

Heather n Yon

March 2026
Vol. 40, No. 1

Heather Gardens
Community Magazine



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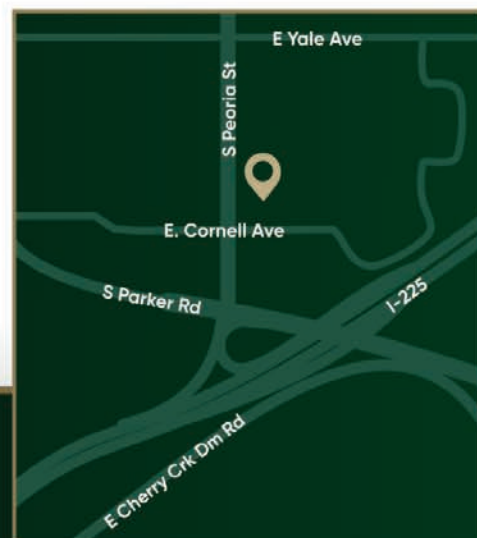
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FIRST DAY OF SPRING

FRIDAY, MARCH 20



in every issue

- 24 CLUBHOUSE EVENTS
- 26 COMMUNITY INSIGHTS
- 31 LETTERS
- 34 CLUBS/ORGANIZATIONS
- 38 SPORTS/RECREATION
- 50 CLASSIFIED ADS

- 5** HGMD Appoints New Director, Continues Forward Movement
- 5** HGA Board: Positive Action on Key Issues
- 10** HG Security, Aurora PD Respond to “Incident Involving Resident”
- 17** A Look Back: COVID Comes to Heather Gardens

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TO HG RESIDENTS: It is the intent of the HnY 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. The Publishers do not necessarily endorse the companies, products or services advertised in *Heather 'n Yon*. Printed by Publication Printers corp., 2001 S. Platte River Dr., Denver

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Heather Gardens Chapel



Holy Week Services Palm Sunday

March 29 • 11am

Non-Denominational
Inspirational

All Services -
Sandberg Auditorium



Easter Sunday

April 5 • 11am

Chapel Choir
"Were You There?"

Sunday Bible Class
10:00am
Mountain View Room

For link to Sunday
11am Zoom
email
motoringmorris@gmail.com

Pastor Bill Cheyne

LIST OF ADVERTISERS

Attorneys-

Karnopp, Radosevich, Preston 51
Kirch, Rounds & Bowman29

Auto Service-

Ken's Auto Service.....40

Dentists-

Aspenwood2
Mauck and Ricci28
Dr. Nelson Joo23

Financial Services-

Aurora Tax Prep.....32
Edward Jones-H.Blevins.....32
Reverse Mortgage 18

Health Services-

Bayer Ear Clinic Inc.55
Eagles Nest Counseling51
iPlace Seniors.....48

Home Improvements-

Affordable Flooring8
AMP Electric49
Bath Fitter47
Colorado Sunroom, Lanais..... 16
Colorado Sunroom, Windows.48
One Day Doors and Closets... 18
Dun-Rite Home Improve44
Expressions in Flooring23
Floor Coverings International.40
Kitchen Tune Up43
Renewal by Andersen.....41

Insurance-

Bagwin Insurance32

Miscellaneous-

Aging in Place Event 13
Choppers Hair Salon40
Great Looks Hair Salon8
HG Chapel4
HG Craft Fair9
HG Town Hall.....8
Norma's Cleaning Service49
Pre-Planning/Fairmount.....8

Realtors-

Aleta Antoinette/ Bingo Reverse
Mortgage 12
Compass Real Est -R.Lindahl27
Heather Gardens Brokers21,56
Re/Max Prof. -Fred Smith45
Your Castle -C.Ingebritson 16

Retirement-

Cherry Creek27
St. Andrews Village.....20
V-Esprit32

Travel-

4 Hemispheres Travel..... 14

Service Directory 52-53
Classified Ads..... 50-51

HGMD Appoints New Director, Continues Forward Movement

The Heather Gardens Metropolitan District Board of Directors convened its monthly meeting February 16, with a quorum present. David Kennedy, Linda Savage, and Cecilia Williams were in attendance in the boardroom. Bill Archambault was absent.

In his President's Report, David Kennedy reported that the board vacancy created by Steve Stratton's resignation has been filled by Maria Mines. Mines, who was interviewed and appointed at a special meeting February 20, is a former district board member, having served in 2021 and 2022. She has also served on the Joint Long Range Planning Committee, the Green Team, and is a new member of the Foundation Committee. Mines was in attendance at the meeting but was unable to participate because her paperwork had not yet been processed.

Kennedy also reported significant progress in transitioning the accounting services back to Heather Gardens from Community Resource Services of Colorado. He said the process should be completed in time for the 2025 audit to begin. After hearing concerns from representatives of the RV Lot Committee and the garden club, Kennedy acknowledged that the transition has created confusion in these areas, but he is confident that it will be cleared up very soon.

Linda Savage reported that the new golf carts are scheduled to arrive in early March. She said they were able to upgrade to 2023 models at no additional cost. She also reported that the grounds and maintenance crew created a practice chipping green for around \$200 by seeding it rather than purchasing expensive turf.

Cecilia Williams reported that the Clubhouse Committee is currently reviewing the procedural memorandums and all project requests. She also reported that the Foundation has decided to invest one of its accounts in a short-term, three-month certificate of deposit to make it more accessible. The other will be invested in a longer-term, conservative CD.

In new business, Williams reported that she is working with association board member Corrine Crum to submit grant proposals for funding for the walking path. They have also been in touch with the City of Aurora about getting some free architectural help for the path and landscape design. Williams, Crum, and David Kennedy will form an ad hoc committee for grant writing.

Finally, Kennedy reported that the district and the association continue to make progress on a new management agreement. He said he expects they will have a draft to share with the public very soon.

HGA Board: Positive Action on Key Issues

2026 Census & Community Directory Watering the Golf Course Comcast/Xfinity Clean Up Employee Safety Training

The 2026 Heather Gardens Census in March, watering the golf course and other properties to protect the grass in order to avoid replacing sod, and the near completion of the Comcast/Xfinity clean up were some of the topics at the Heather Gardens Association Board meeting, Tuesday, February 24, at the Clubhouse.

For the first time in HG history, the Census will be conducted primarily digitally. It is projected that upwards of 400 residents will need assistance with filling in the forms.

Director Linda Hileman, Chair of the Community Engagement & Communications Committee (CECC), noted that approximately 80 Heather Gardens residents generously volunteered to assist their neighbors across the HG community. The volunteers honed their digital skills through a series of training sessions specific to the 2026 HG Census.

The 2026 Census effort launched on March 1 and will continue through the month.

Census orientations included a Volunteer Confidentiality Pledge to assure that volunteers have been trained thoroughly in digital privacy practices, providing confidentiality of all resident information.

Resident and owner information gathered through these forms is required under federal law and the Heather Gardens Condominium Declaration to verify occupancy and maintain the community's 55+ qualification.

Hileman noted that the 2026 Community Directory will be online on the website and will be password protected for resident privacy. While the primary delivery vehicle will be digital, there will be some printed copies. Production is in progress.

Watering the Golf Course: On the topic of watering the golf course and other HG properties, General Manager Jon Rea explained that in collaboration with HG Roads and Grounds, management determined it is imperative that HG run the water sprinklers to protect the extremely dry grass, thereby avoiding what would be very expensive replacement of sod.

Typically, the golf course isn't watered during the first quarter of the year. However, the extraordinary lack of snow this season has made watering a necessity. Rea added that people will see the sprinklers running on the golf course and some other areas of the

property and to know that this unusual use of irrigation is definitely by design.

Additionally, Rea stated that he has noticed other golf courses and developments in our area irrigating their courses.

Comcast/Xfinity: Finishing up HG's previous contract with Comcast/Xfinity to upgrade the cabling is projected to be completed by end of March. Next step will be that Rea will partner with a Comcast vice president to physically walk the property and be sure that the vendor has cleaned up the conduit and that everything is aesthetically pleasing.

The completion of this agreement between HG and Comcast/Xfinity is separate from the awarding of a fiber optics contract. Management and the Board will review proposals by three vendors in what is a complex and impactful process to determining a fiber optics vendor.

Safety Training for Employees: In January, HG management developed a safety training program for employees. Rea gave kudos to Human Resources Manager Valerie Holt for leading the effort. The training includes a weekly safety topic to be discussed in each manager's meetings. Additionally, the new 2026 Employee Handbook has been updated and sent to employees for their review and adherence.

All Employee Meetings: With a focus on customer service and the difference that each employee can make at Heather Gardens, Rea noted that an All Employee Meeting had been conducted that morning. Subsequent meetings will continue on what is projected to be a quarterly basis.

Technology Subcommittee: Board President Sue McBeth noted that the technology team will proceed as an ad hoc group rather than a committee. She noted that John Guise, who heads the effort, reports that their focus will be on small operational technology fixes and that they are developing a three to five year plan on where HG should be heading as to technology.

Electrical Outlets to Multi-Story Buildings: A motion to approve approximately \$58,000 for additional electrical outlets in common areas of some buildings, amounting to 258 outlets at a cost of \$225 each, was reviewed by the Board. While the idea had been discussed over the past couple months, with various directors visiting some of the buildings to see where the proposed outlets would be installed, most Board members were reluctant for Heather Gardens to foot the bill for work that would be done in only a few buildings, therefore benefitting less than the total HG community. The motion was defeated.

HGA Board meetings are held the fourth Tuesday of each month. The next meeting will be Tuesday, March 24, 1 pm in the Clubhouse Board Room. Residents are encouraged to attend in person or by Zoom. A day prior to the meeting, the agenda, committee reports and motions are available, plus the minutes from the previous month. For information, visit www.heathergardens.org.



Friday Night Dance - February 2026

Photo by Janis Farrell



Why is our 55+ status important?

HGA's 55+ status protects the value of your property. Many buyers prefer these communities and are willing to pay a premium for their quieter environment and tailored amenities. But HGA has to follow the rules set by HOPA (Housing for Older People Act), allowing for age restrictions that are otherwise prohibited under the Fair Housing Act. One rule is that HGA must prove it's a community where 55+ residents live. Losing our 55+ status has a lot of negative consequences, and one of them is reducing the pool of FHA/VA-qualified buyers.

Be – Ontime Deadline March 31

The mandatory Heather Gardens (HG) Census kicked off on March 1. You must provide your information “On Time” before March 31. This survey is mandatory by our community rules (Declaration) to keep our 55+ status and to comply with legal requirements. Every unit must have at least one resident aged 55 or older.

Community Directory: Your Choice

The 2026 HGA census information will also be used for updating the Community Directory. But it's your choice what info (if any) you want in the Directory. The census form asks for explicit written opt-in consent from each individual resident about what personal information they want included in the HG Community Directory. If you do not want your contact information published, HG management will use it for accounting, legal compliance and emergency purposes only. Your information will never be sold.

Start filling out the census right NOW

Scan this QR code with your smartphone



OR

Enter this link in your browser:
<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/FYMFGR>

On average it will take you less than seven minutes!

Questions / Problems

In case you have any questions or problems related the 2026 Census contact the HG Management Office: 303-755-0652, ext. 151.

Need help?

In case you need help to fill out the online Census, because you don't have a computer or you are not tech-savvy, you can ask your AR or a designated Census point-of-contact person to help you out. Alternatively, you can visit one of the many Census Completion Clinics in the HG Clubhouse Board Room. (See insert for date/ time):

- Volunteers will be available to help you enter your information digitally.
- You do not need to bring anything with you.
- You can arrive at any time during these posted hours, but please make sure you arrive at least 15 minutes before the ending time.

Census Completion Clinics Schedule

Location: HG Clubhouse Board Room

DATE	TIME	ARRIVE BY
Thursday, March 5	10 am – 12 noon	11:45 am
Friday, March 6	12 noon-2 pm	1:45 pm
Monday, March 9	10 am – 12 noon	11:45 am
Wednesday, March 11	2:30 pm – 4:30 pm	4:15 pm
Tuesday, March 17	10 am -12 noon	11:45 am
Monday, March 23	1 pm – 3 pm	2:45 pm
Tuesday, March 24	10 am – 12 noon	11:45 am
Thursday, March 26	10 am – 12 noon	11:45 am
Friday, March 27	11 am – 1pm	12:45 pm
Monday, March 30	1 pm – 3 pm	2: 45 pm
Tuesday, March 31	10 am – 12 noon	11:45 am

All volunteers assisting you to fill out the online census form at the clinics have signed a confidentiality agreement to ensure information you provide is confidential. All residents are strongly encouraged to fill out the online census form by yourself or with the help of a volunteer at one of the clinics, but there could be a reason you still prefer to fill out a paper form. In that case, proceed to the Management Office and pick up the paper version.

 Heather Gardens



1st Tuesday of the Month • 3:00pm
Sandberg Auditorium

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www.heathergardens.org
see the
"Heather 'n Yon" link in
the top menu

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BBQ sauces, scones and more from
Mel's Market. Both Friday and Saturday
9:00am - 3:00pm

Invite your friends!



Heather Gardens



HG Security, Aurora PD Respond to “Incident Involving Resident”

At about 4:30 a.m. on Monday, February 9, many residents of a Seville building awoke to a loud, sharp knock on their unit door.

Officers from Heather Gardens Security were going from unit to unit, notifying residents that the building was being evacuated. To a first-floor resident who asked, one officer replied “we have a situation on one of the floors.” His apologetic but no-nonsense demeanor made it clear: *this is serious*.

Sheltering in nearby buildings. Residents awoke their significant others as needed. They dressed quickly, but tried to be mindful: *Remember medication. Take a warm coat. Take the cellphone. Go to the bathroom. Don't forget to lock the door and take the keys.* But for some, hasty preparation meant items were missed.

In the building's entrance foyer, a woman with AR (area representative) experience was calling residents on the telephone intercom to tell them of the evacuation order. Through the building's front doors, one could see multiple police cars parked, headlights illuminating the entrance.

In the following minutes, a steady stream of building residents emerged from the elevator to the first-floor lobby. Those with mobility challenges made their way to the sofa or chairs. Many wore pajamas or robes under their coats. One or two had forgotten to wear something warm. Not surprisingly, some looked haggard and tired. All, of course, were concerned. They wanted to know what “the situation” was. In low voices, they asked their friends and neighbors whether they knew anything more than what Security was authorized to divulge.

“We're asking residents to evacuate to another building,” an officer announced to the group, pointing to the Seville structure directly south. (A bit later, the lobby of the building directly east would also shelter residents.)

Evacuated residents walked the seventy yards to the neighboring building in clumps of twos and threes. They congregated in the foyer until



a security officer opened the door to the lobby. This setting was unfamiliar to most evacuees, but all were grateful for the warmth and safety of this temporary refuge.

More police cars arrived, and it wasn't long before SWAT vehicles pulled in and parked in front of



the evacuated building. By the time the pre-dawn sky lightened, SWAT personnel had entered the building. A lone figure was spotted on the roof. A drone overhead surveyed the situation. Enforcement vehicles, lights flashing, had closed Marina Drive to traffic. (Evacuees later learned that the Aurora Police Department had stationed its “Mobile Command Center” trailer on Marina.)

The incident winds down. Sometime around dawn, evacuated residents—and a few early-morning dog walkers—saw an ambulance park in front of the evacuated building. Later, a small group escorted a gurney out the front doors. The gurney was loaded into the back of the ambulance. Aurora PD and SWAT personnel began to emerge from the building. One SWAT officer guided a small robot, which moved on tiny treads, back to his vehicle.

HG Security officers walked to the two adjacent buildings and notified sheltering residents that it was now safe to return to their units.

see page 42





HGA Board President Report

Sue McBeth

Happy St. Patrick's Day!

Tis the season for the wearing of green. For all of our residents who have an Irish heritage, I wish you a lucky month of celebrating.

As we move forward with 2026, I still struggle with how to communicate all the things that are happening here at Heather Gardens as a result of Board discussions and decisions.

I think we have four (4) main ways of doing this:

1. Attend Board Meetings in person or by Zoom
2. Read the reports written in *Heather 'n Yon*
3. Sign up for Pitera messages to come to you on your computer or phone. (To sign up for Pitera go to the HG Website →click on Resources → click on Resources again → scroll down to Forms/Applications → click on Pitera Sign-Up form →download or print the form →fill it out and turn it in to the Administration Office.)
4. Attend Town Hall meetings in person or by Zoom

It is important to me that residents receive information from the Board and can give us their input as well; this is your community, so stay involved in as many of the happenings as you are able. Please use these methods of communication as often as you can.

Leadership Meetings

- To give HGMD time to determine the monies available to them in the first quarter of 2026, they are only approving four (4) capital projects to move forward.
- An electrical power outage caused by a blown transformer at Peoria and Iliff created much concern for residents. Since neither Security nor Maintenance could fix this, it was counter-productive to call them and fill up their phone voicemail boxes. During a power outage, please only call Security for actual emergencies, such as people stuck in an elevator or other life-threatening issues.
- Both Boards are combining efforts to replace the irrigation system for the golf course and the rest of the complex. This will minimize the use of capital funds for this project.

Town Hall Meeting

David Baxter, HGA Board Director and Chair of the Security, Emergency Preparedness and Community Resource (SEC) Committee, gave a comprehensive presentation on the Security Department and its functioning and importance at Heather Gardens.

Other items discussed at the meeting:

- The Employee Handbook has been revised and approved by the HGA Board.
- The biannual Census will begin on March 1 and will be available online through March 31. All residents are asked to fill out the form electronically to avoid the need to enter data into the system by Administrative Staff members. Building ARs, CP and TH points of contact are gathering volunteers to help residents needing assistance with online data entry.
- The HGA Board is discussing a revision of the Bylaws to address how many committees a Board Director may participate in and/or chair.
- The HGMD Board is looking into a Clubhouse Master Plan to facilitate efficient use of all of the rooms and space available.
- The Census forms/information will be used to help make the Heather Gardens Directory as accurate as possible.

Please submit any topics you would like to have discussed/presented at these meetings. Send ideas to the new Town Hall email: management@heathergardensmail.com; Subject line: Town Hall Topic

Board Meeting Actions

- The Board approved the capital expenditure for Concrete/Handrail Repairs throughout the Community.
- An HGA Directory Policy and Procedure was approved and will be available on the Website.
- The revised HGA Employee Handbook was approved.
- The purchase of a used Tacoma truck was approved for Security. The Honda CRV was used as a trade in to lower the price.

Until next time, I hope everyone enjoys all of the celebrations and shenanigans associated with St. Patrick's Day.



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Avoiding common estate planning mistakes

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Hello, Heather Gardens!

Although the temperatures over the past few months have already made it feel like spring, March 20 marks the “official” first day of the season.

Spring is such a refreshing time of year. Daylight begins to win over the darkness and daily walks become a little more colorful. Seeing those first early spring flowers peek through the soil is a welcome reminder that warmer, brighter days are ahead.

March also brings a few special celebrations. We'll be wearing green for St. Patrick's Day on March 17 and recognizing Women's History Month all

A Note from the Editor

month long — a time to honor the contributions and achievements of women throughout history.

Don't forget to Spring Forward and set your clocks ahead on March 8 as we welcome longer evenings and more sunshine.

We hope this issue finds you well and ready to enjoy all that this season has to offer.

Happy Spring!

-Susan Harman, Editor
Heather 'n Yon Magazine



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see the
“*Heather 'n Yon*” link in
the top menu

"Spring is nature's way of saying, 'Let's party!'"

- Robin Williams



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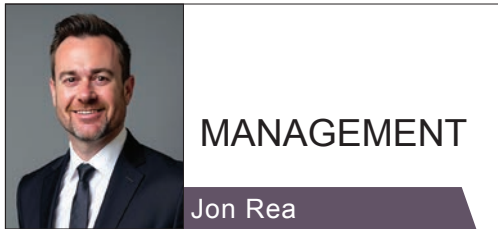
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See Something, Say Something: Keeping Heather Gardens Safe

At Heather Gardens, our greatest strength is our sense of community. We look out for one another and care about what happens here. One simple way to help protect our neighborhood is this: ***if you see something, say something.***

This isn't about being suspicious or overreacting. It's about recognizing when something doesn't seem right, trusting your instincts, and notifying the appropriate staff so the situation can be addressed safely. There's no need to intervene, just report your concern to management or security.

When to Speak Up

Suspicious or unusual activity

- Someone attempting to enter a building where they do not reside
- A vehicle parked unusually for an extended period
- Individuals lingering near entrances or garages without a clear purpose

Concerning behavior

- A neighbor who appears disoriented, distressed, or in need of assistance
- Arguments that appear to be escalating
- Behavior that makes you feel uneasy

Safety hazards

- Propped-open security doors
- Water leaks, broken lighting, or potential fire hazards
- Objects blocking hallways or exits

Community wellness concerns

- A neighbor whose routine changes abruptly or who hasn't been seen for an extended time
- Statements or actions that raise concern for someone's well-being

Reporting concerns is not overreacting—it's a responsible way to help protect our neighbors and property.

Why It Matters

Early awareness can prevent larger issues. A quick call to security or management may stop a situation from escalating, assist someone in need, or prevent damage. Often, it's less about wrongdoing and more about awareness and care.

How to Report

- Emergency: Call 911
- Non-emergency concerns: Contact Heather Gardens Security or Management
- Maintenance or safety issues: Notify Security or Management

If you're unsure whether something should be reported, it's always better to share the concern and allow staff to determine next steps.

Looking Out for One Another

"See something, say something" reflects our commitment to care, not suspicion. By staying attentive and communicating concerns, we help keep Heather Gardens safe, welcoming, and strong for everyone. Thank you for doing your part to support our community.

Staff Advisory

We are pleased to welcome **Eric Treutle** as our new full-time Accounts Payable Specialist and **Dawn Gonzales** as our new Senior Accountant.

With these additions, Heather Gardens has transitioned away from utilizing 1099 Robert Half consultants, further strengthening our internal financial operations and expertise.

Please join us in welcoming Eric and Dawn to the Heather Gardens team. Their experience and dedication will enhance our ability to serve the community effectively.



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A Look Back: COVID Comes to Heather Gardens



The other day I saw this online Reuters headline: “WHO sees low risk of Nipah virus spreading beyond India.”

The World Health Organization’s findings were (somewhat) reassuring: the deadly Nipah virus is spread to humans by fruit bats. Cases of human-to-human transmission are rare.

The phrase “virus spreading,” though, prompts many of us to think back to March 2020.

A brief history refresher. In late 2019, China reported a cluster of pneumonia cases in the city of Wuhan. The illnesses, later identified as COVID-19, spread rapidly across the globe. On January 30, 2020, the U.S. declared a public health emergency. In early March, the U.S. Congress approved \$8.3 billion to combat the outbreak. President Donald Trump declared a national emergency on March 13, 2020. By mid-April, disaster declarations were made by all states. (Source: Wikipedia)

In early 2020, news of this contagious illness sparked uncertainty and foreboding: How did it originate? How does it spread? What danger does it pose to us and our families? What impacts will COVID lockdowns have on schools and businesses?

My wife and I moved to Heather Gardens after the pandemic ended. After reading about Nipah, I was curious to learn how COVID-19 restrictions affected day-to-day life here. I turned to past issues of “*Heather n’ Yon*” (HnY), and some first-person accounts, to find out more.

What a difference a month makes. The March 2020 issue of HnY makes no mention of COVID-19—not surprising, as content for that March issue was laid out well before the end of February.

It’s in the April 2020 issue that COVID news takes center stage:

- A “Holy Week Services Canceled” announcement on page three.
- A “COVID-19 trusted data source” article and link on page five.
- An HGMD “Local Disaster Emergency Declaration” on page seven.



- On page 11, then-HGA Board president Jill Bacon’s report, in which she explains the measures taken at HG “to keep the opportunities for the virus to spread at a minimum,” among them canceling classes, in-person meetings, and closing facilities.

- On page 14, former *Heather n’ Yon* editor Lynn Donaldson’s editorial titled “Coping with in-home isolation during a pandemic.”

- On page 15, then-General Manager Calvin White’s article with tips and protocols for limiting COVID-19 exposure.

- “The Month (March)” feature on page 22 summarizes the preventative measures taken at HG, and lists statewide restrictions directed towards places of business.

Heather Gardens’ array of classes, activities, and events convinced many of us to move here (and stay). In March 2020, classes that sharpened our minds, activities that kept us fit and engaged, and events that entertained us: suddenly gone.



Resident recollection: Maria Mines

Maria Mines moved to Heather Gardens in 2005. She has served on the HGMD Board, and remains active in different committees. She’s a member of the Frolics troupe and is a fine ping-pong player.

In early 2020, Maria didn’t follow news reports that mentioned the spread of a new respiratory disease.

“I hate to admit it,” she says, “but I was totally oblivious so much that in March, I had bought a ticket to go to Chile to visit my family. When I got down [to Chile] they were taking people’s temperatures as we were getting off the plane,” Maria recalls.

Maria stayed with her sister. Neither watched news reports. Then a friend from Heather Gardens sent Maria a message. “She said ‘if you don’t leave right now, you’re going to have to stay there a year,’” Maria recounts. “So, I said ‘okay, I better go back.’”

During the lockdown Maria stayed inside her unit. She watched the news and looked out the window. “There were no cars, there were no people out in the street,” she remembers. “It hit me pretty bad. But I know that everybody was in the same situation.”

To fill her time, she listened to various audiobooks she borrowed from a nearby library. “You could go online and order books, as many as you liked. To me, that was a lifesaver.”

Although her busy lifestyle was put on hold during the COVID period, she maintains that “my memories are

see page 19

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really not that bad. Because people, it seemed to me, got a little kinder, you know?"

COVID impacts captured. In May 2020, HnY continued to list HG "Clubs and Organizations" groups and "Sports and Recreation" activities, but with an announcement on those pages that read, in part:



The HG Clubhouse has been closed until further notice, to help combat exposure to COVID-19. Groups that regularly meet there are encouraged to watch notices from HG, to learn when their activities might resume.

A "Clubhouse Events" announcement noted that "registrations for Spring classes are on hold, and when available, will roll

over to the Summer classes." Many of the "Trips and Tours" to venues like the Botanic Gardens or the Denver Zoo were cancelled.

The Golf Course closed, the Fitness Center was off-limits, and the Rendezvous restaurant pivoted to carry-out service. Employees whose work was deemed "essential" were given HERO ("Honoring Employees Removing Obstacles") pay increases.



To adapt to the "new normal," many clubs and organizations held meetings via Zoom, an online conferencing platform. Zoom had its detractors, but was a godsend to those who craved more human connection.



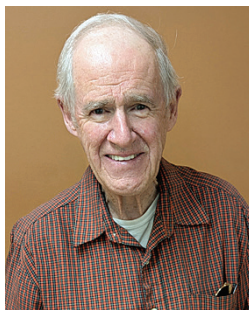
HG management opened facilities in stages, keeping infection control measures in place. The golf course opened at the end of April. Tennis and pickleball courts soon followed. The Clubhouse offered limited activities that required reservations (arriving participants had their temperature taken, face coverings were mandatory, and social distancing was imposed).

But hurdles remained before HG could get back to "normal." In November 2020, after COVID infections in Arapahoe County went to the "Red" level, the



Clubhouse was closed again; facilities and activities were postponed until January 2021 (exceptions were made for certain HG Chapel services in December).

Resident recollection: Bob Schlageter



Bob Schlageter has lived at Heather Gardens since 2007. He's an active guy and fills each day with club meetings and activities like square dancing, tennis, and ping pong.

After COVID restrictions were imposed, Bob and a neighbor took long walks at Cherry Creek State Park. He was fine with wearing

masks inside, but balked at wearing one outside. "I thought, well, 'how stupid is this? How am I going to get COVID walking around here with these animals?' I'm not going to wear a mask when I'm walking out in Cherry Creek State Park, for goodness' sake."

Bob had friends who contracted COVID-19, but never got it himself. "No, I was so lucky," Bob recalls. "I never got it. I'm one of the healthiest guys you'd ever meet."

Bob remembers fondly his role in opening up the game room for ping pong. "Wendy [Pfaffhausen] was instrumental in getting the tennis courts open, so I piggybacked on her [effort]," Bob recalls. He told then-general manager Calvin White that ping pong was "good for the brain, the body, mind, and soul." Its benefits convinced White to allow ping pong (although players had to wear masks).

see page 42

IN MEMORIAM

Carolyn Arterburn, B204
Lloyd Alan Crites, B232
Paul Fabrizio Formerly B217
Ron Dunn, Formerly Building 244



Virginia Sandoval, Director of Health and Wellness, and Dr. Ellis, Resident

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—Virginia Sandoval, Director of Health and Wellness, 19 years



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3184 S Heather Gardens Alpha A 2BR/2BA 1,200 sq.ft.
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3144 S Wheeling Alpha E 2 BR/1BA 930 sq.ft.
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13890 E Marina Seville A 2BR/2BA 1,092 sq.ft.
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Protecting our Community: A Year of Progress in Water Conservation

As we reflect on over fifty years of Heather Gardens history, it's clear that our park-like landscape—with its lush greenery and mature trees—is more than just a backdrop; it's the heart of our community. Unfortunately, the winter of 2025/2026 has been one of the driest winters on record, and the City of Aurora Water Department warns they are close to implementing "Stage 1" water restrictions that limit the amount of outdoor watering we can do. It's a reminder that our commitment to water conservation isn't just a choice, but a necessity as we look forward to the next fifty years.

"It's important to understand that the primary goal for water conservation efforts and investments should be to conserve water, benefitting future residents and generations. Cost savings and rebates are a great byproduct of those efforts and benefit current residents, but the main reason behind those efforts should always be about conserving the most vital natural resources." -Matt Martella, HG Roads & Grounds Manager

Building on Last Year's Foundation

Last year, HG resident Dr. Mitch Albert developed a Water Conservation Study that proposed over a dozen projects we can implement to conserve water. This year, board members from HGA and HGMD, staff, and members of the Water Conservation Committee have joined together to turn those ideas into reality. Our recent accomplishments include:

- **Financial Commitment:** Securing \$150,000 in the 2026 HGA Capital Expense Budget for a Pilot Plan to upgrade the irrigation system and install water-wise landscape in three key areas (Buildings 217/218, 223/224, and the South Townhomes).
- **Active Monitoring:** Delivering monthly detailed water consumption reports to the HGA board and staff to monitor usage and identify areas that exceed targets.
- **Infrastructure & Support:** Clearing storm drains to direct runoff to our pond system, redeveloping the "brown fenced pond" to augment the water table of the golf course, and cooperating with the HG Garden Club to reduce water usage in the Community Garden.
- **Residential Initiatives:** Implementing a toilet survey with Maintenance staff and the Area Representatives Organization ("ARO") to identify and repair leaks.

A Unified Vision for Irrigation

At the end of January we reached another milestone. The original Pilot Plan called for installing new irrigation equipment; but based on staff recommendations, the plan was revised to upgrade existing equipment instead. The change will result in the same projected savings; it will also position us to make future state-of-the-art enhancements to our residential and golf irrigation systems.



Corinne Crum, Linda Savage, Harold Borquez, and Matt Martella review options for upgrading our irrigation system during the January 29 meeting.

"Making updates to the watering systems for both our residential lawns and the golf course at the same time is an important step forward. By finding one solution that works for the whole property, we can keep Heather Gardens beautiful and green while being responsible with our water and our budget." -David Kennedy, President, Heather Gardens Municipal District

The "Water-Wise Future"

While the pipes and sprinklers are vital, they are only one piece of the puzzle. True water conservation means looking at the big picture of how we use water every day. Future plans include developing a mechanism to pinpoint and investigate possible water leaks and working with the city to install "water-wise" landscapes that use beautiful, climate-friendly plants that thrive in our dry Colorado climate.

Looking Toward the Next 50 Years

Our goal is for Heather Gardens to be a leader for Colorado communities in how we protect our natural resources. By taking these water conservation steps now, we aren't just saving water—we're ensuring our neighborhood remains a beautiful and sustainable place to live.

When we work together to plan for the future, we protect our property values and keep our community thriving. It's a collaboration that ensures Heather Gardens remains the vibrant community we all love to call home.

-Nancy Starts, B218
Water Conservation Committee



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HG Clubhouse Events

Clubhouse Hours

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

Phone 303-751-1811, x5

Clubhouse Manager: Juanita Dominguez

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

Let's play games with Overland High School students again!

Monday, March 9, 4:00pm - 5:30pm

Clubhouse

Students from Overland High School's Mu Alpha Theta Honor Society are coming over for some game playing again. We will have several tables available so we can play a variety of board games. Take this opportunity to engage with these young students and enjoy an afternoon of fun. It was so much fun last month, we look forward to you joining us.

There is no charge for this event. Please reserve your spot at the Activities desk or online as we need to assess the number of participants attending.

Active Minds – Eleanor Roosevelt

Wednesday, March 11, 2:00pm

Sandberg Auditorium

As the longest serving First Lady of the United States, Eleanor Roosevelt was both outspoken and, at times, quite controversial. Join Active Minds as we examine her life and the impact it had on important causes such as human rights and the successful launch of the United Nations.

There is no charge for this program, however reservations are necessary. Please reserve your spot online or at the Activities desk.

Bingo

Friday, March 20, 1:00pm

Sandberg Auditorium

No charge however reservations are encouraged. Register online or stop by the Activities desk. Prizes and refreshments will be available. Join us and shout "Bingo!" when you win!

AARP Driver Safety

Thursday, March 26, 12:45 pm-5:00pm

Arts & Crafts Room

Are you a driver age 50 and over? Would you like to receive a discount on your auto insurance? This course will teach the current rules of the road, defensive driving techniques and how to operate your vehicle more safely. The class is a full 4 hour course. Participants must attend all 4 hours. Registration is required. Reserve your spot at the Clubhouse Activities desk. The cost is \$25 for AARP members payable (cash or check only) the day of class to the instructor. Please be sure to bring your driver's license and your AARP membership card.

Movies, Movies, Movies!

Exciting News!! We are ready to start showing movies again. Watch for more information to come regarding dates, times and details.

Music Video Bingo

Monday, March 30, 3:00pm

Sandberg Auditorium

Cost: \$10

We are getting record crowds for this fun event. Register early! Register online or at the Activities desk. Join us for this fun event!!

It's traditional bingo but instead of calling numbers, the DJ plays music videos. Your bingo card is full of names of songs. You mark off the card if the song is played. Great prizes and refreshments. Most importantly, this is something you don't want to miss!



Spring Bus Trips to Bally's

We're heading up to Blackhawk! We've scheduled bus trips for this spring on the following dates: March 25, April 22 and May 27. The chartered bus, complete with restroom, departs from the parking area between bldgs. 243 and 244 at 8:00am and returns approximately 3:00pm. Bally's will host us providing \$10 Players Club cards.

Cost for each trip is \$27 which includes transportation. Driver gratuity is not included. Register online or at the Activities desk to reserve your spot. A minimum number of participants are required to hold each outing. Please help spread the word so we have a full bus each date.

Active Minds – India

Wednesday, April 8, 2:00pm

Sandberg Auditorium

In the aftermath of the 2024 general elections in India, "the world's largest democracy" finds itself at an inflection point. The country has been led since 2014 by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, a controversial but widely popular leader from the BJP, a Hindu Nationalist party. His policies have alienated the Muslim minority within India. Join Active Minds as we explore the current situation in India as well as the political and historical backdrop against which it is set. There is no charge for this program, however reservations are necessary. Please reserve your spot online or at the Activities desk.

LOCAL EVENTS

Denver St. Patrick's Day Parade
Saturday, March 14, 9:30am



A Denver tradition since 1962.

For more information and parade route:
denverstpatricksdaysparade.com

Aurora History Museum Speaker Series

*Paleontology in Colorado: Local
Discoveries from 1877 to Today*
Saturday, March 14, 10am

Cemeteries of Aurora
Thursday, March 19, 6pm

Colorado LGBTQ History
Saturday, March 21, 5pm

15151 E. Alameda Parkway, Aurora
303.739.7000

[https://www.auroragov.org/things_to_do/
aurora_history_museum/visit_the_ahmhs](https://www.auroragov.org/things_to_do/aurora_history_museum/visit_the_ahmhs)

FREE Days in March

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Tuesday, March 10

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www.denverartmuseum.org

Denver Botanic Gardens

Monday, March 9

720-865-3500

1007 York St., Denver, 80206

or 8500 W Deer Creek Canyon Road
Littleton, 80128

www.botanicgardens.org

Plains Conservation Center

Saturday, March 21

303-326-8380, 10am-3pm

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Mens and Womens Golf League - Get your application at
the Pro Shop and sign-up to begin play at the end of April.
Men play on Fridays and women play on Wednesday.

Womens Fun Golf group plays on Thursdays. Sign up at
sharonwestmoreland@me.com.



GREAT NEWS! Our banquet/
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kara.heflin@heathergardensmail.com

Tuesday Entertainment

March 17-Frolics

March 3-Game Show Night w
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each month)

Wednesday Music Entertainment

March 11- Mike Dixon

March 18- Steve Clement

March 25-Maverick Mike

April 1-Maverick Mike

April 8-Mike Dixon

Trivia - Every Thurs Night 530-730

Friday Dances

March 13 -Tripwire

March 20 - Cindy and Bryce are back!

March 27- Sazon-(Best Jazz Band Ever!!)

April 3 - Young Heart Band

April 10 - Tripwire

Guests are required to spend a minimum of \$10
on entertainment nights. Make reservations at
rendezvousrestaurantandgolf.com/restaurant/

The Columbine Room is a great place for a quieter
atmosphere on entertainment nights when an event is not
scheduled!

COMMUNITY INSIGHTS

Insight into our Capital Reserve Expenditures



Riding in Style: Heather Gardens' Newly Renovated Elevator Cabs

First impressions matter

In a community like Heather Gardens, first impressions matter, not just in our buildings, units and landscaping, but in the shared spaces we use every day. In multi-story buildings, the elevator is often the first and last experience residents, guests, and

The new clean, bright, and modern elevator cab!

potential new owners have of the building. A clean, bright, and modern cab signals that the property is well cared for and up to date, which can quietly boost both pride of ownership and confidence in the Heather Gardens Association (HGA) organization as a whole.

Recently, elevator cabs in several of our buildings have been renovated to a more contemporary look. The most noticeable change starts under your feet: the old carpeting has been replaced with fire resistant vinyl flooring. This new surface is easier to keep clean, more hygienic, and better suited to handle carts, walkers, wheelchairs, and everyday traffic. The updated wall sidings also replace the original classic finishes with a more modern design that feels lighter, brighter, and more in line with today's expectations.

These upgrades are not purely cosmetic. Modern finishes are typically more durable and practical, reducing long-term maintenance needs and helping to keep the elevators looking fresh for years instead of just months. A well-presented elevator also reassures prospective buyers that the association is investing wisely in infrastructure and aesthetics, something that can make a real difference when someone is deciding whether Heather Gardens is the right place to live.

How do we pay for Elevator Cab Renovations?

Of the 39 elevators included in the multi-year renovation program, 20 have been completed, leaving 19 that still must be done. Last year \$247,542 was budgeted for the program. In the 2025 carry forward request the Maintenance Committee, the Budget & Finance Committee and staff recommended that \$36,584 which was not spent in 2025 be moved (carried forward) into 2026 to get more elevator cab renovations done this year.

In addition to elevator cab interior updating, every 20 years the key operating components like the elevator cable/engine systems, hoist ropes, controls, doors, and safety gear must be modified. These mechanical elevator modifications are also planned for and staggered by building type, with the oldest being done first. Future modifications/alterations of these mechanical operating components must include mandatory code upgrades, such as fire call systems and security cameras, as required by recent regulatory changes.

How Capital Reserves Protect Homeowners

Both projects, elevator cab renovations and key operating components modifications, show the importance for a homeowners association of having Capital Reserves. Part of your monthly dues go into this HGA fund. Maintenance planning (Reserve Analysis Study) and subsequent funding programs (Capital Reserves) prevent the HGA Board from scrambling to find money for every big maintenance expense. Our Capital reserves keep us from resorting to periodic, unexpected and expensive special assessments for all unit owners.

Navigating Elevator Renovations. Goal: Minimizing Disruption

Of course, all elevator work can be frustrating, especially in buildings with only one elevator. Construction noise, temporary closures, and detours can disrupt daily routines and make simple tasks like getting groceries or heading to an activity more complicated. Staff and management are well aware of these challenges and work closely with contractors to limit downtime, schedule disruptive work as thoughtfully as possible, and keep residents informed weeks ahead about a project's timing and progress.

Commitment to Comfort and Care

While the short-term inconvenience to residents is real, the goal is a long-term improvement in comfort, safety, and appearance for everyone who lives in and visits Heather Gardens. Once the work is completed, residents benefit from cleaner, brighter, and more welcoming elevator cabs that better reflect the quality of our community.

-Community Engagement and Communications Committee / Project Insight

Capital Reserves 101

Think of HGA's capital reserve fund like a community savings account. Just as families set aside money for big expenses like a new roof or car repairs, the HGA collects reserve funds to pay for major repairs, improvements, and equipment. This "savings account" ensures we're ready for unexpected costs and planned upgrades. Helping avoid surprise assessments for owners. It's a smart way to plan ahead together.

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"I've personally sold hundreds of Heather Gardens properties"



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MARCH CALENDAR: CLUBS, RECREATION & EVENTS

Sun 1	Pickleball - Open Play (every Sun)	Tennis Courts	9am-1pm
Mon 2	Men's Bridge (every Mon) Book Club Spanish Club (every Mon) Texas Hold'em (every Mon) Tennis Club (every Mon) Mah Jongg (every Mon) Game Changers (every Mon)	Skyview Room Mountain View Room & Library Library Mountain View Room Tennis Courts Blue Spruce Room Skyview Room	10am-2pm 10:30am & 1pm 11am-12pm 12:30-5pm 1pm 1-4pm 3-5pm
Tue 3	Pickleball - Open Play (every Tues) Hand (Knee) and Foot (every Tues) HG Singers (every Tues) Mah Jongg (every Tues) Ping Pong (every Tues) Sevillians Billiards Club (every Tues)	Tennis Courts Mountain View Room Skyview Room Blue Spruce Room Game Room Banquet Room Billiards Room	9am-1pm 12-4pm 1-2:30pm 1-4pm 2pm 5pm 6:30pm
Wed 4	Cribbage (every Wed) Men's Poker (every Wed) Duplicate Bridge/ACBL (every Wed) Woodshop Club Tennis Club (every Wed) Rummikub (every Wed) CP1 Square Dance (1st & 3rd Wed)	Sunburst Cafe Mountain View Room Blue Spruce Room Skyview Room Tennis Courts Lodgepole Lounge Aspen/Blue Spruce Rooms Sandberg Auditorium	12:30-3pm 12:30-5pm 1pm 1pm 1pm 1-3pm 5:30pm 7-9pm
Thu 5	Tai Chi (every Thurs) Optimist Club (1st & 3rd Thurs) TOPS (every Thurs) Bowling League (every Thurs) The Green Team Pickleball - Advanced (every Thurs) Writers Club (every Thurs) Bunco (1st & 3rd Thurs) Social Bridge (every Thurs) Ping Pong (every Thurs) Kiwanis Club of Aurora (1st & 3rd Thurs) Men's Billiards (every Thurs)	Tennis Courts Rendezvous Bar & Grill Blue Spruce Room Arapahoe Bowl Skyview Room Tennis Courts Skyview Room Blue Spruce Room Mountain View Room Game Room Skyview Room Billiards Room	8-11am 8:30am 8:30-9:30am 10am 10am-12pm 9am-1pm 1-3pm 1-3:30pm 1-3:30pm 2pm 6pm 7pm
Fri 6	Men with Purpose (1st & 3rd Fri) Pickleball - Intermediate (every Friday) Texas Hold'em (every Fri) Tennis Club (every Fri)	Skyview Room Tennis Courts Mountain View Room Tennis Courts	10-11am 9am-1pm 12:30-5pm 1pm

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



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Sat 7	Pickleball - Open Play (every Sat) Mexican Train Dominoes Ping Pong (every Sat) Tennis Club (every Sat) Karaoke Club	Tennis Courts Arts & Crafts Room Game Room Tennis Courts Aspen/Blue Spruce Rooms	9am-1pm 12-3pm 2pm 2pm 3-5pm
Mon 9	Aging Strong in HG Games with Overland HS Students	Aspen Room Clubhouse	2:30pm 4-5:30pm
Tue 10	Torah Club (2nd & 4th Tues)	TBD	6:30-8:30pm
Wed 11	Red Hattitudes Active Minds – Eleanor Roosevelt Personal Protection for Seniors (2nd & 4th Wed) Aviation Club	Rendezvous Bar & Grill Sandberg Auditorium Game Room Aspen Room	12pm 2pm 3pm 7pm
Fri 13	HG Indivisible	Library	11:30am-12:50pm
Sat 14	The Breakfast Club Voice for Residents	Rendezvous Bar & Grill Mountain View Room	8:30am 3-4:30pm
Tue 17	Caregivers Support Group Frolics "March Mosaic of Magic and Mischief"	Aspen Room Rendezvous Bar & Grill	2-4pm 4pm
Wed 18	Ladies Golf Kickoff Meeting	Sandberg Auditorium	3pm
Thu 19	Social Justice Discussion We the People Club	Blue Spruce Room Arts & Crafts Room	10am-12pm 3-4:30pm
Fri 20	Bingo	Sandberg Auditorium	1pm
Sat 21	Saturday Afternoon LIVE Social	Aspen/Blue Spruce Rooms	3-5pm
Mon 23	Seville Recreational Association (SRA) Board Low Vision Support Group	Seville Building Library Aspen Room	1pm 1:30pm
Tue 24	HG Democrats	Sandberg Auditorium	4-5:30pm
Wed 25	Spring Bus Trips to Bally's High Twelve #11 Masonic Club	Ballys/Blackhawk Rendezvous Bar & Grill	8am-3pm 11am
Thu 26	AARP Driver Safety	Arts & Crafts Room	12:45-5pm
Sat 28	National Federation of the Blind	Mountain View Room	10:30am-12:30pm
Mon 30	Music Video Bingo Garden Club	Sandberg Auditorium Aspen/Blue Spruce	3pm 6-7:30pm

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Advertised Activities and Seminars

Mon, March 2: Bayer Ear Clinic (every Monday by appt.), Arts & Crafts Room, 9am-12pm (see ad p. 55)
 Fri, March 27: Pre-planning with Fairmount Cemetary, Skyview Room, 1pm (see ad p. 8)
 Thur, March 26: Aging in Place Panel Discussion, Banquet Room, 10am-12:30pm (see ad. p. 13)
 Fri & Sat, April 10 & 11: HG Craft Fair, Clubhouse, 9am-3pm (see ad p. 9)

APRIL CALENDAR: CLUBS, RECREATION & EVENTS

Wed 1	Cribbage (every Wed) Men's Poker (every Wed) Duplicate Bridge/ACBL (every Wed) Woodshop Club Tennis Club (every Wed) Rummikub (every Wed) CP1 Square Dance (1st & 3rd Wed)	Sunburst Cafe Mountain View Room Blue Spruce Room Skyview Room Tennis Courts Lodgepole Lounge Aspen/Blue Spruce Rooms Sandberg Auditorium	12:30-3pm 12:30-5pm 1pm 1pm 1pm 1-3pm 5:30pm 7-9pm
Thu 2	Tai Chi (every Thurs) Optimist Club (1st & 3rd Thurs) TOPS (every Thurs) Bowling League (every Thurs) The Green Team Pickleball - Advanced (every Thurs) Writers Club (every Thurs) Bunco (1st & 3rd Thurs) Social Bridge (every Thurs) Ping Pong (every Thurs) Kiwanis Club of Aurora (1st & 3rd Thurs) Men's Billiards (every Thurs)	Tennis Courts Rendezvous Bar & Grill Blue Spruce Room Arapahoe Bowl Skyview Room Tennis Courts Skyview Room Blue Spruce Room Mountain View Room Game Room Skyview Room Billiards Room	8-11am 8:30am 8:30-9:30am 10am 10am-12pm 9am-1pm 1-3pm 1-3:30pm 1-3:30pm 2pm 6pm 7pm
Fri 3	Men with Purpose (1st & 3rd Fri) Pickleball - Intermediate (every Friday) Texas Hold'em (every Fri) Tennis Club (every Fri)	Skyview Room Tennis Courts Mountain View Room Tennis Courts	10-11am 9am-1pm 12:30-5pm 1pm
Sat 4	Pickleball - Open Play (every Sat) Mexican Train Dominoes Ping Pong (every Sat) Tennis Club (every Sat) Karaoke Club	Tennis Courts Arts & Crafts Room Game Room Tennis Courts Aspen/Blue Spruce Rooms	9am-1pm 12-3pm 2pm 2pm 3-5pm
Sun 5	Pickleball - Open Play (every Sun)	Tennis Courts	9am-1pm
Mon 6	Men's Bridge (every Mon) Book Club Spanish Club (every Mon) Texas Hold'em (every Mon) Tennis Club (every Mon) Mah Jongg (every Mon) Aging Strong in HG Game Changers (every Mon)	Skyview Room Mountain View Room & Library Library Mountain View Room Tennis Courts Blue Spruce Room Aspen Room Skyview Room	10am-2pm 10:30am & 1pm 11am-12pm 12:30-5pm 1pm 1-4pm 2:30pm 3-5pm

**Board and Committee
Meetings - see p. 46**

**Religious Service
Information- see p. 44**

***Heather 'n Yon*
Deadline*: 3/23**

SUBMIT TO:

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

Letters

Heather 'n Yon,

Questions regarding EV Fires:

1. If an EV fire occurs in HGA, is HGA liable for all expenses related to the fire because HGA installed the EV charging station and granted permission to the owner of the EV to use the EV charging station?
2. If an EV fire occurs in HGA, is the owner of the EV liable for all expenses related to the fire because the EV owner installed the EV charging station and used the EV charging station?
3. Has the Aurora Fire Department been consulted regarding the difficulties related to extinguishing a lithium-ion battery fire? [Extinguishing lithium-ion (Li-ion) battery fires is exceptionally difficult due to thermal runaway, a self-sustaining chemical reaction that produces its own oxygen and intense heat (up to 4,900F), often causing reignition hours or days later. These fires require massive amounts of water for cooling and create hazardous, toxic gases.] [Google Search Information]
4. How does extinguishing an internal combustion engine fire compare to extinguishing a lithium-ion battery fire?
5. Would it be helpful for the Aurora Fire Department to inform the HGA Board of all difficulties related to extinguishing a lithium-ion battery fire?

Thank you,
-Frank Bergner, B224

HGA President comment: the answers to these questions are being researched and will be published as soon as they are available.

Heather 'n Yon,

Cc: Jon Rea, General Manager
Cc: Richard Barowsky, Maintenance Manager

I wanted to take a moment to update you on the garage door problem. Shortly after we talked, Rene and Enrique came to our home to make an assessment of the needed work. The next day, they had the parts and fulfilled an appointment to begin the

work, which was completed that day. Rene is very good at garage doors, and Enrique is apparently good at everything: he has been out to our place three times on plumbing/toilet installation and now garage door hardware replacement. When they finished up the work, they asked me out to the garage to test the door, and I could lift it pretty easily: before I could not even budge it. This will extend the life of the garage door opening system, and make our life a lot easier: most residents here in CP3 are in and out of their garages at least twice a day, and the opener is rated for 10,000 cycles (one lift up and down is a cycle), so the garage system should last over 13 years! We can also get our car out if the door lifter malfunctions, comes off the track, etc.

Heather Gardens should be very glad to have employees like Rene and Enrique. You can be sure that I have already passed this on to my CP3 companions here in our part of the cul-de-sac. Thanks again for your help and for having employees like Enrique and Rene.

Thanks again!
- Joe and Dianne Foss, CP3

Heather 'n Yon,

The Red Hattitudes continue to meet at the Rendezvous for lunch on the second Wednesday of each month, but have changed the time to 12:00 noon.

The Red Hat Society is a non-political, non-sectarian, group of ladies who like to wear purple outfits with a Red Hat or Fascinator, but remember, when it is your birthday month you reverse the color (red clothing and a purple hat). Please call Janet Arce if you would like to join our fun group of ladies (720) 774-3368.

-Janet C. Arce, Bldg. 232

Heather 'n Yon,

Here is a very inexpensive and quick way to get to & from DIA. Leave or arrive at 9Mile bus station (It is 2.3 miles from HG) Parking free first 24 hours and either \$2.00 p/day or \$4.00 depending if considered in/out of district. Or get dropped off/picked up. RTD shuttle bus to/from DIA. Check AT route schedule online or call. Bus goes directly to DIA/9Mile (no

stops) Takes about 27 minutes. Cost for seniors is \$1.35 (You can pay in advance online, or at 9mile/DIA or pay in cash on the bus) At DIA you arrive/leave on level one. Warning the bus usually leaves DIA/9mile exactly on scheduled exact minute!!!!

If you will be arriving at a late hour at 9mile, be sure there is a bus that meets your needs.

I have been utilizing this service for at least 15 years & it works great!
-Ann Reinhardt, B231

Heather 'n Yon,

This is a reminder to all of you who are busily gathering paper that will need to be shredded. As usual the Paper Shred Event will be held on the first Saturday in May, which this year is May 2, 2026 from 9:00 to 11:00am in the parking lot in front of the Omega building. Wishing you a fun time getting ready for it. See you there.

-Jennifer May, B204

Heather 'n Yon,

It was discussed, in detail, that there is much confusion on the process and procedures to obtain approval and/or installation of a monitor in the multi-story buildings' main lobby. After discussion, Jon Rea (GM) agreed to set a window of time in which HG Maintenance will mount the monitors for each building wanting this. The cost of the monitor, mounting bracket and any hardware is the responsibility of the buildings. By having maintenance do the installation, hundreds of dollars to the residents will be saved. The installation window will be announced after the completion of the CENSUS.

The GM stated:

1. This would be a one-time thing and maintenance will provide this service during this window of time ONLY!
2. Any future installs will be done at the expense of the building.
3. No future support will be given as to replacements of a monitor that stops working.
4. This project, in no way, supports any in-home installation.
5. Monitors may be placed on tables

see page 33

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Letters

or other furniture in the building lobby if the building doesn't want them mounted on the wall.

6. If any electrical outlet installation is needed this will require the building AR submit an ACC request and follow the guidelines of the ACC for installation.

It is highly recommended you choose an area where an electrical outlet already exists to avoid any further cost or delay. It is also recommended that ALL 35 Multi-Story buildings participate in getting a monitor installed NOW whether they use it now, or not, as future use of these monitors are being discussed to provide valuable information to the residents of Heather Gardens. Consider getting your monitor and hardware as soon as possible so you will be ready for maintenance to install.

Please contact John Guise at johnguise1720@gmail.com with questions.

-John Guise, B217

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

Word Limit: 300

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

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

Thank you!

"Monty Keene is ready for St. Patrick's Day parade"



-T Lee Keene, B223

Invitation to Walk a Mile in Their Boots – a Fun Event (The Walk and Ceremony is FREE)

This walk is to honor Coloradans lost to the Iraq/Afghanistan Wars. Donations are used for cleaning their headstones from mud, and placing new American flags at their resting place throughout Colorado.

Meet at the back of the Golf Pro shop at **10am on Sat, March 21**

Family, friends, and all dogs are welcome too

For more information:
call Janet at 720.774.3368 or Nancy at 720.581.0847



Left to Right: Director Joyce Culwell, Accompanist Vicki Rodgers and the HG Singers perform at the Clubhouse 1/10/26. We are a fun group and welcome new members!

Submitted by Sue Dikeman, B233

CLUBS & ORGANIZATIONS

Aging Strong in Heather Gardens

Aging Strong meets 2nd Monday of the month, 2:30 pm in the Aspen Room. The Club exists for the following reasons: 1. Assist Heather Gardens residents in finding services to help them thrive in Heather Gardens. 2. Provide a common voice in advocating for the elderly population in Heather Gardens. Contact the club leaders by email at agingstronghg@gmail.com. Website: AgingStrongHG.wixsite.com/agingstrong

Aviation Club

The HG Aviation Club meets the 2nd Wednesday of the month at 7 pm in the Aspen Room in the clubhouse. All you need to join is an interest in aviation ... you do not have to be a veteran, or a pilot or aircrew or any military, just have a keen interest in aviation. We cover civil aviation as well as military. --Rudy Morris, 720-995-0484, rudymorris4@gmail.com

Book Club

The Heather Gardens Women's Book Club meets on the first Monday of each month to discuss the chosen book of the Month. Book Club No.1 meets in the Library at 1:00 p.m. Book Club No 2 meets in the Mountain View Room at 10:30 a.m. If you would like to see which books each Club will be reading in 2026, a list of Clubs No. 1 and 2 Titles is in the Book Club mail slot in the clubhouse. If you are interested in joining the Book Club, call Janet Arce at (720) 774-3368 for the 10:30 a.m. group, or Joanne Urias at (251) 518-5781 for the 1:00 p.m. group.

The Breakfast Club

The Breakfast Club (TBC) for Singles 50 Plus meets at 8:30 am on the second Saturday in Rendezvous Bar & Grill for breakfast. Call 303-794-3332 to make your reservation. Cost is \$20. TBC has grown in the past 20 years — it has three other chapters

along the Front Range. We have ongoing activities, such as bowling, the Birthday Bash, eating at a new restaurant, and Happy Hour. Each month, there are also different activities planned, such as museums, sports events, plays, concerts, and day trips, to name a few. Come see! – Suzanne Harmes

CP1

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

CP2

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

CP4

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

Caregivers Support Group

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

Democrats/HG

The Heather Gardens Democratic Club meets the fourth Tuesday of each month, except December. We normally meet in the Sandberg Auditorium from 4 - 5:30 pm. The Democratic Club supports the Constitution, the rule of law,

and GOOD GOVERNMENT.

We work to inform our elected officials, ourselves and others, and work on campaigns to get our candidates elected. 2026 is a "midterm" election year. Our meetings this year will primarily focus on Democratic candidates. Our February meeting will present the Arapahoe County candidates, because the caucus on March 3 and County Assembly on March 7 will determine which candidates will be on the primary ballot. Our March meeting will be about the state-wide candidates, because the primary ballot candidates for those offices will be chosen at the State Assembly on March 28. Please come learn about the candidates and participate in the caucus and assembly processes. I don't want any responsible citizen to look at the names on the ballot in November and say, "I don't know anything about these people." Here is your chance to learn about them. Please join us March 24 for our meeting. Some of us go to the Rendezvous for dinner and socializing after the meeting. All are welcome. You don't have to live in Heather Gardens and you don't have to be registered as a Democrat. Our meetings are free and open to all. -Marty Karnopp, Chair. 303-353-9640, mjkarnopp@gmail.com.

Frolics

Mark your calendar for our upcoming 2026 Annual Spring Production, "Dueling Divas," Friday, May 1, at 4 pm; Saturday, May 2, at 6 pm; Sunday, May 3, at 3 pm. Our Character Development Workshop (for members only) is happening on Saturday, March 14, 2:30 pm. Contact Arlene Krell (720.284.9774) for more information. The next Traveling Troupe performance at the Rendezvous will be Tuesday, March 17, 4 pm – "March Mosaic of Magic and Mischief." No charge; just purchase a drink, some munchies, or dinner and enjoy the show. Reservations highly recommended.

Garden Club

The 2026 Garden Club meetings will resume Monday, March 30. Meetings are generally held the last Monday of every month, March through October. Location-- Aspen/Blue Spruce Room, from 6 pm -7:30 pm. Please contact President Nancy Linsenbigler at 720-932-6990 with questions or to be placed on the Club email or Waiting List.

The Green Team

Still have questions about which dog poop bags are compostable? Other than the black BioBags the Green Team distributes monthly, which we know are compostable, a compostable bag will plainly state 100% compostable on the front. Any and all other bags ARE NOT compostable and must be deposited in the smaller round trash can. In the last months, dark colored/black poop bags have been stuffed in the dispensers and they are not compostable. The Green Team will remove those bags when we see them. And we will do this because they get thrown in the wrong bin and we can't tell them apart from the acceptable compostable poop bags. We regret the expense someone is going to by filling those dispensers, but it has become a problem. We need everyone's help on this to keep the Puppy Poop Project going or it is in danger of stopping. If there are further questions, Janet Arce's number is on each bin and she can help you. (720-774-3368) Our meetings are the first Thursday of the month from 10-12noon in the Skyview Room. Next meeting is March 5. Be on the lookout for our coming Paper Shred Event info. W. Pfaffhausen (303)587-9797

Heather Gardens Singers

We rehearse in the Skyview room from 1-2:30 pm on Tuesdays. Come sing in the HG Singers chorus where all skill levels are welcome. There are two basic requirements for joining this group: 1. You love to sing alone or for an audience; 2. You like having fun! We are pretty serious about entertaining our audience with well-done performances and we laugh along the way. In fact,

we laugh several times in every rehearsal. One chorister said "We have professional directing and excellent accompanying with amateur fun." Another said "There is a strong atmosphere of camaraderie amongst the singers." Sounds like something you'd like to try? Here are a few more details: the dues are minimal and attendance is heartily recommended but we don't keep an attendance chart. For more details call Tom Kappel 720-377-5756.

High Twelve Club #11 Masonic Club/HG

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

Indivisible/HG/Aurora

Heather Gardens / Aurora Indivisible meets the 2nd Friday of each month, 11:30 am – 12:50 pm, in the HG Library (Media Room). You are welcome to join us for lunch afterward at Rendezvous. Connected to over 1,200 groups nationwide, Heather Gardens Indivisible is a community of neighbors who choose to make a difference in the world, addressing the many problems we see with positive, forward-thinking actions. We address issues that concern us, such as wealth inequality, racial injustice, environmental threats, women's reproductive rights, gun safety, etc., with both education and action. Although people of any political affiliation are welcome, our approach is progressive. Whether you can regularly attend the meetings or not, you are welcome to also sign up for our newsletter of information and

action items. For more information, please contact Colleen Cussick at redhdcoll@gmail.com

Karaoke Club

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

Kiwanis Club of Aurora

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

Lifelong Learners

(This article derived from Senior Citizens Inc.) "Learning Something Different In Senior Years" Who says learning stops after retirement? In fact, picking up a new skill or knowledge can be one of the most rewarding – and healthiest – things you do. Whether it's painting for the first time, learning a new technology, exploring a new subject, or even taking up tai chi, building new abilities helps the brain grow, boosts self-confidence, and creates a renewed sense of purpose. Why Learning New Skills Matters:

- Brain Health and Neuroplasticity. The brain can form new pathways at any age, a process called neuroplasticity. Studies show that learning challenging new skills, such as photography or digital technology, can improve memory and cognitive function in older adults (National Institute on Aging).
- Confidence and Independence. Trying something new may feel intimidating, but it often leads to a surge of confidence. Older adults who embrace learning something new report feeling more independent and capable in other areas of life.
- Social Engagement. Group learning experiences bring people together. From classroom discussions to community workshops, these

environments create natural opportunities for friendship and connection.

Low Vision Support Group

Low Vision Support Group meets on March 23 (fourth Monday of the month) in the Aspen Room, 1:30 pm. Questions? Call Marsha Bengen, 720-535-5224

Meet & Schmooze

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

Men with Purpose

A group of men, with diversified backgrounds, gather to discuss timely topics regarding healthy aging and purposeful retirement. Books and articles relating to these topics are discussed by group members. Leadership is shared. Men With Purpose meets the first and third Fridays of each month, 10–11 am, Skyview Room. For information, contact Gene Dawson, 720-535-9672.

National Federation of the Blind, Aurora Chapter

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

Optimist Club

The club meets on 1st and 3rd Thursday of each month for breakfast in Rendezvous Bar &

Grill. Continental Breakfast 8:30 am / Meeting at 9 am. A continental breakfast buffet is \$10 per person. Optimist Clubs are dedicated to “bringing out the best in kids” through various service projects. We welcome anyone interested in finding out more. Contact Sue Brandreth, 248-701-9263 with questions.

Personal Protection for Seniors

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

Red Hattitudes

The Red Hattitudes continue to meet at the Rendezvous for lunch on the second Wednesday of each month, but have changed the time to 12:00 noon. The Red Hat Society is a non-political, non-sectarian, group of ladies who like to wear purple outfits with a Red Hat or Fascinator, but remember, when it is your birthday month you reverse the color (red clothing and a purple hat). Please call Janet Arce if you would like to join our fun group of ladies (720) 774-3368. - Janet C. Arce

Republican / We the People Club

We support the US Constitution, practical governance, and the protection of life and liberty. Our goal is to provide reliable resources and timely information to keep informed about events and topics affecting our community, state, and nation.

“If a nation values anything more than freedom, it will lose its freedom; and the irony of it is that if it is comfort or money that it values more, it will lose that too.” - W. Somerset Maugham
We meet the third Thursday monthly in the Arts and Crafts room from 3:00 pm - 4:30 pm and often head to the Rendezvous

Restaurant after. All are welcome to attend for our guest speakers and events.

IMPORTANT DATES

- MARCH 3. REPUBLICAN CAUCUS MEETING, Heather Gardens Clubhouse. CHECK IN and Orientation, 6:30pm - 7pm. Precinct Meetings 7pm - 8pm.
- MARCH 19. Rob Knuth from the COLORADO UNION OF TAXPAYERS. Topic: 2026 Proposed Legislation Impacting Our Taxes.
- MARCH 21. ARAPAHOE COUNTY ASSEMBLY AND VOTING AND RESOLUTIONS.
- APRIL 11. STATE ASSEMBLY
We The People Republican Club welcomes members' family, friends, and neighbors to all events and scheduled meetings. Annual Dues are \$20. We fund club events, make donations to select organizations and candidates who support America First Values. For more information contact Wendy Hollister at whmar90@gmail.com or text at 720.446.7778.

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. Contact: Lee Nicholson at 720-949-2032.

Saturday Afternoon LIVE Social

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

Sevillians

All Residents of Buildings 231, 232, 233, 234, 235, and 236: We have had a very successful year as we continue to hold the Sevillians Dinner on the first Tuesday of each month in the Banquet Room of the Rendezvous Bar & Grill at

CLUBS & ORGANIZATIONS

5:00 p.m. A combination Invitation & SignUp Sheet is placed in your building each month, or you can rsvp to Janet Arce at: arcej1946@gmail.com or (720) 774-3368. Bring a friend or a neighbor.

Singles Club/OPOCS

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

Social Justice Discussion

You are invited to participate in 'Unpacking the Society in Which We Live' roundtable discussion on Thursday, March 19 from 10 am -12 noon in the Blue Spruce Room. Our purpose is to effect change in behaviors through understanding, increasing our awareness, expanding our knowledge, fostering reconciliation and sharing stories of equity or inequity, inclusion or exclusion. Our focus will be on Womens' History Month. Lesiie Summey, Arapahoe County Commissioner for District 4, will speak about the history, challenges, and accomplishments of Black women in America. Free Equal Justice Initiative Calendars will be available. Your presence is valued. Diane Pritchard dianekpritchard@gmail.com and Bernie Hupperts marlynber@gmail.com

Spanish Club (Club en Español)

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

SRA Board

The Seville Recreational Association Board meets the fourth Monday of every month at 1 pm in a different Seville building's library. We welcome all Seville residents to attend with questions or thoughts. For time and location, please contact your AR or Seville building representative. – Questions? Call Vickie Wolfe, president, 360-589-9502.

TOPS (Take Off Pounds Sensibly)

TOPS Club international has helped people release, and keep off, unwanted pounds. We're all about

healthy living from the inside, out. It's a holistic approach to wellness. No fad diets. No gimmicks. No shortcuts. With us, it all comes down to accountability, unwavering support and top-tier resources. In-person meetings are at the core of what we do, and who we are, as an organization. TOPS was built on peer-to-peer gatherings. Every Thursday morning, our weight recorders are available with the scale for weigh-ins at 7:45 am, then we meet from 8:30-9:30, Blue Spruce Room. Our club members rotate to present programs, which are usually health related. Included in our club are several members who have achieved the status of KOPS (Keep Off Pounds Sensibly) members who have met their weight loss goals. While all our current members are women, men are welcome. Guests are always welcome to visit our meetings. For further information, contact Lisa Jackson 469-323-5434 or Mljackson81@gmail.com.

Torah Club

We meet 2nd and 4th Tuesdays from 6:30 - 8:00 pm at the clubhouse in a room TBD. The club is for Jewish and Christian women to discuss the five books of Torah: Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers and Deuteronomy. We will follow the weekly Parashat (portions) that Jewish people use all over the world. Please contact Trish Patterson at 301-802-7390.

Voice For Residents Forum

Fostering fact-based information, education, and communications on current issues involving Heather Gardens residents, leadership, and management. Hear updates on resident-initiated projects, and reports from HG and HGMD committees. Open Forum for your questions and ideas. Second Saturday of each month, 3- 4:30 pm, in the Mountain View Room. Questions, comments, please contact Marilyn Macdonald at thevoiceforresidentsforum@gmail.com

Woodshop Club

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

Writers Club

Do you want to write your memoirs? Have you put poems or prose to paper? Have you thought of writing a book, but didn't think you could? Come meet with other writers at the HG Writers Club. Join us on Thursdays, 1-3 pm, Skyview Room. Club contact: Barbara Creswell, 651-485-3608.

Clubs/Organizations SUBMISSIONS

Email: gjlesher@gmail.com

Deadline listed on p. 30

300 word limit

SPORTS & RECREATION

Billiard Club

The Billiards Club meets for Co-ed 8 Ball at 6:30 pm on Tuesdays. Check in BEFORE 6:10 in order to play. Men's 9-Ball is at 7 pm on Thursdays. Annual dues of \$12.00 are payable on Jan. 1st of each year. All new players are welcome. Questions? Call Connie Burns 303-695-0766 or Shannon Boyd 719-428-9354.

8 BALL WINNERS 1/20 - 2/10
Jan. 20

1. Otis Lawson/Melodie Blume
 2. Jack Doherty/Judy Hein
 3. Ditto Schultz/Sharon Weiss
- Jan. 27*

1. Brian Bucenec/Linda Gonzalez
 2. Greg Martens/Judy Hein
 3. Jack Doherty/Louise Lucero
- Feb. 3*

1. Mark Lawson/Judy Brehmer
 2. Otis Lawson/Sharon Weiss
 3. Brian Bucenec/Shannon Boyd
- Feb. 10*

1. Ditto Schultz/Shannon Boyd
2. Otis Lawson/Judy Hein
3. Mark Lawson/Melissa Sugar

9 BALL WINNERS 1/22 - 2/12
Jan. 22

1. John Manzanares
 2. Otis Lawson
 3. Steve Hesser
- Jan. 29*

1. Greg Martens
 2. Brian Bucenec
 3. Otis Lawson
- Feb. 5*

1. Steve Hesser
 2. John Manzanares
 3. Brian Bucenec
- Feb. 12*

1. Jack Doherty
2. Otis Lawson
3. John Manzanares

Bocce Ball Club

We are in the process of establishing a Bocce Ball Club in Heather Gardens. If you have any questions, contact Jake Flint, Secretary/Treasurer, 303-845-0541

Bowling League

The Heather Gardens Coed Bowling League is Thursday mornings at 10 at Arapahoe

38 *Heather 'n Yon*, March 2026

Bowling Center. For information call: Mary Jo Prichard 303-929-1241

Bridge/Men's Monday

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

Bridge/Social

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

Bunco

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

Cribbage/Afternoon

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

Duplicate Bridge/ACBL

We play at 1 pm Wednesdays in the Blue Spruce Room. For partnership information, or with questions, call Linda Harder, 303-369-2032, or meek045@outlook.com. - Linda Harder, Director

Fun Gals Golf

Casual & Positive. Thursday at 9 & 9:12 am beginning April 9. Call the Pro Shop to sign up each week. On April 9, arrive at 8:30 am for refreshments and meet up. No Group Fees * No Handicaps * No Group Scoring. For more information: Sharon Westmoreland, 303.882.2929 or sharonwestmoreland@me.com.

Game Changers

Game Changers (Game night) is held in the Skyview room from 3-5 pm every Monday. - For information: contact Lynneal Woodard, kennwood.lw@gmail.com.

Golf Club/Ladies

The start of preseason play is just a month away and club members are anxious to get out and enjoy another season of league golf. This year the club will be using Golf Genius software to manage scoring and to serve as the club's information hub. Club members are encouraged to attend the year's kickoff meeting, which will be held on Wednesday, March 18 at 3:00 p.m. in Sandberg Auditorium. This gathering is an opportunity to learn about new processes and sign up for Golf Genius information sessions and preseason play.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Several important dates have been established so please add them to your calendar:

- March 11 - New member meeting
- March 18 - Season kickoff meeting
- April 1 - Preseason play begins (weather permitting)
- April 15 - Spring banquet
- May 6 - Regular season play begins
- October 21 - Fall luncheon and awards

CLUB MEMBERSHIP

All women, regardless of skill level, who are interested in league play are invited to join HGLGC. Learn more about the club and get a membership application at the Heather Gardens Pro Shop or contact Membership Chair Suzi Stolte at dakota121994@outlook.com. The next HGLGC board meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, March 25 at 1:00 p.m. in the Boardroom. All members are encouraged to attend. Minutes from all board meetings are posted on the club's website. - Suzi Stolte, Publicity Chair

Golf/Men's

The Heather Gardens Men's Golf Club (HGMGC) will be starting up again in April, but now's the time to submit your application to play in the upcoming season. We play every Friday. In addition to regular tournaments, we also have fun events like Blue, White Red days, 4-Man Best Ball, 4-Man Scramble,

and finishing the season with “3 clubs and a putter.” We will have the occasional shotgun start and we’ll even provide food every now and then. We also have a Spring Banquet to open the season and a Fall Banquet to close it out. Pick up your application at the Golf Pro Shop. You may also download the application from Golf League Tracker (GLT) at www.golfleaguetracker.com/glthome/league. Send an email to jdf.hgmgl@gmail.com for login instructions. The application fee is \$50 and all applications must be turned into the Golf Pro Shop along with the application fee. We accept checks (made out to HGMGC) or cash only; no Venmo, PayPal, or other money app. If you have any questions, please contact the Golf Pro Shop, (303) 751-2390 or send an email to jdf.hgmgl@gmail.com.

Hand (Knee) and Foot

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

Mah Jongg/Monday

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

Mah Jongg/Tuesday

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

Mexican Train Dominoes

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

Pickleball

The once underutilized and quiet rectangle of concrete is now home to quick rallies, easy laughs, and friendships that form faster than you can say “dink shot.” Pickleball is exercise disguised as play and stress relief wrapped in joy, which explains why so many of us keep coming back with big grins and bigger stories. Whether you’re brand new, returning after a break, or just curious what all the chatter is about, come join us on the Clubhouse courts. You’ll find instant fun, welcoming faces, and maybe even your new favorite hobby. Pickleball isn’t just a sport — it’s a lifestyle we celebrate. We love it so much, we shovel the courts and layer up for winter play. Yes, it’s that fun. From 9 AM – 1 PM, Club play offers something for every level:

- OPEN Play (all levels) — Tuesdays, Saturdays & Sundays: drop in, mix in, enjoy
- INTERMEDIATE Play — Fridays: lively, social games
- ADVANCED Play — Thursdays: faster rallies, sharper strategy, competitive fun

Dues are \$20 for residents and \$30 for non residents. To keep our free use of HG meeting and social spaces, the Pickleball Club, like any club at Heather Gardens, must maintain 75% HG residents. Because we’ve reached that threshold, we cannot accept any non residents at this time. If you’re a new or rejoining Heather Gardens resident, please pay your 2026 Pickleball Club dues asap — you’ll help the Pickleball Club thrive and keep the fun rolling. See any Club officer to ante up. For more information, visit hgpickle.org or call Jan Belt at 303 514 8526.

Ping Pong

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

Poker/Men’s & Texas Hold ’em

On Mondays and Fridays, we play Texas Hold ’em (12:30 – 5 pm) in the Mountain View Room. On Wednesdays, we play Men’s Poker (12:30 – 5 pm) in the Mountain View Room. Our Texas Hold ’em games are open to the ladies. Our men-only poker games consist of a variety of dealers’ choice games. For information, please call Paul Reddy, 303-750-0442, or Larry Hill, 720-272-7765.

Rummikub

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

Square Dance

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

Tai Chi

Experience the ancient art of Tai Chi, a graceful form of exercise that integrates mind, body, and spirit. With slow, controlled movements, Tai Chi promotes relaxation, balance, and flexibility, while reducing stress and improving overall well-being. One of the best ways to learn Tai Chi is the step-by-step approach used by the Heather Gardens Tai Chi Club. Although you can join and start learning at any time during

Sports/Recreation SUBMISSIONS

Email: gjlesher@gmail.com
Deadline listed on p. 30
300 word limit

SPORTS & RECREATION

the year, starting at the beginning of the spring season, usually mid to late March, facilitates this step-by-step learning method. The club meets on Thursday mornings from 8 - 11 am on the clubhouse tennis courts. The club is a residents only club. Please contact Dean Uyeno via e-mail at dean.uyeno@live.com prior to your first meeting for information that will help make your first experience enjoyable and productive.

Tennis Club

WOW! Great weather for tennis! Come join us for moving your joints and flexing those muscles. We play at 1 pm on Monday, Wednesday, Friday, and Saturday afternoons at 2 pm. Check the schedule posted on the front gate. Hope to see you soon! Our monthly meeting will be in the Rendezvous at 5:00 pm on March 10. For more information, call (303) 587-9797. -W. Pfaffhausen

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Reviews

Google Best of 2025!

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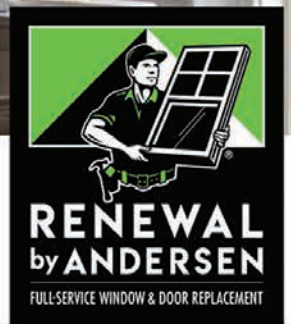


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A Look Back: COVID... (continued)

Vaccinations and a slow return to normalcy. The COVID-19 vaccination “prioritization plan” appears on page 10 of HnY’s January 2021 issue. This plan identifies the order in which groups of “eligible Coloradans” can be vaccinated. In the February 2021 issue is a list of health providers and their vaccination plans.

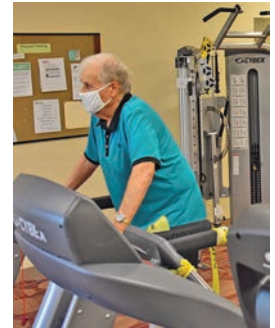
The February calendar notes that “the Clubhouse is continuing a slow reopening, with some areas again available for use.” Chapel services are limited to 50 people, masks are mandatory, “temperatures will be taken” and “social distancing enforced.” In this issue it’s noted that the “Rendezvous continues to offer pick-up service.”



A lockdown year in photos. Many fine columns, articles, and letters in HnY



record how Heather Gardens residents and management responded to the COVID pandemic. But life at HG during the lockdown year is best captured in the many pictures and photo spreads of residents and staff that appear in the different monthly issues of *Heather n’ Yon*. (Some photos re-appear here.)



Given the average age of HG residents, the COVID months were uneasy ones. But those who call Heather Gardens home adapted to unwelcome changes. They helped their neighbors and sacrificed for the health of the community.

For links to past HnY issues, go to www.heathergardens.org and select “HEATHER ‘N YON” at the top.

-Bill Kaluza, B232

-Photos by Janis Farrell

HG Security, Aurora PD respond to “incident involving resident” (continued)

Later that day, the HGA sent out an email update about the incident. It read, in part:

*Dear Residents,
We are writing with a reassuring update regarding the police activity that took place earlier today.*

The situation has been fully resolved. The building has been cleared, residents have returned to their homes, and normal community operations have resumed. At this time, there is no ongoing safety concern.

Due to privacy and confidentiality concerns, Heather Gardens management would not divulge incident details. On the morning of the incident, Denver-based 9News sent a small team to Heather Gardens. Reporter Courtney Yoon’s “on the scene” updates from that morning made certain unverified claims. To date, many questions about the February 9 incident remain unanswered.

Something that is not in question: all Heather Gardens residents should applaud the speedy response by HG Security and the Aurora PD to resolve a potentially dangerous situation.

1 in custody after shots fired call at Aurora 55+ community

February 9, 2026:

“One person was taken into custody after a “shots fired call” in Aurora.

Police originally responded at about 4:30 a.m. on Monday for a report of shots fired inside of a building in the 13900 block of East Marina Drive, which is a building within Heather Gardens.

Residents in the building were contacted and the building was evacuated by police.

“The person who fired the shots had barricaded themselves inside their apartment, according to police. Police later reported the person inside the apartment was taken into custody.

“No injuries have been reported, police said. Residents in the area can expect a continued police presence in the area as officers conduct follow up investigation.”

-Richard Cote, Channel 9 News Denver

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

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

Ecumenical Bible Study. (Formerly Six Stone Jars Catholic Bible Study), All Christian traditions: Catholic, Protestant, Orthodox, Other. Theme: Trust Jesus. We will begin by studying early Church history. Last bible study class was this past week and they will resume September 8, 2026. Drop in for a visit! Led by Eric Cline, D. Min., MA Biblical Exposition, 720-839-4289 or clinecellars57@gmail.com; also <https://www.godtalkshop.com/>

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

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

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

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



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FOR SALE – 14000 E. Linvale Pl. #310 - \$265,000

2 bed / 2 bath 1200 sq. ft. Somerset A – Move-in ready w/new paint throughout. Updated cabinets & dome light w/fan in kitchen. Vinyl plank floors & updated cabinets in both baths. Extra shelves in laundry. East facing lanai.



FOR SALE – 13901 E. Marina Dr. #114 - \$289,000

2 bed / 2 bath 1290 sq. ft. Atrium A3 – Remodeled ground floor unit! Remodeled kitchen has Oak cabinets w/soft close doors, breakfast bar, pantry, custom lights & updated appliances. Extended primary bed w/walk-in closet. Updated baths.



FOR SALE – 14152 E. Linvale Pl. #311 - \$309,000

2 bed / 2 bath 1380 sq. ft. Somerset J – Beautifully remodeled 2 bed + office/den. New luxury vinyl plank floors & new carpet. Fresh paint & baseboards throughout. Updated cabinets, breakfast bar & new stainless appliances in kitchen.



FOR SALE – 13961 E. Marina Dr. #409 - \$365,000

2 bed / 2 bath 1560 sq. ft. Atrium F – Gorgeous remodeled end unit w/stunning views of golf course & mountains from 2 lanais! Luxury vinyl plank floors throughout. Updated kitchen & baths. New paint. Updated electric panel. Other updates too!



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Boards and Committees *Monthly Meetings*

March 2026

SEC (BR/Zoom) – 1pm, Mon, March 2

HGA/HGMD Study Sessions (BR/Zoom) - 2:30pm, Mon, March 2

Maintenance (BR/Zoom) – 8:30am, Tues, March 3

Golf (BR/Zoom) – 1pm, Tues, March 3

Joint Long Range (BR/Zoom) – 10am, Wed, March 4

HGA/HGMD Study Sessions (BR/Zoom) - 1pm, Thurs, March 5

RV Lot (BR/Zoom) – 11am, Mon, March 9

Clubhouse (BR/Zoom) – 1pm, Tues, March 10

Foundation Committee (BR/Zoom) - 1pm, Wed, March 11

Restaurant (BR/Zoom) – 3pm, Thurs, March 12

Personnel Policy (BR/Zoom) – 10am, Fri, March 13

Budget & Finance (BR/Zoom) – 10am, Mon, March 16

CECC (BR/Zoom) – 8:30am, Tues, March 17

Technology (BR/Zoom) - 2pm, Tues, March 17

Joint Long Range (BR/Zoom) – 10am, Wed, March 18

Water Conservation - 1pm, Wed, March 18

ACC (Zoom) – 10am Thu, March 19

HGA Board Meeting (BR/Zoom) - 1pm, Tues, March 24

Resident Orientation (BR) – 10am, Wed, March 25

HGMD Board Meeting (BR/Zoom), 1pm, Thu, March 26

April 2026

SEC (BR/Zoom) – 1pm, Mon, Apr 6

Maintenance (Zoom) – 8:30am, Tuesday, Apr 7

CECC (BR/Zoom) – 10am, Tues, Apr 7

Golf (BR/Zoom) – 1pm, Tues, Apr 7

Foundation Committee (BR/Zoom) – 1pm, Wed, Apr 8

Restaurant (BR/Zoom) – 3pm, Thurs, Apr 9

*For the most current information, please check
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HGA/HGMD Committee Meetings*

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Saturday, March 21, 10-11:30am

Saturday, April 18, 10-11:30am

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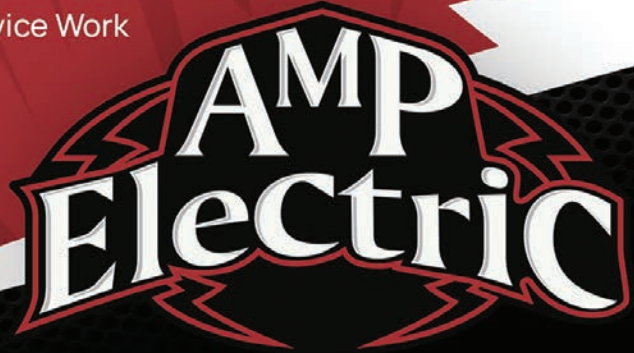
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Overheard @ HG

'Tis the season

Mary Hafka

Okay, gang, it's Spring. Time to launch into an epic effort of cleaning, clearing and updating ye olde living quarters. Time to turn over a new leaf, and begin life anew with a sparkling, uncluttered abode.

It might be time to perform spring-cleaning tasks, but – if history is any indication – it's doubtful that I'll do them. In recent years, I've given myself permission to not embark on any labors that I find too herculean. A girl could hurt herself.

Cleaning house is a lot of work, as anyone who actually does regular housework can confirm. I can only imagine.

I gratefully pay the asking price to housekeepers who are brave enough to take on cleaning my house every other week. I'm currently between cleaning-assistance services, as the domestic who used to clean for me quit, and relocated to California. I didn't think my house was bad enough to trigger interstate flight, but it could be that I'm not the best judge of my own situation.

To lighten my burdens, I recently bought a SHARK robotic vacuum from Costco. I've been told by professional cleaners that pushing a vacuum is very hard on a person's back. Years ago, I had a ROOMBA, which was a valued member of the family until it died its inevitable death after rendering a decade or more of faithful service.

The SHARK performs many more tricks than the older-model ROOMBA, such as wet mopping the floor before vacuuming. It also made an electronic map of our floor plan, so the SHARK operator (that would be me) can tell the appliance, "vacuum the living room."

And it does. Sort of. I've learned that SHARK has a different idea of what constitutes the outline of a room than I do. Lately, I've just been telling SHARK to vacuum the living room, then watching, in wonder, to see what room the vacuum actually selects.

This vacuum obeys about as well as the dog does. I'm beginning to think it's me.

After cleaning whatever room suits its fancy, the SHARK returns to its charging station, where it re-clamps to its power source, and empties its contents into a collection chamber. In other words, the vacuum vacuums the collected refuse into another bin on the charging station.

The operator then has to empty the station bin, rather than emptying the collection bin in the vacuum itself. I'm sure this is a big improvement in the labor-saving department.

No amount of cleaning and clearing at my house can compare to a friend's experience. Her late husband was – as we put it charitably – a collector. With him gone, she decided she'd better give their home a thorough purge.

Almost immediately, she got a shock. It seems, some time ago, she asked her husband to begin the task of clearing out some of the items he'd accumulated. She believed he had done so.

This past year, while sorting, she opened some rarely used storage areas, and discovered he had gotten rid of nothing. He simply moved his treasures to less frequented cabinets – which she only found after he departed. Talk about having the last laugh.

While I was scrolling on my phone, recently, an ad surfaced that promised a rollicking new game that is full of chills, spills, and adventure. While playing, the game also helps you keep your house clean.

I think this is how it works: if you lose a round while playing the game, you must leap to your feet and clean something. If you win a round, your reward is that you get to leap to your feet, and clean something. I don't

anticipate I'll be downloading this app very soon.

Some of my efforts at decluttering the house have been aided by living with an active puppy. I've always been fond of pottery and glassware, and indulge my whims by procuring unusual items I encounter in thrift stores, and at garage and estate sales. As a result, I own an abundance of bric-a-brac – more than I have room to display.

But the dog is helping me curb this bad habit. She contributes by chasing one of our two cats around the house playfully.

The cats – who find this activity less charming than the dog does – respond by jumping out of harm's way, onto tables, countertops and shelves. With regularity, a china pitcher, vase or figurine gets knocked onto the ceramic-tile floor, smashing into a billion pieces.

I retaliate – defiantly – by taking another decor item out of the storage closet, and putting it into the spot where the broken one stood. Pretty soon, I figure, I'll have the storage room entirely cleared; that is, unless I keep buying new stuff faster than the cats can break them. Perhaps I should just procure more cats.

(If I procure more cats, it will only add to the pet fur that is my number one cleaning issue. I've proudly hung a decorative sign that reads: This House Protected by Killer Dust Bunnies. In my home, it's more like Killer Fur Bunnies. But I digress.)

Ultimately, the lack of snow this year makes me feel that I really don't need to perform spring cleaning. Because winter never really arrived, scrubbing away at cold-weather grime seems an unnecessary gesture. I'll probably just wait till next year.

My philosophy of life continues to be that procrastination is the art of keeping up with yesterday. And if a thing's worth doing, it's worth doing later.

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13890 E Marina #509 Seville AK Executive 3BR/3BA 2,016 sq.ft.
 Enjoy breathtaking mountain views from this large, Seville suite in the heart of Heather Garden. NW-facing living space, 2 parking spaces, and 2 enclosed lanais. **\$397,500 >>**



<< 3228 S Xanadu 3BR/3.5BA 1,663 sq.ft. + fin. bsmt.
 Quiet location, hardwood floors, covered deck, granite in kitchen, skylights, remodeled bath, big family room. **\$395,000**

14390 E Marina #302 Somerset F2 2BR/2BA 1,560 sq.ft.
 2 fully glass-enclosed lanais! Luxury LVP flooring throughout. Modern bathrooms. GREAT PRICE! **\$340,000 >>**



<< 14102 E Linvale #501 Somerset F2 2 BR/2BA 1,560 sq.ft.
 Double patios look to mtns & over 3rd fairway. Great value at this price! Set up a showing today! PRICED TO SELL! **\$339,500**

13601 E Marina #208 Somerset A 2BR/2BA 1,200 sq.ft.
 Beautiful remodel! Engineered hardwood flooring throughout, fully glass enclosed lanai and updated bathrooms. **\$329,000 >>**



<< 14102 E Linvale #403 Somerset A-Dinette 2BR/2BA
 1,200 sq.ft. Upgraded kitchen with stunning cabinetry, convenient peninsula & stainless-steel appliances. **\$309,000**

13850 E Marina #301 Seville F2 2BR/2BA 1,344 sq.ft.
 Location! One of the best double patio views in HG! Two enclosed lanais. Updated kitchen and baths! **\$290,000 >>**



<< 14390 E Marina #407 Somerset K 2BR/1BA 1,050 sq. ft.
 Stylish kitchen with modern cabinetry, tile backsplash, tile flooring, and stainless steel appliances. Fully glass enclosed lanai with modern luxury vinyl plank flooring! **\$249,000**

SEE PAGE 21 INSIDE:
For Coming Soon,
Under Contract
& Sold Homes



Nancy Henson Bruce Henson Leigh Kullas Misty Yakhlef Djuana DuBois Natalie Dull Tyler Wigginton



LOCATED: In the 3300 Building, Suite 101- next to the HG Community Garden.

HeatherGardens.com 720.641.9800

Since 1987