

Heather 'n Yon

October 2024
Vol. 38, No. 8

Heather Gardens
Community Magazine

Autumn
at HG

Photo by Janis Farrell



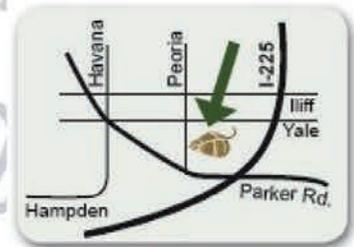
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HAPPY HALLOWEEN!

Thursday,
October 31



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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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District Judge Sets Recall Date

On September 5, the directors of HGMD who are subject to being recalled, were summoned before Judge Benjamin Figa, of Division 15 of the Arapahoe County District Court, to answer an objection from HG's designated election office (DEO) regarding HGMD's handling of the recall election. Some 40-50 spectators – most from HG – sat in the audience to hear the ruling.

On August 29, four directors on the board held a special meeting, in response from a judge's earlier directive, to set a date for their own recall election. Three – a majority – voted to set the recall on HGMD's next regular election date, May 6, 2025.

Mark Grueskin, the attorney for DEO A.J. Beckman, objected, saying this date did not meet statute requirements. Grueskin promised to file an objection with the district court for their setting the recall election so far away.

Three of the four directors subject to recall – Daniel Taylor, Robin O'Meara and Rita Effler – appeared in District Court, Arapahoe County, on September 5. The fourth director, Craig Baldwin, died the week before.

Figa allowed representatives from the recall-petition committee (attorney Martha Karnopp), the DEO (attorney Grueskin), and the being-recalled HGMD directors (attorney Taylor) to make a presentation, and offer a rebuttal to the comments of the other attorneys. After 1 1/2 hours of hearing from both sides, the judge ruled.

Figa set the recall-election date for Tuesday, December 3. He ruled that the May 6, 2025, election date the HGMD had selected did not fall within the time parameters established by the Colorado statute.

HGMD Board Appoints New Director, Makes Improvements to Auditorium

At their regularly scheduled meeting on September 19, 2024, the Board of the Heather Gardens Metropolitan District (HGMD) appointed Forrest McClure to fill the director vacancy for the seat formerly held by Craig Baldwin, who died in August. McClure's appointment will become effective as soon as he takes the oath of office, and it has been filed with Arapahoe County.

Residents Dave Bushman, Vicki Rogers, and Steve Stratton were also considered for the appointment. Director Robin O'Meara read aloud statements from Rogers and Stratton; she did not have a statement from Bushman.

McClure was the only applicant present at the meeting and directed the board in person. He cited his extensive involvement with the Heather Gardens Association (HGA) as a member of their board, including a year as president and his participation in various ad hoc committees and subcommittees. He is currently a member of the HGMD Audit Finance Committee and the chair of the HGMD RV lot committee.

Directors Daniel Taylor, Robin O'Meara, and Rita Effler voted to appoint McClure.

"He can get us up and running quickly and in the short time that we have to get the budget ready," O'Meara said.

Director Eloise Laubach voted for Steve Stratton.

McClure's appointment will end in May 2025, when the next regularly scheduled election will be held to fill the remaining two years of the term.

In other news, after much research, the board approved new flooring and a new sound system for the auditorium. Colorado Carpet and Flooring will replace the current wood floor, which is at the end of its life, with vinyl planks. In addition, a subfloor will be added to ensure the floor is even with the thresholds and ADA-compliant. O'Meara reported that, according to the manufacturer, the new floor should last 20 years.

The sound system from Spectrum AV was approved at a special meeting on September 4, 2024, and will include handheld and headset microphones and a 16-channel soundboard. O'Meara said access to the system will be limited to staff and groups that have been trained and require a user code. She pointed out that two portable systems are also available when the larger sound system is unnecessary.

A proposal to install permanent LED lighting for the clubhouse exterior was tabled pending further research. The recommendation from the Foundation Committee and Landscape Manager Matt Martella would eliminate the need to hang holiday lights yearly, which is a safety concern for the employees. It would also save money on labor, replacement bulbs, and energy costs. The Board agreed on the concept but requested more information and more than one bid.

Other actions taken by the Board this month:

- Approved the purchase of a new pool cover
- Approved the purchase of a new divider net for the tennis court
- Approved the repair of the crack in the tennis court
- Approved the repair of the billiard tables

Comcast Negotiations a Key Topic

An update on the Comcast/Xfinity negotiations to bring fiber optic to Heather Gardens was a key topic at the Heather Gardens Association (HGA) board meeting, Tuesday, Sept. 17 in the boardroom.

General Manager Lary Herkal noted HG continues to work with a Comcast team, with the next step being that Comcast will provide literature for HG residents on the terms and options.

Herkal explained that one of the stipulations from Comcast is that in order to proceed, 95% of residents must agree to allowing Comcast to enter their individual units to install equipment. If the 95% majority is reached and the equipment installed, at that time the coaxial cable will be disconnected. If 95% of the residents do not agree to the Comcast terms, negotiations will be halted and HG will need to go to a different company.

It was noted that when Comcast was considered in 2022, the majority of HG residents did not approve Comcast.

One of the directors asked, “Does this mean that we would have to sign up with Comcast?”

Herkal stated “no” to that question, explaining that the stipulation is that in bringing fiber optic to HG, the majority of residents would be required to allow Comcast inside their units for the installation.

Appointing positions that are vacating was a focus of the meeting. With the recent resignation of Ray Nash, HGA Board treasurer, that left an open board position for now through the end of 2024.

The HGA board is allowed to fill open positions by a vote of the board. They appointed Bill Archambault, B209, to fill the vacancy left by Nash. In filling the treasurer position through 2024, Mike Pula, current board vice president, was appointed treasurer, and Sue McBeth, current secretary, will assume the vice president position which was held by Pula. Linda Hileman was appointed board secretary through 2024 to replace McBeth.

On staff positions, Herkal noted that management is actively recruiting for an accounts receivables specialist and a human resources manager. On the maintenance side, Herkal is advising hiring two additional plumbers to work on our units. For 2024 to date, Herkal stated that there have been 330 plumbing leaks.

Other new appointments are upcoming for the Area Representative Organization (ARO). With Betty Bergeron’s term expiring at the end of 2024, the current vice president, David Woods, B215, has agreed to take over the presidency, beginning Jan. 1, 2025. Wayne Wharton, B208, will continue to

serve as secretary, with a new vice president to be announced at a later date. The next ARO meeting is 6 p.m., Oct. 17, at the Clubhouse.

Following up on a topic from the August meeting as to an official stamp for notices to be distributed throughout the community and placed on bulletin boards in the buildings, it was noted that closer examination should be required to assure impartiality.

While HG management figures into this issue, the idea that Area Representatives (ARs) and Assistant ARs would be assigned significant responsibility in making these decisions, was noted by Bill Gold, SEC Committee, as needing further discussion.

“I’m concerned that an organization could be formed and be dubbed political when it’s simply just people getting together to discuss things,” Gold stated. “We need a better policy on this and it needs to come before the HGA board as a whole.”

With the 2025 budgeting planning in progress, John Recob, Maintenance Committee, noted that the committee has carefully reviewed the status of any capital projects still open for 2024 for the budget committee. With an eye to continuing to improve security for the community, the board approved the motion to award M.C. Peterson and Associates the contract for a comprehensive security evaluation of the entire HG community, at a cost of \$8,500. Considering that \$100,000 had been budgeted for this evaluation, the savings are considerable.

Additionally, M.C. Peterson was the only consulting company submitting a bid that is independent of any company supplying security services.

For more information, visit www.heathergardens.org on HGA meetings information and supporting documents.

The next HGA board meeting is slated for Tuesday, October 15. The meeting is open to the public by Zoom and in the Clubhouse boardroom.



Bat House Ribbon Cutting attendee
Photo by Janis Farrell

Meet the HGA Candidates

Introducing the Seven Residents Running for the HGA Board

Seven Heather Gardens residents who are running for the 2025 HGA Board answered questions from residents in Meet the Candidates forums, Friday, Sept. 6 and Saturday, Sept. 7, at the Clubhouse.

Four candidates will be elected. Ballots are being mailed in October. Votes will be tallied in early November.

Moderator Gary Ford, B242, presented the written questions from residents, giving each candidate the opportunity to respond.

Question: Why are you running for the HGA Board:

Mike Pula, B243: As one of two current HGA board members running for a second term, Pula noted that he is balancing the need for new blood with the value of experience and expertise of those who are serving currently. At this time, he is vice president of the HGA Board and chair of the Maintenance Committee. "Heather Gardens is facing increasing maintenance requirements due to the age of our buildings. I'm looking forward to continuing to have a positive impact on projects, such as the boiler systems, roofing and other challenges."

Linda Hileman, CP1: Currently chair of the HGA Community Engagement & Communications Committee, she notes she brings the skills, strength, passion and enthusiasm to continue if re-elected. "You will receive my best stewardship, planning and oversight possible, because it's my home, my community and my wallet, too."

Bradford Archer, B224: As a construction engineer for the past 42 years, Archer manages billion dollar projects, leading high performing teams. "We live in a fractured community that is divided, and my goal is to try to be a catalyst to bring back neighborliness to the community. We need to check our egos at the door and do what is best for Heather Gardens."

John Harvey, B219 : As AR of his building for several years, and 30 years in banking, collections and a bankruptcy specialist, Harvey also managed a 100 year old HUD building in Denver. "I've worked with people in all walks of life, and I'm running to bring about a better community for all Heather Gardens residents. I want to bring some civility back to our community and even stop some of the excessive spending."

Lee Nicholson, CP3: "It's all about the people and bringing us together to have a stable financially and safe community. I want to see respect and smiles. It's community first for me."

Betty Bergeron, B236: "I'm running for the board, because someone told me the board needs me. I have been privileged to be an AR for many years and will continue to help residents whether I'm elected or not. I want to go back to a peaceful, joyful community. It's all about you, the residents."

Question: How are you going to bring this community up to the 21st Century Internet! Towers!

Bradford Archer: Noting that we're in a dead zone and that

technology can be challenging for "some of us with white hair," he added that on his team at UC Health, he consults the people who are savvy at technology and advises the same here.

Mike Pula added that there is an HGA committee currently working on fiber optics with Comcast and that progress is being made. Other candidates concurred that HG needs and is working on better internet with negotiations with Comcast.

Linda Hileman: "Many associations get a software platform that residents can use to keep up to date. I would like to investigate using that for Heather Gardens, as an improved platform would facilitate better reporting on accounting, communications and other areas, at sometimes reduced costs or savings of staff time. I am championing this."

Question: Can you give your opinion on the status of our capital resources? Are we in a healthy status?

Linda Hileman: "Capital reserves are basically a savings account used to fund our big expenses going forward. They allow us not to have to borrow money or do special assessments. I am against special assessments. Capital reserves are at about 20%."

Mike Pula: "By most comparisons with other types of associations, our capital reserves are low, but for most HOAs, our reserves are relatively high. Capital reserves is a new phenomenon in the world of HOAs. We do have high demands, considering our aging buildings."

Betty Bergeron: "We used to get money back from the HOA at the end of the year about 10 years ago, because we weren't contributing to capital reserves. We need to keep capital reserves moving ahead so that we keep the community moving ahead smoothly."

Bradford Archer: "As a director of facilities and capital projects at a hospital complex, we had aging buildings, which have a life cycle." He recommended a property assessment by an expert in that area to enable HG to plan ahead effectively.

Question: I have seen so much misinformation about the property and want to ask each candidate, who they think owns the buildings.

Linda Hileman: "The Association (HGA) owns nothing, zero, zilch, nada. Owners of the residential units own their units and collectively own everything else in their building, such as the common areas. She added that the District (HGMD) owns everything that is not residential, including the Clubhouse, restaurant, golf course, garden plots, maintenance building and the parking lot on Marina Drive that is used by maintenance.

Mike Pula stated, "Linda answered correctly," and noted that about 10 years ago he had created a document outlining the areas of responsibility by HGA and HGMD. Lee Nicholson concurred with Pula and Hileman. Greg Winslow stated, "HGA does not own property but has been managing the property." Betty Bergeron concurred with Winslow.

Bradford Archer added, "We all have a sense of ownership, since we pay our HOA fees every month. We have boards to manage the properties to our benefit."

continued p. 19

Viking River Cruises



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HGMD Board President Reports

Daniel Taylor

The court has set the date for the recall election for December 3rd. The election will be a mail ballot election which means that every resident registered to vote and every property owner in the District registered to vote will receive a ballot in the mail. This election is different than the HGA election where there is only one vote per unit.

Each resident, owner or renter, who is registered to vote, may vote in the recall election. Management refused to enforce the

District's electioneering policy which limited electioneering to specific areas in the clubhouse to avoid disruption of classes and meetings. The recall committee also objected to the enforcement of the policy in court, even though it was content neutral and applied equally to both sides. So, the court ruled that the designated election official is responsible for conducting the election and all the related activities.

We will have an informational meeting before the election for those who would like to ask questions in a public meeting. But given the tone of those supporting the recall, and the way the recall meetings were conducted in January, we will most likely get our information out through direct mail.

The trial date for the lawsuit against HGA has been continued, and once again HGA has chosen the trial date farthest away. HGA has refused to provide substantiation for the \$1.3 million the District was charged for wages in 2023.

Originally, the lawsuit was also seeking to terminate the management agreement sooner than the end of the year, so that the District Board could make changes to increase efficiency. Dances and events that have historically occurred were never scheduled. Management could not produce any contracts for facility rentals. Many were never charged. Other events were scheduled over the time when the annual craft fair is supposed to occur at the end of September. Eighty people arrived for a memorial service that wasn't on the calendar. But at this point, the trial date will occur after the management agreement terminates.

Therefore, the only purpose of the lawsuit at this point is to get the documentation to justify the amount HGA charged the District for wages in 2023, and the documentation to perform our audit. Each time HGA has answered a question related to the number of employees the District is billed for or the amount charged to the District for hourly work, the answers are different, and more questions are raised. HGMD has paid for five full-time employees in the golf department since 2018, but the organizational charts provided by HGA only identified four. The District was charged additional hourly rates of \$43,000 in 2023 for the same employee who is the fifth full-time employee. The most recent list added an employee who wasn't full-time until 2024 as the fifth employee. Then, in discovery through the lawsuit, HGA designated fifteen full-time employees as working on the golf course. The District wants to know what it's paying for, and you should too. This is the only way to provide transparency to the community.

HGMD Foundation

The Foundation Committee met August 11th. The meeting focused on a major project that will greatly enhance the appearance of exterior of the clubhouse all year.

After much discussion, the committee voted to submit to the HGMD board a motion to approve a Foundation expenditure up to \$34,000 to install Jellyfish lighting at the clubhouse. Once the lighting is installed by Jellyfish, there will be no need to take the lights down, and they can be used year-round to commemorate events and holidays.

Rationale:

A. The lights will pay for themselves in approximately 3 years:

1. The lights are installed permanently on tracks cutting the cost of labor which can then be used in other ways in the department of Golf and Landscape Maintenance Manager Matt Martella.
2. Reduction in costs for annual replacement of bulbs and light strings.
3. LED lights use less electricity, making them cheaper to operate and more environmentally sound.

B. Other benefits to our community:

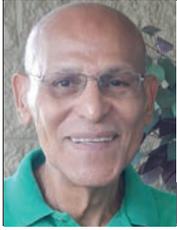
1. Less risk to members of Martella's staff climbing up on the slippery roof of the Clubhouse every winter.
2. The Jellyfish Lights can be used year-round for other events and holidays, not just for Christmas.
3. They will complement a guiding principle of the Foundation Committee which is providing "Community Enhancement" for all members the Heather Gardens Community.

Martella will speak with the company to ask for additional discounts.

Recent donations to the Foundation:

Building 215 - In Memory of Florence Lesser

-Eloise Laubach, Foundation Chair and HGMD Vice President



HGA Board President Reports

Larry Dávila

Are you ready? Ready for what? you may ask. Ready to exercise your right; no, not your right, but your duty to vote.

Soon we will be having local as well as national elections. The Aurora Public Schools, the Cherry Creek Schools, Arapahoe County, the state of Colorado, and the country as a whole have issues to be decided by the will of the voters. Beginning this month, you will be receiving your ballots to approve or veto the HGA budget and also

to elect four candidates to serve on the 2025 Board. That's a lot of voting! However, we are not done yet. By now, most of you know there will be another vote; the one scheduled for December 3, to recall four (now three) HGMD directors.

To be clear, only owners of record (or their designee) may vote to elect HGA candidates. On the other hand, owners AND those living as residents of Heather Gardens may vote for the recall election if they are registered voters in Colorado. If you vote by mail, make sure you have your ballots in by the due date so that your vote is counted.

The will of the people is the final arbiter of the issues. One may not be pleased with the results, but that's the way that democracy works, and we should be ready to abide by the will of the majority. When I was studying to become an American citizen, I came across a definition of democracy that I liked: "Ruling by the will of the majority, while respecting the rights of the minority." So, it is not only a matter of being right or wrong but respecting the will of the majority.

You and I may (dis)agree with how residents decide to vote regarding the recall election, but I am glad this issue is going to be resolved soon. One way or the other we will know what to expect going into the new year. I take for granted that no one wants to continue on the present course. I, for one, do not! If the electorate wants to back the leadership of the current Metro District directors, so be it. If not, let's move in another direction and give the new directors a chance to set a new course.

In closing, I would be remiss if I were not to give a word of thanks for the many contributions of Craig Baldwin and Ray Nash to our community. Last month I dedicated a Pileira column to lament the passing of Craig. I am glad I don't have to lament Ray's passing. Instead, I take this opportunity to thank him for his leadership and demeanor as Treasurer of our board. I first became acquainted with Ray when I began to follow the deliberations of the Budget and Finance Committee in 2020. Jill Bacon spoke highly of him, and I found out why as I began to serve as vice president in 2021. Ray, I salute you. You served us well and we owe you a debt of gratitude. We will soon elect four directors, and we will be in good hands if they emulate the kind of work you did for us. Thanks!

HGA and HGMD 2025 BUDGET DEVELOPMENT SCHEDULE

Oct 9-11 Budget Workshops

B&F Committee conducts budget workshops beginning at 9 AM.

Budget workshops continue starting at 9 AM on extra days if needed.

Directors of HGA and HGMD are strongly urged to attend.

B&F Committee recommends 2025 budgets to both Boards. **During the budget workshops (October 9 through October 11), the Joint Budget and Finance Committee encourages and will take questions from owners/residents after each section of the budget is reviewed.**

Workshops will be available via Zoom, and the boardroom. However, we ask that you reserve a seat in the boardroom if you wish to attend in person.

Monday, October 28 at 10am: Daytime Membership meeting to present and discuss the budget

Tuesday, October 29 at 6pm: Evening Membership meeting to present and discuss the budget

Thursday, October 31 at 1pm: Afternoon time Membership meeting to present and discuss the budget

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**A DATE HAS BEEN SET!
THE HGMD RECALL ELECTION IS SET FOR DECEMBER 3, 2024**

Who can vote for the HGMD RECALL?

**ALL Residents who are registered to vote in Colorado:
Owners, Renters, Multiple Residents in each home, and
Non-Resident Owners who are registered to vote in Colorado.**

**For current information about the HGMD RECALL please e-mail:
ResidentsforRenewedLeadership@groups.outlook**



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A NOTE FROM THE EDITOR



*Hello
Heather Gardens!*

I wanted to take a moment to say a THANK YOU to Mary Hafka.

Mary has been a *Heather 'n Yon* staff member for 25 years and her wisdom and institutional knowledge are priceless.

Although Mary is stepping away from a few roles she has maintained at the magazine, we are all relieved that she will still be writing her column.

Her quick wit, smart writing and ability to make me laugh out loud while reading her column are just a few things to appreciate about her.

Thank you, Mary, for your continued dedication to *Heather 'n Yon* and the Heather Gardens Community.

-Susan Harman,
Editor, *Heather 'n Yon* Magazine

Heather 'n Yon SUBMISSION POLICY

Submissions must be sent to
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by the deadline published on p.30

*If you have questions, please contact us at
this email. Thank you for your cooperation.*

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MANAGEMENT

Lary Herkal

Heather Gardens (HG) is a community which fosters a strong sense of belonging, mutual support, and active participation among its members.

Residents are united by common goals, values, and interests, and active participation and interaction are encouraged, thereby creating meaningful connections and collaboration.

HG is open and welcoming to diverse perspectives and backgrounds, allowing all voices to be heard, valued, and respected. It is a community built on trust and respect that provides help, advice, and encouragement to one another, while building a sense of collective responsibility.

HG has strong and compassionate leadership, which helps guide the community while allowing shared decision-making.

Since being hired by the HGA Board eight months ago, I have found that the board has been focused on one primary principle—what is best for the community and what is best for HG. Our property management team are members of this community, and we are focused on the same primary principle.

Know it or not, the residents are members of our management team. We have nine security officers who constantly roam the 200 acres and 35+ buildings. Together we are 3,809 members strong, with eyes and ears watching, servicing, and protecting our community. One may ask how residents are protecting our community.

If a resident sees something suspicious, they walk away and call HG Security. If a resident sees a crime, they walk away and call 911, then they call Security. As a community we are all on the same team.

If you have an issue, please call and submit a work order. And if you feel I can assist with any issue, please send me an email at lary.herkal@heathergardensmail.com. We are all members of the HG team.

We strive for courteous, professional, and respectful communication. This is my cost performance ratio (CPR).

There are two especially important elections coming up that require your participation as a community member.

There is a vote for new HGA board members. Ballots will be sent on October 21 for mail-in voting and are due by November 22. The Board members will be announced on November 27.

There is also a vote to recall members of the HGMD Board on December 3. Ballots will be mailed out by November 11 and need to be submitted by December 3. At the time of voting, you must be a Colorado registered voter.

Voting will impact the future of our community. Please be active members of our community and vote!

Lastly, I promise you that we are now preparing budgets using a sharp pencil.

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New Volunteer Team: Ready to Have Some Fun?

If you would like to serve the HG community and have some fun at the same time, look for the ladies—and sometimes gents—in the white shirts and bright pink scarves.

They are the new Volunteer Team, and they are lending a hand to give events and activities at HG a special touch.

While volunteers always have been valued at HG, this energetic new team began coming together around the 50th Anniversary Celebration, kicking off in January, 2023.

Volunteer Coordinator Connie Burns, B214, and Assistant Coordinator Nancy Linsenbigler, B243, recall that the new team assisted at many of events associated with the 50th Anniversary. One of their favorites was the famous Legendary Ladies event at HG, where history came to life with live performances depicting some of the Colorado women who made a significant impact on the West.

“The 50th Anniversary featured at least one event each month, and we assisted at most all of those,” Connie explains. “The celebration concluded in September, 2023, at a big event with dignitaries joining in, such as Aurora Mayor Mike Coffman and Councilwoman Angela Lawson.

“We had so much fun through the Anniversary that we didn’t want to quit.”

Connie and Nancy had a core team of around 30 volunteers during the Anniversary year. At this time, that number is upwards of 60 and growing.

With the recent success of the Rendezvous Bar and Grill, the Volunteer Team has invested a lot of time in meeting and greeting.

The restaurant now offers breakfast every Saturday, its traditional Sunday Brunch, expanded hours throughout the week, dinners with music and dancing, popular events such as the Thursday evening Italian buffet and Saturday evening Prime Rib specials. Live music on the patio with drinks and buffets are proving popular through the warm weather.

The Volunteer Team is based out of the Heather Gardens Metropolitan District’s (HGMD) Restaurant



Committee. One of the team’s many assignments was assisting at the recent HGMD event that celebrated all the new developments at the restaurant.

“We really haven’t had to recruit volunteers, because people are seeing how many opportunities we’re offering for serving the community, getting to know neighbors, and overall, just having a lot of fun,” Connie adds.

“So many people here are so talented. We just like to learn about their experiences and where they would like to serve. Some like to be out front of people and serve as greeters. Others prefer to be in the background making things happen.”

Emphasis on having fun and getting to know your neighbors.

Simple, relaxed training.

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Volunteer opportunities ranging from meeting & greeting to having a seat and taking reservations.

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Nancy notes that putting up decorations or blowing up balloons before an event are examples of working behind the scenes. “We also set up for some classes at the Clubhouse, stuff envelopes for a mailing, organize books in the Library, create decorations and table décor, roll silverware in the kitchen, and set up refreshments, such as making popcorn at the Clubhouse movies.

What if you would like to volunteer but don’t want to be on your feet? You can have a seat and serve our neighbors. “At 50th Anniversary events, for example, some of

us enjoyed relaxing in a chair at a table and selling tickets, while others of us liked being ambassadors and help with seating people. Some of us love giving mini-tours of the Clubhouse (and we hope to expand in this area) and tours at the Golf Pro Shop,” explains Nancy.

“We’re very flexible as to what volunteers enjoy doing and how much of their time and talent they want to donate,” notes Connie. “There is no minimum time requirement. Our responsibility as the Volunteer Team is to provide some simple, relaxed training and to match volunteers to the activities they will enjoy.”

Regardless of the volunteer activity chosen, residents form the lasting friendships that result from coming together in a common mission and task. Being able to look at the success of an event or activity and say, “I helped make that happen,” fosters a renewed sense of purpose and accomplishment.

An HG resident for 18 years, Connie always has been active in the community with billiards, bowling, and ladies golf. Way back to the old Clubhouse, she helped out with events. Before retirement, she was with Great West Life in their 401k department where she led training. At HG, "I love parties, and I love to serve."

A Registered Nurse and in later years a REALTOR, Nancy moved to HG in 2018. "It's a great place to live, but the only thing I had gotten involved with by 2020 was the Clubhouse Restaurant Committee," she explains.

She and Connie became friends over the 50th Anniversary Celebration. Nancy lived many years in Los Angeles. Both she and Connie are Colorado natives.

As the end of 2024 approaches, Connie and Nancy are looking forward to the holiday parties, special events and being part of the team that puts up the holiday decorations in the Clubhouse.

"There are many activities planned for the end of the year," Connie adds. "We're excited to get all our teammates out in their white shirts and hot pink scarves. All our volunteers are amazing, and we appreciate them so much."

Nancy concurs, "It's been so heartwarming for me to get to know our many fellow residents who are willing to contribute to HG in making it a friendly and welcoming community for all of us."



Getting ready to pop some corn for the movie.

Ready to jump in and have some fun? Don't wait, because training sessions will be held soon.

Applications are available at the Clubhouse Activity Desk. Questions: You can contact Connie at 720-210-3483 or Nancy at 720-932-6990.

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Meet the HGA Candidates...from page 7

Question: Is it important to keep the current management agreement between the boards? Are you willing to keep the management agreement and if it needs work, are you willing to work on it to make it a viable document?

Mike Pula: Explaining that the current agreement has been around since 1984 and that the current HGMD Board has filed a lawsuit to terminate it, "The HGA Board would like to negotiate an agreement. We (HG) will not be well served by split management of the community. To throw out the whole thing is the wrong answer, but it does need to be revised."

Betty Bergeron: "Yes, we need a management agreement, and yes, it needs to be updated." She urged all the candidates to read the agreement and stated, "I need to go read it, too." She added, "Each of us is asking you to vote for us for what is a volunteer position and it needs to be a position of service, not of power."

Greg Winslow: "I do believe a management agreement is necessary, and I believe it has worked pretty well." John Harvey and Lee Nicholson concurred that a management agreement is needed and that it needs to be updated.

Bradford Archer: "We do need a management agreement, because without it, we don't have tight budget controls. With two separate boards, we will have two for the price of two. The boards need to work together for the betterment of Heather Gardens."

John Harvey and Lee Nicholson concurred that a management agreement is needed and that it needs to be updated.

Linda Hileman: "Yes, we need a management agreement to work out those details that create cost savings for us, such as use of the district property." Hileman has proposed a committee, the Management Agreement Dispute Resolution, be instituted to help with that. Additionally, Hileman has attended a number of classes offered by the State of Colorado on how to improve Home Owners Associations.

Question: On January 1, 2025, after the management agreement ends, how will the two boards work together, how will employees be allocated and will the snow still be shoveled?

Bradford Archer: "My proposal for the allocation for staff would be on an agreed upon hourly rate so that HGMD can build those hours into their budgeting process. I believe that after Jan. 1, the snow will still get removed, and I don't think anyone here will deny that. The boards need to come together to agree to terms on an agreement. I believe that termination of the management agreement is silly and a waste of time."

Betty Bergeron: "When we work in a group, we need to work together. You don't always get what you want, but if we come together to work and collaborate rather than complain, we will be doing the best thing for our community."

John Harvey and Greg Winslow concurred in stating they believe that most of the questions posed here will be settled on Dec. 3, 2024, which is the date of the recall election, with Winslow adding that "separation of services is not the answer." Lee Nicholson agreed, "We do have to have an agreement in place for 2025."

Linda Hileman: As far as staff allocation, she advocates individual contracts with specific performance criteria for each of the services and stipulation of charges for various areas, such as snow removal, landscaping, and security. "I do believe that the security team will remain in the Clubhouse and I do agree that snow will continue to be removed."

Other questions were on the dispute between HGMD and HGA, community security, parking garage updates, and speed bumps. For more information, consult the complete Zoom recordings of both meetings at www.HeatherGardens.org/resources. For more information on the candidates, please take a look at the September issue of *Heather 'n Yon*.

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HG Writers Club Members Tell Whopping Good Tales

I never know what's going to happen next at our weekly Writers Club meetings here at Heather Gardens.

There are 12 of us in Writers Club, give or take. Our club members tend to come and go. (We older folks are better at going than coming.)

Several of us are writing our memoirs as a legacy gift for our grandchildren. We're far more enthusiastic about our memoir projects than our families are.

I secretly think our loved ones may dread the day we hand them the finished product and wait with bated breath to hear if they finished reading it and how much they liked it.

Who wants to hurt Grandma's or Grandpa's feelings? Nobody I know.

Writing a memoir is tough, especially for us older folks. We start our paragraphs this way: "I remember when..." and then, for some curious reason, writers' block strikes us dumb!

All kidding aside, one of our prior members, a sweet 91-year-old man, either has a photographic memory or has kept detailed diaries from the time he was 6 years old. He once wrote a whole chapter in his memoir about every single class he took in college, including the professor's name and the day and time of each class.

He moved to Nebraska. Last we heard, his memoir is more than 900 pages.

I'll bet his grandchildren and great grandchildren will someday hang on every word (he says he's not finished yet).

Then there's "Alice," (not real name), our resident poet. Alice wrote a poem we all loved the first time she brought it to Writers Club. But she brought the same poem to read to us again the next week... and the week after that... and again the following month.

None of us had the heart to tell Alice she'd already submitted that poem to us for critique and it was time for a new one.

We're a little relieved we haven't seen Alice for a while, although we worry about her. We do care about each other.

Lest you think we're a bunch of senile oldsters, I'm proud to say we have retired doctors, teachers, engineers, and other professionals in our Writers Club. Several of us are published, too, and have our books for sale on Amazon. Retired physician Dr. Keith McDonald writes in one of his published books:

"I realize finding a new profession after leaving my old

medical one is part of the maturing process. You'd think at 85 you would have done all the maturing you were going to, but these days I feel like I'm just getting started. Endless opportunities are opening before me.

For example, I still haven't ruled out the possibility of becoming a professional big-game hunter."

Wow, Dr. Keith is a real he-man! His forebears were probably the guys who drew hunters throwing spears at mammoths on their cave walls.

Hey, those were the good 'ole days for you males, right? Hunting and killing and blood and gore—why, those prehistoric male cave-wall writers must've had a blast documenting their lives.

Makes me wonder: what did prehistoric females draw on their cave walls?



HG Writers Club (photo from 2018 with Dr. Keith McDonald, front row, 2nd from left)

I Googled "prehistoric cave paintings" and couldn't find much to represent females' daily lives. Come to think of it, those cave drawings must have been produced by children rather than grownups.

Everybody knows how kids love to draw on walls. They say engineers can't write, but don't you believe it. The retired engineer in our Writers Club wrote a really good short story. It had CAD diagrams on every page, footnotes, and an impressive 10-page bibliography, too.

Our biggest problem as seniors in a Writers Club involves technology, as you'd probably guess. None of us had ever used Zoom prior to COVID—but we learned. It was hard figuring out how to do things like mute or unmute ourselves when it was our turn to talk.

Unfortunately, some of our members are a little bit hard of hearing, and still couldn't hear what others were saying even when unmuted.

These days we meet in person in the Skyview Room at our community clubhouse and sit around a large table, where we can all see (and hear) each other, and read our pieces aloud. I've been a member since 2011.

New members sometimes sheepishly admit they came to their first meeting expecting to see a bunch of brilliant eccentrics wearing coke-bottle glasses, with unkempt hair, smelling faintly of alcohol-fueled genius.

-Gloria Leshner, B212

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Ken Ludwig's clever adaptation of Agatha Christie's Murder on the Orient Express boasts all the glamour, intrigue, and suspense! Just after midnight, a snowdrift stops the Orient Express in its tracks, and by morning, it is one passenger fewer. An American tycoon lies dead in his compartment with the door locked from the inside. Isolated with a killer in their midst, the passengers rely on detective Hercule Poirot to identify the murderer – in case they decide to strike again.

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Sunday, October 20
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https://www.dmns.org
2001 Colorado Blvd., Denver

Four Mile Historic Park

Friday, October 25
720-865-0800, 10am-4pm
www.fourmilepark.org
715 S. Forest St. Denver

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Saturday, October 12
303-651-8374, 9am-5pm
www.longmontcolorado.gov/
departments/departments-e-m/museum
400 Quail Rd 80501

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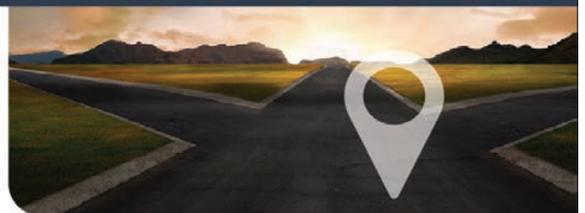
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OCTOBER CALENDAR

Tue 1	CP2 Hand (Knee) and Foot (every Tues) Mah Jongg (every Tues) HG Singers Ping Pong (every Tues) Billiards Club (every Tues)	Aspen/Blue Spruce Room Mountain View Room Blue Spruce Room Skyview Room Game Room Billiards Room	TBA 12:30-4pm 1-4pm 1-2:30pm 2pm 6:30pm
Wed 2	CP1 Cribbage (every Wed) Men's Poker (every Wed) Duplicate Bridge/ACBL (every Wed) Woodshop Club Rummikub (every Wed) Square Dance (1st & 3rd Wed)	TBA Sunburst Café Skyview Room Blue Spruce Room Mountain View Room Lodgepole Lounge Sandberg Auditorium	TBA 12:30-3pm 12:30-5pm 1pm 1pm 1-3pm 7-9pm
Thu 3	CP4 Cripple Creek Fall Colors & Casino Tai Chi (every Thurs) TOPS (every Thurs) Optimist Club (1st & 3rd Thurs) Bowling League (every Thurs) Time4Tap Dance (every Thurs) Bunko (1st & 3rd Thurs) Social Bridge (every Thurs) Writers Club (every Thurs) Ping Pong (every Thurs) Meditation Club (every Thurs) Residents for Renewed Leadership (every Thurs) Kiwanis Club of Aurora (1st & 3rd Thurs)	TBA Bus Tour Tennis Courts Blue Spruce Room Rendezvous Bar & Grill Arapahoe Bowl Sandberg Auditorium Blue Spruce Room Mountain View Room Skyview Room Game Room Skyview Room Blue Spruce Room Skyview Room	TBA 8am-6pm 8-11am 8:30-9:30am 9am 10am 11am-12pm 1-3:30pm 1pm 1pm 2pm 4pm 4pm 6pm
Fri 4	Men with Purpose (1st & 3rd Fri) Texas Hold'em	Skyview Room Mountain View Room	10-11am 12:30-5pm
Sat 5	Changes to Medicare Mexican Train Dominoes (every Sat) Ping Pong (every Sat) Karaoke Club	Aspen Room Arts & Crafts Room Game Room Aspen/Blue Spruce Room	10am-12pm 12-3pm 2pm 3-5pm
Sun 6	Social Bridge (every Sun)	Skyview Room	1-3:30pm
Mon 7	Men's Bridge (every Mon) Book Club Spanish Club (every Mon) Mah Jongg (every Mon) Texas Hold'em Games Galore! (every Mon)	Skyview Room Mountain View Room Aspen Room Blue Spruce Room Aspen Room Arts & Crafts Room	10am-2pm 10:30 & 1pm 11am 1-4pm 12:30-5pm 4-6pm

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Tue 8	HG Republicans Ballot Measures Workshop	Aspen/Blue Spruce Room	10-11:30am
Wed 9	Active Minds: Colorado Ballot 2024 B201 and B202 Aviation Club	Sandberg Auditorium TBA Aspen Room	2-3pm 4:30pm 7pm
Thu 10	The Green Team	Blue Spruce Room	12pm
Fri 11	Indivisible HG Flying J Ranch Supper Show	HG Library Bus Trip	11:30am-1:00pm
Sat 12	The Breakfast Club Voices for Residents Sock Hop Happy Days	Rendezvous Bar & Grill Sandberg Auditorium Sandberg Auditorium	8:30am 4:30pm 6-8:30pm
Mon 14	Texas Hold'em (2nd, 3rd & 4th Mon)	Mountain View Room	12:30-5pm
Tue 15	Caregivers Support Group	Aspen Room	2-4pm
Wed 16	Xfinity/Comcast Bill Review Kathleen Arnold: Halloween Traditions Frolics Club Traveling Troupe Performance	Library Sandberg Auditorium Rendezvous Bar & Grill	12-3pm 1-2pm 4pm
Thu 17	Optimist Club Social Justice Club	Rendezvous Bar & Grill Blue Spruce Room	9am 10am-12pm
Sat 19	Wine and Cheese Social Club	Aspen/Blue Spruce Room	3-5pm
Sun 20	Norma Tell & Sazon Six	Dazzle Jazz Club	4:30pm
Mon 21	Photo Club	Aspen Room	3-5pm
Tue 22	HG Republicans "Death With Dignity" HG Democrats Sevillians	Sandberg Auditorium Aspen Room Sandberg Auditorium Rendezvous Bar & Grill	1:30-3:00pm 2-4pm 4-5:30pm 4:30-6pm
Thu 24	Watch Batteries Replaced AARP	Sunburst Café Arts & Crafts Room	9am-1pm 12:45-5pm
Sat 26	National Federation of the Blind Frolics Club Halloween Dance	Mountain View Room Sandberg Auditorium	10:30am-12:30pm
Mon 28	SRA Low Vision Support Group Garden Club Potluck Dinner	TBA Aspen Room Aspen/Blue Spruce Room	TBA 1:30pm 6-7:30pm
Thu 31	Halloween Craft Halloween Pet Parade and Costume Contest	Picnic Pavilion Picnic Pavilion	9am-4pm 11am-1pm

See pages 34 and 38 for more information on Clubs and Recreation*



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Advertised Activities and Seminars

Mon, Oct 7 Bayer Ear Clinic (every Monday by appt.), Arts & Crafts Room, 9am-12pm (see ad p. 55)
Tues, Oct 15 Explore the Path to Healthy Living, St. Andrews Village, 3-4pm (see ad p. 12)
Mon, Oct 21 Free Travel Seminar by Viking River Cruises, 3:15-4:45pm (see ad p. 8)
Sat, Oct 26 Pancake Breakfast Fundraiser, Foresight Adventure Guides, 8-10:30am (see ad p. 4)

Boards and Committees Monthly Meetings

CECC (BR/Zoom) – 11 am Tue, Oct 1
Clubhouse (BR/Zoom) – 1 pm Tue, Oct 1 & 8
Joint Long Range Plan (BR/Zoom) – 10 am Wed, Oct 2
Maintenance (Zoom) – 1 pm Wed, Oct 2
SEC (BR/Zoom) – 4 pm Mon, Oct 7
HGMD Foundation Committee (BR/Zoom) - TBD
Personnel Policy (BR/Zoom) – TBD
Capital Program (BR/Zoom) - 1pm Fri, Oct 4
Budget & Finance (BR/Zoom) – TBD
RV Lot (BR/Zoom) – 1 pm Mon, Oct 14
HGMD Audit/Finance (BR/Zoom) – 2pm, Mon, Oct 14
HGMD Special Board Meeting (BR/Zoom) - 10am - Oct 15
HGA Board (BR/Zoom) – 1 pm Tue, Oct 15
Open Forum (BR/Zoom) - 3pm Wed, Oct 16
Joint Long Range Plan (BR/Zoom) – 10 am Wed, Oct 16
ACC (Zoom) – 10 am Thu, Oct 17
HGMD Board (BR/Zoom) - 1pm Thu, Oct 17
Golf (BR/Zoom) – 1 pm Tue, Oct 22
Resident Orientation (BR/Zoom) – 10 am Wed, Oct 23
Restaurant (BR/Zoom) – 3 pm Thu, Oct 31

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



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Heather 'n Yon Deadline: 10/17

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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>.

Six Stone Jars Catholic Bible Study. Meets every Tuesday 9:30 – 11:30 am in the Mountain View Room. We welcome everyone — Catholic and non-Catholic. Just show up. Call Dr. Eric Cline, 720-839-4289, or email clinecellars57@gmail.com

HG Women's Bible Study meets the fourth Thursday at 10-11:30 am, in the Mt. View room in person and also on Zoom. All other Thursday's are via Zoom only. Contact Carolyn Morris, 303-885-7807, or motoringmorris@gmail.com for more information. I can arrange help with Zoom if you need it.

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

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

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

Letters

Heather 'n Yon,

Rendezvous Renaissance for sure! One of the most exciting marketing terms is the verb rebrand – rebrand a business or product. Rebranding has the potential to bring new life - a Renaissance and this is precisely what our Rendezvous is experiencing.

Additional capital improvements to the kitchen, a new vibrant menu, a real customer-centric team, Josh, our new chef, expanded entertainment, and many other initiatives that now elevate our on-campus restaurant.

With the leadership of Cormac and the strategic execution by our fabulous Restaurant Committee, this has all been possible. Many thanks to the tireless efforts of Committee Chair Robin O'Meara and Committee Members Mavis Richardson, Tom Merges, Gwen Alexander, Vicky Spillane, Nancy Linsenbigler, Mike Thoma, Bob Bankier, and Crystal Guise. Where would we be without our committees?

If you have not experienced the Rendezvous Renaissance, please reacquaint yourself with our first-rate restaurant.

-Evan Morris, STH

Heather 'n Yon,

Residents have the power to effect change. We took the HGA Board to Court when we were dissatisfied with the Revised Declaration of Condominium. The Arapahoe County Court Judge ruled in our favor and admonished the Board to listen to the residents and make adjustments. They did and we benefit from the changes.

Owners have a quick-easy-no-cost way to protest decisions by management by voting to Veto the proposed 2025 budget/increase. Add your current dues to your County HGMD 'taxes' which pay some of the Bond and Dividends to Bond holders. Compare the percentage increases over the last 10 years.

Having followed the alarming increases for much that I don't want or need (especially legal fees for HG conflicts) with considerable loss of

benefits, I will continue to vote to veto until the management and boards find a way to serve all the owners. If richer owners want more, they can donate to the HG Foundation, get a tax deduction, and have their perks. The vast majority of owners want a lovely, peaceful home with better management and a reasonable HOA fee. It is up to us to rescue this community from self-destruction. I will Vote to Veto if the increase is above 3%.

Residents are considering a recall of four HGMD directors. There was time to compromise and negotiate for better use of our combined resources. Instead, normal good business practices for conflict resolution have been replaced by thousands of hours of contentious and misguided efforts to build an untried, uncostered, and unwanted two-headed management monster which has already done much harm. Both Boards let us down.

Let's hear from owners who want to serve as HGMD directors and stop this train-wreck before we recall the HGMD directors who were voted in. Things could get worse! If competent and committed candidates speak up, I'll vote to Recall the Four.

Note: The dissolution of the HGMD was scheduled for December 31, 2010 when the Community Center, Golf Course, and Restaurant would have been handed over to the HGA. The \$9+ million Bond plus 30-year interest passed before that deadline and guaranteed continuation until full payment. Now the HGMD will continue in perpetuity; how was that decision made?

-Dawn Wooderson, B206

Heather 'n Yon, SAFETY FIRST!

I had been a resident for over 6 years when this letter was originally written and now, I have been a resident for over 9 years. Heather Gardens was a thriving community within a city. Times are changing, especially with COVID over the last few years. We are ONLY as strong as our weakest link. If one of us is a

victim of crime, then all of us are victims. Together we need to protect and keep safe all areas of our community. Everything cost more today than yesterday, but today's price is less than tomorrow's price. As a community we need to step up and pay the cost of renovating our parking garages to help keep us all safer!

Less crime can increase everyone's property value! can you put a price on peace of mind?

Thank you for your time & consideration

-Laurie Knight, CP2

Heather 'n Yon,

To HGMD Board members to be potentially recalled:

No one could predict the effect of your actions or disruption of the tranquility and peace it caused our community. Yes, some "good things" were done in some areas, but what cost is your tenure to the community as a whole?

Six valued employees resigned in 2023 after you took office. Then you terminated the Management Agreement in 2024, and finally you chose to sue the HGA Board. Those expenses add up to tens of thousands of dollars in legal fees. Next year, our residents will carry this financial burden in increased HOA fees.

Right now, our devoted staff, Board members, and residents work diligently on preparing the budget and finances for 2025. All members of our community need to pay attention to what the "4 for Change" HGMD members have cost us all for litigation, lawyers, and other expenses.

If you are so confident that you are competent and doing a good job, why not let the Recall happen right away?

And what about the salaries/benefits for the seven extra employees that HGMD wants to hire to duplicate what was done by the existing accounting staff. Residents attending HGMD board meetings witnessed the

see page 33

Heather 'n Yon, October 2024 31

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Letters continued

way employees and residents were treated if they objected to the Board's proposals or actions. Even their own elected member was blatantly intimidated in attempts to force a resignation.

This egotistical and frivolous journey caused by the HGMD "4 for Change" will continue to cost all residents of Heather Gardens in legal fees, inevitable higher HOA fees, and continued decline in property values.

This issue divides us and erodes what used to be a friendly and welcoming place to live. It is palpable.

We must vote to STOP this experience NOW! Please vote for the recall.

-Chris Ross, CP2

Heather 'n Yon,

As a two year resident of HG, I had NO idea that the HG Metro District Board could recklessly engage in a lawsuit against the HGA, spending thousands of dollars in legal fees, & forcing the HGA Board to hire defense lawyers.

It makes no sense to me that this tremendous expense could be passed on to HG residents without an opportunity to say "NO! Stop the Insanity!" Did any of You understand that thousands of dollars could be spent on legal fees because some Board members prioritized their Agenda over essential COMPROMISE on the Management Agreement, AND ignored the crucial importance of what it would cost residents?

In November and December HG residents will have the opportunity to make 3 important voting decisions for both HG Boards and for US president. As we have discovered, these voting decisions can drastically impact our finances, peace of mind, sleep, digestion, and our friendships in a variety of ways. Please, take this seriously and prioritize VOTING.

In my way of thinking, it's important to vote for a candidate who demonstrates they share my ethical values. This includes being consistently respectful, solution oriented, and dedicated to conflict resolution. Is it too much to expect that each elected Board member would prioritize the financial interests, safety, and carefree enjoyment of life at HG? I sincerely hope the newly elected Boards will recognize the consequential financial importance of commitment to peacefully collaborate and resolve conflicts through compromise.

Please, make yourself proud and VOTE for US president on or before Nov. 5; Please, VOTE for the HGA Board on or before Nov. 18; Please, VOTE Yes for the HGMD Recall, and new Board members on or before Dec. 3.

Respectful & positive compromise IS a better solution,
-Janis De Baca, 219

Heather 'n Yon,

We will be getting our new budget for next year soon. Please vote no. Your HOA fees will go up again if you don't. Stop and think about yourselves and your situations. If you have \$1400 from Social Security and that is all, and your HOA fee is \$700, you will be living on \$700 for the rest of the month for all your expenses. Social Security is expected to only increase 2.5% next year. The fees we pay are outrageous and a shock to everybody I tell. They can't believe it.

If you can't get your vote into the club house give it to somebody who can do it for you. Quit putting your heads in the sand and letting somebody else dictate what is going to happen to all of us. I asked the president of the HG Board to consider putting the vote online. I don't know if they will. If you can't pay your HOA fees, eventually you will be put in the street. The older adult homeless population will triple in six years. You could be one of them. Your Social Security is based on your wages and so are your pensions. That money will run out. Then

what?

By the way, I like to be called an older adult, not a senior or elderly. I am not fragile or weak. I contribute quite a bit to my community.

Another thing, if you golf. Please don't golf in the dark, in thunder and lightning. If you can't shoot it fairly straight down the green, get lessons or quit playing. I had my window broken at 8:30 at night in the dark and am still trying to get it fixed. I have heard horror stories about the golfers around here. HG has to get the window fixed and pay for it which increases our liability insurance which increases our HOA fees.

I still believe strongly an independent auditor needs to come in, not hired by HG or HGMD, and look at where the money is being spent and what for.
-Fran Dollard-Sept, B208

Heather 'n Yon,

Vote NO for Linda Hileman 2025 HGA Board. With our HGA elections coming up on Nov.22,2024. I urge you to vote NO for Linda Hileman. My reason is she is a part-time resident. (aka. A snowbird)

Did you know we have two such people sitting on our HGA board that are snowbirds?

Linda Hileman is one and the other is John Recob (who is up for re-election next year) I feel if you are running for a board position you need to be here and not conduct meetings through Zoom or other means of communications. Although they both claim they can do the job.

There is nothing like having boots on our grounds so when something does happen, they can see for themselves and are able to solve any issues on the spot. Not someplace sunny and away from all the actions.

Being a full time resident living here you are more attuned with what's happening in our community.

I also thought that if you serve on HGA board you could not miss more than three meetings in a row in person, before being asked to resign. Zoom was used during Covid. Yes, there is still Covid, and I understand. But now

see page 48

CLUBS & ORGANIZATIONS

Aviation Club

Oct. Program The rare Northrup P-61 Black Widow...our first Night Time Fighter with RADAR! Designed & funded starting in 1942 and brought on-line in Oct. 1943. Only 706 were built, making it fairly rare...few escaped the scrap yards after the war. P-61 Black Widow painted green, most were painted Gloss Black on top & flat black on bottom.

We will explore the plane's unique design; 3 man crew, pilot, gunner & radar operator; 4 top turret mtd 50 cal machine guns (computer assisted fire control), plus 4 20mm cannons all guided by new top secret Air Intercept Radar mfg. by the Western Electric Co.(my old employer). The top turret 50 caliber machine guns could be rotated 360 degrees and fired independent of the plane's direction of flight. The 20mm cannons were mounted on the sides and belly of the fuselage and aimed where the plane was headed. Each wing also had 4 hard mounts for external fuel tanks or rockets. This baby had monster fire power and at night it was deadly!

Come and see late WWII technology; Computer assisted fire control using new RADAR, multiple firing stations, normally done with the gunner, but pilot and rear RADAR ops could also fire the machine guns or cannons. Similar features were also used in the new B-29 bombers! The P-61 was used from 1944 to 1954, replaced by Jets.

Book Club

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

B201 and B202

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

The Breakfast Club

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

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

Our happy hours are on the first Wednesday, time and location TBA. – CP1 Social Committee – Susan Osman, susanosman21@gmail.com.

CP2

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

CP4

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

Caregivers Support Group

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

Democrats/HG

The Heather Gardens Democratic Club meets the fourth Tuesday of each month in the auditorium at 4-5:30 pm. On October 22, we will be discussing the many ballot issues and people who haven't quite decided or haven't cast their ballot will be able to do so. I am also hoping we will have a visit from Rep. Jason Crow. We will also explore how we can get people to VOTE on or before November 5.

The purpose of our club is to support the Constitution, the rule of law and good government. We work to inform ourselves, our elected officials, our candidates and others about current political issues. You do not have to be a resident of Heather Gardens nor be registered as a Democrat. Some of us like to have dinner in the Rendezvous Restaurant after the meeting to continue the lively conversation and fellowship. You are welcome to join us. - Marty Karnopp, Chair

Frolics Club

Don't miss our upcoming Halloween Dance, Saturday, 26 October, at 6:30 pm, in the Sandberg Auditorium. Members are FREE! (You can join the Frolics Club for the annual fee of \$12). Guests (before 22 October) - \$15. At the door - \$20. RSVP to Arlene Krell at (720) 284-9774. Check out our Traveling Troupe "Spooktacular!" performance at the Rendezvous Restaurant on Wednesday, 16 October, at 4 pm; no cover charge. To join our amazing club, there is only one requirement, you must want to have FUN! To become a member, contact Susie Hayes at (303) 745-1816.

Garden Club

It seems as if spring arrived a few weeks ago and now it's already time to harvest and get ready for fall clean-up. The 72 HG garden plots have been at the peak of growth in August and September and show what dedicated gardeners can do during an extremely hot summer. Gardeners and visitors enjoyed seeing the abundance and diversity

of vegetables and flowers in the September "Open House" in the community gardens.

Garden Club members will be sharing information and what they learned from experience this season at the year's final meeting and potluck dinner October 28 from 6-7:30 pm in the Aspen/Blue Spruce Room in the Clubhouse. In the meantime, gardeners are encouraged to take a look at the Aurora Water Wise Garden, 15151 E. Alameda Parkway, and check the Water Wise garden information at conservation@auroragov.org. The HG Garden Club will be organizing some Water Wise garden tours and events for members in the new year. For more information and to be added to the Garden Club email notifications list, contact President Nancy Linsenbigler, 720-932-6990, at Nancy@NancyLinsenbigler.com

The Green Team

We are absolutely delighted that so many of you attended the Bat Weekend events. Over 120 residents enjoyed the presentation on Friday evening by Aurora's wildlife specialist and, despite the heat, witnessed our ribbon cutting on Saturday at the bat houses. Thank you for your interest in these wonderful little mammals that do so much for our environment.

Recently, we have heard of several encounters with injured bats in HG.

Please do not touch or try to pick them up. We ask that you contact Urban Wildlife Rescue, Jack Murphy (303) 340-4911 or Bat Crew, Kathy Estes (303) 335-7636. Do not call Roads & Grounds or Security.

Our meetings are the 2nd Thursday every month. If you would like to join us, our next meeting will be Thursday, October 10 at noon in the Blue Spruce Room or call (303) 587-9797. - W. Pfaffhausen

Heather Gardens Singers

Joyce Culwell is our new music director. We are looking for more people who enjoy singing. The group meets on Tuesday, October 1 in the Skyview Room from 1:00-2:30 pm. Please check the bulletin board in the Clubhouse for the latest

information. Interested in joining or for more details, call Tom Kappel, 720 377-5756.

Indivisible/HG

Friday, October 11, 11:30 am – 1:00 pm. HG Library (Media Room) (NEW LOCATION). You are welcome to join us for lunch afterward. Topics: #1. Engaging and Educating Voters #2. Sharing Personal Stories About Candidates and Issues on the Ballot.

Participants will practice encouraging meaningful engagement with voters by inviting and sharing stories about how choices on the upcoming ballot will impact their priority issues. We will also review participant successes and challenges with methods of connecting with potential voters through voter registration, knocking on doors, HG building literature distribution, phone calling, emailing, sending letters and postcards, conversations over coffee, etc.

Connected to over 6,000 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 and, in the upcoming election, we will be supporting candidates whose values echo these goals.

Whether you can regularly attend the meetings or not, you are welcome to also sign up for our newsletter of information and action items. Questions? Contact Gina Abegg, facilitator, ginaabegg2020@gmail.com. Receive regular mailings? Contact C. C. Carson, membership, cccarson287@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 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

Our summer session of classes was another BIG hit. We had 93 participants. Their evaluation score of class experiences ranged between 4.5 and 5 on a scale of 1-5. Our fall session is just beginning, but if you missed the September registration period, there is still time to join a class. Just go to the Activity Desk and ask to add your name to the list and show up at the next class. If you have any questions, contact: heathergardenslearners@gmail.com.

Meditation Club

Meditation for stress relief and general well-being. Join us for 20 minutes of deep relaxation and de-stressing from the hassles of daily life. We meet every Thursday at 4:00 p.m. in the Skyview Room. Questions: contact Darryl Stafford, 303-489-5292

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 people at the monthly meeting, held on the fourth Saturday of each month, 10:30 am-12:30 pm,

Mountain View Room. We discuss new medical options, accessible games, transportation, and idea-sharing. Contact Dale Holden, B213, 303-905-9738.

Optimist Club

The club meets on first and third Thursday of each month for breakfast in Rendezvous Restaurant, 9 am. A continental breakfast buffet is served, \$10 per person. Optimist Clubs are dedicated to “bringing out the best in kids” through various service projects. We welcome anyone interested in finding out more. Contact Darlene Park, 303-798-5088, or Bob Schlageter, 303-751-2205, with questions.

Photo Club

If you want to learn more about photography, get inspired, meet others who share your passion, make new friends, and learn how to share those great trips, try the HG Photo Club. We discuss the different ways of taking photos, and how things have changed in the photo world. We meet on the third Monday, 3-5 pm, Aspen Room. The next meeting will be October 21. Contact Rudy Morris, 303-506-8070, rudymorris4@gmail.com.

Republican Club

Tuesday, October 22nd
Let's Have a Conversation
1:30 - 3:00 pm
Sandberg Auditorium
Officers 2025: According to the by-laws, candidates for officers must declare their intention to serve in 2025. President and vice president must be registered Republicans.

Important Dates

Tuesday, Oct. 8, 10 – 11:30 am: 2024 Ballot Measures workshop. Aspen/Blue Spruce Room.

Wednesday, Nov. 6. A post Election Day breakfast will be held in the banquet room from 10:00 - 11:30 am. This is a social event for all club members and their guests. Save your seat with an RSVP to Robin at rlomeara1@gmail.com. No regular HGRC meeting in November.

Membership Information

We welcome new members! Any new member who pays his/her dues of \$20 for the year is automatically

enrolled as an HGRC member for 2025. Our dues support club social events, speakers, conservative organizations, candidates, postage, advertising and other administrative costs for the club. GUESTS are always welcome to attend club meetings and events. Please feel free to contact President Robin O'Meara, for more information: 303-949-4916, rlomeara1@gmail.com.

Residents for Renewed Leadership Club

The Residents for Renewed Leadership Club are residents who are concerned regarding the future of leadership in Heather Gardens and are committed to the recall election. Issues of concern: the financial burden to residents by the filing of a lawsuit brought by HGMD against HOA and the proposal of HGMD to duplicate the management of Heather Gardens and the consequence of this action.

The club meets every Thursday at 4:00pm in the clubhouse Blue Spruce Room. The Club stays informed so that information can be passed onto all Heather Gardens residents. For further information or to join along with other neighbors contact: residentsforrenewedleadership@groups.outlook.com

Sevillians

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

Singers/Mixed Chorus

We are looking for an accompanist/director. The HG mixed-chorus group cannot schedule October practices at this time. Please check the bulletin board in the Clubhouse for the latest information. Interested in joining or for more details, call Tom Kappel, 720-377-5756.

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 join “Unpacking The Society in Which We Live” roundtable discussion on Thursday, October 17 at 10 am in the Blue Spruce Room. Heather Gardens resident, Dr. Dean Uyeno, will be speaking about the forced incarceration of Japanese-American families during WW2, the experiences of his parents during that time, and its implications for our society today. Bernie Hupperts: marlynber@gmail.com, and Diane Pritchard, dianekpritchard@gmail.com

Spanish Club (Club en Español)

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

SRA

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

TOPS

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

Voice For Residents Club

The Voice for Residents Club was formed to provide a forum for residents to stay current and informed on issues facing Heather Gardens. The main issue at

hand is the negotiation between HGA and HGMD regarding the management agreement. If or when this agreement is finalized, the Voice for Residents will have a special meeting or meetings to review the proposed contract with our residents.

In the meantime, we will continue our review of the Recall Process, with other topics, as time permits. Below are the scheduled meetings until November. All the meetings below will be held on Saturdays, in the auditorium.
Oct. 12, 3-4:30 pm
Nov. 9, 3-4:30 pm
– Contact, Vickie Hoffman,
TheVoiceForResidents@Gmail.com.

Wine & Cheese Social Club

We meet on the third Saturday of every month. Join us at 3–5 pm Saturday, Oct. 19, Aspen/Blue Spruce Room. Bring a beverage and snack to share. Entertainment is provided. For more information, call the Clubhouse Activity Desk, 303-751-1811, ext. 5.

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, Mountain View Room. Member experience varies from beginner level to experienced woodworking individuals. You are invited to join this great energetic club, and have an opportunity to share your ideas and initiatives relating to woodworking. Come learn why the members all love working with wood — from designing writing pens to wall hangings and furniture. Direct questions to President Dave Woods, heathergardenswoodshopclub@gmail.com.

Writers Club

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

On October 28 (fourth Monday), the **Low Vision Support Group** will meet in the Aspen Room, 1:30 pm. Questions? Call Marsha Bengen, 720-535-5224.



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SPORTS & RECREATION

Billiard Club

The club meets for Co-ed 8-Ball at 6:30 pm on Tuesdays. Check in before 6:10 pm to play. Men's 9-Ball is at 7 pm on Thursdays. Annual dues of \$12 are payable on January 1 of each year. All new players are welcome. Questions? Call Connie Burns, 303-693-0766, or Judy Brehmer, 303-369-6258.

8-Ball Winners

Aug. 13

1st Judy Brehmer/Mark Holland
2nd Brian Bucenec/Rita Cusack
3rd Otis Lawson/Melissa Sugar

Aug. 20

1st Dee Moore/Bob Woods
2nd Doug Miller/Rita Cusack
3rd Mark Holland/Steve Olsen

Aug. 27

1st Melissa Sugar/Otis Lawson
2nd Lindy Davenport/Rita Cusack
3rd Brian Bucenec/Steve Olsen

Sept. 3

1st Doug Miller/Bob Schlageter
2nd Lindy Davenport/Connie Burns
3rd Otis Lawson/Rita Cusack

Sept. 10

1st Otis Lawson/Melissa Sugar
2nd Doug Miller/Judy Hein
3rd Brian Bucenec/Vickie Studinski

9-Ball Winners

Aug. 15

1st Scott Crowl
2nd Roger Goldstein
3rd Lindy Davenport

Aug. 22

1st Doug Miller
2nd Brian Bucenec
3rd Scott Crowl

Aug. 29

1st Brian Bucenec
2nd John Manzanares

Sept. 5

1st Roger Goldstein
2nd Brian Bucenec

Sept. 12

1st Roger Goldstein
2nd John Recob

Bowling League

Our Bowling season has started, but it's not too late to join us. We bowl at Arapahoe Bowl, 6850 S Dayton, at 10 am every Thursday. All levels are welcome, so come and have a great time with us each week. If you

are interested, contact me, Mary Jo Prichard, mjpinsurance@hotmail.com. – Mary Jo Prichardt

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 and Sundays, 1–3:30 pm, Mountain View Room. No reservations or partner needed. Please call before you come the first time. – Joanne Turner, 719-641-3644

Bunko

Bunko meets the first and third Thursdays each month, 1–3:30 pm. We gather in the Blue Spruce Room at 12:45 pm, and start play at 1 pm. 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

Games Galore!

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

Golf Club/Ladies

The last drive has been teed up. The last putt has rolled into the cup. The last scorecard has been tallied. And with that the Heather Gardens Ladies Golf Club has completed another successful season of play.

Weather permitting, October will be filled with a variety of "fun" golf events that will test players' abilities at unusual tasks such as putting with a hammer or rolling dice to secure an advantageous drive.

Tournament of Champions

It's a "three-peat." The club is proud to announce that for the third consecutive year Sara Stoner has won the club's annual Tournament of Champions. This year's event was low gross only and Sara shot an impressive 87 during the two-day event. She will receive her official green jacket at the club's year-end luncheon on October 16.

CHAMPIONSHIP RESULTS 2024

Club Champion – Sara Stoner

Flight A

1st Liz Sanchez
2nd Nancy Wilson
3rd JoAnn Fitch

Flight B

1st Linda Jeannelle
2nd Nancy Reid
3rd Cindy Koch

Flight C

1st Linda Savage
2nd Carol Strickland
3rd Dee Moore

Flight D

1st Ellen Allie
2nd Lisa Matthews
3rd Gwen Alexander

2025 Officers Selected

Following regular tournament play on August 31, club members gathered in the Rendezvous for the annual club "picnic" and election of officers. The following individuals were unanimously elected to serve in club leadership roles in 2025:

President – Sara Stoner
Vice President – Lisa Matthews
Secretary – Mary Kay Rohrer
Treasurer – Lara Thompson

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Please add these important dates to your calendar:

October 2 - Shamble Scramble
October 16 - Fall Luncheon
October 19 - Las Vegas Scramble
All women interested in league play are invited to join HGLGC, regardless of skill level. Learn more

about the club and get a membership application at the Heather Gardens Pro Shop and our website, www.heathergardensladiesgolfclub.com.

Club Website

Don't forget to check out the club's website www.heathergardensladiesgolfclub.com for valuable information including weekly tee times, handicaps, and the club's membership roster. The site also includes Golf Tip Videos from club pro Greg Kohr and minutes from the board of directors' meetings. Visit the site regularly to keep up to date on club news. The next HGLGC board meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, October 30, at 1:00 pm. All members are encouraged to attend. Minutes from all board meetings are posted on the club's website.

Tournament Results August 14, 2024

Flight A

1st Linda Jeannelle
2nd Beulah Gould
3rd Margie Francone
4th Judy Nelson

Flight B

1st Carol Strickland
2nd Bonnie Soman
3rd Margaret Shoup
4th Susan Brennan, Carol Gilbert, Gina Studer, Marsha Swink

Flight C

1st Christine Rothwell
2nd Bev Nelson
3rd Dee Moore
4th Mavis Richardson

Flight D

1st Lisa Matthews
2nd Ellen Allie, Susan Craig
4th Gwen Alexander

Low Gross Awards

Flight A – JoAnn Fitch, Deb Madril
Flight B – Sharon Rademacher
Flight C – Carol Gumpert
Flight D – Judy Brehmer
Birdies – Marla Cole
Chip-ins – Margie Francone, Carol Gilbert, Myra Lansky

Tournament Results August 21, 2024

Flight A

1st Glenda Pitts
2nd Jan Belt, Rosalie Einspahr
4th Judy Nelson, Sara Stoner

Flight B

1st Judy Phillips, Linda Savage
3rd Marla Cole, Gina Studer, Marsha

Swink

Flight C

1st Barb Gierscher
2nd Carol Gumpert
3rd Jeanine Kilde
4th Ann Agee

Flight D

1st Sandy Costello
2nd Gwen Alexander
3rd Susan Craig
4th Judy Brehmer

Low Gross Awards

Flight A – Nancy Wilson
Flight B – Nancy Reid
Flight C – Linda Hileman, Dee Moore
Flight D – Maureen McBride
Chip-ins – Bonnie Soman, Maureen McBride, Margie Francone

Tournament Results August 28, 2024

Flight A

1st Sara Stoner
2nd Jan Belt, JoAnn Fitch, Mary Kay Rohrer

Flight B

1st Judy Phillips
2nd Mary Jo Prichard, Pat Taylor
4th Nancy Reid

Flight C

1st JoAnn Sterling
2nd Carol Ann Mayne
3rd Connie Burns, Barb Gierscher

Flight D

1st Joan McGary, Sharon Weiss
3rd Judy Brehmer
4th Betsy Adams, Eileen Umhoefer

Low Gross Awards

Flight A – Charlane Plucheck
Flight B – Karin Bently, Cindy Koch, Bonnie Soman
Flight C – Linda Hileman
Flight D – Susan Craig
Birdies – JoAnn Fitch, Mary Jo Prichard, Charlane Plucheck
Chip-Ins – Judy Brehmer, Lisa Matthews, Laura Thompson, Gina Studer

Tournament Results September 4, 2024

Flight A

1st Glenda Pitts
2nd Kathy Stebbins
3rd Barb Tucker
4th Judy Nelson

Flight B

1st Barb Gierscher
2nd Ginger Smith
3rd Betty Parko, Florence Madonna

Flight C

1st Carol Gumpert
2nd Myra Lansky

3rd Linda Hileman
4th Mary Jo Prichard

Flight D

1st Maureen McBride
2nd Sharon Weiss
3rd Sandy Costello, Carol Anne Mayne
Birdies – Cindy Koch, Judy Nelson, Mavis Richardson
Chip-ins – Judy Nelson, Barb McShane

Tournament Results September 11, 2024

Flight A

1st Glenda Pitts
2nd Judy Nelson
3rd Kathy Stebbins
4th Barb Tucker

Flight B

1st Sharon Rademacher, Bonnie Soman
3rd Susan Brennan
4th Barb Gierscher

Flight C

1st Carol Gumpert
2nd Myra Lansky
3rd Mary Jo Prichard

Flight D

1st Judy Brehmer
2nd Carol Anne Mayne
3rd Connie Burns
4th Candia Lang
Chip-ins – Judy Brehmer, Ginger Smith
- Publicity Chair Suzi Stolte

Hand (Knee) and Foot

Also known as Tripleplay, this is a variation of Canasta. Fun and easy to learn. We meet every Tuesday, 12:30–4 pm, Mountain View Room. Call 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. – Bernadette (Bee) Hass, 303-923-3877.

Pickleball

The HG Pickleball Club plays daily according to our schedule found by scrolling down under the Home tab at <https://www.hgpickle.org/>. We offer a "Pickleball Lite" program for beginning and intermediate players. Times are published weekly by email, so let Ron Hileman (ronhileman@gmail.com) know if you would like to receive our updated information each week. The club provides loaner paddles and pickleballs.

We do not play when the courts are wet, or the wind gusts are over 20 mph. We often add Ladder or Round Robin play on Saturday or Sunday. We are now separating play into four groups, based on ability and desired pace plus intensity of play. Visit our club's website (above) for wind speed plus updated schedule information. Contact Phil Hughes, 303-503-7633, or Ron Hileman, 720-256-7477, with your questions or to schedule a free orientation or lesson.

Ping Pong

Fun and great exercise. Come join us in playing doubles, 2 pm on Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday in the Game Room. You can also play by contacting the Activities Desk in the Clubhouse. If you have questions, call Bob Schlageter, 303-751-2205 – B. Schlageter

Poker/Men's & Texas Hold 'em

On Mondays, we play Texas Hold 'em (12:30–5 pm) in the Mountain View Room, except on the first Monday of the month, when we play in the Aspen Room. On Wednesdays, we play Men's Poker (12:30–5 pm) in the Skyview Room. On Fridays, we play Texas Hold 'em (12:30–5 pm) in the Mountain View Room.

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

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. Joanne Turner, 719-641-3644.

Square Dance

Heather Twirlers invites all square dancers to join us every first and third Wednesday 7-9pm, Sandberg Auditorium. The cost is \$7. If you are an experienced dancer, or a newer dancer, come and join us. If you would like to give square dancing a try come to the Open House Community Dance on Wednesday,

October 2, 7:00-8:30 pm in Sandberg. Not just for HG, it is for everyone! Hope to see you there!

Tai Chi

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

Tai chi consists of deliberate, flowing movements that are grouped into forms. It has been described as "meditation in motion." Because we meet outside, the start time is weather dependent. Interested? For information about or to sign up, contact Dean Uyeno, dean.uyeno@live.com, before attending.

Time4Tap Dance Group

If you are a seasoned tap dancer, you might want to join Time4Tap Dance Group (Intermediate/Advanced), at 11 am-noon, Thursdays, Sandberg Auditorium. With questions, call or text Julie Whalen, 303-550-5985; email jwhalen97@comcast.net. Make Time4Tap!





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HG Clubhouse Events

Clubhouse Hours

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

Phone 303-751-1811, x5

Acting Clubhouse Manager Julie Racich

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

Sock Hop Happy Days - NEW DATE

Saturday, October 12

6:00-8:30 pm, Sandberg Auditorium

Cost: \$15.00, Day of Event \$17.00

Music by Shel McClaury's — Band Final Approach Trio
Dress up as your favorite character from the 50's/60's:
The "Jocks & Cheer Leaders"; Motorcycle "Bad Boys & Girls"; The "Nerds". Music begins at 6:30 pm. Menu will include Sloppy Joes, chips and floats! Costume contest.

Changes to Medicare

Saturday, October 5, 10- noon, Aspen Room

Seminar discussing the changes to Medicare for 2025.

FREE, reservations required, call 303-751-1811 ext. 5 or stop by the Activities Desk.

Active Minds: Colorado Ballot 2024

Wednesday, October 9, 2-3 pm, Sandberg Auditorium

FREE, reservations required, call 303-751-1811 ext. 5 or stop by the Activities Desk

Join Active Minds for an objective review of the current initiatives and referenda on the Colorado statewide ballot this fall. We will review each proposal, presenting the arguments on both sides. We will also review the referendum and initiative process in Colorado, including its history, pros and cons, and significant legislation that has resulted from this process in the past.

Xfinity/Comcast Bill Review

Wednesday, October 16, noon- 3 pm, Library

Sign-up sheets are now available. There are 10, 20 minutes slots.

FREE, reservations required, call 303-751-1811 ext. 5 or stop by the Activities Desk.

Kathleen Arnold: Halloween Traditions

Wednesday, October 16, 1-2 pm, Sandberg Auditorium

FREE, reservations required, call 303-751-1811 ext. 5 or stop by the Activities Desk

According to ancient legends, ghosts and evil spirits wander the earth on the night we know as Halloween. Halloween traditions and superstitions that we still practice today have origins in the Celtic festival called Samhain that began over 3000 years ago.

Watch Batteries Replaced

Thursday, October 24, 9 am –1 pm, Sunburst Café

Cost: \$8 per battery

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

"Death With Dignity"

Tuesday, October 22, 2-4 PM, Aspen Room,

Clubhouse, HG. Topics to be covered include the following: (1) Advance Care Planning; (2) Dementia Values & Priorities Tool which allows Dementia patients

to express wishes regarding future care...copies will be given to all participants; (3) Medical Aid in Dying including revised legislation; (4) Voluntarily Stopping Eating & Drinking as an option for patients. Seating is limited so persons must register in advance of the event at the Front Desk, HG or, phone 303. 751. 1 811, ext. 5. The featured speaker is Dr. Susan Wilhoit, MD, Palliative Care Physician & National Medical Director, Compassion & Choices

AARP

Thursday, October 24, 12:45 pm – 5 pm, Arts & Crafts
Reservations required, call 303-751-1811 ext. 5 or stop by the Activities Desk.

Are you a driver aged 50 and over? Would you like to receive a discount on your auto insurance? Would you like to learn the current rules of the road, defensive driving techniques and how to operate your vehicle more safely in today's increasingly challenging driving environment? If so, then consider attending the AARP Driver Safety Class here at the Heather Gardens Clubhouse. The class is 4 hours long and the cost is \$20 for AARP members (please bring your membership card) and \$25 for non-members (cash or check only, credit cards cannot be accepted). Please be sure to bring your driver's license with you to class. Class size is limited to 25 people.

Halloween Pet Parade and Costume Contest

Thursday, October 31, 11 am — 1 pm, HG Picnic Pavilion

Cost: Free

Get into the Halloween Spirit! Dress up your pet and yourself in your Halloween Finery. Parade will be on grass around the pavilion. Judges will be on hand to award the winners. Note: All dogs/pets must be on a leash. Owners must be in control of their pets.

Halloween Craft Opportunity

Thursday, October 31, 9 am - 4 pm, HG Picnic Pavilion

Cost: Free — NOTE: Tables will be limited to the tables already in the pavilion. So very limited tables, first come first serve. Contact the Clubhouse Activities Desk to register at 303-751-1811 ext 5 or come to Clubhouse to register.

Craft Fair

Friday, November 1 & Saturday November 2,
9 am – 3pm, Clubhouse

FREE

Over 80 crafters will be on hand selling handmade items. Embroidery, knit & Crochet, wood crafted too numerous to name. This will be a great opportunity to start your Christmas shopping.

continued p. 44-45

COMMUNITY INSIGHTS

Community Insight into our Parking Structures

The **Parking Structure project** is on the list of capital reserves projects for this year and will be again in 2025. It's good to provide some background, especially for readers who didn't live in Heather Gardens (HG) at the time the project was initiated. The project relates to the four separate two-story Parking Structures (PS) along S. Heather Gardens Way, with in total 614 parking spaces including 212 garages that are enclosed and connected on the upper parking decks for the parking needs of the residents of the 12 four-story Alpha buildings.

PARKING STRUCTURE MAINTENANCE PROJECT

YR	COST	SOURCE
2023	\$1,004,392	*
2024	\$2,592,494	**
2025	\$1,530,901	**
2026	\$587,949	**
2027	\$660,886	**
2028	\$691,725	**

What is the problem?

Deterioration of the structures, which started shortly after they were built, caused by corrosion that damaged post-tensioned tendons (metal cables embedded in the concrete to provide extra stability and strength). All this resulted in unsound concrete upper decks and safety issues related to concrete chunks potentially falling on cars or people in the ground floor parking areas. For over 10 years, HG was faced yearly with increasing repair costs (up to \$560,000 in 2019). Most importantly, these costly, yearly repairs didn't address the long-term issues.

Parking Structure Advisory Committee (PSAC)

A group of residents supported by HGA staff and building engineers formed the Ad-Hoc Parking Structure Advisory Committee (PSAC) in 2021. The PSAC investigated in detail at least seven different options to solve the long-term problems within the PS. In April 2022, the HGA Board passed a motion to accept the proposal of the PSAC to start a multi-year plan of increased repairs to rehabilitate and maintain the PS, which should add at least another five to 10 years of service to their lifespan. The repairs and future replacement structures were also included in our capital reserves planning. This decision to rehabilitate and maintain the PS provides HG with a period of three to eight years to plan for funding, further build capital reserves, and additional time to work on the design, necessary permitting, etc. for the replacement of the current PS.

Why do I have to pay for this?

Residents not using these PS might ask: Why do I have to pay for this? Simply said, it's because we live in a condominium community. Responsible condominium communities build capital reserves. These can be considered as "insurance" or a "savings account." For example: All owners in the HG community, not only the owners in the six-story buildings, pay monthly dues toward the capital reserves, to make it possible to replace the roofs of the six-story buildings every 20-30 years. In the same way, all owners, not only the owners of the Alpha buildings, pay into the capital reserves to make it possible to repair and eventually replace the PS used only by the owners of the units in the Alpha buildings. Sharing these costs will prevent every individual owner from large expenses. Capital reserves can be considered a "savings account" protecting the value of your property but are also an "insurance" to protect the individual owners from sudden large expenses. These types of capital expenditures help maintain our property values.

How to stay informed and how to engage to protect the value of your property?

A monthly HGA report informs you about the status of our capital reserve funds, current capital reserve projects, and spending. This report is posted on the HGA website in the "Budget and Finance Committee folder." Another way to be informed is to attend the monthly Joint Capital Programs Subcommittee meetings, which are announced via Pileria beginning of the month in the "Upcoming HGA/HGMD Board and Committee meetings."

-Community Engagement and Communications Committee/Project Insight



Parking Structure-3 with new stairs and fresh concrete repairs on deck and column.

A Tribute to Craig Baldwin

Heather Gardens Metropolitan District (HGMD) Director Craig Baldwin passed away unexpectedly on August 25 after a brief illness. He was surrounded by loved ones and will be greatly missed by his close friends and family, and by many HG residents who knew him well.

Craig's 4-year term would have ended May 2027. He was currently serving as Clubs and Activities Committee chair, Joint Budget & Finance Committee member, and Joint Capital Program Committee member.

With Craig's passing, the HGMD Board now consists of only four members rather than five; three of whom are facing a recall election to be held Tuesday, December 3, 2024.

Craig's current and past service to Heather Gardens (HG) is exemplary. He served on the HGA Board from January 2012 through December 2014. In May 2016 and once again in May 2023, he joined the HGMD Board. Those of us living at HG in 2017 remember Craig as the HGMD director who saw the board through a recall election and helped to return it to a functioning, cooperative group of directors. At times during 2017, Craig chaired all of the HGMD committees almost single-handedly.

Altogether, Craig spent more than 16 years in HGA and HGMD – serving both boards as president and in a variety of other positions and multiple committees. Craig was honored as Heather Gardens Director Emeritus from the HGMD Board for his devoted years of service to the HG community.



A Celebration of Life honoring Craig and his family was held Sunday, Sept. 8, in Sandberg Auditorium. Music was provided by the Bruce Henson Quartet and by HGA President Larry Davila, who sang a solo rendition of the Lord's Prayer.

Craig's son, Dan Baldwin, spoke to those gathered, saying of his father, "Dad has always been there for us" and telling the audience how thankful he felt that he was able to spend precious time with Craig in the hospital before he passed away.

Widow Jean Baldwin moved the crowd with her gracious presence. She was supported by the attendance of her grown children, grandchildren, great grandchildren, and by family members that included nieces and nephews who traveled from Iowa to be with Jean.

Craig and Jean were married in 1958 in Grundy Center, Iowa, and enjoyed 66 years together. The couple have been very active in the Optimist Club.

During his career, Craig served as a project manager for a construction company and a property manager. He was a Denver Bronco enthusiast and avid collector of miniature John Deere tractors and memorabilia, which served as center pieces for the Celebration of Life ceremony.

The family says that Craig's favorite activity was spending time with them and "sharing stories (telling tall tales!)." His memory will always live with us.

-Gloria Lesher, B212

HG Clubhouse Events continued...

Upcoming Trips:

Cripple Creek Fall Colors & Casino — trip is full but ask that you be put on the Wait List
Thursday, October 3, 2024

Cost: \$38.00

Time: 8:00 am Bus leaves HG between buildings 243 & 244, 13931 E Marina Dr. leaving casinos at 3:00 pm arriving at HG around 6:00 pm

Reservations: Stop by the Clubhouse Activities Desk or call 303-751-1811 ext 5.

Take time from your busy schedule and head up to Cripple Creek enjoying the great Colorado fall colors on the way to Triple Crown Casinos – The Brass Ass, Midnight Rose, and McGills Casino. This is an ADA accessible bus and you may bring your lunch or purchase it in Cripple Creek. Registrants must furnish the front desk with your birthday to receive player's card from Triple Crown Casino.

44 Heather 'n Yon, October 2024

Flying W Ranch

Friday, October 11, 2:30 - 10:00 pm

Cost: \$89.00

Reservations: Stop by the Clubhouse Activities Desk or call 303-751-1811 ext 5.

For over 70 years, the Flying W Ranch has been the home of the only Chuckwagon Supper Show in Colorado Springs. Featuring a rousing Western stage show and a classic American chuckwagon meal. The Chuckwagon spread, reminiscent of the hearty meals that "Cookie" served the cowboys on the trail – smoked brisket, berbere chick, foil-wrapped potato with sour cream and cheddar cheese, Flying W trail beans, chunky applesauce, Dutch-Oven biscuits with honey or jam, and old-fashioned Spice Cake. Individuals with respiratory conditions, allergies or asthma should attend at their own risk. Bus will leave HG at 2:30 pm, at bus stop between buildings 243 & 244, 13931 E Marina Drive, returning to HG around 10 pm. This is not an ADA bus, but can accommodate folding walkers, tell Activities Desk if you have a walker.

Norma Tell & Sazon Six, At Dazzle Jazz Club

Sunday, October 20,
Doors open: 4:00 PM, Showtime: 5:00 PM - 6:30PM
Cost: \$46 for transportation and Dazzle Entrance Only
Reservations: Stop by the Clubhouse Activities Desk or call 303-751-1811 ext 5. Heather Gardens has scheduled a charter bus to go to the Dazzle Jazz Club in downtown Denver to hear Norma Tell and Sazon Six. The cost includes the entrance into the Jazz Club and transportation only. You may purchase drinks or drinks and dinner at the club, but not through Heather Gardens. This is not an ADA bus but can accommodate folding walkers, please tell Activities desk if you have a walker.

Mannheim Steamroller Christmas

Sunday, December 8, 12:30 – 5:30 pm
Cost: \$96.00
Reservations: Stop by the Clubhouse Activities Desk or call 303-751-1811 ext 5.
Mannheim Steamroller Christmas by Chip Davis has been America's favorite holiday tradition for more than 35 years! Grammy Award Winner Chip Davis has created a show that features Mannheim Steamroller Christmas classics in the distinctive Mannheim sound. The program includes 15 musicians playing more than 20 instruments against a backdrop of dazzling multimedia effects – capturing the spirit of the season in an immersive yet intimate setting. Theatrical haze and flashing light effects are used throughout the entirety of the show. Bus will leave HG at 12:30 pm, at bus stop between buildings 243 & 244 E Marina Drive, returning to HG around 5:30 pm. This is not an ADA bus but can accommodate folding walkers, tell Activities Desk if you have a walker.



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4-Story: 12 Homes Sold / Average Sales Price \$243,250 / Average Days In Market 73

6-Story: 22 Homes Sold / Average Sales Price \$308,945 / Average Days In Market 45

Patio/Townhome: 6 Homes Sold / Average Sales Price \$447,500 / Average Days In Market 54

If you would like specific information on your floor plan, please contact me.

*Based on information from Metrolist, Inc. for the period of 6/16/24 to 9/16/24. NOTE: This representation is based in whole or in part on data supplied by Metrolist, Inc. Metrolist, Inc. does not guarantee nor is in any way responsible for its accuracy. Data maintained by Metrolist, Inc. may not reflect all real estate activity in the market.



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FOR SALE – 14390 E. Marina Dr. #602 - \$420,000

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Under Contract – 14050 E. Linvale Pl. #603 - \$295,000

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- SOLD – 3282 S. Heather Gardens Way**
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Letters continued

we all need to be attuned to what you want to do and be involved.

Please HGA let's stick to the rules we have. It's important to have our board members living here and being aware.

-John Lowen B236

Heather 'n Yon,

September's issue contains several letters to the editor that continue to spread mis-information to sway our thinking about the HGMD 4 for Change. Page 51: Bruce Henson continues to blame home sales on the lawsuit HGMD filed. In this same issue Page 21: "Sold in the last 30 days", Bruce's HG Brokers closed on approximately 1.5 million dollars in HG properties and have \$752K under contract.

With realtor fees around 5% it looks like HG Brokers had a good month! Page 31: Betty Bergeron as ARO was mis-leading us with statements that the HGA never endorsed or supported the Recall. She states that "the ARs are required to post

only the notices stamped Please Post" on all the bulletin boards.

Looking back over the past year I know that ONLY those items posted in our building were for the recall. Who stamps "Please Post" on these articles? HGA Staff? HGA Board? Many postings even had HGA board members names of approval on them. Page 33: Nonean Price said she used numbers she got from HGMD's website. The HGMD board has stated in multiple public meetings that revenues are up but HGA isn't providing financials, in accordance with the agreement, and can't balance their budget. Nonean signed a letter in the Feb 2024 issue on Pg. 51 with 2 other residents of building 217. One of the residents stated UNDER OATH, to the DEO, she "regretted making these false statements", so why believe what she is saying now!

The Rendezvous is so much better off today than the past several years. The feel of a 55 and over ACTIVE ADULT community, as we advertise, finally exists. Do your own research folks! I will vote NO to recall the current HGMD board and so should you!
-John Guise, B217

Heather 'n Yon,

Golf Course Rules Page 11, HG Directory, item 11, "Sharing golf clubs is NOT allowed". Why?
-T L Keene, B223

[Editor's Note: This letter has been forwarded to Greg Kohr & HG Management]

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“Keep the Management Agreement”

In a recommendation dated September 18, 2024 to both the Heather Gardens Association (HGA) and the Heather Gardens District (HGMD) Boards, the Joint Long Range Planning Committee (JLRPC) unanimously advises the boards to keep the Management Agreement between them in place.

The JLRPC recommendation was triggered by the 12/7/23 decisions by the HGMD Board to terminate the Management Agreement on December 31, 2024, and to also hire a litigation attorney. The decision by the HGMD Board, to start a lawsuit against HGA to end the Management Agreement early “by filing a complaint seeking relief of the agreement based upon HG breach of the Management Agreement” was made 12/21/23.

Responsibilities of the JLRPC

The committee decided to analyze the possible consequences of ending the Management Agreement since the JLRPC is tasked to provide advice and recommendations to the boards on future issues likely to increase costs and impact either Association or District property in future budget years.

End of the current business organization

In its recommendation, the JLRPC notes that HGA and HGMD signed an interagency agreement, the “Management Agreement,” under which the Association serves as the agent for the District in conducting the affairs of the District and managing the District’s properties. This agreement is the legal framework which resulted in our current business organization where Heather Gardens (HG) has only one: General Manager, Human Resources Manager, Administrative Manager, Facilities Engineer, Contract Manager, Financial Department, Maintenance Department, Paint Department, Golf and Landscape Department, Security Team and Custodial Services Department. This business is structured as a Shared Services organization. All these departments and their respective managers serve both HGA and HGMD, as their customers and the residents of HG as their end-customers. Ending the Management Agreement will directly end this current business organization characterized by the concepts of a Shared Services model.

Advantages of the Shared Services Concept

The Shared Services Concept has two main advantages: Increased efficiency and effectiveness.

- Increased Efficiency

Since departments are serving multiple entities, each has only one department with one manager or one foreman. By avoiding duplication, all kinds of overhead costs can be reduced or even saved. An example of efficiency is lower inventory costs. The inventory of spare parts can be reduced, and maintenance can still provide the same service level in both entities during maintenance repair tasks. Savings/cost reduction based on “economies of scale” can also be realized. The pool of resources is larger, so more flexibility for overtime can be realized. Tool sharing: Tools (including software) can be shared so there’s no need to buy multiple (duplicate) tools and it’s even possible to buy a better (more expensive) tool to provide better services for on average less cost per entity.

-Increased Effectiveness

Standardization: Since we have combined services “the wheel has to be invented only one time.” The approach to solve a common problem can be applied to all entities in the same way. Better Overall Quality of Services: There is a real potential to provide a better level of service when using a Shared Services model. Response time can be improved by the larger pool of employees, especially during weekends and holidays. The fact that better (more expensive) tools can be bought, as described above, can result in improved quality of the provided service. When observing the Shared Services model in our HG organization, we see department managers and individual staff providing services to both HGA and HGMD daily putting in a lot of effort to improve the quality of their services and creating cost savings where possible.

In its recommendation, the JLRPC mentions that all major Business Consultant and Management Consultant firms are advising companies to implement the concept of Shared Services in every business process improvement project. Companies such as KPMG, PwC and (formerly) CSC advise and help fortune 500 companies and US government agencies to implement Shared Services models using terminology and concepts borrowed from and supported by leading management theories, studies and literature. Hypothetically, if we abandoned our Shared Services model and hired one of these consultant firms, their number one recommendation would be the re-introduction of the Shared Services concept.

Keep the Management Agreement

The JLRPC’s recommendation states it is convinced that ending the Management Agreement will result in lost efficiency and effectiveness advantages which come with the current Shared Services concept, embedded and successfully implemented in the current HG business organization. By ending the Management Agreement, the current Shared Services structure will be disrupted and most likely replaced by duplicate points of service. Costs will not double, but will definitely increase significantly. This will have the impact of raising our monthly HGA dues.

Based on the reasons described above, the JLRPC strongly recommends keeping the Management Agreement in place to maintain our efficiency and effectiveness.

-Joint Long Range Planning Committee

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Mary Hafka

HG closed the outdoor pool in mid September. For me, this signals the end of summer.

(Am I the only pool user who keeps trying to input the PIN for my garage door into the locker room keypad?)

The weather was still pretty nice when the outdoor pool got closed. And we Dedicated Pool Rats reacted the way we do every year – by trying to lobby Clubhouse brass into keeping the outdoor pool open longer.

These efforts never work. When I worked for the Clubhouse, years ago, the reason we were given for the firm date on closing the pool was that – although the days are still warm through October – the nights are cooler. Heating the outdoor pool later into the autumn months is too expensive.

This continuous annual gripe is only one of the rotating phenomenon I've experienced in my years living in HG. Some so-called "new ideas" seem to crop up on a regular basis – once every seven years, or some such pattern.

I see that we're heading for a recall election of some members of the HGMD Board of Directors. We've been here before.

The first board-against-board friction I remember occurred shortly after I moved to HG, in the late 1990s. In addition, the HGMD Board was badly divided against itself, as three directors always voted for the motions proposed by one of the three. The other two directors – including the board president – were fully marginalized. And quite frustrated.

The voting block of three maintained that HGA wasn't doing a proper job of handling the money. Claiming they were working for better financial practices, they raised a ruckus. And called their lawyer.

The other two directors had no quarrel with how finances had been handled, and opposed the moves of the three-vote block. Since I was only just getting settled in HG, I'm not sure for how long this continued. I only know that I joined

the Budget & Finance Committee, where I kept hearing that \$10,000 was wasted on attorneys fees.

The balance soon shifted, and I cheerfully take credit for this. One of the three-vote-block directors got so disgusted with life at HG, he sold up and moved to Heritage Eagle Bend.

His vacancy got filled by appointment. By me.

As I was pretty happy with life at HG, I joined the directors who thought hiring lawyers and fighting one board against the other was unnecessary. Now, the three-vote block ran in the other direction, so one board suing the other ended.

I suspect the motivation behind naming me to the HGMD Board was that I wasn't entrenched, and I didn't have an agenda. Both were true. I barely knew where the Board Room was.

Things continued puttering along smoothly, until a few years ago, when this "finances aren't being handled well" accusation reared its ugly head again, in some fashion. The result was an HGMD- recall election – the first in HG's history, I believe – and a reshuffling of directors.

And so we're looking at War of the Roses friction between the two HG boards, once again. It all makes me weary, wanting to go rest my tired bones poolside, in the sunshine.

But I can't because they closed the outdoor pool. Maybe I'll go lie on my front lawn.

Since I stepped down from my board position, and assumed the role of more of an observer, working as a reporter for *Heather 'n Yon*, I've noticed this "history repeating itself" cycle many times. I'd hate to think I'm one of those people who tries to stomp out new ideas.

Trouble is, the ideas I keep hearing arise are never very new. It would be rude, when a committee member or director suggests a new approach, for me to bellow: "Tried that in 2008. Tried it again in 2015. Didn't work either time."

So you can see my dilemma. Luckily, as a reporter, I wasn't called upon to comment. I just took notes, and reported the events. And the events often occurred on a time loop, it

seemed to me.

The funniest comment I heard during the current high-kerfuffle sequences was a complaint that the HGA Board didn't respect the HGMD's authority. I didn't know much during my newbie board days. But I did know that, as a volunteer director, I didn't have a lot of authority.

We didn't get much respect, either. On the contrary: we were lucky if we didn't receive a nasty, anonymous phone call followed by a loud hang up. I actually received only one of these in my five years on the HGMD board. One was enough.

"And the seasons, they go 'round and 'round

And the painted ponies go up and down

We're captive on the carousel of time

We can't return, we can only look

Behind from where we came

And go 'round and 'round and 'round
In the circle game."

– Song, *The Circle Game*

-Lyrics by Joni Mitchell

Another idea that crops up every few years is the suggestion that HG should can all its employees, and retain a property-management company to maintain HG properties. Every time this idea runs up the flagpole, a few salute it. But most people have figured out that a for-profit company will make more money if it provides the community with fewer services for the fee it receives.

When this idea was bandied about again, during the past year, some residents who have lived under bad property-management companies, in previous neighborhoods, shrieked. Shrieking can be a positive experience. Just ask those who practice primal-scream therapy.

So dealing with bad ideas that just won't die, rather coming back to life on a continuous spiral, can remind one of playing whack-a-mole. It takes a really large mallet to tamp down some vampire plans that keep rising from the grave.

I own a croquet set. Anybody want to borrow it?

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