of the Management Agreement (MA) has lost its effectiveness. This statement is intended to provide Heather Gardens residents with information about actions HGA has taken and will take with respect to the MA.

Litigation. Although the MA suggests pursuing litigation for violation of dispute confidentiality, the Association BOD believes that any litigation between the two boards or the entities they represent would not be in the best interest of the Heather Gardens community, financially or practically, and the Association BOD will not initiate this course of action.

Steps Toward Dispute Resolution. Formal mediation between the Association and District boards was held, for one day, but the conflicts regarding the MA are not resolved. The District BOD has hired a litigation lawyer. But the Association BOD continues to hold out hope that agreement can be reached to benefit the whole community (and the staff who serve it). The Association BOD communicated its commitment to several things in mediation, and the Association BOD intends to carry out those commitments, as follows:

Board Communication. Leadership meetings involving HGA and HGMD board members are scheduled monthly. Since the May HGMD election, HGMD President Taylor only attended one meeting and has not suggested alternative options for these meeting times. However, HGA's repeated offers to meet more frequently, in public, are still on the table.

Renegotiated MA. The Association BOD concedes that the MA document could be improved, and has approved a motion to form a joint Ad-Hoc Committee on MA Dispute Resolution. It is the hope of HGA's BOD that this Ad-Hoc Committee, along with more frequently scheduled meetings with HGMD BOD leadership, can resolve the issues between the Association and District without the need for litigation.

Employment Matters. HGA employs staff throughout Heather Gardens. The District does not employ any staff; rather the District contracts with HGA, through the MA, to staff District facilities. The MA that we are currently operating under, in Article IV, paragraph 3, states, "All matters concerning the employment of the Association's employees will remain confidential between the Association and its respective employees, and the Association shall have no obligation to disclose such confidential matters to the District." HGA has adhered to this term of the

MA and, as the employer of staff has not supplied the District with the level of financial details the District BOD is demanding related to Association employees. The HGMD BOD has cited case law they believe overrules the MA, however, the District's own lawyer stated in an open meeting that there is contradictory case law on this subject. Despite this, the Association is in the process of providing the District with more detailed staff role and compensation range information, and HGA has provided the District with an updated organizational chart as HGA committed to do in mediation.

The District BOD was asked to stop directing or giving work-related instructions directly to Association staff. (Yes, this communication occurred through expensive attorneys because other methods had not worked) The MA contract forbids District board members from directing Association staff in Article I, paragraph 4. We know the District BOD has received communications about these violations because, in meetings, they repeatedly have stated that "I'm/We're not allowed to talk to staff." Members of both boards, HGA and HGMD, as residents, are and have always been allowed to speak with and have cordial conversations, and even ask questions of, our staff. But board members are not permitted to ask about staff pay or direct or instruct staff in their jobs, as this can lead to confusion for the staff as to who is their supervisor. These requirements around communicating with staff are in place for BOTH boards.

Communication with Residents. On advice of legal counsel to protect the community from potential litigation due to false, misleading, or potentially defamatory statements, the Association BOD has informed HGMD that HGA will only publish a District-generated editorial Pitera message if it contains a disclaimer that HGA wasn't responsible for its content and it had been approved by the District's attorney. HGA understands the HGMD BOD has told the community the District's attorney refused to review and approve these messages. The offer to have HGA staff edit District postings was rejected by the District, and that is why there have been no editorial notices from the District on Pitera. The Association continues to distribute District meeting information and other announcements via Pitera. The Association also is not using Pitera for its own editorial messages.

In an effort to "get on with the business" of both entities and save untold thousands in legal fees, the Association Board is open to cordial, two-way, productive conversations with the District and promises to continually keep the best interests of the Heather Gardens community in the forefront of our minds as we proceed.

– HGA Board: Jill Bacon, David Baxter, Larry Dávila, Bill Gold, Linda Hileman, Terry Hostetler, David Kennedy, Mike Pula, and Greg Winslow.

2024 officers elected, settlement of management agreement pursued

The HGA Board of Directors held a special meeting on Thursday, Dec. 7. The sole agenda item was electing new officers for 2024

Larry Dávila was unopposed for the office of president. Director-elect John Recob announced he would not be a candidate for any office. Subsequent meeting minutes record that he was a candidate for treasurer.

The 2024 officers will be Dávila, president; Mike Pula, vice president; Ray Nash, treasurer, and Sue McBeth, secretary. After a run-off for secretary between McBeth and David Baxter, McBeth won on the second ballot.

President-elect Dávila asked members of the 2024 board to send him their choices to chair an HGA committee, noting their first, second and third choice. The sooner, the better, he added.

...

The board held its regular meeting on Tuesday, Dec. 19, with all members and 2024 members-elect in attendance. President Jill Bacon — presiding over her last meeting — read a statement about the management-agreement dispute. See page 6.

Personnel Policy Committee Chair Larry Dávila announced that interviews had begun for a new HG general manager (GM). The team performing the interviews is Dávila, Bacon, McBeth, HGA Directors David Kennedy and Mike Pula, John Harvey, Acting GM Holly Shearer, and HGMD Director Eloise Laubach.

Dávila reported that a compensation agreement had been reached for Shearer, who is covering the GM responsibilities, in addition to those of her own position, human resources manager. HG filled the controller position on Dec. 4 with Carrie Toennis. A Certified Public Accountant, Toennis brings a varied experience in accounting, governmental entities, auditing, and management.

The board approved forming an ad hoc committee on the Management Agreement Dispute Charter. The ad hoc committee is to be comprised of five to nine registered electors of the HGMD who are not elected directors to either board. Comprised of volunteers, the committee is charged to provide an objective framework for the management agreement by June 24, which would have to be approved by both boards. The committee will address current issues and disputes between the two boards.

Kennedy expressed concern that the board was abrogating its fiduciary responsibilities by asking non-board members to work on the issue. Others felt that obtaining input from the community could only assist with achieving consensus on the management agreement, which — thus far — has eluded resolution.

HGMD Director Rita Effler echoed the concern that the boards should be the ones to straighten out the chaos. HGA Director Bill Gold added, "This is an offer to HGMD, not a directive. If HGMD doesn't want to [participate], they don't have to."

The board approved a second motion, to engage in monthly — or more frequent — public meetings with

the GM and HGMD, called Leadership Work Sessions, on topics of "the highest priority." Resolving the management agreement could be one topic, although Gold — who made the motion — said other concerns undoubtedly would arise. Meetings would be recorded on Zoom.

HGMD has terminated the management contract, as of Dec. 31, 2024. Gold noted the workshops would offer a forum to discuss issues that are most pressing to the community, in a setting that all residents can view. Residents can follow the negotiations to solve problems, and observe where snags arise. Meeting recordings will be available for residents to listen if they miss the meeting.

The board approved carry forward sums of money to complete projects in 2024 that were budgeted for 2023. Projects included:

- Large retaining walls, \$103,500
- Plumbing infrastructure, \$150,000
- Atrium waterproofing via Xeriscape, \$72,450
- Parking slab coating, \$62,100
- Boiler renovation, \$124,200
- Parking Structure (PS) maintenance, \$1,004,392
- Parking Structure stair replacement, \$809,302

The total carryover amount approved totaled \$2,325,944. Maintenance Committee Chair Pula added to his motion a provision for reviewing each item in January to determine what work remains after November and December invoices are paid. The carryover dollars could change.

Pula reported that work on the stairs of PS 1 and 3 will continue into the new year. The engineering design for PS 2 and 4 is expected in January. RFPs for that work would go out once these reports are provided, he said.

The board approved a motion, stating that Pileira and Area Representative Organization postings be limited to topics that are informational, not editorial in nature. Kennedy asked that *Heather 'n Yon* be included in the motion, but others noted *Heather 'n Yon* is a private company, and many residents like being able to express themselves in the "Letters to the Editor" section.

The board adjourned its regular meeting, and reconvened with directors on the 2024 board. They approved 2024 President Larry Dávila's appointments as committee chairs and members. (See page 22 for the list.)

The board adjourned into emergency executive session, as described by Bacon, to meet with HGA's attorney on personnel matters.

During committee reports, other comments made to the board include:

...a request for optional items to be included in the HG census, which will be finalized Jan. 2.

...\$5,000 had been earmarked, in 2024, to improve HG's website. Suggestions for improvements are welcome.

...some insurance issues regarding the May floods to CP basements are still being negotiated. Action expected at a future board meeting.



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HGMD Board President Reports

By Daniel Taylor

On Dec. 9, HGMD had a public meeting explaining the performance issues with management. First, HGA has limited the administrative duties that it once performed for HGMD. They ceased preparing meeting minutes and just recently agreed to prepare regular meeting minutes only.

Second, HGA has demanded that all communication with HGA go through one person. HGMD Directors cannot even respond to an employee's email without a complaint from the HGA attorney.

Third, HGA is required by the management agreement to "maintain accurate records of all moneys received and disbursed...including the operation and management of the properties, and such records shall be open for inspection by the District..." During the budget workshops, the HGA CEO and CFO were confused about the number of full-time employees billed to HGMD. Based upon this confusion and other inconsistencies, HGMD requested an accounting of the \$1.2 million dollars billed to HGMD by HGA. This is a reasonable request, and is required by our fiduciary duty.

HGA has insisted that HGMD has increased HGA's workload. We have not. For example, prior to 2020, the board assistant sat at the small table to take notes for the board's meeting minutes. This is no longer done. We asked that the Zoom host be present in the boardroom, even if only for regular meetings. HGA refused saying HGA staff is too busy. We asked that HGA staff speaking to the board be present in the boardroom. HGA refused saying HGA staff is too busy. HGA is unable or unwilling to perform the tasks necessary for the District to function. HGMD has no dedicated administrative assistant.

HGA staff refused to post Zoom recordings on the website, despite HGMD explaining that they are public records. Other HGMD documents were removed from the website, and were not restored after I complained. The District was forced to create its own website to make its documents available.

HGA directors have stated that HGMD has the same access to Pitera as HGA, but that is not true. HGA required that HGMD messages be preapproved by its attorney, and HGA would post a disclaimer that HGA isn't responsible for what we say.

We have to respond to continual complaint from HGA's attorney resulting in attorney fees between \$14,000–16,000 per month.

At the Dec. 9 meeting, HGA Director Bill Gold said that meetings between both boards should be open to the public. That is what we requested in June.

Prior to our Dec. 7 meeting, HGA circulated a flyer that had untrue and inflammatory statements. At HGA's

request, we proposed a redlined version of the management agreement. Through their attorney, HGA proposed a split of the employees. We agreed, but when we asked specific questions, HGA said it was too complicated, they wanted to go to mediation. Now, the flyer argues that splitting the employees would duplicate staff. At mediation, HGA withdrew those offers. This has been the pattern. Each time we thought we had an agreement with HGA, it was withdrawn at the next meeting because the entire board didn't agree.

We hear the rumors that HGA is stalling until we're recalled, but I wouldn't bet on that. At our Dec. 9 meeting, the audience was overwhelmingly supportive, and endorsed our initiatives. Despite HGA criticism that we wouldn't be able to fill our committees, the committees are going strong and working hard. The restaurant increased its income in September by \$18,000 and lowered expenses almost that much. We only had four people speak out against our budget during our public budget meetings. Two residents who spoke are now involved in the recall of HGMD directors.

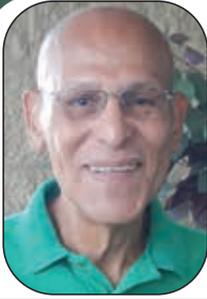
So, about the recall. A committee of three people filed a petition to recall the four new HGMD directors. We objected to the petition because the statute says that it shall not include any false statements. I have posted the recall petition and our objections on our website at: HGmetroDist.org. The petition was disallowed for false statements. They have refiled the petition with more false statements that we will object to.

Other untrue allegations from the Dec 9 meeting: We did not hand pick the Designed Election Official (DEO). The previous DEO was an HGA staff member. Former HGMD President Al Lindeman said he has seen confidential employee exit interviews that only could have come from staff. We requested an independent DEO.

The company chosen by HGA staff to run the last election was selected. The HGMD attorney represents the District, not the four directors who are the target of the recall. We do not control her advice to the DEO, but the District must pay her fees. So far, her fees for the recall have run about \$5,473. The fees for the DEO are \$2,303 to date. Those will double with this latest round of petitions. Our election in May cost more than \$43,000. It is a shame that four residents can cost HGMD so much money.

Thank you to all of you who braved the weather to support our efforts.

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HGA Board President Reports

By Larry Dávila

It is only proper to begin this column with a word of thanks to those individuals who volunteer to work on committees, become candidates for election, work behind the scenes, and, in general, contribute to making Heather Gardens a better community.

Staying with the thanks theme, I'm grateful to those who took voting seriously and elected a slate of three HGA directors to a three-year term and one to two years respectively. We now say "The people have spoken." Back in Roman times, they would have said: "Vox populi, vox dei," which would be translated as "the voice of the people is the voice of god." If you are pleased with the results, fine. If not, dialogue with those now in office and pursue a "win-win" situation.

I would be remiss if I failed to give credit to directors whose terms came to an end: Jill Bacon, Terry Hostetler, and Greg Winslow. Each took their leadership roles seriously and worked tirelessly on your behalf. Likewise,

I'm looking forward to the 2024 leadership efforts of Sue McBeth, Ray Nash, and John Recob.

Now, let me state the obvious: we've seen how 2023 brought tremendous change to our community. Are those changes needed? Are we going to be better off if we continue along the same path? If not, what should we do?

One thing we should NOT do is attribute bad intentions to those with whom we disagree. I am convinced that every director tries to do what is best for the community; nobody tries purposely to make things worse. Yet, that's what happens when a person is so convinced of being right that one becomes blind to other perspectives and starts accusing the other side of unethical behavior. This leads to a sad state of affairs where the mistrust is so big that nothing positive is achieved.

What I'm suggesting is for us to stop writing letters to the *Heather 'n Yon* with a complaint like "ain't it awful" what HGMD is trying to do to HGA or vice-versa. How about proposing alternatives that would entice both boards to consider what is best for the community instead of just for one particular board?

I am convinced that negativity begets negativity and that divides us into two different camps. I continue to believe we can accomplish more together if we deal with issues and not personalities.

The "other board" is not my enemy. Whether you agree or disagree with me, we are still neighbors. I believe in "loving my neighbor as myself."

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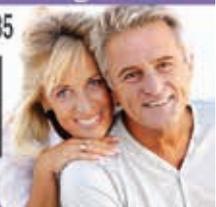
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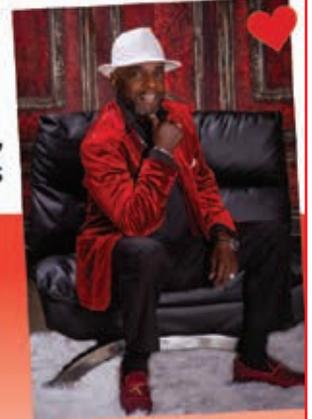
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Paid for by Robin O'Meara



Publisher's Corner

Remembering the last 26 years as editor and publisher

by Lynn Donaldson, Editor of Heather 'n Yon

"Works of love your hands employ." This mantra became my go-to reminder when I was changing jobs many years ago. I have used it many times since.

I recently wrote the HGA Board a letter to announce that I had decided to retire.

Some excerpts from that letter:

"After 26 years managing the monthly publication of *Heather 'n Yon*, and after nearly 10 years since my last contract revision in 2014, I have decided it is time to retire.

"It has been a fun and interesting experience. Recent events in my personal life have made this an important move for me and my family currently...

"Meeting and working with so many directors, management staff and residents has been an enlightening and rewarding experience."

Presently, I plan to continue each monthly magazine through March 1, unless I hear differently from the HGA Board. Their focus has been on replacing HG's general manager, controller, and resolving the HGMD-HGA issues on management of the community. *Heather 'n Yon* (HnY) has always tried to report these issues and activities without prejudice, allowing both sides to present their views in these pages.

When I began working with HnY, I had moved to Colorado in 1995 because my husband's job brought us here. My parents were delighted. They had created Donaldsons, Inc. in 1991 to take over managing the business side of the magazine — the previous publishers did not pay them well as writers and editors.

Bob and Helen Donaldson put me to work as their Advertising Manager when resident Bob Cordts asked to be replaced for his second retirement. In March 1997, I took over as owner of Donaldsons, Inc., sharing the editing with my parents for a couple years until our contract was renewed in 1999. They remained as contributors until they moved.

One continuing feature was that my company continued to share profits in the magazine with Heather Gardens (HG). I now call it a licensing fee, paid to HG quarterly. It is a source of pride that at no time has HG had to subsidize this publication.

When I started working on HnY, Keith Schmaus was general manager. HnY was there when he was replaced by Calvin Eddy-White, and then more recently with Jon Rea.

There are probably too many HGA and HGMD directors over the past 26 years to list here. I have stories that I might share about many of them, beginning with HGA President Duane Gilbert and HGMD President Jim Ahearn. Those tales will have to wait for another day, another story.

The staff I have had the pleasure to work with are memorable. Each one brought a unique contribution. It will be hardest to leave these co-workers and our regular interactions.

Writers have included Mary Hafka, Dala Giffin, Chet Flickinger, Gloria Leshner, Patricia McLaughlin, Denise McCammon and Milt Lepkin. You may still see bylines of these folks in this issue of HnY. The list of volunteer writers is much longer — I would have to investigate about 312 magazines to find them all.

Advertising Managers who followed me in that role were Cindy Crockett, Tammy Sillstrop and now Susan Harman. The last two created the graphics for advertisers in addition to selling the ad space.

In more recent years, I added HG photographers to the staff: Jeannie Girard, Anne Hummel-Gillis, Janis Farrell and Anita Hutchinson. (Early on, it was the editors who took the photos. I prefer the photos these women do now — they are much better. In fact, one

of my retirement activities may be to "brush-up" on my photography. It is an avocation I have not had time for yet.)

I would be remiss if I did not mention two graphic artists who helped design ads for *Heather 'n Yon*: Larry Froelich and Chuck Lobser. These artists knew more about designing within a confined space like a quarter-page or half-page ad than I will ever know.

I can't forget those who delivered the magazines to the buildings: Ham and Marie Noll, Mildred Hiebert, Mary Hafka, Chet Flickinger, Rich and Mavis Richardson, Dave and Debbie Madril. (When my husband Bob, and I had to substitute, we used the system the Nolls started. Bob began his door-to-door delivery on the top floor of the building, sixth or fourth, while I started on the third or second floor.)

The advertisers did indeed make this magazine possible. There are too many to name here. Many of them became like "family" to HG as they advertised for many years. Let's hope that they continue to support the community.

Another feature that I am proud to report — we paid all staff members for their time and effort. You might argue that it was not a competitive pay for an independent contractor. Yet, I like to think my staff agree that we were embarked on an important monthly effort for HG residents.

You, who have read HnY cover-to-cover, have made contributions that make this magazine unique and fun to read.

It has been a "work of love" for many of us on *Heather 'n Yon*.



Above from left: Bob Neu, Lynn Donaldson, Helen and Bob Donaldson were photographed on a cruise. The photo was used as a Christmas card in *Heather 'n Yon*, December 1998.

Ultimate misfortune can be found near Heather Gardens

Note that on Nov. 29 the abatement process got underway to relocate an encampment along Cherry Creek State Park fence. As noted below, folks experiencing homelessness moved to another nearby



Above: The homeless encampment photographed in November before it was removed. Photo by Evan Morris

location or across the street until the city finds appropriate, long-term solutions to handle the living challenges.

Bad luck, hard luck. What appears before our eyes is a tragedy of the Nth degree. In the words of a Cherry Creek State Park (CCSP) Ranger, "It can happen so easily. A person lives alone, and may not have a family. Finances get tight. They lose their car. Things progress and they get evicted from their apartment.

"Circumstances leave few choices, but they can temporarily join one of the homeless encampments for maybe a week — temporary stretches beyond what they imagined. Days become weeks, and the person is trapped.

"With good intentions, they commit to making the best of things. Many around them in the camp use drugs and exist in deplorable conditions. The few times when we (the ranger) clean the encampment, none of us want to touch anything. Needles lying all over. Trash, filth, and varmints scurry about. I can't describe the conditions these people are living in.

"Do I think these trapped people are illegal immigrants? Where we are, here at I-225 and Parker Road, no. I think these folks are local. Some have relocated here from other states because they know we have reasonably mild winters. You know, the Colorado dream."

Our unique place in the neighborhood

Heather Gardens (HG) is located near complicated judicial boundaries that create unique chal-

lenges. Arapahoe County, Denver County and City of Aurora, Cherry Creek State Park, the Army Corps of Engineers, and Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) are all located in the immediate area. It is further complicated by whether a parcel of land is unincorporated or incorporated Arapahoe County. These different jurisdictions have different rules.

Although you and I may not understand all the rules, the homeless do. They know how to play the system. This is why when you see an area in unincorporated Arapahoe County cleaned up, they move across the street to a parcel under the control of Denver or CDOT.

In July, I started corresponding with Mayor Coffman to brainstorm ideas for addressing the encampments next to HG. You may recall that Mayor Coffman went underground and lived in an encampment for a week — an experience that gave him valuable knowledge. I suggested that Mayor Coffman collaborate with the various jurisdictions, develop a standard set of rules, and collectively fund a patrol effort to keep the community clean.

Coffman has proposed to the Aurora City Council to tighten camping laws and rules. This effort should be addressed in 2024. Secondly, what should happen to these folks?

These people deserve dignity and respect. Currently, Aurora and Arapahoe County have nowhere to relocate these people. What options can be provided for housing? There are none currently but several meaningful ideas are being discussed.

I have corresponded with CDOT,

had meetings with the Arapahoe County Sheriff's Office, and am now working with newly-elected Ward V Councilwoman, Angela Lawson. (Her term begins January 1, 2024.)

The Arapahoe County Sheriff's Office has hired a full-time employee to work on solutions for the homeless. Where to relocate them and when to relocate them is priority one. Other considerations include what kind of housing can be offered? What qualifications will be required for people experiencing homelessness to be offered relocation? What will be the rules of such relocation? At this moment, there are no final answers.

In summary, many qualified sources are working on the homeless challenges. Still, it will take some time to land on the most appropriate solutions and execute those initiatives. HG residents will need some patience as our governing bodies work through this.

...

Both Sides

Yes, I and my neighbors are faced with challenges that fall front and center with people who have fallen victim to the ultimate misfortune — homelessness. We should all have an appropriate amount of empathy for these people.

Within reason, you and I should extend dignity and respect to our fellow citizens. We need to be a luminary source of hope while working to develop solutions. We do not need to project a diminishing attitude that makes these people feel small, unwanted, and worthless. I try to understand their plight.

HG residents — yes, we are being asked to endure aspects in our immediate community, affecting our front doors, that can and will test anyone's patience. I did not sign up for this affliction. It is beyond my imagination to think I must live with the circumstances that thrive a few hundred feet from our community.

If you lose your home, what are the issues and factors you may endure? Some of the most unsanitary

See *Homeless issues...*page 26



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Under Contract– 13992 E. Marina Dr. #512 - \$235,000



2 bed / 1 bath 952 sq. ft. Seville K – Quiet end location overlooking wildlife area, plus mountain views! Remodeled kitchen w/updated cabinets, granite counters, double stainless-steel sink & laminate wood floors. 2nd bed has built-in bookshelves. Cross ventilation. Screen enclosed lanai.

SOLD – 13635 E. Bates Ave. #412

SOLD – 13618 E. Bethany Pl. #107

SOLD – 14277 E. Marina Dr.

I have helped several buyers recently too!

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New resident was a female Marine Corps trailblazer

New Heather Gardens (HG) resident Danita Johnson, B212, is a U.S. Marine Corps veteran who served for five years as a plumber. She was the fifth woman trained in the occupation of plumbing when the Marine Corps first opened the male-dominated trade fields (carpentry, electrical, plumbing, etc.) in 1976. That fact alone makes her military experience extremely rare. But there's more.

Danita joined the Marines just after she graduated high school in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, when she took herself to a recruiting station. She was a skilled athlete who excelled at volleyball, softball and especially gymnastics. She participated on the uneven bars, which she credits giving her the upper body strength to "endure all those Marine Corps push-ups!"

The Marine Corps recruiter told her just what she wanted to hear... that sports and physical activity are a part of a Marine's everyday duties. She was sold!

"Did he ever give me his sales pitch!" Danita recalled, laughing. Three months later, she left home for the first time ever.

One could say Danita took to the Marine way of life right away. She'd grown up in a family with five kids — all athletes — who often camped, traveled and enjoyed the outdoors.

Still an outdoor person to this day, Danita said, "I'm like my older dog, Tilly; we love being outdoors."

As the middle child, Danita became very independent and had no problem respecting authority. She followed the rules and unlike many during the 1970s, she never smoked or drank alcohol.

"To this day, I've never had a beer!" quips Danita. Her lifestyle fit with being a U.S. Marine.

Like all women who join the Marines, Danita was shipped off to Parris Island, South Carolina, for three months of boot camp. Parris Island is also home to 50 percent of the male enlistees, while the other half go to San Diego, California. Today, approximately 20,000 recruits go to Parris Island annually for the chance to earn the title, United States Marine.

"Boot camp was like what you see in the movies," Danita commented. "Lots of physical training, lots of yelling and marching and being told what to do."

cause she earned private first class (PFC) out of boot camp (a feat not many Marines can claim).

Danita's athletic background helped her succeed.

"Women were given three physical tests — the bent-arm hang for 70 seconds or less, a mile and a half run in 11 minutes or less, and 50 sit-ups in one minute or less. I could do the maximum on each test, plus 20 male pull-ups."

Being ignorant of military life, Danita went in under an "open contract." An open contract means a recruit could be assigned to any military occupational specialty (MOS) that he or she qualified for. In high school, Danita took secretarial classes, but later realized she would hate sitting indoors all day, so she purposely failed the typing test given in boot camp. What she did qualify for was plumbing school.

"Plumbing in the service is learning how to purify water, and setting up commodes and showers out in the field," she said. When she got stationed at Quantico, Virginia, she was assigned to work with base maintenance.

"Work orders would come in and we would fix what's broken. I ran hot water lines, soldered pipes, built steps, and repaired minor electrical problems. I enjoyed it. I've always liked working with my hands."

At 110 pounds and only 5 feet tall, Danita was a minority in her unit in every way. Being the only woman, the lowest rank, and the smallest, she found her fellow Marines would play tricks on her. Once, as a joke, one of them picked Danita up and

hung her by the back of her belt on a high hook. She laughed at the memory.

"I was good-natured about it all. My size actually became an advantage.

See Johnson...page 25



Above: Danita Johnson, B212, is at home with her two dogs, Tilly (left) and Piper.

Right: A photo of Danita as a young marine is next to her dress uniform and other memorabilia from her three years on active duty.



She didn't take the yelling personally. She said she tried to stay "under the radar" and it paid off, be-

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My Monday Santa

When this world is torn by violence and hate between different points of view; when natural disasters like earthquake, wildfires, hurricanes, and floods create emergencies — it is heartwarming to know that occasionally one can experience a positive, generous random act of kindness.

On Monday, December 23, 2020, just before Christmas, I was grocery shopping at the King Soopers store on Havana and Mississippi in Aurora. I had loaded my cart with ingredients to host Christmas dinner with my family. Now, this was *not* your normal, single elderly lady's shopping day. My cart was heaped with special items for a holiday meal, including a ribeye roast, smoked salmon, and other expensive specialty items.

As I was sorting items for check out, I felt a tap on my shoulder. Turning around, I was greeted by a tall, nice looking, well dressed gentleman who said, "Consider me your Monday Santa. All the items in your grocery cart are now paid for."

I was speechless and overwhelmed, but protested this unexpected generous offer, pointing out that this was *way too much* for anyone to donate. All this from someone I had never met.

My protests were met with, "It's something that I want to do. All I ask is that you *pay it forward*." This lovely gentleman with kind eyes and a warm smile even helped me bag all these items. He preferred to remain anonymous. I pressed him to reveal his name.

He said, "I'm called B.J." I urged him to tell me his last name so I could properly thank him and when he turned to leave, he said, "Rogers, B.J. Rogers."

I was still in a state of shock when I asked the clerk if he knew this kind, generous man.

He said, "No, but I recognize him as a regular customer in this store." I'll never know if B.J. Rogers is his actual name, but I would like him to know how much I appreciated his wonderful, selfless act of kindness.

You are probably wondering why I'm writing this three years after that unforgettable day. The explanation is that I would like to think that this thoughtful act for another human being might extend beyond one Christmas season.

We get so caught up in the activities of our daily lives that we tend to forget all those not so publicized heroic acts that take place behind the scenes: the doctors and nurses who

protect our health, the firemen and first responders who come to our aid in a moment's notice, the police who put their lives on the line for us daily, the clergy who soothe our troubled souls, and the dedicated teachers who go the extra mile to help educate our children. That's just a few of the people around us that we tend to take for granted.

Well, Mr. B.J. Rogers, thanks to your moment of selfless generosity, I would like to propose that the readers of this message, "pay it forward," along with my gift in your name, to a favorite charity. You have restored my faith in humankind and renewed my appreciation for the people around me.

Take an extra moment to say hello to those you meet on the street, or maybe just a smile. Scoop the snow from a neighbor's sidewalk, help carry out a trash barrel, or unload groceries from a neighbor's car. Introduce yourself to your neighbors with a plate of cookies.

Small gestures have a way of growing into larger acts. See what you've started B.J. Your random act of kindness will help to make this a better world.

— Judy Smith
B234

Active Alice Rasberry

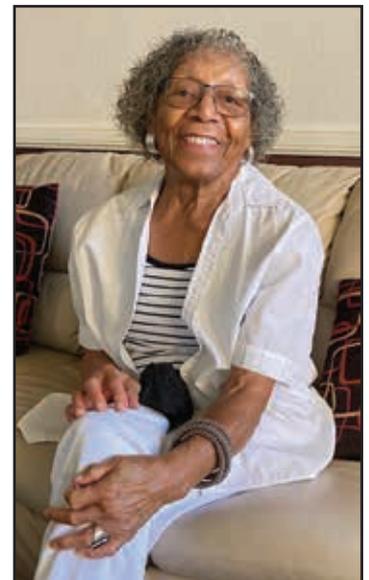
Most people would describe Heather Gardens (HG) as "an active adult community." There is no better example of this than Alice Rasberry, B220. Alice just turned 90 on Sept. 17. We met when she was riding her bike around HG. Yes, she rides a bike! What an inspiration this lady has been to me! I wanted to know more about this amazing lady. We got together so she could tell me more about her life.

Alice was born in Aurora, Illinois, the youngest of 10 girls and 1 boy. She enjoyed bowling and roller skating in her youth. In the 1950s, she faced discrimination because of her race — it kept her from joining the bowling league. After joining some protesters outside the roller rink, she and the other black young-

sters were able to roller skate, but only on Mondays.

Another big part of her life since childhood was singing what were mostly gospel tunes in church with her sisters. Later, Alice sang professionally in a trio called "The Now and Then Sounds." The group specialized in singing songs of the 1960s. She especially liked Dionne Warwick and Burt Bacharach.

In 1960, Alice moved with her sister to Aurora, Colorado. (She still spends time with her sister, who now lives in Windsor Gardens.) From 1967–1971, Alice lived in California; then from 1971–1973 she resided in Columbus, Ohio. She returned to Aurora in 1973.



Above: Alice Rasberry, B220

See Rasberry...page 26

Decline to Sign

Written and Paid for by Concerned Heather Garden Residents

We all know that this is a sad time full of disinformation that makes it difficult to make a rational decision, especially a decision that will have an effect on our community. One such decision is about signing petitions for recall of the four recently elected Directors of the Heather Gardens Metropolitan District (HGMD). Residents who voted for change trust that Daniel Taylor, Robin O'Meara, Rita Effler, and Craig Baldwin are bringing progress to Heather Gardens and will continue to provide oversight of the District properties, increase revenue and decrease spending.

Recall petitions, which were submitted to the court on November 16th by three individuals, may soon be circulated for signatures. If you are asked to sign a recall petition, we urge you to **decline to sign**.

*If enough residents sign the petitions,
a recall election will take place that will
cost the residents a minimum of \$43,000*

The HG Metro District owns all HG amenities, including the Clubhouse, Golf Course, Rendezvous Restaurant, RV Lot, Garden Plots, Clubhouse Pools the Tennis/Pickle ball Courts, and more. The Metro District Board of Directors has contracted with HG Management to run the business-side of these enterprises, including the hiring and supervision of all employees working on behalf of Metro District amenities. It is the District's job to make sure that the cost centers are effectively maintained, managed and operated for the benefit of HG residents. These HGMD Directors are serious about their fiduciary responsibility and oversight of all Metro District properties, and have already saved the District about \$85,000 or more because of their due diligence.

As accused in the petition, these Directors have not created a hostile work place and their actions did not single-handedly cause HGA Management employees to jump ship. It may have been the call of a higher paycheck, a faraway new grandchild, a strong urge to retire or it may have been that the federal Small Business Administration (SBA) and U.S. Justice Department are in the midst of investigating whether or not the \$1,058,700 Paycheck Protection Plan loan/grant that the HG Association collected was lawfully obtained. To be clear, HGMD Directors were not in office when this decision was made.

It's complicated. The Concerned HG Residents group has full trust that the new HGMD Board members will make responsible decisions to support future progress, regularly communicate Metro District information, and provide focused oversight of the HG amenities.

If asked to do so, decline to sign the recall petitions.

Allow Directors Craig Baldwin, Rita Effler, Robin O'Meara, and Daniel Taylor to serve their full terms.

For more information about the recall, contact:

Robin O'Meara at RobinOmeara@HGmetroDist.org

Rita Effler at RitaEffler@HGmetroDist.org

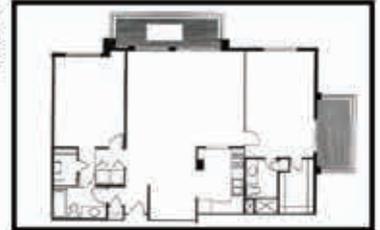
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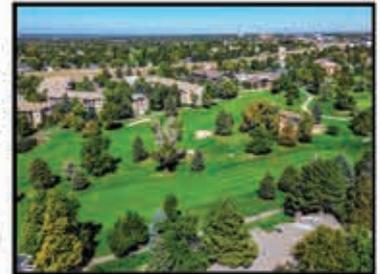


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< Somerset J Plan 3BR/2BA 1400 sq.ft. Wow! Total remodel and ready to move in. 3rd bedroom can also be Flex/Office/Dining Room. This should be ready to view by early January. Call for details and to arrange a private visit. **\$367,500**

3BR Ranch Patio Home 3BR/2BA 1,372 sq.ft. Excellent golf course location. Short walk to clubhouse. Lots of space in full basement to finish as you like. Ring one of our brokers for full details and a tour. **>**



< 13618 E Bethany #406 2BR/2BA Alpha C plan - 1,400 sq.ft. Beautifully updated with LVP, luxury closet organizer, vaulted ceilings and built-in office. **\$310,000**

Ranch Patio Home 2BR/2BA 1,176 sq.ft. plus full finished basement, on golf course – Wood floors, and covered patio. Stroll over to the clubhouse for dinner, a workout or live music. **>**



Seville F layout 2BR/2BA 1,320 sq.ft. Great mountain views. Popular Seville area has its own park, pool, tennis and pickleball court.

Alpha A on 1st floor. 2BR/2BA 1200 sq.ft. Super convenient and spacious, walk-out.

UNDER CONTRACT: 13890 E Marina Dr #101 Immaculate Seville F, first floor, corner unit with enclosed lanai. **\$315,000**

UNDER CONTRACT: 13711-B Marina Ranch Patio Home 3BR/3BA 2,140 fin. sq.ft. Total remodel w/hardwood floor. Virtual 3D tour at TinyURL.com/Ranch3

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SOLD: 13601 E. Marina Dr. #207 1/1 865 HGB brought buyer \$205,000 1BR/1BA Somerset B Corner unit .

SOLD: 14001 E. Marina Dr. #510 2/2 1200 HGB brought buyer \$315,000 2BR/2BA Somerset A unit. Nicely updated with new paint and flooring.



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The Month (December)

On Dec. 19, the HGA Board approved the following committee chair appointments for 2024:

- Architectural Control, David Baxter
- Budget & Finance, Ray Nash, treasurer
- Civic Affairs, Sue McBeth
- Maintenance, Mike Pula, John Recob, co-chairs
- Long Range Planning, David Kennedy
- Security & Emergency Preparedness, Bill Gold
- Community Engagement & Communications, Linda Hileman
- Personnel Policy Committee, Larry Dávila, chair; Mike Pula, Sue McBeth, David Baxter, members

At the Joint Budget & Finance Committee (B&F) meeting on Dec. 18, the new controller, Carrie Toennis introduced herself. From Montana originally, she reported working for the federal government, U.S. military and various audit firms. She told the committee that she was working on the November financial data for HG. She hopes to have the November and December reports by the next meeting, scheduled for Thursday, Jan. 11.

Later that day, Toennis attended the HGMD Audit & Finance Committee.

The B&F did not review the October HG financial reports, although it was available to the committee. Toennis declined to answer questions on the reports because she had been on the job only two weeks.

The committee said goodbye to its chair, Terry Hostetter, who is leaving the HGA Board. He indicated he wished to be a member on the committee next year if 2024 HGA Treasurer Ray Nash concurred. Nash did.

Chair David Baxter told the HGA Board on Dec. 19 that the Architectural Control Committee was up-to-date on resident approvals for modifying their condos.

At the Community Engagement and Communications Committee, Chair Linda Hileman introduced co-Chairs of the newly established CommUniTeam (CUT) subcommittee: Paul Mauro and Linda Worthey, B250. Other members include Jackie Olson, B216, and Eric Fitzgerald, B232. The team is charged with recommending ways to improve communications within HG, including the website.

- Other issues discussed at the meeting included:
- Security concerns were raised about recycling of HG community directories in the Clubhouse. It suggested that discarded directories will be more secure if the drop box is behind the Activities Desk.
 - After expressing concerns about security and privacy in communications and the website, Paul Mauro will be investigate the status and make recommendations.
 - With the 2024 HG Directory in progress, there was discussion about including email addresses. This may



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That Was...

become an option in the future.

- The printed directory will no longer indicate Area Representatives, Assistant ARs or Point of Contacts. In past years, it was learned that these building and area representatives often changed with the new year or changes happened frequently through the year, leaving the directory often obsolete when published.

- *Heather 'n Yon* Editor introduced Advertising Manager Susan Harman, who with her husband Brian, will be negotiating for the contract to take over publishing the magazine when Lynn retires next year.

•••

Security Manager Dave Marris told the SEC Committee on Dec. 4 that Security is now fully staffed 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

In his report, he noted that several regular activities by Security have increased from October to November:

- Rescue Assists jumped by almost 10 to 53.
 - Resident Assists jumped from 32 to 49.
 - Security officers discovered open doors, garage doors, and entry doors increased from 18 (October) to 24 (November).
 - November had three attempted burglaries and three attempted thefts (breaking into a car).
 - More people are being thwarted by Security in the garages.
 - Total patrol miles for November jumped to 7,500.
-

On Dec. 7, the HGMD Restaurant Committee had to meet in the Arts & Crafts Room when the HGMD Board meeting ran over time. A committee member was asked by HGMD Director Robin O'Meara to chair the meeting in her absence.

The committee was told that Battle Born, the contractor selected by HGMD to remodel Rendezvous Restaurant, had been onsite to oversee scheduling when the old equipment is to be removed and new equipment installed after a thorough professional cleaning. How the kitchen would be laid out and where equipment would be placed was determined. All these activities are planned to happen between Dec. 24–Jan. 1, when the restaurant is closed.

One more item will be addressed when the ice machine broke. Because it is too old to repair, Restaurant Manager Cormac Ronan will investigate leasing an ice machine that has a service contract.

Subscriptions: To accommodate owners, who wish to receive *Heather 'n Yon* while away, the publisher has a subscription policy. Provide a forwarding address, plus a check for \$3 (payable to *Heather 'n Yon*) for each issue desired. Annual subscription is \$36. You may drop off your check with address information and what month the subscription should start at the HG Management Office. Alternatively, mail to *Heather 'n Yon*, c/o Lynn Donaldson, 13731 East Hamilton Dr, Aurora, CO 80014. Past issues (2008–21) are available on www.heathergardens.org/Resource.Center.



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Saturday, January 20 • 10am-12:30pm
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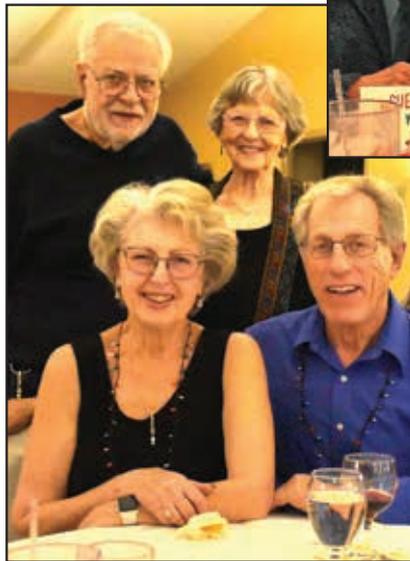
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An annual popular event in Rendezvous Restaurant is its Holiday Party for the HG community. Held on Dec. 16, it had a buffet party menu, music by “Yesterdays Bacon” included a sing along. Holiday songs, of course! Special guest was Santa Claus.



Right: The HG Woodshop Club had its Open House on Dec. 6. Several teachers and avid users of the Woodshop met with interested residents, showing the projects they had completed and answering questions. Maybe there will be more users of the equipment available, creating their own artistic items.



Johnson...from page 17

tage, as I could fit into small spaces."

The only time her size worked against her was on their weekly company 3–5 mile runs. She described how "running in formation was very difficult, since my legs were so short that my stride was shorter than the men. They would put me in front to help set the pace. Sometimes I would fall back in the ranks. I didn't like that, but I always finished every run no matter how long it was. My motto became, 'I can do anything, for a while.' And that motto has helped me through many tough times in my life."

Danita only did her plumbing duties six months out of each active duty year, 1976–1979, because she also played on the Marine Corps volleyball and softball teams. She was stationed in Quantico, Virginia. Her team would travel to play other nationally-ranked teams and finish with an all-service (USMC, Army, Navy,

Air Force) tournament.

After her active duty years, Danita joined the Marine Corps Reserves while attending the University of Nebraska, where she played softball and majored in physical education (P.E.) and elementary education. She got out of the reserves as a sergeant. Now, with 33 years of teaching 5th grade and P.E., she has retired from Rocky Mountain Elementary School in Longmont, Colorado.

One of her favorite teaching memories is having a ropes unit called Rope World. Her kindergarten through 5th graders were allowed to climb, swing, crawl over and under various obstacles to help them develop strength, stamina and most importantly, confidence.

Danita's daughter, who loved Rope World, is newly married and just moved to Aurora. And that is how Danita ended up at HG. If you see her and her dogs walking around, welcome her to our community!

– Gloria Lesher
B212



Above: Danita's softball team for Marine women appeared in a 1970s Marine Corps magazine. Danita is kneeling in the center, third from left. The team was based in Quantico, Virginia, but traveled widely for games and tournaments.

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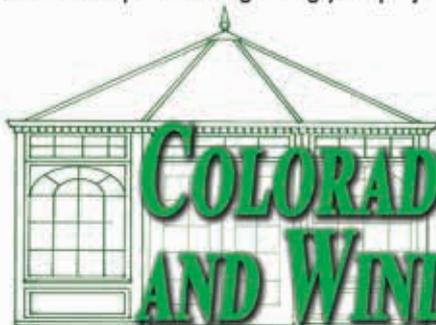


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Homeless issues ...from page 15

conditions imaginable include the accumulation of trash and garbage that mimics a micro landfill, as CCSP has noted.

Besides the debris from drug use, these displaced people deal with strangers who may have less than good intentions, live in a tent that has a high risk of fire when using a 25-pound propane tank, risk serious crime occurring, are challenged by personal hygiene, and may have uncontrolled outbreaks of COVID-19 and other diseases. These are only a few of the unwanted risks they experience.

...

The Fix

It's easy to mistake symptoms for natural root causes. The homeless encampments that you and I witness are symptomatic. So, what are the root causes? There are two root circumstances that will require different solutions.

First, some people have fallen on hard luck for multiple reasons, but are clean in spirit and habits. These folks will need a solution to give them a second chance and restore dignity. They must be rescued from these de-

plorable conditions and offered shelter, an essential diet, and a simple job. These charitable offerings will not be permanent but will serve as a bridge to a better life.

The folks offered these benefits will be asked to bring sweat equity to the table and do their part. I hope they work hard to get back on their feet. Although government can bring much to the table, I believe that churches and charities have a role to play in bringing solutions too.

The second group of individuals followed a similar path but took an unfortunate detour by becoming addicted to drugs or alcohol and have developed habits of crime. They appear like the other homeless groups, but at their core — they are different. These most unfortunate people need severe treatment and significant rehabilitation, most likely for an extended period. This fix will be expensive both monetarily and emotionally for society. If they do not want help, and do not accept solutions that are offered, then what?

Until we as a society find a way to fix these issues, the root causes will manifest into the visual and sen-

sual landscape we see at homeless encampments.

...

The Fix

The converging jurisdictions that govern the parcels around HG must come together sooner than later to forge solutions to the people experiencing homelessness. A sense of urgency is needed. I applaud the commitment and interest of Mayor Coffman, the City Council, and our Ward V Councilwoman Angela Lawson.

No one has all the answers, but these issues deserve our best, most creative thinking. Please come to Angela's first Town Hall meeting, 10 am Saturday, Jan. 13, Sandberg Auditorium. This will be an important meeting for all residents to hear and ask questions.

— Evan Morris
STH

{Note: Evan Morris is an 11-year resident of HG. Like you, he wants to see HG be among the best over 55 communities in the country. Evan is a retired executive and former business consultant to small and medium-sized companies. He is an avid reader, researcher, and writer.}

Rasberry ...from page 19

Alice met her husband, who she calls "Razz," on Sept. 9, 1973 — a "most significant day" in her life. They were married on Feb. 1, 1974. She says it is a beautiful marriage for 48 years, with two daughters, six grandchildren living in Colorado and three great grandchildren.

The other major part of her life has been her church, Rising Star

Missionary Baptist Church in Aurora. Alice helps with the multimedia services by running the sound board and the light board. Alice used to sing in the choir until medication



Above: Alice, on her three-wheeler (adult tricycle), riding around HG.

She is also involved with the Senior Steppers.

Despite the shock of her leukemia diagnosis in 2020, Alice states, "I don't dwell on it. I just must live with it." She says she is "sort of mellow" and that the Serenity Prayer is her credo.

She has enjoyed living at HG for the past five years and likes the residents in her building.

"It's a nice quiet, leisurely life. I have no ambitions that haven't been fulfilled," she reports. One can't ask for more than that!

for leukemia affected her immunity. Since then, she is unable to safely be around large groups of people.

If you see a tiny lady riding on a three wheeler around HG, wave and say "hi" to Alice Rasberry!

—Bonnie Williams
B232

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Letters

Heather 'n Yon

We mark our national history each year on special days. One of those days is Martin Luther King Day on Jan. 15. King brought us into one community with his inspirational speeches: "I Have a Dream," "I Have Been to the Mountaintop," and others.

Here at HG, we have an opportunity to learn more about King's non-violent approach to civil rights, an opportunity to sit in discussion with others, to hear their stories and thus contribute to the "Beloved Community" of which King dreamed.

A celebration, sponsored by the HG group "Unpacking the Society in Which We Live," will hold an open house 10 am-2 pm, Sandberg Auditorium. It will feature videos, music, King memorabilia and biographies, and books by Denver's Black authors. There will be free snacks.

Activities will be entertaining and will contribute to understanding how individuals and organizations are

promoting equity and inclusiveness.

I invite you to attend the MLK day celebration on Jan. 15.

**Bernie Hupperts
B244**

Heather 'n Yon

I'm excited to invite you to a special MLK day in HG. There is detailed information about the day on page 42 of *Heather 'n Yon*, but I want to share how important it is to me.

I have lived in places where racism was/is sadly, a recent history. And I could not comprehend the treatment of someone who is different. Moving here in April, my hopes were high for making many new friends. Folks who

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. The HGA Board requires that letters do not exceed 300 words. Letters will not be run from the same individual in successive months. Writers may publish only four letters per year, but not in consecutive months.

think differently, worship differently, look different, and speak differently — whatever! The Social Justice group is doing just that. If you, like me, would like to increase your circle of support to learn and grow, please come and share the day!

Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. is one of the most amazing, wise and compassionate people of all time. Learning more about him and his work is a great place to begin a journey. Come take my hand, no need to walk alone!

**Ellen Cronas
B244**

Heather 'n Yon

The HG Optimist Club would like to thank the residents of the first floor of B216 for the generous donation of \$225 to be used in our work with local children. This special group decided to take the money they previously spent exchanging gifts and pool their money for a worthy cause. Our warmest thanks and appreciation to each of you.

**Karen Thomas
B250**

See Letters...page 31

HGMD Treasurer's Report

Highlights of HGMD Operations:

For month ended October 2023

	Actual	Budget
Clubhouse Profit (Loss)	(\$63,074)	(\$56,109)
Clubhouse Revenue	\$14,707	\$15,256
Golf Profit (Loss)	(\$21,528)	(\$29,507)
Golf Revenue	\$46,271	\$44,432
Restaurant Profit (Loss)	(\$16,235)	(\$9,538)
Restaurant Revenue	\$55,477	\$54,359

Year to date through October 2023

	Actual	Budget
Clubhouse Profit (Loss)	(\$500,005)	(\$564,032)
Golf Profit (Loss)	(\$108,266)	(\$193,554)
Restaurant Profit (Loss)	(\$85,010)	(\$83,633)

Clubhouse: Staff is looking at more events and activities. Most of the rooms are used most of the time, but do not produce revenue. Resident clubs use them free of charge. There are 55 or more clubs. Many residents get benefit from their recreation fee used to subsidize the Clubhouse.

Golf: The golf staff continues to perform above budget. Their expenses are down. We do have some big expenses expected in 2024. The course is probably the best 9-hole executive course in the city.

Restaurant: Restaurant Manager Cormac Ronan is going to have the tools available soon to generate top rated food. He will have the staff to prepare and serve a

meal without apology. The subsidy for the restaurant is the smallest part of your Recreation Fee. Many old, outdated appliances, purchased used 10 years ago, will be replaced.

Enterprise Fund: What accumulates over operation expenses will pay for capital projects. No recent expenses have been paid. However, HGMD owes HGA more than \$137,000 for invoices that have been paid in excess of the Recreation Fees collected.

Conservation Trust Fund: These funds come from the Colorado State lottery profit, and they have accumulated over many years. A report must be made annually on their use. Restrictions are minimal for the use of the funds. We are using them primarily for recreational enhancements, which is allowed.

Debt Service Fund: About \$7.7 million is owed to bond holders. Principle and interest is paid from property tax revenue.

Foundation Fund: The Oct. 31 cash balance is \$33,930, with \$147,774 invested. Foundation money funded much of Sandberg Auditorium's theater production equipment and the Veterans' Memorial in front of the Clubhouse. Its main purpose uses donated funds a way that honors them and the community.

Contact me with questions regarding HGMD's funds, 303-619-3515, ritaeffler@HGMetrodist.org.

– Rita Effler, HGMD Treasurer

JANUARY CALENDAR

Mon 1	New Year's Day Holiday – Management Offices closed		
Tue 2	Hand (Knee) and Foot (every Tuesday) Mah Jongg (every Tuesday) Ping Pong (every Tuesday) Tennis Club Billiard Club Co-ed 8-Ball (every Tuesday)	Mountain View Room Blue Spruce Room Game Room Rendezvous Restaurant Billiard Room	12:30–4 pm 1–4 pm 2–3 pm 5 pm 6:30 pm
Wed 3	Cribbage (every Wednesday) Men's Poker_Reddy or Hill (every Wednesday) Woodshop Club Meeting Rummikub (every Wednesday) HG ACBL Duplicate Bridge (every Wednesday) Pinochle (every Wednesday) Square Dancing Club (every 1st and 3rd Wednesday)	Sunburst Café Skyview Room Mountain View Room Aspen Room Blue Spruce Room Mountain View Room Sandberg Auditorium	12:30–3 pm 12:30–5 pm 1 pm 1–3 pm 1–4:45 pm 1:30–4 pm 7–9 pm
Thu 4	Tai Chi (every Thursday) TOPS (every Thursday) HG Optimist Breakfast Book Club Time4Tap Dance Group (every Thursday) Clubhouse Event: AARP Driver's Safety Course Bunko (1st and 3rd Thursday) Social Bridge (every Thursday, Joanne Turner) HG Writers Club (every Thursday) Ping Pong (every Thursday) Meditation Club (every Thursday) Kiwanis Club of Aurora Business Meeting 9-Ball Men's Billiards (every Thursday)	Tennis Courts Blue Spruce Room Rendezvous Restaurant Blue Spruce Room Sandberg Auditorium Sandberg Auditorium Blue Spruce Room Skyview Room Mountain View Room Game Room Blue Spruce Room Skyview Room Billiards Room	8–11 am 8:30–9:30 am 9 am 10:30–11:45 am 11 am–noon 12:45–5 pm 1–3:30 pm 1–3:30 pm 1–4 pm 2–3 pm 4–5 pm 6 pm 7–9 pm
Fri 5	Men with Purpose (1st and 3rd Friday) Texas Hold 'em Poker_Reddy or Hill (every Friday) Friday Afternoon Bridge (every Friday)	Skyview Room Mountain View Room Skyview Room	10–11 am 12:30–5 pm 1–5 pm
Sat 6	Mexican Train Dominoes (every Saturday) Ping Pong (every Saturday) Karaoke Club	Arts & Crafts Room Game Room Aspen/Blue Spruce Rooms	noon–4 pm 2–3 pm 3–5 pm
Sun 7	Social Bridge (every Sunday, Joanne Turner)	Skyview Room	1–3:30 pm
Mon 8	Men's Bridge (every Monday)	Skyview Room	10 am–2 pm

Advertised Activities and Seminars

Mon, Jan. 8	Bayer Ear Clinic (every Monday, by appointment), Arts & Crafts Room, 9 am–noon (see ad, p. 55)
Fri, Jan. 19	Mature Living Options, Smoky Hill Library, 5430 S Biscay Cir, Centennial, 10–11:30 am (see ad, p. 12)
Sat, Jan. 20	Vision Board Event, Home Smart Realty, Arts & Crafts Room, 10 am–12:30 am (see ad, p. 23)



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Mon 8 (cont'd)	HG Women's Book Club (Arce)	Mountain View Room	10:30 am–12:30 pm
	Spanish Club (every Monday)	Aspen Room	11 am–noon
	Texas Hold 'em Poker_Reddy or Hill (2nd–4th Monday)	Mountain View Room	12:30–5 pm
	Time4Tap Dance Novice Group (every Monday)	Sandberg Auditorium	1–2 pm
	HG Women's Book Club (Urias)	Mountain View Room	1–3 pm
	Mah Jongg (every Monday)	Blue Spruce Room	1–4 pm
	Men's Poker	Game Room	3:30–7 pm
	HG Game Night (Karen Gold; every Monday)	Arts & Crafts Room	4-6 pm
Tue 9	Tuesday Evening Bridge (2nd & 4th Tuesday)	Blue Spruce Room	5:30 pm
Wed 10	Clubhouse Event: Finland (Active Minds)	Sandberg Auditorium	2 pm
	Aviation Club	Aspen Room	7 pm
Thu 11	The Green Team	Blue Spruce Room	noon–2 pm
	RV Lot Club	Aspen Room	5–6 pm
	Impact Healing	Blue Spruce Room	5–8 pm
	Men's Poker (Jess Deal; 2nd and 4th Thursday)	Game Room	5:30–8:30 pm
Fri 12	Birding and Nature Club	Lodgepole Lounge	11:30 am
Sat 13	The Breakfast Club	Rendezvous Restaurant	8:30 am
	Town Hall: Angela Lawson, Aurora Councilwoman	Sandberg Auditorium	10 am
Mon 15	Martin Luther King Day – Federal Holiday		
	VNA Senior Wellness Clinics (3rd & 5th Mondays)	Blue Spruce Room	8:30 am–1 pm
	Clubhouse Event: Martin Luther King Open House	Sandberg Auditorium	10 am–2 pm
	HG Photo Club	Aspen Room	3 pm
Tue 16	Caregiver's Support Group	Aspen Room	2–4 pm
	Clubhouse Event: Mountain Man Fruit and Nut Co.	Clubhouse Lobby	2:15–3:15 pm
Wed 17	Square Dancing Club (every 1st and 3rd Wednesday)	Sandberg Auditorium	7–9 pm
Thu 18	HG Optimist Club	Rendezvous Restaurant	9 am
	Clubhouse Trip: National Western Stock Show	B243 and B244	12:30–6:30 pm
	Clubhouse Event: Colorado Outlaws by K.Arnold	Sandberg Auditorium	1–2 pm
	Clubhouse Event: Spotlight on Tuscany	Lodgepole Lounge	1–3 pm
	Bunko	Blue Spruce Room	1–3:30 pm
	Kiwanis Club of Aurora – Guest Speaker	Skyview Room	6 pm
Fri 19	Men with Purpose (1st and 3rd Friday)	Skyview Room	10 am
	Clubhouse Event: Bingo	Sandberg Auditorium	1–3 pm
Sat 20	B202 Meeting	Blue Spruce Room	10 am
	Wine and Cheese Social Club	Aspen/Blue Spruce Rooms	3–5 pm
Sun 21	Frolics Club: Magic Potluck	Aspen/Blue Spruce Rooms	noon
Mon 22	Low Vision Support Group	Mountain View Room	1:30 pm
Tue 23	HG Republican Club	Sandberg Auditorium	1:30 pm
	HG Democratic Club	Sandberg Auditorium	4–5:30 pm
	Sevillians Social	Rendezvous Restaurant	4:30 pm

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Tue 23	Tuesday Evening Bridge (2nd & 4th Tuesday)	Blue Spruce Room	5:30 pm
Wed 24	Resident Orientation	Board Room/Zoom	10 am
Fri 26	Fourth Friday Bridge Green Team Doggie Bags Clubhouse Movie: Avatar: The Way of Water	Skyview Room Lodge Pole Lounge Sandberg Auditorium	8:30 am–12:30 pm 9 am–noon 2 pm
Sat 27	National Federation of the Blind, Aurora Chapter CP1 Meeting	Mountain View Room Aspen/Blue Spruce Rooms	10:30 am–12:30 pm 11–3 pm
Mon 29	VNA Senior Wellness Clinics (3rd & 5th Mondays) Clubhouse Trip: Breckenridge Snow Sculptures	Blue Spruce Room B243 and B244	8:30 am–1 pm 8:45 am–4 pm

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, 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>.

Six Stone Jars Catholic Bible Study. Meetings will re-start after the holidays at 9:30–11:30 am Tuesday, Jan. 16, Mountain View Room, and every Tuesday after. First topic will be the Book of Acts. We welcome everyone — Catholic and non-Catholic. Just show up. Call Dr. Eric Cline, 720-839-4289, or email clinecellars57@gmail.com.

HG Women's Bible Study meets the first Thursday at 10–11:30 am, in the Mountain View Room and on Zoom. All other Thursdays are via Zoom only. Contact Carolyn Morris, 303-885-7807, or motoringmorris@gmail.com for information. 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

FYI VNA Senior Wellness Clinics

Charges: Toenail Cutting (includes blood pressure), \$55 (returning client); Fingernail trim \$15. If you cannot keep your appointment, please cancel or you will be charged \$5. Have exact cash amount, credit card, or checks made out to "VNA." Call VNA, 303-698-6496.

- Monday, Jan. 15, 8:30 am–1 pm, Blue Spruce Rm
- Monday, Jan. 29, 8:30 am–1 pm, Blue Spruce Rm

Colorado Women's Hall of Fame

Nominations are now open for the class of 2024 inductees into the Colorado Women's Hall of Fame. You may nominate historical or contemporary women who:

- Made significant and enduring contributions to her field or life focus
- Elevated or affirmed the status expanded new opportunities for women and others in society
- Inspired others as a role model, especially women and girls, by her actions and behaviors

Heather 'n Yon Deadline - 1/17

• *Monthly Meetings* •

Boards and Committees

Listed meetings will be in the Board Room or Zoom.

Management Office Closed – Jan. 1 New Year's

CECC (Zoom) – 11 am Tue, Jan. 2
Joint Long Range Plan (BR/Zoom) – 10 am Wed, Jan. 3

HGMD Board (BR/Zoom) – 1 pm Thu, Jan. 4?

~~Clubs & Activities (BR/Zoom) – 1 pm Fri, Jan. 5~~

SEC (Zoom) – 10.00 am Mon, Jan. 8

RV Lot (BR/Zoom) – 1 pm Mon, Jan. 8

Maintenance (Zoom) – 10 am Tue, Jan. 9

Clubhouse (BR/Zoom) – 1 pm Tue, Jan. 9

Foundation (BR/Zoom) – 1 pm Wed, Jan. 10

Personnel Policy (BR/Zoom) – 10 am Fri, Jan. 12

Civic Affairs (BR/Zoom) – 2:30 pm Fri, Jan. 12

Budget & Finance (BR/Zoom) – 10 am Mon, Jan. 15

HGMD Audit/Finance (BR/Zoom) – 1 pm Mon, Jan. 15

HGA Board (BR/Zoom) – 1 pm Tue, Jan. 16

Joint Long Range Plan (BR/Zoom) – 10 am Wed, Jan. 17

Resident Open Forum (BR/Zoom) – 3 pm Wed, Jan. 17

ACC (Zoom) – 10 am Thu, Jan. 18

HGMD Board (BR/Zoom) – 1 pm Thu, Jan. 18

~~Golf (BR/Zoom) – 1 pm Tue, Jan. 23~~

Resident Orientation (Zoom) – 10 am Wed, Jan. 24

Restaurant (BR/Zoom) – 3 pm Thu, Jan. 25

- Significant to Colorado.

Nomination forms and information are available on www.cogreatwomen.org. Nominations must be submitted by Feb. 1, 2024.

TABOR Refund Alert!

Colorado citizens MUST file a Colorado state tax return in order to receive the \$800 TABOR refund in 2024. Seniors should file for state taxes even if they have no additional income to report. Don't miss out on your TABOR refund! For more information call Smoky Hill Tax Service, 303-680-6794.

Aurora Townhall Meeting

Councilwoman Angela Lawson, who represents HG in Ward V, will be at HG for her Townhall Meeting, 10–11:30 am Saturday, Jan. 13, Sandberg Auditorium. Visit AuroraGov.org/TownMeetings to find links for joining virtual meetings.

Canceled

Canceled

Letters...from page 27

Heather 'n Yon

It is your HOA fees.

First, a bit of background: In 1984 EDI, the company that developed HG, transferred control of the HG Association (HGA) to the collective owners of individual units. At the same time EDI offered to sell its remaining HG property (the Golf Course, Clubhouse, Maintenance Building, etc.) to the Association. The new Association Board of Directors took the lead in forming the Heather Gardens Metropolitan District (HGMD) in order to raise the money needed for the purchase.

Since then, a management agreement between HGA and HGMD has called for HGA to hire and supervise the staff needed to care for and maintain HGMD property and facilities. This agreement provides for cost effective maintenance and operation of both entities and their properties by a single management and maintenance team.

The current HGMD Board now wishes to terminate that agreement and establish its own general manager and staff. They apparently intend to take over the current HGA management offices in the Clubhouse or charge HGA for their use. It is not clear where HGA maintenance staff would be housed. It is clear that two separate management operations, albeit each would be somewhat smaller, would be required to manage the affairs of the community. The possibility of conflict between these two operations is tangible. Increases in homeowner fees are virtually certain because of the unnecessary duplication.

The existing combined management system has worked well and maintained costs efficiently for almost 40 years. The current fledgling efforts to recall four members of the HGMD are simply intended to give you, who ultimately pay the bills, a voice in whether you think the increased costs are necessary.

**Allen Lindeman
CP5**

Heather 'n Yon

I was asked, "Why Recall?"

Losing key members of the management team at HG raised the

question, why are they leaving? Also, the write-up in *Heather 'n Yon* about the discourse between Rita Effler and the Chief Financial Officer raised serious concerns. Seeing the look of distress on the faces of CEO Jon Rea and Clubhouse Manager Montrell Anthony, as well as talking with them, made me realize something needed to be done.

During my nine years of living in HG, there were no serious disputes between the two boards until the four newly elected HGMD board members took office.

I am seriously concerned about the practicality and cost of the HGMD Board's proposals to: (1) Expand the kitchen and thereby reduce seating space in the restaurant. To do this we will have to draw upon capital reserve funds. (2) Extend the hours the restaurant will be open. This will add salary costs. (3) Create a new and separate management and staff for HGMD's use only. These projects and actions are not needed and will seriously increase our homeowner association fees.

A recall election will give residents the opportunity to look closely at the HGMD's proposed actions and projects. Then, you can decide whether you want to support or reject what the HGMD is proposing. A yes vote for recall would remove the four most recently elected members of the board, replacing them with new members who will work with, and when necessary, make reasonable compromises with the HGA board.

**Bonnie Fleming
B242**

Heather 'n Yon

Some residents of HG have asked, "Why the recall?" In the spring I was wary of electing a slate of four directors to a board of five, a setup which would stifle differing points of view. I attended the first board meeting dealing with the incomplete, proposed new bylaws. Although HG voted in January for a few amendments, this was a complete sweep. The new bylaws were adopted by the board in June, with no vote by the residents, and are still incomplete.

I learned that Clubhouse Manager Montrell Anthony had quit. He had been doing an excellent job. I was sorry he left. Then HG got a new security officer. There were rumors

about classes being cut to eight sessions from 11. I learned of a plan to turn the Rendezvous into a full-time destination restaurant and that a significant portion of the increase in HOA dues would be attributed to that \$1million pipe dream. Then CEO Jon Rea left.

The determination of these four directors to terminate the management agreement with HGA was the clincher. A group of HG residents (none currently on the HGA board) are concerned about these disturbing changes in our community and have been working on the recall. I offered to act as the attorney for the group for no charge.

At the Dec. 7 HGMD Board meeting, I observed that no comments from the public made any difference. A few people were shouted down (one, a newly-elected HGA director) as was the one HGMD director who is not part of that slate. She was told firmly to "change her attitude."

For me, that is why the recall.

**Martha Karnopp
B214**

Heather 'n Yon

Heather Gardens Association (HGA) and Heather Gardens Metropolitan District (HGMD) Boards were established early in the development of our community.

A metropolitan district is a unit of government with local/state oversight that helps finance amenities in newer communities. HGMD financed the purchase of commonly-owned facilities at HG from the builder. Among these purchases were the restaurant, the Clubhouse, the Golf Course, etc. HGMD was able to make this purchase because metro districts can borrow money through issuing bonds. Property owners, within the metro district, pay an extra tax that pays down the debt over time.

At HG, our two boards have cooperated for more than 40 years!

However, cooperation is now being disrupted by the four new HGMD Board members. These HGMD Board members refused to compromise on any points raised in mediation on Nov. 16 & 17. HGA Board members remain willing to compromise through mediation.

HGMD is hiring an expensive litigation attorney to terminate the HGA/

See *Letters...page 33*

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Letters...from page 31

HGMD Management Agreement on Dec. 31, 2024.

The attorney's extraordinarily high litigation fees will ultimately be paid by residents. Termination of the management agreement will result in higher costs at HG since certain services will have to be duplicated. It appears that HGMD will insist on office space that displaces some current employees.

HGMD now demands specifics about employee salaries and benefits. HGA, however, is charged with keeping this information confidential (Management Agreement: section IV, number 3).

How nice it would be to see HG united again under the cooperative agreement that has worked well for so many years!!

**Estelle Matus
B216**

Heather 'n Yon

"Crazy 2024 Budget"

This is how the 2024 budget for Rendezvous Restaurant was conceived and approved. The "Recreation Fee" collected by the HG Association (HGA) in your monthly payment is forwarded to the HG Metro District (HGMD) Enterprise Fund as revenue. The Enterprise Fund also consists of all the revenue earned by HGMD amenities as well as interest earned on the approximately \$3,000,000 Metro District non-restricted funds.

The new HGMD Board of Directors approved the 2024 restaurant budget in order to give the restaurant enough of an operations budget to increase staff, advertising and other expenses that will go higher as customers and revenue increase. However, Restaurant Manager Cormac Roman says he doubts the restaurant will require more full-time employees beyond a chef and bartender. The restaurant will need more part-time line cooks, servers, and bussers but the increased hourly-wage expenses will be far less than those in the budget.

Revenue will surely increase but won't come close to the \$1,624,697 in the approved 2024 budget, which is much more than this year's forecasted \$579,051. This means lower

expenses, and maybe the annual subsidy will be considerably less than budgeted. The restaurant will continue to receive smaller subsidies than the Clubhouse and Golf Course.

Funding for upgrading the restaurant, including the purchase of new equipment for the kitchen, will come from HGMD's unrestricted accounts and not from HGA capital reserves or the annual operations budget.

Enduring thanks to Cormac Ronan and his hard-working, patient, multi-tasking crew.

**Gwen Alexander
B215**

Heather 'n Yon

I am writing concerning the recall of HGMD directors submitted by HG residents. As a condo owner I have observed the board as problematic for quite some time, creating the need for change.

That is exactly what happened. At that point I told myself the system works; change is at hand. What troubles me is the vicious resistance by old board members toward the new board members. The will of the HG homeowners should override any attempt of a \$50,000 recall. The old guard should soul search because their constituents took a course of action to let their dissatisfaction be known. Choosing to spend outlandish dollars to attempt to justify their hurt feelings without consideration of the voters, is outrageous.

The board directors once elected have a fiduciary responsibility to look out for their constituents. Ideological split groups act as checks and balances over one another. The other choice — the old guard can modify their actions to better suit their constituent's desires.

Realtor listings show 26 condos for sale at HG, with sales dropping in recent months. Condo values in other states drop \$100,000 when homeowner association (HOA) fees exceed \$500 monthly. High HOA fees hurt property value. My HOA fees have risen 33 percent in five years and are going up once again.

Instead of casting blame or shrugging off responsibility, what measure could have been taken in the past or revised in the future to curb this?

Why is the convoluted voting system of a senior community designed

for only one outcome pertaining to the budget. That might be a prudent thought for the next budget, because your constituents are beginning to wake up.

With these new conscientious board members, I look forward to positive change.

**Janis Blease
B207**

Heather 'n Yon

A Circle of Deceit: On Saturday, Dec. 9, the HGMD Board had a meeting scheduled in Sandberg Auditorium. Several of us created a flier to post in our buildings.

My Area Representative (AR) posted half the sheet on the bulletin board on Monday, Dec. 4. On Wednesday, I posted a copy on each floor by the elevator. By 9 am Thursday, all flyers had been removed. I re-posted the notices on Thursday. By Friday morning, *they had been removed again*. They were not taken down by my AR.

The HGMD meeting was held with only two people from B217 attending. They read the notice on the bulletin board. My notice had been *replaced* with an *altered copy*, showing the meeting starting two hours later than the right time.

After two separate discussions, my AR said she got this inaccurate copy in her AR Clubhouse mailbox.

This raises two questions:

- 1) *Who* made an exact duplicate of my notice and *changed the times*?
- 2) *Who* put copies in the AR mailboxes for distribution with *falsified information* to the *entire* community?

Someone in B217 purposefully removed notices of an official HGMD meeting. Someone changed information on my flier, and distributed it through HG official channels. Someone is at the center of this *Circle of Deceit*. Who was it?

What is HGA so afraid of? The CEO and CFO didn't leave high paying jobs because they were abused. Why did they leave?

Do not sign any recall petition! A recall of four directors could cost upwards of \$23,000.

Let HGMD investigate *why* your fees have doubled in five years; *Why* is HG being investigated for the PPP loans, and *why* is the restaurant under-equipped.

Kevin Keator, B217

Clubs and Organizations

HG Women's Book Club

The club meets on the first Monday of each month in the Mountain View Room, to discuss the chosen book of the month. There are two sessions: at 10:30 am and 1 pm. Call Janet Arce, 720-774-3368, for the 10:30 am group; or Joanne Urias, 251-518-5781, for the 1 pm group.

Spanish Club (Club en Español)

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

Woodshop Club

The club promotes use of the Woodshop and better care of the equipment. It 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, Mountain View 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. Questions may be directed to President Dave Woods, heathergardenswoodshop-club@gmail.com.

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.

Optimist Club

The club meets on first and third Thursday of each month for breakfast in Rendezvous Restaurant, 9 am. A continental breakfast buffet is served, \$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 Darlene Park, 303-798-5088, or Bob Schlageter, 303-751-2205, with questions.

HG 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 HG. Join us on Thursdays, 1–4 pm, Mountain View Room. Club contact: Barbara Creswell, 651-485-3608.

CP4

We have our monthly get together on the first Thursday of the month. Please look for an email from your AR to let you know when and where the get together will be. — David Crum

Kiwanis Club of Aurora

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

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, in the Skyview Room. For information, contact Gene Dawson, 720-535-9672.

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 information, call Paul Spoutz, 303-564-1877.

Aviation Club

The club will be starting our eighth year of programs during the second week of January, at 7 pm on Wednesday, Jan. 10, Aspen Room. We will feature a documentary of the career of R. A. “Bob” Hoover, a WW2 veteran, test pilot, Korean War Sabre Jet consultant, air-show demo pilot extraordinaire, and maybe the “Best Stick & Rudder Pilot” ever! That was the description that Jimmy Doolittle said about Bob.

I met Bob at my first Oshkosh Air Show in 2017 at a book signing, and got my picture taken shaking his hand. It is said by many that Bob never refused an autograph and a handshake! He passed away in October 2016, at age 94. — Rudy Morris

B201 and B202

B201 and B202 meet at 4:30 pm on the second Wednesday of the month. For more information, please call Nancy Grossman, 714-470-5660.

The Green Team

The Green Team's next meeting will be at noon Thursday, Jan. 11, Blue Spruce Room. Hope to see you there!

Happy 2024! You say this to yourself as you survey the living room filled with piles of folded wrapping paper and collapsed empty gift boxes from friends and family who just left after visiting. Stop. Before carting everything to the trash bin, think: is anything recyclable?

Here's what you should know: no to ribbon or string, tissue paper, metallic or shiny wrapping paper, Styrofoam peanuts or bubble wrap. Yes to cardboard boxes and plain brown postal wrapping paper.

To make it easy on yourself, always keep a small bin in your house that is dedicated to recyclable items. Once it's filled, carry it to the recycle bin. Never include plastic bags, but remember: Target, Sprouts and King Soopers will take your plastic shopping bags.

Even if the bag has the recycle triangle symbol, do not dispose of it with your recyclables. The bags get tangled in the 5280 Company's machinery. We hope this information will make the clean-up much easier, and your new year much happier. For information, call 303-587-9797. — Wendy Pfaffhausen

RV Lot Club

Our club is open to all who RV, not just those who rent space in the HG RV Storage Lot. At our meetings, we share information and experience about RV-ing. We lobby to improve conditions in the storage lot. We also anticipate having social, travel and camping activities.

We meet the second Thursday of each month, 5–6 pm, Aspen Room. Happy trails and safe travels!

Birding and Nature Club

The club meets at 11:30 am, on the second Friday of each month, Lodgepole Lounge.

The Breakfast Club

The club (TBC) for Singles 50 Plus meets at 8:30 am on the second Saturday in Rendezvous Restaurant for breakfast. Call 303-794-3332 to make your reservation. Cost is \$20.

This is just the tip of the iceberg. TBC has grown in the past 20 years — it is larger with 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 Harnes

Social Justice Discussion

We will not meet on Jan. 17. Instead, read the information below about Dr. Martin Luther King Day. We are preparing and sponsoring this event. We will meet on Feb. 15 at our regular time place.

Martin Luther King Day

Unpacking the Society We Live In is sponsoring a free open house for Martin Luther King Day on Monday, Jan. 15, 10 am–2 pm, Sandburg Auditorium. Titled “Becoming the Beloved Community,” the celebration will feature video and displays about King and his speeches, music and snacks, books by Denver Black authors, and conversation areas. All are welcome. For questions email: Diane Pritchard, dianekpritchard@gmail.com, or Bernie Hupperts, marlynber@gmail.com.

HG Photo Club

If you want to learn more about photography, get inspired, meet others who share your passion, make new friends, and learn how to share

those great trips, try the HG Photo Club. We discuss the different ways of taking photos and how things have changed in the photo world.

We meet on the third Monday, 3–5 pm, Aspen Room. The next meeting will be January 15. Contact Anita Huddleston, anvid7@hotmail.com, 303-718-6676.

Caregivers Support Group

The group meets on the third Tuesday of the month, 2–4 pm, Aspen Room. All caregivers are welcome. For information, call Nancy Fuhr, 303-337-4890.

Wine & Cheese Social Club

We meet on the third Saturday of every month. Join us at 3–5 pm Saturday, Sept. 16, Aspen/Blue Spruce Room. Bring a beverage and snack to share. Entertainment is provided. For information, call the Clubhouse Activity Desk, 303-751-1811, ext. 5.

Frolics Club

Start the new year with some frolicking fun. Be our guest! Join us at our Magic Potluck, featuring magician Scott McCray, at noon Sunday, Jan. 21, Aspen/Blue Spruce Room. Required RSVP to Arlene Krell, 720-284-9774. — M. Mines

SRA

The Seville Recreational Association meets the fourth Monday of every month in a different building. For time and location, contact your AR or Seville building representative.

Sevillians

Mark your calendar for 4:30–6 pm, the fourth Tuesday of the month, for the Sevillian dinner at Rendezvous. This is a wonderful way to connect with fellow residents of Seville, make new acquaintances, and find out about important happenings within the Seville. Sign-up sheets will be provided in the mailroom of your building. — Patt Clark, B235.

NFBCO Aurora Chapter

NFBCO Aurora meets once a month, on the fourth Saturday, 10:30 am–12:30 pm, in the Mountain View Room. Our chapter is open to all blind and low-vision persons interested in learning more about living the life you want with limited vision. For more information, contact Dale Holden, chapter president, B213, 303-905-9738.

OPOCS Singles Club

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

Low Vision Support

The Low Vision Support Group meets on the fourth Monday of the month, 1:30–3 pm, Aspen Room. Questions, call Marsha Bengen, 720-535-5224.

HG Republican Club

Welcome to the first general meeting of the year, on Tuesday, Jan. 23, 1:30–3 pm, Sandberg Auditorium to vote for HGRC Officers 2024. We look forward to an exciting year, with new offerings for members — a U.S. Constitution class, new movie nights, conservative coffees and/or dinners, and campaigning for candidates for U.S. President and the U.S. House of Representatives. Guests are always welcome.

Membership 2024: Dues are \$20 for the year. Our dues support candidate events, caucus, county, district and state assemblies, postage, advertising and other administrative costs for the club. Please feel free to contact President Robin O'Meara, for more information: 303-949-4916, rlomeara1@gmail.com.

Important Dates and Events

- March 5: Super Tuesday, Presidential Primary
- March 7: Republican Party Caucus, 6 pm, Sandberg Auditorium and meeting rooms. Several precincts will caucus to vote on recommendations for rules and by-laws for the district and state elections. We also vote for delegates to represent us at both assemblies. Be a knowledgeable voter and get involved by being a part of the grassroots movement to make change.

“I think of a hero as someone who understands the degree of responsibility that comes with his freedom.” — Bob Dylan

HG Democrats

The HG Democratic Club meets the fourth Tuesday of each month,

Clubs...page 46



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DO YOU KNOW ABOUT THE RECALL?

Written and paid for by Robin O'Meara

On November 16th three Heather Gardens residents filed a petition to recall four Directors from the Heather Gardens Metropolitan District.

Did you know that **John Harvey, Al Lindeman, Bonnie Fleming and Martha Karnopp** want to cost you more money by initiating a Recall Election based on lies, gossip and rumors?

Did you know that it will cost the HG Residents at least **\$43,000** to hold a recall election?

Did you know that the rumor, **"Stall until the recall"** was true? it is very clear, from Martha Karnopp's comments at the Open Forum on December 9th, that these four have been working on the recall ever since the four Directors announced that they were running as a slate; never giving the Directors a chance to do their jobs.

Did you know that the **HGMD and the HGA negotiated for six months** to amend the management agreement? The time frame was not a coincidence. The law says that a recall petition cannot be filed until the officers have served six months. The Recall Committee interfered with negotiations. By not negotiating in good faith valuable time was wasted, additional legal fees incurred, and even more trust was eroded.

The District Directors are working for you, the residents, to protect your money by reducing spending, increasing revenue and monitoring the management of the District properties so that all of the amenities exemplify the quality and reputation of the Heather Gardens Community.

HGMD Directors Craig Baldwin, Rita Effler, Robin O'Meara and Daniel Taylor provide the accountability that HG Residents demand and deserve.

DO NOT SIGN THE RECALL PETITIONS!

For more information about the recall, contact Robin O'Meara
RobinOMeara@HGMetroDist.org

Paid advertisement

Sports and Recreation

Men's Monday Bridge

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

Time4Tap Dance Group

If you've ever wanted to learn how to tap dance, or you'd like to renew your tap skills, Time4Tap Group (Beginning) is for you. We meet on Mondays, 1 pm, Sandberg Auditorium. With questions, call or text Julie Whalen, 303-550-5985; email jwhalen97@comcast.net. Or just drop in on a Monday.

If you are a seasoned tap dancer, you might want to join Time4Tap Dance Group (Intermediate/Advanced) at 11 am Thursdays, Sandberg Auditorium. Make Time4Tap!

Monday Mah Jongg

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.

Tennis Club

Our play times, January through April, are Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays, and Saturdays, at 1 pm. Please come out and give us a try. We welcome all levels of players. We offer free lessons, and training on the ball machine.

We have monthly business/social meetings on the first Tuesday of the month, 5 pm, at the Rendezvous Restaurant. Our next regular business meeting is Tuesday, Jan. 2, in Rendezvous. We are friendly and welcoming. If you have any questions, call Wendy Pfaffhausen, 303-587-9797.

Men's Poker & 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 Aspen Room. On Wednesdays, we play Men's Poker (12:30–5 pm) in

the Skyview 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.

Games Galore!

Game night is every Monday 4–6 pm, Arts & Crafts Room. Bring your own game, your drinks, and your snacks. Join us, HG residents and friends, for a fun night. Play your favorite game or learn a new one. It's all for fun. For information, Karen Gold, 712-301-2284.

Hand (Knee) and Foot

Also known as Tripleplay, this is a variation of Canasta. Fun and easy to learn. We meet every Tuesday, 12:30–4 pm, Mountain View Room. Call Kevin Keator 303-699-4641, or just show up.

Pickleball

We offer a free "Pickleball Light" program with free instruction and/or play on Tuesdays and Thursdays, noon to 1 pm for beginners and those who enjoy a slower and easier pace of play. The club provides loaner paddles and pickleballs. Please call Phil or Ron in advance (see below) to be sure a club member will be there for you if you are arriving at noon for instruction.

Club play runs 10 am–noon, and often later when wind chill is above 32° F and wind gusts are below 20 mph. We add events such as Round Robin and Ladder Play occasionally on Saturday or Sunday.

Visit our club's website www.hgpickle.org/ for more information. Contact Phil Hughes, 303-503-7633, or Ron Hileman, 720-256-7477, ronhileman@gmail.com, with your questions, or to schedule a private, free orientation.

Tuesday Mah Jongg

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.

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 Bob Schlageter, 303-751-2205 – B. Schlageter

Billiard Club

The club meets for Co-ed 8-Ball at 6:30 pm on Tuesdays. Check in before 6:15 pm to play. Men's 9-Ball is at 7 pm on Thursdays.

Annual dues of \$12 are payable on January 1 of each year. All new players are welcome. Questions? Call Connie Burns, 303-693-0766, or Judy Brehmer, 303-369-6258.

8-Ball Results November 28

- 1st Greg Kachadoorian, Gil Lochhead
- 2nd Dee Moore, Sean Kelliher
- 3rd Doug Miller, Mark Bonsell

December 5

- 1st Dee Moore, Scott Crowl
- 2nd Roger Goldstein, David Worden
- 3rd Sharon Weiss, Gil Lochhead

December 12

- 1st Shannon Boyd, Ed Harvey
- 2nd Doug Miller, Sharon Weiss
- 3rd Brian Bucenec, Gil Lochhead

9-Ball Results November 30

- 1st Brian Bucenec
- 2nd John Manzanares

December 7

- 1st Scott Crowl
- 2nd Brian Bucenec

Evening Tuesday Bridge

This group meets on the second and fourth Tuesdays of the month, 5:30 pm, Blue Spruce Room. Questions? Contact DJ Vrooman, 303-204-4105.

Afternoon Cribbage

We meet 12:30–3 pm Wednesdays, in the Clubhouse Sunburst Café. For information: Dean Lux, 303-353-4267.

Rummikub

A rummy-like tile game that is played in tables of four. Easy to learn, fun to play. Aspen Room on Wednesdays 1–3 pm. Joanne Turner, 719 641-3644.

HG ACBL Duplicate Bridge

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

Pinochle

We play for fun and friendship. We start at 1:30 pm, and end at 4 pm, every Wednesday in the Mountain View Room. Join us if you'd like to play, learn, or just sharpen your skills. Call Diane, 707-799-6449 or 6446. We look forward to seeing you.

Square Dance

Heather Twirlers invites all square dancers to join us every first and third Wednesday, 7–9 pm. If you would like to join us, but have never square danced — or feel a little rusty and want to improve your skills — classes start on Thursday, Jan. 4, 2:30–4:30 pm, Sandberg Auditorium. Square dancing is a lot of fun and a great way to make new friends and a great way to get your steps in. Any questions please call Beverly Nelson 303-750-6632.

Tai Chi

The tai chi club practices on the tennis courts Thursday mornings. Although tai chi was originally developed for self-defense, it has evolved into a slow form of exercise used for stress reduction and improved posture, flexibility, and balance.

Tai chi consists of deliberate, flowing movements that are grouped into forms. It has been described as “meditation in motion.”

Because we meet outside, the start time is weather dependent. Interested? For information or to sign up, contact Dean Uyeno, dean.uyeno@live.com, before attending.

Bunko

Bunko 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. Information: Carli Williams, carliwilliams@hotmail.com, 303-518-7337.

HG Bowling League

Here are some of the highlights as of Dec. 7: still clinging to first place are the Pin Busters (Summer Dunbar, Dorothy Hunter, Tony Ormsby).

Some of the other season-to-date leader highlights are:

- High Scratch Series (Men and

Women) Glenn Riggs, 612, and Sue McBeth, 544

- High Scratch Game: George Madonna, Steve Hesser (tie) 246, and Charlane Pluchek, 198

- High Handicap Series: Larry Hill, 751, and Lee Boland, 702

- High Handicap Game: Scott Cole, 287, and Barb Gierscher, 263

- Team Scratch Series – 1522 Les Miserabowls (Mary Jo Prichard, Steve Hesser, Glenn Riggs)

- Team Handicap Series – 2025 Easy Rollers (Lee Boland, Carol Strickland, Dave Walstrom)

- Team Scratch Game – 554 Clean Livin' (Bill Peters, Karen Johnson, Bill Singer)

- Team Handicap Game – 692 Old Casanovas (Pat Brinkman, Cliff Cresswell, Larry Hill)

Please email Glenn Riggs, gvriggs@yahoo.com, if you would like to add your name to the list of substitute bowlers, or be placed on our waitlist to be a regular bowler if we have an opening. – Glenn Riggs

Social Bridge

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

Mexican Train Dominoes

We play noon–3 or 4 pm, every Saturday, Arts & Crafts Room. It's a game for everyone. – Bernadette (Bee) Hass, 303-923-3877.

Ladies Golf Club

The new year 2024 is here, and the HG Ladies Golf Club are anxious to shake off the winter cold, and get their clubs and game tuned up for a new season. Club Officers Sara Stoner, Jan Belt, Linda Savage and Laura Thompson are committed to ensuring that everyone feels included and that the weekly tournaments are enjoyable for players at all levels.

While it is early, several important dates are set:

- Jan. 24: The first HGLGC Board Meeting of 2024 at 1 pm, in the Board Room. All members are welcome.

- Feb. 15: Non-resident dues of \$55. This date allows time to notify those on the waiting list if spots are available. Current league rules allow for 30 non-residents.

- Weather permitting, preseason play will begin in April (exact date TBD). Formal league play commencing in May.

New Golf Simulator

In mid-December, Golf Pro Greg Kohr announced the arrival of a new golf simulator. This updated version has an overhead launch monitor, and — according to Greg — provides more detailed and accurate shot information. With a few more months of winter before the golf season begins, you can play one of 100,000 golf courses available. For details and available times, call the Golf Shop.

Bloopers

As we get ready for a new season, it is fun to reflect on some of the lighter moments of the 2023 season.

- Billiards on the golf course: On Hole #5, one member switched from golf to billiards. When attempting to get out of the right-hand sand trap, her ball hit the trap's lip, bounced back and landed in her jacket “pocket.” (There were witnesses.) She said she never makes such lucky pocket shots when playing pool.

- The hole-in-one that wasn't: When does a hole-in-one not count? When the ball lands in a hole not on the green! On hole #7, a member could not find her ball until a maintenance worker in a hole left of the fairway reported that it had hit him. Fortunately, he was not injured, but the club member did not record her first “hole-in-one.”

- Timing is everything: You never know when you are going to play your best golf. For club member JoAnne Fitch, some of her best golf shots came after the season ended. In late October, she recorded an eagle, and the following week scored a hole-in-one.

All women who are 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 HG Pro Shop and on our website, www.heathergardensladiesgolfclub.com. Minutes from all board meetings are posted on the site.

Meet a Member

Introducing Laura Thompson, league treasurer for 2024. Laura has lived at HG for 13 years, but only joined the ladies golf league in 2023

Sports...page 46

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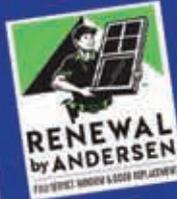
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HG Clubhouse Events

Clubhouse Hours

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

Phone 303-751-1811, x5

Acting Clubhouse Manager Julie Racich

Make reservations for any event by calling the number above or stop by the Clubhouse Activities Desk

AARP Driver's Safety Course

Thursday, Jan. 4, 12:45–5 pm, Sandberg Auditorium
Fee: \$20 AARP members, \$25 non-members (cash or check to instructor, no credit cards); registration required, 303-751-1811 (extension 5). Class size is limited to 25.

Are you a driver age 50 and over? Would you like to receive a discount on your auto insurance? Would you like to learn the current rules of the road, defensive driving techniques and how to operate your vehicle more safely in today's increasingly challenging driving environment? If so, then consider attending the AARP Driver Safety Class at the HG Clubhouse. The class is four hours long. Bring your driver's license with you.

Active Minds: Finland

Wednesday, Jan. 10, 2 pm, Sandberg Auditorium
FREE: Reservation required, 303-751-1811, x5.

With an 830-mile border with Russia, Finland recently joined NATO as a response to Russia's invasion of Ukraine. Join Active Minds as we explore Finland's history as a country geographically influenced by its proximity to Russia, but in many ways deeply tied to Europe, economically and politically. We will also cover Finland's current challenges and opportunities as well as what the future may hold for this country of 5 million people.

Martin Luther King Day: "Becoming the Beloved Community"

Monday, Jan. 15, 10 am–2 pm, Sandberg Auditorium
"Unpacking the Society We Live In" is sponsoring a free open house for Martin Luther King Day. Titled "Becoming the Beloved Community," the celebration will feature videos and displays about King and his speeches. Besides using conversation areas to enjoy the music, you can browse books by Denver Black authors and sample the snacks. *All are welcome.* Diane Pritchard, dianekpritchard@gmail.com, or Bernie Hupperts, marlynber@gmail.com.

Mountain Man Nut & Fruit Co.

Tuesday, Jan. 16, 2:15–3:15 pm, Clubhouse Lobby
Nuts, seeds, snacks, candies, dried fruits, trail mix.

Spotlight on Tuscany Presentation

Thursday, Jan. 18, 1-3 pm, Lodgepole Lounge
FREE: Reservations required, call 303-751-1811 ext. 5
Robin Shattuck, Collette Travel, will present an itinerary for this amazing trip to Tuscany. Discover the rolling hills with vineyards, charming medieval hill towns, and enchanting cities. Seven nights in Montecatini Terme, the famous resort and spa town. Visit Pisa, Florence, Lucca, and San Gimignano. Enjoy fabulous local wines and the

region's famous cuisine. Steeped in history, culture and legend, this is Tuscany.

Bingo!

Friday, Jan. 19, 1–3 pm, Sandberg Auditorium
FREE: Reservation required, 303-751-1811, x5.

Snacks will be provided. Register early, this event fills up fast!

Outlaw Tales of Colorado with Kathleen Arnold

Thursday, Jan. 18, 1–2 pm, Sandberg Auditorium
FREE, reservations required, call 303-751-1811 ext. 5

The West started out as a wild lawless place where outlaws, rustlers and gangs ruled the land. Often there was a fine line between an outlaw and a lawman as corruption ruled the west. Sponsored by Cherry Creek Retirement Village and Garden Plaza of Aurora.

Movie Matinee: *Avatar: The Way of Water*

Friday, Jan. 26, 2 pm, Sandberg Auditorium
Cost: \$5 pre-register; \$6 on the day of the event.

Reservation required, 303-751-1811, x5

The Way of Water, 2022, is an American science fiction film, co-produced and directed by James Cameron. Screenplay by Cameron with Rick Jaffa and Amanda Silver based on a story the trio wrote with Josh Friedman and Shane Salerno. It is the sequel to *Avatar*. Cast members Sam Worthington, Zoe Saldana, Stephen Lang, Joel David Moore, CCH Pounder, Giovanni Ribisi, Dileep Rao and Matt Gerald reprise their roles from the original film, with Sigourney Weaver returning. Kate Winslet joined the cast. It follows a blue-skinned humanoid Na'vi named Jake Sully as he and his family, under renewed human threat, seek refuge with the aquatic Metkayina clan of Pandora, a habitable exomoon on which they live.

Heather Gardens Trips

Breckenridge International Snow Sculpture Championships

Monday, Jan. 29, 2024

Fee: \$34, reservations required, call 303-751-1811 ext 5.
Deadline: Friday, Jan. 19. No cancellations, or refunds after this date.

This annual, world-renowned snow sculpting competition attracts teams from around the world to hand-carve 25-ton blocks of snow into enormous, intricate works of art. Artists are only allowed to use hand tools, to bring their creative ideas to life. Lunch will be on your own. Visit local restaurants or bring your own. HG charter will leave HG at 8:45 am, returning around 4 pm. Bus will pick up between buildings B243 and B244 on E. Marina Drive.



Above: *The Denver Dolls* returned to HG on Dec. 14, presenting a show reminiscent of WW2 USO shows.

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To Electors of HGMD

PLEASE DECLINE TO SIGN ANY RECALL PETITION!

C4C ARE BEING RECALLED! Rita Effler, Craig Baldwin, Daniel Taylor, and Robin O'Meara

I am being implicated in the resignation of five managers and now, one resident assistant. Why did all those employees leave? Do you think they would really tell why they left during an exit interview with the HR person. Who would they give for a reference? I wonder why the restaurant assistant manager left? Who ran off more than 35 hourly employees who left, after training and uniforms provided?

The infamous Management Agreement is the most poorly written "contract" I have ever been associated with. It is a bad contract that has not "been functioning very well for the community." This agreement was written in 2018 when HGA took over the management of the Restaurant and Golf Course from contractors.

HGA was hired by HGMD to manage the properties, back in 1985 when everything was new, and the Restaurant and Golf Course were under outside private management. HGA's job to manage and maintain their own properties has gotten bigger. The properties are old now, and maintenance is more urgent. There is more of it. Now there is a Restaurant and a Golf Course and a Clubhouse. HGA cannot manage it all. They admit they cannot meet HGMD needs.

Both entities must hire their own staff. Management allows HGMD Directors minimal communication with their employees. Our "concerns" are "complaints." "Oh, the toilet is still not working, " is harassment. Many facets of HGMD's property have been neglected. Maintenance of the facilities suffers. The Woodshop has been neglected for five years. Revenue production is sidelined. Our staff will focus on HGMD. The staff is in place, mostly. HGMD is already charged for maintenance, custodial, roads and grounds.

HGA can invoice HGMD as a "contractor" if they want to remain employed by HGMD. HGA absorbs the cost for a PEO company for the administration of staff assigned to HGMD. These costs should "wash." There should be no duplication in staff. HGMD would pay by invoice for shared staff, i.e. accounting or clerical if we utilize them. HGA should invoice HGMD for the work/services they furnish to us. HGA will pay fair market rental for maintenance building, office space, storage space, break room. HGMD will pay fair market value for services provided, spelled out in an enforceable CONTRACT. HGA will pay fair market value spelled out in an enforceable CONTRACT. HGMD can only control your Recreation Fee by knowing where those monies go.

I feel that it is in the best interest of the community to make this split. There is no good reason not to. What do we have to lose? HGA will still be here. HGMD will still be here. You will still be here. The scare tactic of costing more — auditing HGMD financial reports in 2023 is costing \$10,000 less. HGA protested changing auditors, used scare tactic on cost. Why? HGA should focus on HGA. HGMD should focus on HGMD. We share some resources. We sit down and figure out how to do it, Board to Board, because we live with the ramifications of any agreement negotiated, not the attorneys!

Please **DECLINE TO SIGN** any recall petition. Give us a chance before attempting to ride us out on a rail. **Who would you be left with!**

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Clubs...from page 35

4–5:30 pm, Sandberg Auditorium. All are welcome, whether or not you live in HG or are registered as a Democrat. Our meetings are free. As Democrats, we support the very foundations of our democracy: the Constitution, the rule of law, and good government that works for the good of all, not just a powerful few.

Our January meeting is Tuesday, Jan. 23. The topic will be the results of the November special session of the legislature, and also the primary legislative issues of 2024. We will also discuss how we can influence the outcome of the 2024 elections to preserve our democracy.

Some of us like to have dinner in the Rendezvous after the meeting. Please join us for lively discussion and good company. – Marty Karnopp, Chair

CP1

We plan to enjoy a Winter Party in January (11 am Saturday, Jan. 27, Aspen/Blue Spruce Rooms). Monthly social hours will resume on the first Wednesday of the month in February. – Tammi, 303-618-5345; Carolyn, 720-290-9908.

HG Singers

The group will not meet in January. We are looking for an accompanist/director. For more details, call Tom Kappel, 720-377-5756.

HG Grief Support

Grief Support has two-hour weekly meetings that convene twice yearly, for eight-week sessions. Contact Barbara Creswell, 651-485-3608, bcreswell6@gmail.com, for information on future sessions.

CP2

We meet on the first Tuesday in April, June, August, October, and December. In April and October, we will meet in the Aspen/Blue Spruce Rooms. In December and June, we meet in the Rendezvous Restaurant. The months that we are not meeting in Rendezvous Restaurant will be potluck and BYOB. Please mark your calendars! – Jake Flint

Sports...from page 39

after she retired. Since she was no longer working, she wanted to become active in the community. When the opportunity to serve as league treasurer presented itself, she knew it was a good fit, given her background in insurance accounting. Laura says her favorite part has been getting to know the other women in the league.

– Suzi Stolte, Publicity Chair

Men's Golf Club

Welcome to the new year, everyone. The men's golf club can look forward to the new season with more fun events, social opportunities, and a slightly longer season, weather permitting.

• Annual membership dues for 2024 will be \$50, payable by check at the Pro Shop, along with your 2024 HGMGC application.

• To retain your same tee time you had in 2023, all members of your

group must have turned in their application and payment to the Pro Shop by Feb. 15. All remaining tee times will be open for first-come, first-serve after Feb. 15.

• Our season start date will be April 5, weather permitting.

Gentlemen of all skill levels who are interested in league play are cordially invited to apply for 2024 membership to HGMGC. Detailed information and applications with instructions are available at the Pro Shop as of Tuesday, Jan. 2, or on our website, www.golfleaguetracker.com. Sign in with our League ID: HGMGC. If you need a password, please contact Glenn

Riggs, our treasurer at gvriggs@yahoo.com.

Is your game a bit rusty after winter's layoff? You might want to try the newly updated golf simulator at the Pro Shop. Updates include a bigger enclosure, better seating, and now users can get food delivery from Rendezvous Restaurant. Make a reservation by calling the Pro Shop, 303-751-2390.

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Overheard @ HG

Santa Claus came early

by Mary Hafka

I remember hearing my father tell the story of the time he and his father-in-law — my grandfather — stayed up late one Christmas eve to put together a bicycle for my brother. I never knew my grandfather, so cannot attest to his assembling skills. My father was not particularly gifted in this endeavor. Despite him being a guy — and everyone knows that guys are naturally mechanically inclined — I always knew that I was better at fixing any spatial-relationship tasks than my father was.

Dad and Granddad set about assembling the bicycle. Dad admitted that every time they got a section done, they stopped and had a swig of whiskey. I assume that, by Christmas morning, something resembling a bicycle emerged. Luckily, my brother was pretty young. Maybe he didn't notice any shortcomings.

I remembered this story recently when I conceived the idea that my pampered felines needed a cat tree — for exercise, intellectual stimulation, and to stop shredding the furniture. Costco advertised some fine-looking cat trees. I ventured there to investigate.

Alas, by the time I arrived, Costco was down to only four units. All had severely maimed packaging.

A supervisor explained I could drive to Costco Airport — the Costco there had lots of cat trees in stock. Or I could drive to Costco Park Meadows — they had even more units in stock. Or, I could return to the Havana Costco in a week or two — they were expecting another shipment.

The cat-tree boxes were heavy, so I didn't want to take a chance on buying any of the munched-up ones. I didn't want to have to transport them back to Costco, if I found damage after I got one home.

It swiftly occurred to me I could order a cat tree from Costco Online, Amazon or *Chewy.com*. They'd bring the item directly to my porch. Armed with a new plan, I went online and blithely ordered one I thought

would meet the exacting standards of both pussycats, promising variety, soundness and preferred construction materials.

I ordered my cat tree, and forgot about the whole thing, until the fateful day when Fed Ex dropped the box off at my door on a bright and early Monday. I barely managed to wrestle the box inside my front door.

I opened the box and observed that this cat tree was a thing of beauty. And stature. It was large. Really large.

I set about to assemble it, noting that, while each piece (and there were a lot of pieces) was clearly labeled, the printed instructions left something to be desired. I like my instructions written in clear, plain English. These were pictures-and-arrows instructions, useful in any language, but only minimally.

I pushed aside the sinking feeling that I had bitten off more than I could chew. I figured I could chew this, as long as I took it slowly.

The process started badly. The principle of assembling the base was to insert bolts into holes in the platforms, which were covered in lush, blue fake fur. This meant I couldn't quite see the holes.

Neither could I see the bolts either, due to the walls and corners of the tree, which obstructed one's view. I had faith the holes were there. Using a method of feeling for holes with my fingers and uttering a few magic words, I tried to screw the poles into the base.

I should explain — there were no fewer than five different sizes of poles. I knew if I screwed the wrong size pole into the wrong base corner, things would not go well.

I did screw the wrong poles onto the wrong base. Things did not go

well. I corrected the poles' locations, and tried again.

I found myself screaming encouraging words to the bolts such as, "C'mon, honey. You can do it! You can slide into that hole, and secure that pole, and defeat that fur blocking the hole. Slide, baby, slide!"

After 15 minutes of frustration, everything — miraculously — fell into place. All the bolts (there were five different sizes of those, too) fell into the holes that fit into the poles that connected the cat cabins (two of those) onto the platforms (about seven of those, although I lost count) that held the dangling mouse toys (two of those) and a thick rope, whose purpose I've yet to figure out, but it looks sporty.

I had a little trouble fitting the cat cabins, because I kept finding a cat already installed in those, sleeping soundly, as I was trying to secure the cabins to a platform. Cats like to help their humans put things together, I've learned. Jelli was particularly intent on playing polo with the exact size bolt I needed at each step.

When the cat tree was finished, it reached 72 inches in all its blue fake-furry splendor. I turned to usher a cat, or two, into the edifice, and discovered, after two hours, the cats had grown weary of the process. They were now playing in the cardboard box in which the tree arrived.

The cats came around, by evening. The slender, dainty cat installed himself in the large cat cabin. The more portly boy — Quill — could only fit his rear quarters into the smaller cat cabin, so his front end stuck out onto a platform.

Being accommodating is not in a cat's vocabulary.

They were happy. I was a wreck. My sweat-drenched shirt was on the ground. Discarded plastic and blue fuzzballs were everywhere.

And Mortie, the dog, was indignant that after all this fol-de-rol, nothing emerged from the box for her. I suspect another online trip to *chewy.com* is in my future, for an eight-foot-tall plush replica of Notre Dame Cathedral, or something similar. My house might be chaotic, but I strive to be fair.



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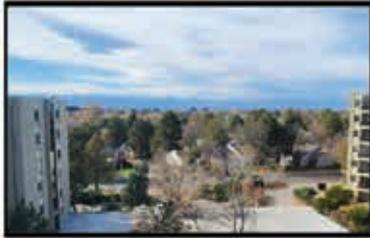
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