

Heather 'n' You

October 2022

Vol. 36, No. 8

The Official Newsmagazine for HG
www.heathergardens.org

**Fall in
Heather
Gardens
is
colorful**

*Photo by
Janis Farrell*



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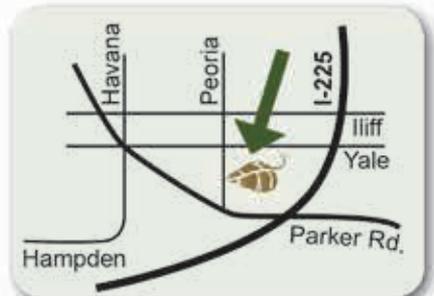
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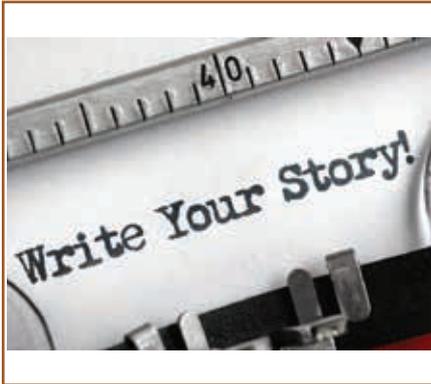


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TO HG RESIDENTS:

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

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

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ADVENTURE GUIDES FOR THE BLIND



**Pumpkin and Plain Pancake Breakfast benefiting *Foresight Ski Guides*
Saturday, October 29: 8–10:30 am, Rendezvous Restaurant, Heather Gardens**

Every ticket purchased for \$10 is entered into a drawing to win one of the three prizes:

- \$100 gift certificate for Rendezvous Restaurant
- \$100 gift certificate for the Heather Gardens Golf Club
- (2) lift tickets good at Vail/Beaver Creek/Breckenridge/Keystone

All proceeds from the breakfast will support Foresight’s transformative programs for blind and low vision individuals. Programs include a ski program for blind and low vision children and adults and a summer camp for blind youth. For more information, call 303-506-3859, email info@foresightskiguide.org, or visit www.foresightskiguide.org.

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Gold appointed to board, 2022 budgeted capital projects deferred, funds transferred

Eight directors attended the Sept. 20 meeting of the HGA Board. President Jill Bacon announced that Bill Gold, B201, had applied to fill the vacant position on the board, created when a director resigned for reasons of health last month. Gold has been elected to the 2023 board, with his term beginning in January. He currently serves on the Security, Emergency Preparedness Committee (SEC). Gold offered to start early, serving out the three months left on the vacant term — September-December. The board approved his application.

The board approved deferring or eliminating several projects budgeted for this year. Maintenance Committee Chair Mike Pula referred to “significant expenses on roofs” as a partial reason for the delay. In addition, “some projects are being rethought, and might not be needed.”

Pula listed three projects as examples: 1) the fire alarm project for Alpha buildings, which might be merged with other Alpha projects, 2) re-coating some roofs becomes redundant if replacing the full roof in coming years might be “more appropriate,” and 3) repairs to retaining walls, as HG staff is developing long-term plans for replacing walls, perhaps by a new design, throughout HG.

The board approved increasing insurance coverages, in two separate motions. Approval came, despite the Budget & Finance (B&F) Committee failing to recommend them, at the B&F meeting, the day before. The board approved increasing its coverage for cyber liability to \$2 million, from \$1 million. It also approved raising liability insurance for directors and officers, employment practices, fiduciary responsibility and primary crime, to \$2 million, from \$1 million. Treasurer Terry Hostetler noted adopting this motion would guarantee a three-year lock on the premium rate.

Several in the audience noted that B&F had failed to recommend the two motions, in part, because they felt not enough justification was provided for the coverage increases. Hostetler reported that Insurance Subcommittee Chair Randy Lane had favored the coverage increases,

although a majority of the B&F Committee had failed to support it.

HG’s insurance policy renews on Oct. 1. CFO Jerry Counts reminded the board that he would need to tender payment in 11 days, and stated he hoped authorized signers would be in town and available to sign the check. He was assured they would be.

Hostetler announced that HG’s property insurance premium was projected to increase 12–13 percent, compared to the prior year. This is good news, he said. Earlier, fears existed that the figure might be closer to a 20 percent increase.

The board approved \$13,000, for Kroll LLC to conduct a property appraisal for HG. Hostetler concurred that this appraisal was for insurance purposes only, and would strictly address structure-replacement costs. The appraisal needs to be completed before HGA’s next insurance-renewal cycle, in October 2023.

John Recob, Parking Structure Advisory Committee (PSAC), reported that the committee “had pretty well wrapped up the task” assigned to it. He commented “only a few small details need additional research,” adding the ad hoc committee would “go inactive for a while,” until its services are needed again.

Betty Bergeron, Area Representative Organization president, announced the organization’s next quarterly meeting would be Thursday, Oct. 13. Officers for the coming year would be elected, and a full slate of candidates have agreed to stand for election: Bergeron, B236, president; David Woods, B215, vice president; and Robin O’Meara, CP3, secretary.

Linda Hileman, Community Engagement and Communications Committee (CECC) chair, issued a call for a volunteer to lead the 50th anniversary celebration.

“We have a team, but nobody wants to be chair,” she explained. President Jill Bacon concurred, stating that board and staff members “are swamped” with the

See HGA...page 30



Challenge Met!

CP1 found out on Monday, Aug. 29, that there would be some major “road work” in one of the cul de sacs, beginning the next day and lasting for three days. Of course, Wednesday was trash and recycle day. With the road torn up and heavy equipment blocking access to the cul de sac, residents decided not to live with overflowing trash bins for two more weeks. They moved the trash bins (left) to one driveway outside the affected cul de sac so they could easily be emptied by Waste-Management trash collectors. (Photo by Linda Ferguson Cox, CP1 Secretary)

Extra! Extra! Information for you –

Parking Structure Advisory Committee concludes work

The PSAC was authorized by the HGA Board of Directors on May 18, 2021, but their members and others assisting this group had been working on a solution to the deteriorating Parking Structures (1–4) since November 2020. Other groups at HG had also spent several more years looking for solutions including rebuilding in the present configuration at a cost of over \$30,000,000.

Steering Committee Members included Ray Nash, CP2; John Recob, B236; Bill Wilson, B210; Bruce Henson, STH; and George Skillman. Kathleen Freeman also was a member in the early stages. Others assisted from groups looking at design, financing, community involvement, green and legal challenges.

The PSAC researched two main areas for a solution. The first was if we were to build new structures, how many spaces should be included and what will it likely cost. The second was to further investigate if the current structures were salvageable and if so, what will it cost.

After many months of research, speaking with multiple engineers and community members reviewing reports requested from the profes-

sionals and reviewing the materials with the community through numerous PSAC and board meetings, the PSAC presented their recommendations on April 12, 2022. The HGA Board approved the recommendation on April 19. The steps towards making a recommendation in April were documented in monthly articles published in *Heather 'n Yon*.

It was determined that if HG were to rebuild, only 640 covered spaces were needed, not the 900+ spaces currently in the structures. It was further determined that in 2021 dollars, this was expected to cost approximately \$21,000,000. This option would likely last 20–40 more years with minimal maintenance required. This option might substantially improve security for these structures and make adding electric vehicle charging spaces somewhat less expensive. The new parking structure would be a gated structure with more power available for a variety of uses.

It WAS determined that the structures could be repaired, and owners can continue to safely park their cars in them if substantial maintenance and safety upgrades were made. This solution was projected to cost

approximately \$7,550,000 over the next 10 years — most to be spent in the next two years. If all the recommended upgrades and maintenance are performed, PSAC expected that the structures will continue to be usable for another 10 years, and possibly more. This option will not address the current security issues or vehicle charging. New structures are likely to be needed in the future.

The PSAC recommended the repair option to the HGA Board, permitting 5–8 years to plan for replacement structures. This will be fewer dollars out of pocket now while we continue dealing with new cost challenges in our 50-year-old community.

With Aurora approvals and HG Declaration of Condominium changes, the replacement structures may require 2–4 years to get started once a decision for new is made. This means planning for new structures needs to remain on the long-range plan.

When investigating options to replace the parking structures, Ivins Design Group was hired to determine how HG could rebuild for a space count of approximately 640 spaces.

See PSAC...page 11

No trash in PPP bins, please!

Whether you are a power walker or simply meandering around HG, you have passed one of the 25 bins that The Green Team placed throughout the community four years ago as part of the PPP, known as the Puppy Poop Project. You can thank PPP for not having to jump over or step into a pile of dog excrement on your walk. In fact our grounds have improved close to 90 percent since its inception.

You have heard the expression “It takes a village.” The members of

the Green Team ask every resident to step up. Compostable bags containing poop are the only items that should be put into these large bins.

Pop bottles, soda cans, candy wrappers, pizza boxes or Styrofoam should never be discarded in them. Use the small cylindrical metal container next to the PPP bin instead. Green Team members continuously check the bins and remove as much trash as possible, but we need help. Please do your part.

The bins are emptied weekly. Pet Scoop transports the contents to Envirowagg in Longmont. EnviroWagg converts it to compost, which is perfect for landscaping. If trash is intermingled, the entire batch must be destroyed and all our efforts with it. We are counting on you! For more information, check the website epwn.org.

**Wendy Pfaffhausen, NTH
The Green Team Vice President**

Increases in golf, class fees approved; discussed bat houses

Four directors attended the Sept. 22 meeting of the HGMD Board. One seat on the board is vacant.

The board approved increases to golf and class fees, to be introduced in the 2023 budget. Golf fees increased an average of 10 percent, with some fees going up by \$1, while others stayed the same. Resident greens fees became \$11 for a round of nine holes, up from \$10. Guest fees grew to \$14, from \$13, on weekdays; and \$18, from \$17, on weekends. Non-resident senior greens fees stayed at \$15 on weekdays, and rose to \$19, from \$18, on weekends. The two-for-one special rose to \$13 (\$26, for two), from \$12 (two for \$24). The cost of 40-play punch cards rose to \$396, from \$360, and rider-cart fees remained the same as 2022.

Class fees increased by \$5 per class, across the board. Classes that cost \$25 in 2022 rose to \$30; classes costing \$35 in 2022 were increased to \$40, etc.

The Green Team proposed erecting two to four bat houses on HGMD property, between B222 and the Seville buildings, along the fence on East Marina Drive, adjacent to the wilderness preserve. Ginny Anthony, co-president of The Green Team, said it would defray all expenses to erect, monitor and maintain the houses, operating the site as a pilot project.

Mitch Albert explained how he had extensively researched small and large brown bats, which are already present in the HG area, and has learned to build bat houses designed to attract them. The advantages to HG are that small brown bats eat their body weight in mosquitoes. Large brown bats eat beetles.

Brown bats are endangered, so the issue is one of conservation. In addition, there currently aren't enough bats around HG to cure its severe mosquito problems.

Increasing the number, through attractive housing, would save HG the cost of expensive mosquito spraying, while eliminating the use of chemicals, which also kill bees and beneficial insects. A secondary advantage is that attracting bats to the bat houses tailored for them greatly reduces the likelihood the bats would build nests on HG lanais and under roof eaves, which creates bat-guano issues near buildings.

Albert noted that bats have gotten a bad rap. They once were thought to have been related to COVID.

There are more than 50 species of bats, Albert explained. Only three are associated with biting, and lapping up blood. None of these are found in the U.S.

HGMD President David Funk commented, "Personally, I like the idea." He suggested The Green Team take an additional month, to educate the public about why attracting more bats to the region is desirable, since many people are afraid of bats. He said the board would reconsider the proposal at the Oct. 20 board meeting.

The board approved purchasing a used Toro Truck with a Dakota 3300D Top Dresser, for the golf course, from Postestio Bros. Equipment (\$15,000). Though it was not in the 2022 budget, the equipment is available at an attractive price, is expected to last eight-10 years, and replaces an older, less usable top dresser. Treasurer Bill Archambault explained that the cost would be offset by not buying a tractor this year, which was in the budget, but the tractor currently in use is still in good condition.

The board approved buying two TVs plus miscellaneous equipment — including wall mounts and a cart to transport the current TV into the Banquet Room — for Rendezvous, using Foundation Funds (\$4,400). The TVs

See HGMD...page 30

HGA and HGMD schedule for reviewing 2023 budget in October

Thursday, October 13

10 am: At a *Special* HGMD Board Meeting, the board accepts the 2023 proposed budget and conducts a Public Hearing on the proposed 2023 budget. After hearing comments, the board may modify the budget and then adopts its 2023 budget. Owners/residents are encouraged to ask questions regarding the budget at *this meeting*. Colorado statutes provide that for governmental agencies, the Board of Directors (the legislative body) sets the final budget.

Thursday, October 13

1 pm: At a *Special* HGA Board meeting, the board hears comments and may make changes to the HGA 2023 Budget. After comments, it approves the [revised] 2023 budget, and sets a membership veto vote (between 15 and 50 days after notice). Owners/residents are encouraged to ask questions regarding the budget at *this meeting*.

Wednesday, October 19

HGA and HGMD Budget summaries are available on the website and emailed to the membership. Ballots are mailed to the membership for mail-in voting. Full copies of the HGA and HGMD budgets are available in the Management Office.

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Come to the HG Clubhouse to VOTE in Person on November 8th

**AND, IF YOU CAN HANDLE THE TRUTH,
GO TO PAGE 40.**

Paid for by Heather Garden's Republican Club

ELECT DEMOCRATS for a BRIGHTER FUTURE!!



In Arapahoe County, we have been privileged to have the following Democratic officials, who are now running for re-election:



ARAPAHOE COUNTY SHERIFF **Tyler Brown** has been awarded the Triple Crown Accreditation; created a new Emergency Operation Center, a new Special Investigation Unit, Public Safety Detention Initiatives; expanded the School Resource Officer Program; renewed contract with Centennial for law enforcement services.

ARAPAHOE COUNTY CLERK AND RECORDER **Joan Lopez** has won national awards for her safe voting plan and for her clear information about the election process. She has expanded voter access by increasing ballot boxes, digitalized the county recording documents back to 1861, added kiosks in King Soopers for vehicle registrations and set up an appointment process to reduce waiting.

ARAPAHOE COUNTY ASSESSOR **PK Kaiser** is dedicated to serving with transparency, equity, and accountability. Under his management, the number of appeals and protests are at their lowest levels; Arapahoe County is the first CO county to digitalize appeals; his office has saved more than 25% of non-salary budget; staff turnover is lowest countywide and for previous years.

ARAPAHOE COUNTY CORONER **Kelly Lear, MD** has been a forensic pathologist in the Arapahoe County Coroner's office since 2004; has performed over 5000 autopsies and provided expert witness testimony in criminal and civil courts; has maintained national accreditation; provides many medically informed decisions and advice to citizens, the county and other partner agencies, thus saving the county the cost of paying an outside medical doctor for those services.

STATE REPRESENTATIVE FOR HD 41, **Iman Jodeh**, has represented House District 41 since 2020. In her first term she has passed landmark legislation receiving national attention around healthcare insurance, medication affordability, medical debt forgiveness, immigration, and housing. In her second term she hopes to continue to make Colorado work for the people.

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION FOR CD6, **Rebecca McClellan**, has served on the State Board of Education since 2017. She supported the bipartisan full day kindergarten bill and worked to implement the bipartisan READ Act to benefit literacy growth and achievement for all students. She worked with Rep. Mike Weissman to support and expand the ASCENT program which provides high school students with marketable skills and college credits.

We also have outstanding candidates for the following offices:

ARAPAHOE COUNTY TREASURER **Michael Westerberg** is an attorney with a master's degree in taxation, upon whom people rely for safety and security of their money. Michael wants to keep Arapahoe County's funds safe and accounted for, and to use the Treasurer's office to grow the county's investments at a better rate than we have been getting under the current Republican treasurer.

ARAPAHOE COUNTY COMMISSIONER for District 4, **Leslie Summey** is a US Navy veteran, a retired US Army spouse, mother of five, small-business owner, and union member, whose priorities include seeing that the county budget meets the needs and values of the residents of Arapahoe County, with particular emphasis on mental health care, issues of families, women, veterans and the homeless.

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION MEMBER-AT-LARGE, required by Colorado's new Congressional District. **Kathy Plomer** worked in public health for 30 years, and was President of Adams 12 Board of Education and a board member of the Colorado Association of School Boards. The State Board of Education supervises academic standards and accreditation for all 1900+ public schools in Colorado, and Kathy has the background and commitment to pursue excellence in the education of the 900,000 students in Colorado.

Paid for by Heather Gardens
Democratic Club

Find the candidates' websites at arapahoedems.org

A commitment to candor

Civil Candor is a form of civility that is needed now more than ever. **Cantankerous Candor** is not. “Cantankerous” means bad-tempered, argumentative, and uncooperative. Be part of the solution, not the problem.

Two hypothetical statements made to a building Area Representative (AR) illustrate the difference:

Civil Candor: “I’m very concerned about the state of security protection in our building. How are you addressing concerns with management to ensure the best protection we can get? As I’m sure we agree, the safer residents feel, the more they will interact with you and others in a positive and constructive way.”

Cantankerous Candor: “I’m very concerned about the state of security in our building. It’s your job to help protect us, and I don’t believe you’re doing everything possible in this arena. What is it going to take for you to get off your butt and get on with helping us out?”

The differences are obvious. While you may feel the AR isn’t doing the job, a civil approach is the best way initially to address the issue. There’s a reason for the adage, “You get more flies with honey than vinegar.”

First and foremost, ARs are volunteers. Most spend their time and efforts to help maintain and where

possible improve the quality of life in their buildings. There have been some who’ve taken “the job” because of the perceived prestige and power, but these are the exception — not the rule.

Given their volunteer status, the overwhelming number of ARs do it because they want to **help** and feel they have a contribution to make. That’s to be applauded, not derided.

When there appears to be a legitimate grievance with an AR that isn’t getting better, residents have options for resolution through civil candor. They include:

1. Go to Area Representative Organization (ARO) President Betty Bergeron, also a volunteer. Her job is to oversee the ARs to help them be the best they can be. Betty has proven herself willing and able to resolve concerns through discussion with ARs as needed. Often, it’s a lack of knowledge and/or experience that’s the heart of the problem.

2. Talk with residents who have the ear of the AR to determine how best to address issues in a civil, yet clear and candid way. Then, meet and discuss in a small group to figure out the best course of action.

3. Talk to management directly about the concern to see how they can communicate/coordinate with the AR to help affect positive outcomes. Again, this can be an education process that helps support ARs. Once they know and understand, they can

do their jobs much more effectively.

Civil candor also often suffers when dealing with Heather Gardens (HG) employees and other non-AR volunteers. Did you know that Activities Desk staff are chiefly volunteer-based? Whether a volunteer or paid employee, these people deserve candid communication delivered in a civil tone — not derision. The same is true with the maintenance staff, management office employees, Rendezvous folks, et al.

Residents always have leverage when problems occur in any of these environments. If confronted with what seems to be discourteous or uncaring service, reach out as needed to get help. HG CEO Jon Rea is available if needed, and can refer people to the appropriate HG resources as warranted to resolve issues pertaining to such community amenities as the Golf Course, restaurant, etc.

And board members — starting with President Jill Bacon — can be helpful.

Let these principles guide you down the path of civil candor:

1. Seek first to understand. Ask questions instead of making assumptions.
2. Civil begets civil. The Golden Rule has withstood the test of time for a reason — it works.
3. Candor can mean saying tough things. But it beats being dishonest. Just don’t be cantankerous.

See facing page



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HGA Board President Reports

By Jill Bacon

Fall has finally arrived! With it has come warm days and cool nights! That is really good news!

Behind us are the budget meetings. Ahead of us are the October 13 Special Board meetings at which the two boards will approve the budget for the coming year. At that time you will have the opportunity to ask questions that you did not get answered at the workshop meetings.

After the budget is passed, the Veto ballots will be sent out to you, all members of the Heather Gardens Association. This will be your opportunity to veto the

budget for 2023. Your ballot should be returned to the Management Office by the close of business on Friday, Nov. 18 (the Friday before Thanksgiving). A special committee of volunteers will be assembled to count the ballots. A majority of the membership is required to veto the approved budget.

There is still much to be done during the fall season. Some of these items must be done in concurrence with preparing for the holidays that are ahead. These multiple celebrations seem to appear more rapidly every year.

With the holidays comes the time of year to reflect on how the past year has affected us and our lives. I enjoy looking back on the things that I have done well. Then I ponder the things that I could improve on during the next year. Maybe you do this as well.

Yes, there are always things that you or I can do better. It is also the time of year that I and many others visit friends that we have not seen often during the past year. I also try to recall, with fondness, those who have left us.

Please enjoy these fall days and find the happiness that you seek, for it is within you that your happiness lies.

PSAC...from page 6

An Ivins employee and HG representatives met with the City of Aurora Planning Department to investigate requirements and timeframes for approvals. Building new parking structures will require revisions to Plats and Drainage Studies. Ivins Design Group delivered an Executive Summary and Conceptual Plan for replacement structures.

When investigating repair options, PSAC received several updated reports from Building Consultants and Engineers, LLC (BC&E), the structural engineers who have been working with HG on these structures for the last 10+ years. HGA only acted upon a portion of the prior

recommendations. The PSAC has recommended, and the board has approved, acting on all of BC&E's updated recommendations consistently over the next 10 years. The specific work items will be approved as the work progresses. These costs are being added to the HGA Capital Programs Plan.

Most of the administration of the repair work is now being handled by HG Management, with minor assistance from others.

Some of the issues NOT being addressed due to the decision to repair the current structures: Security and Electric Vehicle charging. Other committees have been or are being formed to address these issues.

The PSAC continues to investigate further what should be done

with the upper deck garages. There might be specific alterations that are desired or required for this portion of the repair project.

The PSAC recommends that the HGA Board continue to plan for replacing the parking structures via discussions in the Long Range Planning Committee. It further recommends that a new committee be formed to discuss the next round of Declaration changes for HG to accommodate fewer parking spaces.

There will be some unspecified activity to address increased funding options and other challenges to replacing the existing parking structures.

– John Recob, B236
PSAC Design Group Chair

Candor...from page 10

Is all this a perfect system? Of course not. And our point here is not to lecture anyone. Rather, it is to raise awareness.

Most of the time, residents show civility in their dealings with staff and volunteers, but everyone has those frustrating moments when civil is the last thing you're feeling. That's the most important time to take a deep breath and think about the Golden Rule — and treat others the way you prefer to be treated.

– Community Engagement & Communications Committee (CECC)
Linda Hileman, Chair



Monday, Oct. 10 Federal Holiday

IN MEMORIAM

Mary Bradley (231)
Edna Hathorn (213)
Jim Schell (216)
Lucy Schell (210)
Terence Searls (221)
Mary Webb (215)

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For HD41

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Marsha Berzins
For Treasurer

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Publisher's Corner

I am excited about the young people in training

by Lynn Donaldson, Editor of Heather 'n Yon

I attended a luncheon last month at which five young women were awarded scholarships to continue their education at various Colorado universities or community colleges. After talking to one young woman who was the sister of an award recipient, I can safely report that we will be in good hands as the young people in their late teens and early 20s graduate and start working in their chosen fields.

How inspiring they were. My table companion, Ruby Martinez, is a junior at the University of Colorado, Boulder. She is studying mechanical engineering and entrepreneurship. Where our experience overlapped was in aerospace work that supports the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA).

She has had several internships, of which the most recent was designing objects to be printed by a three-dimensional printer. A brief discussion over lunch was not enough to learn exactly what objects were being created, but I have often thought being able to create and design a prototype object could be fun and powerful.

(I later read an article about the use of 3-D printing on navy ships where having the tools and materials for a machine shop is challenging. A 3-D printer with computer allowed the sailor/craftsman to print replacement parts in metal.)

My work for NASA was as a contractor with Lockheed (before it became Lockheed-Martin) and other companies that had contracts with NASA headquarters. I was there in the late 1986–1995, which was after the Challenger accident (January 1986). For 2.5 years there was no space shuttle launched as the engineers studied what caused the Challenger explosion. NASA continued to prepare the

experiments, equipment and train astronauts to resume going into space on one of the remaining space shuttles (plus one replacement, Endeavor in 1992).

My work was mostly to prepare briefing documents for the Director of the Life Science Division and to interpret experiments in life sciences that were scheduled to fly on a shuttle mission to engineers and others not versed in physiology and other biological experiments.

There were two focus points in the Life Sciences Division: protect astronauts from the adverse effects of zero gravity, and study how biological organisms and biochemical processes were affected by being in space. One multiple-shuttle experiment that I worked with was how crystals were more perfectly formed in space, and whether these could be used to make an enhanced drug for medical use.

At the luncheon, Ruby noted that one major design need in recent years has been to make a space suit that fits women better, and can permit better mobility for all astronauts. Most reports about an astronaut conducting repairs outside the space shuttle (and now the international space station) don't often describe how long it takes nor how difficult it can be to do actions that are easily done on earth like loosen or tighten a screw.

Ruby wasn't the only young woman whose future intrigued me. Her sister, Jennifer Martinez

Gomez, is attending the University of Colorado, Denver, studying psychology with a minor in behavioral and cognitive neuroscience. She plans to attend graduate school with a plan to go into psychiatry. Given the mental health issues of today, another professional practitioner in the field is much needed.

Malia Jimerson is attending the University of Northern Colorado where she is majoring in elementary education with a math emphasis. Bravo! Elementary school girls need to see women enjoying math. Like many of the women in the audience, she aspires to be a teacher — something she has been planning since she was a child.

Another young woman, Lauren Sasscer, whose relatives sat at my table, was working toward a nursing degree at the University of Colorado, Denver. This is another field that desperately needs the infusion of new talent.

Also working toward a nursing degree is Luz Rivera. She will be a junior at the University of Colorado College of Nursing.

Jessica Navarro is majoring in biomedical engineering with a minor in electrical engineering at the University of Colorado, Boulder. Jessica should find it quite useful in her career.

The scholarships awarded by the American Association of University Women (Aurora branch) go to men or women who have a permanent mailing address in Aurora, Colorado, and are entering their junior or senior year in college. Each scholarship was \$2,500 to cover tuition and fees in 2022–2023. It is not a monumental amount, but anything that is not a student loan is probably appreciated by these students.

It was a pleasure to hear the stories of these young women, all of whom went to high school in Aurora. I was pleased to be a member of this group of mostly women who still value education enough to financially support local students.

Your future and mine is looking bright with these women in charge.



Above (from left): Lauren Sasscer, Malia Jimerson, Luz Rivera, Jessica Navarro and Jennifer Martinez Gomez.

Photo by Leslie Jenkins, editor of the AAUW newsletter.



Management

The challenges that HG faces are similar to other communities

By Jon Rea
Chief Executive Officer

At the time of the release of the October edition of *Heather 'n Yon*, HG management and the Budget & Finance Committee (B&F) will have completed all sessions of the 2023 Budget Workshops. This is always an exciting time of year to work with the B&F, board directors, and interested community residents to determine the plans for the coming year.

At the end of September, I had the opportunity to attend a continuing education seminar held by Community Associations Institute (CAI). The seminar was for "Large Scale Managers," in which community managers from across the nation are brought together. It's a chance to share stories, learn about other communities, and discuss opportunities and challenges that these other communities have faced and solved. Current business trends are described throughout the meeting. I was able to

network with community managers who oversee similar communities. We shared ideas.

One major takeaway — many of the opportunities that I have encountered at Heather Gardens (HG) are not unique to this community. Many communities and managers are working diligently to solve problems created by recent economic trends/changes, navigating the residual effects of COVID, staffing, addressing local/state mandates while still providing services. It was refreshing to know that many of these issues exist outside this community.

Most importantly, I took solace that HG as a community is aware of the challenges and is working together to best solve the problems. I can honestly say that every topic that was discussed during the seminar is on our Management & Community radar for consideration. It's a tribute to the HG actively involved community, the committees, the boards and management all collaborating as a team to identify these items, then move the needle for continual improvement of our community.

I am truly proud of the knowledge and experience I have witnessed in the community. It is gratifying that everyone is willing to be engaged and offering positive feedback, suggestions, solutions, and ideas. I look forward to the coming months as HG continues to implement projects and add improvements or efficiencies to operations in our community.

Notable assumptions for 2023 Budget

A draft budget was delivered to HG residents in advance of the Budget Workshops during the last week of September. Because *Heather 'n Yon* must go to the printer before those meetings, the assumptions used to develop the budget are summarized here. Any numbers presented are likely to change in the workshop with HG's Joint Budget & Finance Committee as the 2023 Budget is fine-tuned.

Key 2023 Budget Assumptions and Notes

- The budget was assembled with the assumption that every department was fully staffed.
- As discussed at the April 2022 Board review of the 2021 audit, the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) loan was forgiven and is considered grant monies. These grant monies flowed to and increased HGA's 2021 Operating Reserve to more than \$1.1 million. Management conducted a general overview of the impact the global energy crisis and inflation have had on utilities, insurance, non-labor operating expenses, and cost of living labor adjustments. The analysis showed an increase of \$994,463. The Manager's draft 2023 budget recommends using \$994,463 of HGA's Operating Reserve to offset the increased costs.
 - Total employees will increase from 84 (2022) to 87 in 2023. The hours for part time employees is to decrease.
 - Payroll has been budgeted for a 3 percent increase in wages for all employees, plus a one time 2 percent cost-of-living adjustment in January 2023. The total 5 percent

increase is based on the Consumer Price Index (CPI).

- In 2022, three departments (Administration, Clubhouse and Custodial) were reorganized. Senior Accountant and Communications Coordinator were eliminated. Custodial Supervisor moved to Clubhouse Manager. These changes continue in 2023.
 - Quarterly bonuses to employees have been replaced with company functions that show appreciation to all employees.
 - Security will increase from 8 full time equivalent (FTE) to 9. Increasing to 9 officers will provide 2 security officers for each shift, 7 days a week.
 - Contracts will add a Resident Renovation Insurance Manager to manage multiple projects and oversee 40-45 monthly requests by residents for remodeling a condo. The manager will assure that each project meets HG's Architectural control standards.
 - Inflation has affected fuel, water/sewer and utility prices. The 2023 budget recognizes these increases based on national averages.
 - HGA insurance premium expense was budgeted at a 20 percent increase based on an estimate provided by McGriff, HGA's Insurance Broker. On Sept. 20, at the HGA Board meeting it was announced that McGriff successfully negotiated a premium increase of less than 15 percent. (See proposed budget on page 31.)
 - The expense for an HVAC/Boiler contractor was increased due to inflationary impacts, \$900.

See 2023 Budget...page 31

EXPERIENCE

MATTERS



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When the shadows fall

The newspaper lay open on my kitchen table to a brief report in "Metro Beat," reporting a tragic incident on the State Street Bridge.

I refilled my coffee and read it again, pondering the great personal pain that would have prompted this 63-year-old man to attempt suicide.

It was shocking and puzzling to me why anyone would choose death, with spring birthing in Rockford. The air was fresh with sweet scents from pink and lavender lilac bushes. Apple tree branches hung heavy with white blossoms. Beauty was unfolding everywhere. What circumstances could trigger a person to commit such self-harm and judgment against himself?

Yet, despite those dark intentions, this man was alive, having been rescued from the deep, swift water of Rock River.

Being a writer, I knew the elements of personal toughness and human experience were missing in the newspaper posting. Something resonating within impelled me to try

and make a meaningful connection with this stranger. Perhaps I could encourage him, and further understand why he would attempt suicide. What were the personal details of his story? I was determined to find out.

The next morning, I called the hospital.

"Oh, sorry, Mr. Samson was released on Thursday," the nurse on his floor told me, then added, "Are you family? He had no visitors."

Now my mission had become a real challenge. A visit to him in the hospital could have been less demanding emotionally for both of us. Now I had to take his address from the newspaper and make an awkward social call. That was far removed from my initial plan to see him in the hospital.

After I checked the city map, I realized that his address was in a rundown section of Rockford. Old rooming houses and liquor stores dominated 7th Street, clustered with dingy apartments and men loitering about aimlessly in front of the stoops.

What would I say? "Hi Roy. I'm a nosy stranger who writes human interest stories. I want to know what prompted you to jump off the bridge!"

Would he welcome a stranger probing for intimate details regarding his reasons for suicide? Such suffering perhaps shouldn't be revealed. Would I dare try to interview him? Aware that my visit might be rejected, I took that chance.

An overwhelming desire motivated me forward. I sensed the leading was a spiritual appointment to which I was assigned. Perhaps my only role in Roy's life would be to just offer common comfort to one who had lost hope.

...

The wooden stairs creaked with age as I climbed to Roy's second floor apartment. I prayed silently, "Please God, don't let this be an intrusion on his privacy."

I was struck by an aged yellowing banner that was affixed over

the brass ringer on his door: "Proud Parent of a Soldier"

Timidly, I turned the old bell and waited.

"Roy," I called out to him, thinking it would be more gracious if the person at his door knew his name. I waited a minute and rang again. *Maybe he's disabled from his injuries and can't walk.*

"It's open! Come in," a male voice responded.

I pushed the door open gently and stepped into Roy's world. A small man, slight of build, greeted me. His face was deeply lined with fatigue, perhaps reflecting the trauma of the previous 72 hours. He had graying hair with a military crew cut. Roy was neatly dressed — almost dapper — wearing a tweed jacket and dark slacks. His whole appearance spoke of order and carefulness.

"Are you the nurse that is supposed to come around and check on me?" he asked, as he rose unsteadily out of his rocking chair.

"No, no Roy. I'm not from the hospital." I smiled. "But you might say I did come to check on you." I paused, waiting for a reaction from him.

"The hospital told me you were already released. I saw your address in the paper and wanted to come talk to you."

He blinked several times, almost in surprise, then indicated for me to sit down with a wave of hand.

"Well, young lady, I suppose we can visit. But why would you want to talk to me? Guess I'm not surprised." He eased back down in his rocker with some effort. "I probably made a fool of myself already," he admitted. "Suppose all Rockford knows about it now."

"I wouldn't worry about that," I offered. "I'm interested in what happened, Roy. I'm a writer. I'd like to do a story about you. I think people would be curious to know why you jumped off the bridge."

He watched me while rocking his

See *Shadows...page 64*



Metro beat

Samson condition fair

A 63-year-old Rockford man who was pulled Tuesday afternoon from the Rock River, downstream from the State Street Bridge, was listed in fair condition at SwedishAmerican Hospital late Wednesday night.

Roy Samson, 524 7th St., was rescued from the river by three passersby and two Rockford policemen. Witnesses said he had jumped from the bridge.

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We process senior citizens & disabled veterans' property tax exempt applications.

In pandemic years we had zero increase non-salary budget and were still able to save 26% in 2019, 40% in 2020 and 29% in 2021.

We have plans to continue our policy of transparency, accountability, and fairness and we will stay innovative to bring more efficient solutions to issues our citizens may have.

This is the job I love to go every day. I am respectfully asking for your support and your vote.

EDUCATION

- BS, Economics
- MS, Economics (Ag. Economics)
- MBA Finance
- MS, Accounting
- Ph. D. Economics (in progress)

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

- Arapahoe County Assessor
- United States Postal Service
- Aurora Community College
- Colorado Department of Corrections
- Colorado Department of Revenue
- Colorado Ad Valorem Appraiser
- Colorado Assessor Association
- Member Project Management Institute

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

- Aurora City Committee for Housing and Community Development
- Comitis Center
- Aurora Home Ownership Assistance Program
- Rotary Club of Aurora
- International Association of Assessing Officers (IAAO) - Ethics Committee - 2020 & 2021 and Diversity and Inclusion Task Force - 2022



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So, you want to write a book

As an author, I cannot recall how many times I heard someone express their desire to write a book. Hmm...I do remember saying to them, "Of course you can. We all have a story to tell. Get yourself a notebook and start jotting down thoughts and memories. It does not have to be perfect and once you begin you will be amazed how your past will come flooding back to you."

When the brilliant aspiration to tell my story entered my mind, my first thought was, I did not have to show my notes to anyone. This is just for me. I certainly had no idea I was doing anything correctly by making my notes chronologically.

The title came to me as I wrote. Next, I realized that pictures were essential to my story. Now, where did I put those family photos from my youth? Pure delight flooded my memories when I came across the photos that, without a doubt, would become the book cover. Wow, am I

really going to accomplish what began as a huge undertaking?

"Well, why not? I do not have to let anyone read the darn thing."

I even had the grandeur of thinking Oprah Winfrey might have me on her television show! Maybe I could sell a million books. It was a delightful dream for a few minutes. Foolish? Maybe. Fun? Absolutely!

I took that pencil and my Big Chief red tablet in hand. I wrote a few sentences. Today we have the luxury of opening our computers. I had no idea that would be in my future.

Many drafts and years later, I pulled my old Corona typewriter down from a closet shelf. I found a few sheets of "onion" paper and carbon paper and I was off!

Hip, Hip Hooray, here goes nothing. You need a sense of humor. Do not take yourself too seriously yet. That can come later. Just prove to yourself you are going to do this.

Remember, this is a great ac-

complishment even if it is read only by you.

Now you have written it, what are you going to do with it? What do you mean I have to get an agent? In order to get my book published I will need an agent?

Well, dear readers, I self-published and was fortunate enough to have my first book accepted at the Tattered Cover Book stores for a year! Now, that was my accomplishment.

Like many of you, I am a lot older now. As we look back at our years of marriage, children, grandchildren, and yes, great grandchildren, we can smile at what we will be remembered for — or sigh because of what we could have done and did not.

My advice — you are never too old to begin. End of sermon.

— Jean M. Baldwin
B242

New in HG Libraries

In the Clubhouse Library:

HAMLET by William Shakespeare
LARGE PRINT

It's Hamlet. What more do you need to know?

THE INNOVATORS
by Walter Isaacson (2014)
LARGE PRINT

Complete history of the computer, the internet, both hardware and soft-

ware. It turns out the only person with a sole "Aha" moment was Ida Lovelace.

ALBERT EINSTEIN
by Walter Isaacson (2007)
LARGE PRINT.

Excellent biography of Einstein. Isaacson is a tremendous writer and does excellent research for his books.

New in the Golf Pro Shop Library:

WHO'S YOUR CADDY?

by Rick Reilly (2003) LARGE PRINT.
Hilarious stories told from the caddy's point of view.

I enjoyed reading these books and wanted to share them with HG residents. These large print books were certainly easier for me to read.

— William Macdonald
B241



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SOLD – 14000 E. Linvale Pl. #511 SOLD – 13800 E. Marina Dr. #304

SOLD—3144 S. Wheeling Way #311

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The Month (September)

When the 2023 Budget workshops met, Sept. 26-29, it did so without input about rates and fees from the HGMD cost-center committees, Clubhouse/Restaurant and Golf. The Golf Committee has been dormant, chairless since May, and held its last meeting in April.

The Clubhouse/Restaurant Committee has met each month, under Chair Maria Mines, but made no recommendations on fees and rates for the Clubhouse or restaurant, despite this responsibility falling under its written description, as Committee Member Linda Worthey, B250, pointed out at its Sept. 12 meeting. Committee members asked why?

Tom Merges, B242, noted that the most-sold items offered by the restaurant are specials, which are attractively priced. This led to a discussion over whether the restaurant shouldn't be lowering its prices, to attract more residents, rather than raising them.

Jean Baldwin, B242, commented, "I don't know anything about what Cormac [Ronan, Restaurant Manager] has recommended for the budget yet. I'm not sure we're being heard. My concern is, this committee is not being allowed to discuss with our managers some ideas, before the budget process. That has been my frustration — we really don't know what's been proposed for the [2023] budget."

CEO Jon Rea responded by saying, "I'm a new-ish manager, and other managers are new-ish, as well. But

you are being heard.

"The team and I are re-inventing the wheel, after 50 years, to reduce and mitigate liability concerns. We're working on this stuff [ideas discussed by the committee] — it's not going to happen in my first year, or overnight."

Nancy Linsenbigler, B243, commented, "I think you're missing the point. This committee has been bypassed, in terms of discussing [rates and fees]."

Worthy noted, "I see a \$5 increase on class fees is being recommended [in the draft budget; see page 15], but this committee is supposed to recommend rates."

...

Queen Elizabeth II, Great Britain, died on Sept. 8. Her funeral, held on Sept. 19, was attended by many world leaders including U.S. President Joe Biden. On display was the pomp and circumstance that maintains the royal family in that country. For anglophiles in the U.S., there were several TV channels that showed the funeral and the transfer of the former monarch's casket from Westminster Abbey to Windsor Castle, her preferred home in London. She was buried underneath a chapel on the grounds alongside her husband, Prince Philip, who died a year ago, her sister Margaret and her parents — former King George VI and Queen Mary.

Queen Elizabeth celebrated her 70th platinum jubilee in June, becoming the longest serving constitutional monarch in England. She was 26 when she was crowned

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That Was...

after her father died in 1952. Her son, Charles, is now king after spending many years as Prince of Wales/king-in-waiting. His eldest son, William, is next in line for the throne, a largely ceremonial position in Great Britain with little political power but which can be influential.

Queen Elizabeth II has met 14 U.S. presidents during her long reign, beginning with President Harry Truman. She has served with 14 British prime ministers since Winston Churchill.

...

Dot Gawn, B214, called the *Heather 'n Yon* editor recently to report that she had gotten a phone call from someone she did not recall, who told her she had won the Publisher's Clearing House (PCH) sweepstakes. Well, she thought it was strange to get a call because she thought all the winners were visited in person so their reactions could be filmed. That is what you see on PCH TV commercials.

Dot's caller suggested that he could come pick her up and take her to her bank to deposit her winning check. At that point, she suspected a scam so she hung up on the caller. What disturbed her, she said, was that the caller knew her name, her address and her phone number.

In the Sept. 20 issue of *The Denver Post*, a writer to "Ask Amy" described a similar incident. The writer had several phone calls from people claiming to be from PCH, then got a letter telling him that he had won \$250 million. He called AARP's Fraud hotline (877) 908-3360 (also AARP.org).

"They were wonderful! A real person answered. I explained my concern and she transferred me to the proper department where I spoke to another real person.

"She explained that PCH NEVER calls or writes before appearing at a person's door to announce the win."

...

The HGA Board hosted a work session on Sept. 16 that featured a presentation on water conservation, and an overview of conditions in Aurora, in the near future. Diana Denwood, Senior Water Conservation Specialist for Aurora Water, was the guest speaker.

Denwood said she wanted to put Aurora's conservation conversation into context. Aurora receives 15 inches of precipitation in an average year because the city is considered semi-arid.

"Medium-grass prairie is our destination," she said.

See Month...page 30

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

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*the process of selling so
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Russell Wood

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The **Annual Hippie Party** on Aug. 27 was a fitting event to say “good-bye” to summer. Residents recreated outfits they might have worn in the 1960s,



then danced to music by Final Approach (above right) and broke bread with celebrants.



Photos by Janis Farrell



2022 Annual Resource Fair



Vendors participating in the annual resource fair get a chance to describe what they do and how they can help you. Residents who attend can learn how to remodel their home, get additional care to stay in their home, sell their home, or how to avoid common scams and how the District Attorney's office can help. Besides, there is always food (candy) and other "swag" to take home. It was a busy four hours on Sept. 16.

Photos by Janis Farrell





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HGA Board...from page 5

budget and other projects, making it difficult to plan and conduct the celebration, which is hoping to feature events throughout 2023.

“Linda needs a chair who can pick up the ball and run with it.”

Rich Wall, B213, asked CEO Jon Rea, who will protect residents from Comcast, in the form of supervising Comcast work on HG property?

Rea responded that he would. “I work with Comcast almost on a daily basis. I walk out [on the property], or defer to [HG] maintenance team, to make sure work is in good order.”

Wall questioned whether HG staff members had the necessary expertise to perform such supervision. He

added, “You just said you were gone all last week,” at the CAI seminar. (See Management column, p. 15.) He recommended that an owners representative with the proper experience might be hired to do the monitoring.

After its regular meeting, the board adjourned into executive session, to get legal advice from its attorney.

The board also:

...approved revisions to the internal audit program conducted by the Audit Subcommittee, specifying that this subcommittee audit both the HGA and HGMD expenditures, under the Joint B&F Committee. The treasurers of both boards will jointly appoint the subcommittee chair.

...was apprised that the B242 boiler was re-tubed due to an emergency. This unanticipated expense was \$23,558.

HGMD Board...from page 7

will promote and improve sports parties hosted in the restaurant. HG staff will install the TVs.

Purchasing cantilever gates for the entrance to the Maintenance Building Parking Lot was approved by the board, from AJI Fence (\$21,267). In its drawings for the crosswalk/sidewalk project that was completed in 2020, the city of Aurora expected the existing gate would be replaced to prevent vehicles from entering and exiting the maintenance parking lot during off hours. The gate was budgeted.

The board approved revisions to the Audit Subcommittee internal audit program, which the HGA approved two days earlier. Archambault explained the changes, primarily, were “lots of minor and technical updates.”

Funk reported the Joint Long Range Planning Com-

mittee is “back on track,” with new members and some former members serving on the committee. Long Range Planning will meet twice a month in workshops.

Four trail cameras, at a cost of \$100 each, were installed at the RV lot last week, Funk reported. It’s an interim measure, until a larger security project for the lot can be completed.

Funk also assumed responsibility for the Clubhouse/Restaurant Committee being left out of the loop when the board decided to increase Clubhouse class-fee rates, for 2023. He pledged to not repeat the mistake next year.

CFO Jerry Counts explained that class fees were designed to cover the cost of instructors’ salaries. Prior to 2020, revenue for classes covered 102–109 percent of teacher salaries. Since COVID, class fees have not done so. The 2023 increase is designed to come closer defraying instructors’ salaries (96 percent).

Month...from page 23

Ninety-five percent of Aurora’s drinking water comes from Rocky Mountain snowmelt, rather than from reservoirs. Colorado owns water rights in three of Colorado’s seven basins: the South Platte, Colorado River and Arkansas Basins. Water can travel up to 180 miles.

Thanks to successful conservation programs and better water-reclamation practices, Aurora now uses less water than it did in 2000, despite the city’s population growth. Aurora Water is anxious to extend conservation practices, Denwood stressed. While HOAs can conserve through building maintenance, better planting, and irrigation practices, citizens control water use within their homes.

A number of rebates are offered for installing better toilets, shower

heads, and irrigation hardware, such as better nozzles and Smart controllers. Denwood commented that low-water toilets available today work well, as opposed to those of yesteryear, which weren’t that efficient.

Leaks waste an astonishing amount of water, especially if they go undetected year after year. Testing for leaking toilets, water-shutoff valves, and pipes and valves in crawl spaces isn’t difficult for an individual to perform once a year.

Denwood urged HGA to institute Aurora’s Water-wise Landscape program. Her office has been working with Roads & Grounds Manager Matt Martella, on developing a design for replanting some areas that currently are in bluegrass, which is not native to Colorado. Drought-tolerant trees, flowering plants, mulch, and native grass — especially in areas that are not used for foot traffic — are recom-

mended. The Grass Replacement Incentive Program (GRIP) offers grant money to remove healthy bluegrass and install a water-wise landscape. Moving to short, native grasses, such as buffalo grass, doesn’t require changing the irrigation system, Denwood remarked.

The xeriscape landscaping of old, which featured lots of rock, is not being advocated today. The seven principles of the water-wise landscaping are: 1) Planning; 2) Practical turf areas; 3) Low-water plants; 4) Soil improvement; 5) Efficient irrigation; 6) Mulch; 7) Maintenance.

Aurora Water can offer services to promote conservation, including free water assessments, and literature promoting conservation. Contact water conservation staff, 303-739-7195, or conservation@auroragov.org.

2023 Budget...from page 15

- The expense for a Sewer/Plumbing contractor was increased by 11 percent due to frequent repairs/replacement of these infrastructure items. The Maintenance Department's budget for repairs in this category was also increased.

- Outside Contractors (General) was increased nearly 28 percent in this line item from last year due to material cost increases in: CP1 retaining wall project, stump removal and grinding, and mosquito abatement.

- Clubhouse plans to refurbish locker rooms and replace the pool filter for which parts cannot be found.

- Golf will have its irrigation updated and water well rehabbed.

- Rendezvous Restaurant will replace carpet that was deferred for two years. It needs a new outdoor freezer.

- Roads and Grounds has mowers and utility vehicles that need to be replaced (nearing the life cycle end).

- Research of a new Accounting/Community Management software will continue, but not currently funded.

- May replace current professional employer organization (PEO) contractor to administer payroll and benefits.

- Supplies for multiple departments are increasing (maybe as much as 37 percent) due to inflation and supply chain issues.

	Surplus	Deficit
Insurance	\$128,692	
Water & Sewer		(\$202,889)
Gas & Electric		(\$ 44,616)
Maintenance	\$150,999	
Net Total surplus=	\$ 32,186	

- Because HG has ended the annual year-end refund to owners, savings in expenses like insurance and main-

tenance from 2021 (post audit in 2022) are being applied against these same projected expenses in 2023.

- Capital expenditures include surplus from parking structure repairs that will be carried over from 2021 due to engineering and unforeseen delays.

- An ad-hoc event planning committee requested \$41,500 to provide a year-long event of scheduled festivities for the community to celebrate its 50th Anniversary. Although not currently in the budget the 50-year Anniversary Committee will be able to raise the proposal during the budget workshops.

- HGA is preparing to defend a Directors & Officers claim/lawsuit opened in 2022. It is not yet determined when the \$25,000 deductible will be triggered. Legal expenses could increase in 2023.

- Planning a 10 percent increase in Golf fees. Expect pre-Covid sales volume to return. (To some extent, saw this improvement in late summer 2022.)

- Restaurant will increase all food and alcohol items (12 percent) effective March 1, 2023.

- Clubhouse will increase class fees \$5 per class.

<https://heathergardens.org/ResourceCenter/>

HEATHER GARDENS ASSOCIATION & HEATHER GARDENS METROPOLITAN DISTRICT 2023 Fee Summary & Comparison					
Heather Gardens Association (HGA)					
	2023	2022	Diff	% Change	
Maintenance	7,228,989	6,477,035	751,954	11.61%	
Water & Sewer	1,498,889	1,325,468	173,421	13.08%	
Gas & Electric	1,390,752	955,938	434,814	45.49%	
Insurance	1,953,908	1,708,273	245,635	14.38%	
Capital Reserve	3,520,894	3,401,830	119,064	3.50%	
Allocation from the Operating Reserve	(994,463)	-	(994,463)		
Total	14,598,969	13,868,544	730,425	5.27%	
Avg Monthly Dues*	\$ 501.48	\$ 476.39	\$ 25.09	5.27%	
Heather Gardens Metropolitan District (HGMD)					
	2023	2022	Diff	% Change	
Rec Fee	1,739,378	1,496,739	242,640	16.21%	
Capital Adjusment			-		
Total	1,739,378	1,496,739	242,640	16.21%	
Avg Monthly Dues*	\$ 59.75	\$ 51.41	\$ 8.33	16.21%	
HGA & HGMD Combined					
	2023	2022	Diff	% Change	
HGA	14,598,969	13,868,544	730,425	5.27%	
HGMD	1,739,378	1,496,739	242,640	16.21%	
Total	16,338,347	15,365,283	973,064	6.33%	
HGA Avg Dues	\$ 501.48	\$ 476.39	\$ 25.09	5.27%	
HGMD Avg Dues	\$ 59.75	\$ 51.41	\$ 8.33	16.21%	
Total Avg Monthly Dues	\$ 561.22	\$ 527.80	\$ 33.42	6.33%	
Average Rate Increase for Non-CP and TH	6.72%				
Average Rate Increase for CP and TH	3.67%				
Analysis of Dues					
	HGA & HGMD Combined				
	2023	2022	Diff	% Change	% of the Total
HGA Operating Expense	\$ 380.53	\$ 339.53	\$ 21.00	5.84%	63%
HGA Capital Reserve - Parking Structures Repairs	\$ 34.50	\$ 38.65	\$ (4.15)	-10.73%	-12%
HGA Capital Reserve - All Other Proj.	\$ 86.44	\$ 78.20	\$ 8.24	10.54%	25%
HGMD Operating Expense	\$ 40.62	\$ 37.77	\$ 2.85	7.55%	9%
HGMD Capital Reserve	\$ 19.12	\$ 13.65	\$ 5.47	40.11%	16%
Total	\$ 561.22	\$ 527.80	\$ 33.42	6.33%	100%
*The average monthly dues is a calculation of taking the total budget amount, divide that by 2,426 (total number of units), then divide by 12 (to get the monthly amount).					



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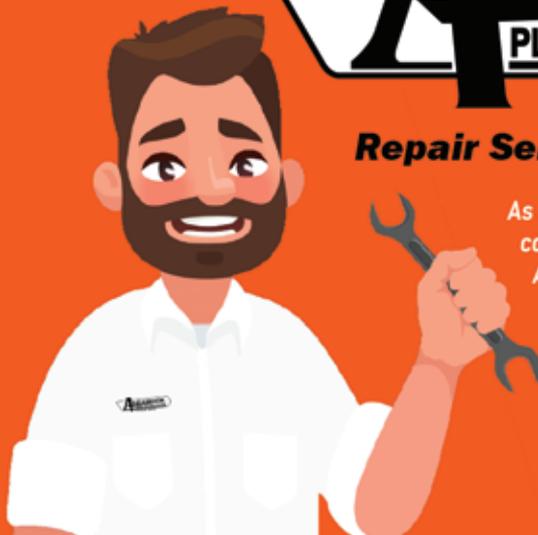
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Letters

Heather 'n Yon

Halloween Party October 22

It will be a Costumed Dinner Dance on Saturday, Oct. 22, 5:30–8 pm, in Sandberg Auditorium.

There will be a potluck dinner, costume contest with prizes. Cost \$15 per person, paid at the door.

Menu: pulled pork Sandwiches and soda included. Guests should plan a side dish or dessert to be shared.

Music by Final Approach, starting at 6 pm.

Please sign up by calling the Clubhouse, 303-755-1811, X5, by Oct. 19 so a count for the main dish number of tables set-up can be done.

Cindy Crockett
CP3

Heather 'n Yon

The HG Optimist Club is holding our annual food drive on Saturday, October 29th from 9–11 am in the lower parking lot between B243 and B244. Simply drive-through and drop-off your unexpired, non-perishable donations. The donations will be given to local food kitchens for needy families in Aurora.

Thank you in advance for your support of this worthy cause.

Mike Pula
B243

Heather 'n Yon

Members of the Aurora Potters' Guild will have their fall sale 10 am–6 pm Friday, Nov. 11, and 9 am–4 pm Saturday, Nov. 12, at the Community College of Aurora, 16000 east Centre Tech Pkwy, Aurora. The sale is located in the Student Center Rotunda.

The Aurora Potters' Guild members include clay artists who do their work at Aurora Parks and Recreation Facilities or private studios. Items

for sale include unique hand-made pottery, sculptures, outdoor art, Christmas ornaments and gifts with prices starting at \$5. Free admission and parking.

Mary Axtell

artistaxtell@aol.com

Heather 'n Yon

Democrat party policies and legislators, both at the state and national level, do not represent common sense and the reality that we Coloradans and people across the nation are experiencing. I am supporting two candidates to represent us: Stephanie Hancock, running for Colorado House of Representatives, District #41 and Steven Monahan, representing Congressional District #6 in the U.S. House of Representatives. Both military veterans, Stephanie and Steven have proven leadership as they served our country. Their approach to tackling the issues of crime, inflation and education will result in actions that help the American people get back to what works for this state and nation. I urge you to vote for Stephanie Hancock and Steven Monahan to be your voice of reason!

Robin O'Meara
CP3

Heather 'n Yon

The ancient Biblical phrase, the truth will set you free, could not possibly be more relevant and applicable to our upcoming national elections and to the very survival of the American Republic! For you see, the simple truth, no matter how bitter it may be, can no longer be denied or rejected, if our Republic is to be saved.

Hence, in keeping with this sacred principle, if you believe that the words or phrases: integrity, hope, honor, freedom, liberty, security, safety, wisdom, common sense and self-respect describe positive human

virtues and attributes, and you feel that it is a virtually sacred duty for all adults to protect the health, minds, lives and futures of all of America's children (born and unborn) and you possess a functioning moral, ethical and spiritual compass, you now have a critically important election choice to make.

Thankfully, this choice could not possibly be more stark yet more simple in nature to make; considering the undeniable fact that the completely toxic, sinister, and dangerous radical leftwing extremist tyrants who have now fatally compromised and completely consumed the very soul of a once proud Democratic Party, embody and personify the antithesis of all of the positive virtues and attributes and solemn duties described above.

Hence, any financial support or votes any American provides for virtually any Democrat candidate is also by definition, irreconcilable with these same positive virtues and attributes and duties.

I can only hope and pray that you open your hearts, minds and souls to the truth and summarily reject the Democratic Party and support and vote for the virtue bound Republican and Conservative candidates who are running for every elective office in America. Then and only then, the truth will set you and your nation free.

Bill Reynolds
B216

Heather 'n Yon

I am a registered independent. Perhaps we need to shed party affiliation and use logic on how to vote this election.

Consider: Do you want critical race theory and gender pronouns taught to first graders? Or perhaps the alphabet, civics, U.S. history, math and science?

Consider: November 2020 election, gas was \$1.90/gallon. Recently it hit \$4.90/gal. Did you vote for a president, or a gas hike?

Consider: Inflation is up 15 percent from last year — more like 25 percent if you figure it using the

See Letters...page 39

Heather 'n Yon welcomes letters concerned with community issues. Letters must be signed, dated and include the writer's address and phone number. Letters may be edited for clarity. The HGA Board requires that letters do not exceed 300 words. Letters will not be run from the same individual in successive months. Writers may publish only four letters per year, but not in consecutive months.

OCTOBER CALENDAR

Sat 1	B216 Meeting Mexican Train Dominoes (every Saturday) Ping Pong (every Saturday) Karaoke Club	Picnic Pavilion Arts & Crafts Room Game Room Aspen/Blue Spruce Rooms	11 am–1 pm noon–4 pm 2–3 pm 3–5 pm
Sun 2	Crossroads (every Sunday) Republican Club Meet and Greet: Coroner, Sheriff	Aspen/Blue Spruce Rms Sandberg Auditorium	9–11 am 2–4 pm
Mon 3	VNA Senior Wellness Clinics Spanish Club (every Monday) Men's Bridge (every Monday) HG Book Club (Arce) Texas Hold 'em Poker_Reddy or Hill (1st Monday) Time4Tap Dance Novice Group (every Monday) HG Book Club (Urias) Social Bridge (every Monday, Joanne Turner) Mah Jongg (every Monday) Pinochle (every Monday)	Aspen/Blue Spruce Room Aspen Room Skyview Room Mountainview Room Aspen Room Sandberg Auditorium Mountainview Room Library Blue Spruce Room Mountainview Room	9 am–1 pm 10 am–noon 10 am–3 pm 10:30 am–12:30 pm 12:30–5 pm 1–2 pm 1–3 pm 1–3:30 pm 1–4 pm 6–8 pm
Tue 4	Fun Gals Golf (every Tuesday) Hand and Foot (every Tuesday) NoteAbles Mixed Chorus (every Tuesday) Mah Jongg (every Tuesday) Ping Pong (every Tuesday) Billiard Club Co-ed 8-Ball (every Tuesday)	Golf Course Mountainview Room Skyview Room Blue Spruce Room Game Room Billiard Room	10 am 12:30–4 pm 1–3 pm 1–4 pm 2–3 pm 6:30 pm
Wed 5	Meet & Greet with Chief Executive Officer Jon Rea Clubhouse Event: Circle Talk (every Wednesday) Cribbage (every Wednesday) Rummikub (every Wednesday) HG ACBL Duplicate Bridge (every Wednesday) Pinochle (every Wednesday) Men's Poker_Reddy or Hill (every Wednesday) CP1 Social Square Dancing Club	Board Room/Zoom Mountainview Room Clubhouse Lobby Library Blue Spruce Room Mountainview Room Skyview Room CP1 cul-de-sacs Sandberg Auditorium	8 am 10–11 am 12:30–3 pm 1–3 pm 1–4:45 pm 1:30–4 pm 12:30–5 pm 5 pm 7–9 pm
Thu 6	Tai Chi (every Thursday) TOPS (every Thursday) Fun Gals Golf (every Thursday) Time4Tap Dance Group (every Thursday) Clubhouse Event: AARP Driving Course Town Hall Meeting with Comcast Bunko (1st and 3rd Thursday)	Tennis Courts Blue Spruce Room Golf Course Sandberg Auditorium Arts & Crafts Room Sandberg Auditorium/Zoom Blue Spruce Room	8–10 am 8:30–9:30 am 9 am 11 am–noon 12:45–5 pm 1 pm 1–3:30 pm

Advertised Activities and Seminars

Mon, Oct. 3	Bayer Ear Clinic (every Monday, by appointment), Arts & Crafts Rm, 9 am–noon (see ad, p. 71)
Sat, Oct. 29	Pumpkin and Plain Pancake Breakfast, Foresight Ski Guides, Rendezvous, 8–10:30 am (see ad, p. 4)

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	Social Bridge (every Thursday, Joanne Turner) HG Writers Club (every Thursday) Ping Pong (every Thursday) B207 Bronco Party CP4 Social Kiwanis Club of Aurora Business Meeting 9-Ball Men's Billiards (every Thursday)	Skyview Room Mountainview Room Game Room Picnic Pavilion Rendezvous Skyview Room Billiards Room	1-3:30 pm 1-4 pm 2-3 pm 4-6 pm 5 pm 6 pm 7-9 pm
Fri 7	Men with Purpose (1st and 3rd Friday) Texas Hold 'em Poker_Reddy or Hill (every Friday) Muu Muu Hula Group (every Friday) Friday Bridge (every Friday) Social Bridge (every Friday, Joanne Turner) Clubhouse Movie: Top Gun: Maverick	Skyview Room Mountainview Room Arts & Crafts Room Skyview Room Library Sandberg Auditorium	10-11 am 12:30-5 pm 1:30-3 pm 1-5 pm 1-3:30 pm 3 pm
Sat 8	The Breakfast Club Wine and Cheese Social Club	Rendezvous Restaurant Aspen/Blue Spruce Room	8:30 am 3-5 pm
Mon 10	Bridge (second Monday) Texas Hold 'em Poker_Reddy or Hill (2nd-4th Monday)	Aspen Room Mountainview Room	noon-4 pm 12:30-5 pm
Tue 11	Clubhouse Event: Steady CBD Seminar Bridge (second Tuesday) Tennis Club	Aspen/Blue Spruce Room Blue Spruce Room Rendezvous Restaurant	9-11 am 4:45 pm 5 pm
Wed 12	Clubhouse Trip: Bally's Blackhawk Casino Clubhouse Event: History of Movies Aviation Club	B243/B244 Parking Lots Sandberg Auditorium Aspen Room	7:45 am-3 pm 2 pm 6:30 pm
Thu 13	Clubhouse Event: Flu Shots Clubhouse Event: Mobile Food Pantry Green Team Republican Club Meet and Greet: Congressional 6th Men's Poker (Jess Deal; 2nd and 4th Thursday) RV Lot Club	Sandberg Auditorium B250 Parking Lot Blue Spruce Room Rendezvous Restaurant Game Room Aspen Room	9 am-3 pm 10 am noon-2 pm 3-5 pm 3:30-7:30 pm 5-6 pm
Fri 14	Clubhouse Event: Fall Craft Fair Birding and Nature Club HG Indivisible	Multiple Clubhouse Rooms Lodgepole Lounge Rendezvous Restaurant	9 am-4 pm 10 am 1 pm
Sat 15	Clubhouse Event: Fall Craft Fair	Multiple Clubhouse Rooms	9 am-4 pm
Mon 17	VNA Senior Wellness Clinics (1st and 3rd Monday) HG Photo Club Game Night (McClaury)	Blue Spruce Room Aspen Room Aspen Room	9 am-noon 3 pm 5:30-7:30 pm
Tue 18	Caregiver's Support Group B201 and B202 Monthly Social CP3 Social and Business Meeting	Aspen Room Rendezvous Restaurant Aspen/Blue Spruce Room	2-4 pm 4:30 pm 5-7 pm
Wed 19	Clubhouse Event: Humana with Ben Torres CP1 Social Square Dancing Club	Aspen Room CP1 cul-de-sacs Sandberg Auditorium	1-3 pm 5 pm 7-9 pm
Thu 20	Clubhouse Event: Watch Batteries Blue Book Workshop	Sunburst Café Blue Spruce Room	9 am-1 pm 10 am-noon

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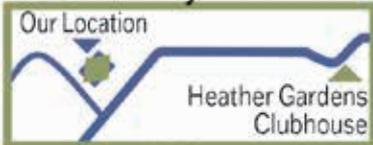
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Thu 20	HG Optimist Club Clubhouse Event: King Arthur and Camelot Bunko B250 Semi-annual Meeting Kiwanis Club of Aurora – Guest Speaker	Rendezvous Restaurant Sandberg Auditorium Blue Spruce Room Sandberg Auditorium Skyview Room	11:30 am 1–2 pm 1–3:30 pm 6–8 pm 6 pm
Fri 21	Men with Purpose (1st and 3rd Friday) Clubhouse Event: Bingo	Skyview Room Sandberg Auditorium	10 am 1–3 pm
Sat 22	National Federation of the Blind, Aurora Chapter B212 Social Clubhouse Event: Halloween Party	Mountainview Room Picnic Pavilion Sandberg Auditorium	10:30 am–12:30 pm 11:30 am–2 pm 5:30–8 pm
Sun 23	CP1 Bunco Sunday Bunko	Picnic Pavilion Skyview Room	noon–5 pm 1–4 pm
Mon 24	Low Vision Support Group Garden Club Advisory Group	Aspen Room Aspen/Blue Spruce Rooms	1:30–3 pm 6 pm
Tue 25	Republican Club Clubhouse Event: Mountain Man Fruit and Nut Co. Democratic Club: Ballot Issues Bridge (fourth Tuesday)	Sandberg Auditorium Clubhouse Lobby Sandberg Auditorium Blue Spruce Room	1–2:30 pm 2:15–3:15 pm 3:30–5 pm 4:45 pm
Wed 26	Resident Orientation	Board Room/Zoom	10 am
Thu 27	Men's Poker (Jess Deal)	Game Room	5:30–9:30 pm
Fri 28	HG Indivisible Clubhouse Movie: Where the Crawdads Sing	Rendezvous Restaurant Sandberg Auditorium	1 pm 3 pm
Sat 29	Clubhouse Event: Puppies on Parade	Sandberg Auditorium	1:30–5 pm

Bible Study (Interdenominational) on every Wednesday, 9–10 am, Blue Spruce Room (women); Aspen Room (men).

Join a lovely group of caring women dedicated to the study of the word of God. Enjoy the fellowship. We welcome everyone. No sign up required, just show up. Call Joyce Smith, 918-586-2954. Hope to see you soon.

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. For information, call Eric Cline, 720-839-4289, or email clinecellars57@yahoo.com.

HG Women's Bible Study meets every Thursday at 10–11:30 am, in the Mountainview Room and also on Zoom for those who cannot come to the Clubhouse. Contact Carolyn Morris, 303-885-7807, or motoringmorris@gmail.com for more information.

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, Mountainview Room. Leader: Pastor Bill Cheyne.

- **Coffee Time:** 3rd Sunday, prior to Chapel Service

Heather 'n Yon Deadline - 10/17

• Monthly Meetings •

Boards and Committees

Listed meetings will be in the Board Room or Zoom.

SEC (Zoom) – 1 pm Mon, Oct. 3

Long Range Plan (BR/Zoom) – 11 am Wed, Oct. 5

Electric Vehicle (BR/Zoom) – 3 pm Thu, Oct. 6

Clubhouse/Restaurant (BR/Zoom) – 10 am Mon, Oct. 10

Maintenance (Zoom) – 10 am Mon, Oct. 11

CECC (Zoom) – 11:30 am Tue, Oct. 11

~~Foundation (Zoom) – 1 pm Wed, Oct. 12~~

HGMD Board Budget (BR/Zoom) – 10 am Thu, Oct. 13

HGA Board Budget (Zoom) – 1 pm Thu, Oct. 13

ARO (BR/Zoom) – 6 pm Thu, Oct. 13

Personnel Policy (Zoom) – 10 am Fri, Oct. 14

Budget & Finance (BR/Zoom) – 10 am Mon, Oct. 17

HGA Board (Zoom) – 1 pm Tue, Oct. 18

Long Range Plan (BR/Zoom) – 11 am Wed, Oct. 19

Resident Open Forum (Zoom) – 3 pm Wed, Oct. 19

ACC (Zoom) – 10 am Thu, Oct. 20

HGMD Board (Zoom) – 1 pm Thu, Oct. 20

Seville Rec Assoc (BR/Zoom) – 1 pm Mon, Oct. 24

Resident Orientation (Zoom) – 10 am Wed, Oct. 26

Canceled

FYI

VNA Senior Wellness Clinics

Charges: Toenail Cutting (in-

cludes blood pressure) \$50 (1st visit, 1 hour), \$45 (returning client); Fingernail trim \$15. If you cannot keep your appointment, please cancel or you will be charged \$5. Have

exact cash amount, credit card, or checks made out to "VNA." The clinic has no change.

Call VNA, 845-418-4006

See facing page

HGMD Foundation

The Foundation Committee, at its August meeting, tabled a request from Rendezvous Restaurant Manager Cormac Ronan for an upgrade to the TV system in the restaurant. Prior to our September meeting, he submitted a revised request. The committee approved funding up to \$4,400, which now goes to the HGMD for approval. If approved by HGMD, viewing televised events in the restaurant will be greatly improved with the larger monitor that will have a sound board included in the request.

Donations to the General Fund August 2022:

- B231 in memory of Eugene Nelson
- B215 in memory of Mary Webb

Thank you HG residents for your continued support.

The Foundation Committee meets the second Wednesday of the month (when not canceled due to conflicts). Next meeting will be 1 pm Wednesday, Oct. 12 in the Board Room. Participants may also join via Zoom.

– **Eloise Laubach, HGMD Vice President
Chair, Foundation Committee**

Letters...from page 35

same formula the government used in 1970. Did you vote for inflation, or a president?

Consider: In December 2020, no U.S. Serviceman/woman had died in Afghanistan in over a year. An orderly withdrawal over the next few months was planned. By March 2021, (4 months) America was routed by the

Taliban, with 13 military dead and \$80,000,000,000.00 (billion) in military equipment left in Taliban hands.

Gun control advocates deny your right to own an AR-15 semi-automatic rifle, but left 300,000 M-16 fully-automatic rifles, not to mention, war-planes, bombs and helicopters with the sworn America-hating Taliban.

Do you still believe in freedom of thought? Even, if it differs from your beliefs?

There is an old story: They came for the Jews, then the Catholics, the Christians, Blacks, Hispanics. Then they came for the “dissidents.” You did nothing. When they come for you, who will be left to protect your family?

Please think before you vote. Do not vote for socialism. Vote for your freedom.

**Kevin Keator
B217**



Left: This scarecrow, crafted by AR Bernie Radakovits, has taken residence in front of B205. Photographed by Mary Jane Meech, who noted that AR Bernie likes to give a little cheer to everyone. Above: Todd Reid wrote, “In our building (B231 Seville), we have a small work bench and space to do fix-it type work. I recently had to saw the end off of a length of shelving but had no saw-horses to lay it across. It wasn’t a problem — [medical] walkers work just fine!”

- Monday, Oct. 3, 9 am–1 pm, Blue Spruce Rm
- Monday, Oct. 17, 9 am–noon, Blue Spruce Rm

Aurora, Colorado: By the Numbers

- Residents 386,000+
- 3rd largest city in Colorado
- 54th largest city in the nation
- 160.63 square miles (city area)

- 3rd busiest airport in the country (DEN)
- 9 championship golf courses
- 99 developed parks
- 103 miles of trails
- 8,000 acres of open space
- 6 recreation centers
- 6 public libraries
- 33rd top meeting destination
- #1 hospital in the state, University of Colorado Hospital

- 12,000 employees at Aurora’s largest public employer, Buckley Space Command (formerly Buckley Air Force Base)

Fall into Fun Festival

Saturday, Oct. 1, 10 am–3 pm
Aurora Municipal Center
15151 E Alameda Pkwy

Join the fun at this inaugural fall festival. Enjoy energetic live per-
See FYI...page 66

THE TRUTH IS, WE MISS...

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9

Strong Police Protection!

- The Aurora Police Department is down 70+ officers.
- APD response time may be up to 4 hours.
- In July 2022: HG security reported...
 - 3 attempted vehicle thefts.
 - 5 thefts of property.
 - 1 Catalytic Converter theft.
- Contacts with homeless in HG becoming problematic.
- Aurora is #3 in the USA for auto theft.
(KKTV News 9/10/22)

Making Ends Meet!

Over the last year...

- **Food** prices increased 7.4%
- Largest price increase of meats, poultry, fish and eggs at 12.2%.
- **Natural gas** rose 23.9%.
- **Electricity** prices rose 10.7%.
- **Gasoline** prices rose 40% over the last 2 years...
 - Oct. 2020 - \$2.34/gallon
 - Sept. 2022 - \$3.99/gallon
- **Since August 2021, inflation rose 8.3%! (From Consumer Price Index 2/2022, U.S. Energy information Agency 9/22)**

Traditional Education for Our Children

- 72 % of Colorado students in grades 3 - 8 **DID NOT MEET** grade level expectations for **MATH**
- 47% of Colorado students in grades 3 - 8 **DID NOT MEET** grade level expectations in **READING & WRITING**
(Colorado Measures of Academic Success, 2021)

Instructional time spent on unnecessary social programs negatively impacts student academic performance & is a waste of precious tax dollars.

We also miss...

- Women only sports teams.
- Separate bathrooms for women and men
- The education of children, NOT indoctrination of children.
- Parental Involvement
- Letting our children be children

Knowing that our VOTE COUNTS!

- No photo ID is required to vote in Colorado.
- No evidence of citizenship is required to vote in Colorado.
- Voter registration rolls need to be cleaned up - eliminate dead voters and those who have moved out of state.
- Eliminate ballot harvesting.
- Return to voting in precinct, on paper, in person.
- Get rid of machines.

We are in the midst of a fight to save our Republic;

To save the America we grew up in!

If this ad makes you see RED, Vote RED!

Come to the clubhouse to vote in person on November 8th!

Paid for by Heather Gardens Republican Club

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- Kristi, Denver Colorado

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*Save 20% up to \$1107, OR **special financing issued by Wells Fargo Bank, N.A., an Equal Housing Lender. No money down offer applies to special financing, same day purchases only. Special financing terms for up to 5 years (60 months) apply to qualifying purchases of \$6000 or more charged with approved credit. The special term 0% APR will continue to apply until all qualifying purchases are paid in full. The monthly payment for this purchase will be the amount that will pay for the purchase in full in equal payments during the promotional (special terms) period. This information is accurate as of 09/15/2022 and is subject to change. †Special offer good on the purchase of a bathtub or shower, wall and faucet kit. One offer per customer. May not be combined with any other offer. Offer must be presented at the time of estimate. Discount applies to same day purchases only. Previous orders and estimates excluded. Offer valid only at the above location. ‡Subject to certain limitations. †Most Bath Fitter tub installations are completed in one day. Some exceptions apply. See location and/or design consultant for full offer details. Offer good through 10/31/2022.

Clubs and Organizations

Karaoke Club

The Karaoke 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.

HG Republican Club

With the General Election right around the corner, we have several meet and greets taking place. We encourage you to come and support the candidates' campaigns.

1. Ron Bouchard for coroner, and Kevin Edling for sheriff. 2–4 pm Sunday, Oct. 2, Sandberg Auditorium

2. Steve Monahan for Congressional District 6, 3–5 pm Thursday, Oct. 13, Rendezvous Banquet Room. Appetizers and desserts, \$35. RSVP to r.omeara@hotmail.com

General Meeting will be held 1–2:30 pm Tuesday, Oct. 25, Sandberg Auditorium. Speaker: Kevin Lundberg, Conservative author, seeker and blogger. Zoom also available; email: hgrclub@gmail.com for the more information and the link.

RSVP by phone or email to let us know if you can attend.

Join our growing group of excited, hopeful yet concerned, Americans who are working in Colorado to bring about change. We are looking for more motivated HG seniors who are determined to be silent no more.

You can join for only \$15/year (cash or check). This allows us to have funds to support candidates and 2022 goals.

If you want to attend and are not a member, we welcome you to join us! A \$5 donation is appreciated, but not required, which helps cover advertising costs.

For information on paying dues or membership, send email to: hgrclub@gmail.com, or call 720-500-4047, and leave a message. We will respond as soon as we can. – Janet Yoder

HG Book Club

Two groups meet on the first Monday of each month in the Mountainview 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.

The NoteAbles Mixed Chorus

All you need to join NoteAbles is a desire, and a willingness to learn new songs. We practice weekly on Tuesdays, 1–3 pm in the Skyview Room. You are welcome to come and listen. Our director is a fantastic pianist on her electric keyboard. Basically, we run on donations and monthly dues. If you have more questions, call Tomas Kappel, 720-377-5756, or Valery Van Matre, 303-881-4666.

CP1

Plan on gathering for our outdoor happy hours at 5 pm, on the first and third Wednesdays of each month, in various cul-de-sacs, through October. Bring your own drinks, and enjoy an hour of visiting and getting to know your neighbors even a little better. – Tammi, 303-618-5345; Carolyn, 720-290-9908.

TOPS

TOPS Chapter 0366 in HG 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.

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.

Men and women are welcome. For information, contact Bonnie Meerkatz, 970-667-4839.

HG Writers Club

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

CP4

We have our monthly get-together at 5 pm in Rendezvous on the first Thursday of each month. Call Beverly Nelson if you plan to attend.

Kiwanis Club of Aurora

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

Men with Purpose

A group of men, with diversified backgrounds, gather to discuss timely topics regarding healthy aging and purposeful retirement. Books and articles relating to these topics are discussed by group members.

Leadership is shared. Men With Purpose meets the first and third Fridays of each month, 10–11 am, in the Skyview Room. For further information, contact Gene Dawson, 720-535-9672.

The Breakfast Club

The Breakfast Club (TBC) for Singles 50 Plus meets at 8:30 am in the Rendezvous Restaurant, on the second Saturday, for breakfast. Call 303-794-3332 to make your reservation. Cost is \$19.

But this is just the tip of the iceberg. TBC has grown in the past 20 years — it is not only larger, but 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 Harnes

Wine & Cheese Social Club

Please note: in October, the club will meet 3–5 pm Saturday, Oct. 8, Aspen/Blue Spruce Room. Bring a beverage and snack to share. Entertainment is provided. The special date (second Saturday) is due to the Crafts Fair.

Other months, we meet on the third Saturday of every month. For more information, Debbie Brooks, 303-923-3809.

The Green Team

The Green Team meets monthly, noon–2 pm on the second Thursday in the Blue Spruce Room. For information call Wendy Pfaffhausen, 303-587-9797.

Have you ever held an item in your hands and stood in front of a recycle bin, wondering if you should toss it in? You are not the only one facing that dilemma. That's why we have a National Recycles Day, celebrated every year on Nov. 15. Come to Sandberg Auditorium, 1–3 pm, to meet vendors whose primary purpose is recycling. Get answers to questions, enjoy free nibbles and a beverage, and watch an informative movie. Looking forward to seeing you.

RV Lot Club

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

We meet the second Thursday of each month, 5–6 pm, Aspen Room. For additional information, please contact Forrest McClure, 720-472-9250. Happy trails and safe travels!

Birding and Nature Club

The club meets in person, 10 am, on the second Friday of each month in the Lodgepole Lounge.

HG Indivisible

The Heather Gardens Indivisible group meets on the second and fourth Friday for lunch at 1 pm in Rendezvous to discuss issues, books, and ideas. You don't have to

be a resident of HG, and you don't have to order lunch.

The group is an informal network of citizens concerned about the increasing role of anonymous big-money groups infusing elections with dark money and disinformation. We are concerned about the interlocking catastrophes of a rigged democracy, global pandemic, unimaginable and growing wealth inequality, racial injustice, and the escalating impacts of the climate crisis.

Please join us if you share our concerns or are just curious about how we can preserve our Democracy. We are all-inclusive. There is never a fee or any other obligation to participate. – Linda Champ, 720-252-7324, lindachamp91@gmail.com

CP3

CP3 residents, family and friends may join us at our 5-7 pm Tuesday, Oct. 18 Social and Business Meeting, Aspen/Blue Spruce Room. We will begin with a meal, then have our business meeting, which includes voting for CP3 2023 Officers.

Look for the RSVP flyer and ballot in your front porch mailbox prior to the event. Want to run for office? Questions? Call or text Robin O'Meara, AR, 303-949-4916.

Blue Book Workshop

Be an informed voter. If you want to learn more about the 2022 ballot measures — discuss what they mean, and ultimately decide how to vote on them, then come to a Blue Book Workshop. All party affiliations and unaffiliated are welcome. 10 am–noon Thursday, Oct. 20, Blue Spruce Room. Space is limited. RSVP to Robin O'Meara, r.omeara@hotmail.com, by Oct. 13.

Frolics Club

How do you Frolic? Julie Whalen has written a script for the 2023 Spring Show, called "Bridget Goes to Broadway." Decisions for next year's show dates, with auditions and rehearsal dates, will be discussed at our next board meeting. Results will be posted in the next couple of months.

The Frolics Club had a lively

Open House on Sept. 14. The event was well attended, and we added several new members.

Musical entertainment was provided by Gary Goodspeed and Vicki Brooker. Several members sang solos, while a video of the latest show ran in the background.

Door prizes were three certificates for admission to our 2023 show. Delicious light appetizers were served – thank you, Rendezvous! Thanks also to Jimmie Whorton for the cookies. – Judy Brehmer

Aviation Club

The club meets the second Wednesday of each month (except December), 6:30 pm, Aspen Room. The October program will be a review of the historic 2017 Oshkosh Airshow from Oshkosh, Wisconsin. It is the world's largest airshow, with more than a million visitors over 10 days in late July. Sponsored by the EAA (Experimental Aircraft Assoc.)

The 2017 show had several firsts. It celebrated the "last man standing" of the Doolittle's Raiders: Dick Cole, who was 101 years old and General Jimmy Doolittle's co-pilot (Cole passed away April 19, 2019). In honor of the Doolittle Raiders, Civil Air Patrol (CAP) chapters, which had restored B-25 bombers, flew their planes and crews to Oshkosh for special honors. Some 25 fully restored B-25 bombers were there. The B-25 was the plane Doolittle's Raiders flew in their daring raid to bomb Tokyo only six months after Pearl Harbor.

Also a first was the premiere appearance of the second B-29 WW2 bomber to be restored by the CAP to flying condition. FiFi was the first to be restored to flying condition from a Navy gunnery range in the Mojave Desert in the early 80s. Now for this airshow, the second B-29, DOC — also from China Lake Navy Gunnery Range — was on display and flew alongside FiFi. It was the first time two B-29s have flown side by side since 1945!

The show also had three different vintage bombers fly together: A
See Clubs...page 45

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2bed/2bath 1200sf.....	\$245,000
13961 E Marina Dr. #402	
2b/2b 1410sf.....	\$375,000
13661 E Marina Dr. #501	
2b/2b 1560sf.....	\$389,000
13901 E Marina Dr. #211	
2b/2b 1232sf.....	\$306,000
13952 E Marina Dr. #206	
2b/2b 1092sf.....	\$265,500
13991 E Marina Dr. #511	
3b/3b 2310sf.....	\$465,000
3022 S Wheeling Way #304	
2b/2b 1200sf.....	\$235,000
13800 E Marina Dr. #402 2	
b/2b 1344sf.....	\$320,000
13992 E Marina DR #510	
2b/2b 1232sf.....	\$310,000
13661 E Marina DR #403	
2b/2b 1380sf.....	\$300,000
14001 E Marina DR #206	
2b/2b 1200sf.....	\$292,000

Clubs...from page 43

B-52 back from Afghanistan (1950–60s); B1B Lancer Supersonic, swept-wing, under the radar state-of-the-art bomber (1980–90s); and a B2 Flying Wing Super Stealthy invisible-to-radar bomber.

Finally, it was the first time the Navy's Blue Angels precision flying team flew at Osh-



kosh. The Blue Angels put on quite the show, as they always do, flying formations a mere 18" apart.

Oshkosh was truly an historic event in 2017, and one to remember for a long time. See you on Oct. 12, 6:30 pm, in the Aspen Room. – Rudy Morris

HG Photo Club

Welcome, Photographers! If you want to become a better photographer, learn more about photography, be inspired, meet others who share your passion, and make new friends — nothing beats a photo club. The HG club has a group of friendly people who enjoy photography.

Our skills cover a broad range, from beginners to seasoned professionals. If you are interested in visiting, please do so. See if you like what we do, and then join the club!

Our next meeting will be 3–4 pm Monday, Oct. 17 (third Monday), Aspen Room. If you have questions, please contact Larry Renshaw (Larry_Renshaw@msn.com), 303-648-0049, or Anita Huddleston (anvid7@hotmail.com), 303-718-6676.

Caregivers Support Group

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

B201 and B202

B201 and B202 meet at 4:30 pm on the third Tuesday, in Rendezvous. Call Nancy Grossman for information, 714-470-5660.

Optimist Club

Our social meetings are in the Rendezvous Restaurant at 11:30 am on the third Thursday of each month. We meet for lunch and fellowship, with a choice of the daily special, or a chicken salad croissant. This meeting is open to everyone, and we hope to see you there!

Our mission is to make our community better with fun and worthwhile projects for this upcoming year. Contact Darlene Park, 303-798-5088 (home), or 303-570-2430 (cell) with questions. – Jennifer Price

NFBCO Aurora Chapter

The Aurora Chapter of the National Federation of the Blind of Colorado meets once a month, 10:30 am–12:30 pm, in the Mountainview Room on Oct. 22. Our chapter is open to all blind and low-vision persons interested in learning more about living the life you want with limited vision. For more information, contact Dale Holden, chapter president, B213, 303-905-9738.

HG Garden Club

Monday, Oct. 24, will be the last meeting of the year, 6–7:30 pm, Aspen/Blue Spruce Rooms. This meeting will cover house plants, container gardening, and protecting and bringing in the garden.

All who are interested in gardening are invited to join in the conversation. Membership in the Garden Club is not required to attend our educational meetings. Gardeners who are interested in joining the Club's email notification list may contact Nancy@nancyilinsbigler.com.

Low Vision Support

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

SRA

The Seville Recreational Association meets the fourth Monday of

every month in a different Seville building. For time and location, contact your AR or Seville building representative.

HG Democratic Club

The HG Democratic Club meets the fourth Tuesday of each month (except December). Our October meeting will be 3:30–5 pm Tuesday, Oct. 25, Sandberg Auditorium (please note the new time and meeting room).

We will be discussing the issues on the November ballot, and there will be several experts to explain them. Please bring your ballot, if you haven't returned it by then.

Ballots will be mailed to registered voters on Oct. 17. Please do your research on the candidates and the issues, and vote all the way down the ballot. Many good candidates have lost elections due to under voting — where voters simply vote for the top two or three candidates, and omit the rest.

As Democrats, we support the Constitution, the rule of law, and good government. You are welcome to join us in the Rendezvous after the meeting for good food and fellowship. – Marty Karnopp, Chair, mjkarnopp@gmail.com, 303-353-9640.

HG Grief Support

Grief is a journey. The HG Grief Support Group convenes twice yearly for 8 sessions. The next session starts in January 2023. Facilitators will provide tools and insights as you navigate your loss. To reserve a spot, please call Barbara Creswell, 651-485-3608.

CP2

CP2 Happy Hour is the first Tuesday of the middle month of each quarter in 2022, which will be Nov. 1. BYOB and an hors d'oeuvre to share. Future locations and frequency TBD by the residents. – Jake Flint

OPOCS Singles Club

Pinochle and bridge groups are meeting again. We are working on getting social gatherings going. For information, call Jackie Clements, 303-988-3555. – Bernice Lucero

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Sports and Recreation

Mexican Train Dominoes

We play noon–4 pm every Saturday, Arts & Crafts Room. Games start at noon and at 2 pm. – Bernadette (Bee) Hass, 303-923-3877.

Tennis Club

Our play times in October are Monday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday, 1–3 pm. We will remain on that schedule through April 2023. We play during the winter months, weather permitting. If you have any questions, please call Mark Merrill, 941-350-8455.

We have monthly meetings at the Rendezvous Restaurant. Our next meeting will be 5 pm Tuesday, Oct. 11.

At our annual fall meeting new officers were elected: President Mark Merrill, Vice President Wendy Pfaffhausen, Secretary Jill Taylor, Treasurer Julie Baird, and Past President Jimmie Whorton.

Men's Bridge

This group meets every Monday, 10 am–3 pm, in the Skyview Room. Questions: Maris Kuga, 720-748-0590.

Social Bridge

Open casual bridge is expanding to Mondays and Fridays, 1–3:30 pm, in the Library, while continuing on Thursdays, 1–3:30 pm, in the Skyview Room. No reservations or partner needed, but please call before you come the first time. If there is sufficient interest, possibly we can stratify by skill level. – Joanne Turner, 719-641-3644

Time4TapDance Group

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

If you are a seasoned tap dancer, you might want to join

Time4Tap Dance Group (Intermediate/Advanced) on Thursdays, 11 am, Sandberg Auditorium. Make Time4Tap!

Monday Mah Jongg

We meet 1–4 pm every Monday, Blue Spruce Room. If that room is not available, ask at the Activities Desk for our location. We play for a maximum of \$3, so bring your coins.

All players are welcome, but you must have the latest Mah Jongg League card. If you are just curious about the game, feel free to drop by to observe. For information: Bobbie Klapp, 720-708-6738.

Men's Poker & Texas Hold 'em

On Mondays, we play Texas Hold 'em (12:30–5 pm) in the Mountainview 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 Mountainview Room.

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

Evening Pinochle

Evening Pinochle meets 6–8 pm Monday nights, Mountainview Room. For information: Ann Gagliardi, 303-332-2163.

Fun Gals Golf

Fun Gals Golf @ Heather Gardens runs through late October, weather permitting. It is not a league, so has no dues, no pressure, no handicaps, and no judgments — just golfing for fun with other casual golfers. You must call HG Golf Shop, and sign up for any of the days and times you wish to play. Call the HG Pro Shop at 303-751-2390; when the message starts, press 1. When they answer, specify you would like to play Fun Gals Golf, and make your reser-

ervations. There is no way to sign up for Fun Gals Golf tee times online.

On Tuesdays in October, Fun Gals Golf tee times are at 10, 10:12 and 10:24 am.

Game Day is Oct. 13. Participation is optional. Everyone golfing on Game Days (participating or not) will need to meet at the Pro Shop by 8:45 am, to get organized. Those who choose to participate will pay \$1 for a chance to win cash and/or prizes. These games will not require keeping full round individual scores.

We will go to Rendezvous after playing to distribute winnings and socialize, maybe enjoy a drink or lunch. If you have any questions, contact Linda Hileman, Ishileman1958@gmail.com, or text 303-514-5379.

Ping Pong

Fun and great exercise. 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

Pickleball

Have you heard about pickleball and are you intrigued? The club has loaner paddles for you. Just show up when we are playing, and let us know you want to give it a try. More than 70 people have joined the club this year. Many of them are first-timers. We are a fun group that welcomes novices.

Club play in October will be 9-noon daily on the HG courts. The Seville court often plays on Saturday and Tuesday.

Visit our club's website www.hgpickle.org/. It is typically updated by 7:30 am, if we know play will be canceled or delayed due to weather. For information, contact Phil Hughes 303-503-7633, phdenver@comcast.net, or Ron Hileman, 720-256-7477, ronhileman@gmail.com.

Tuesday Mah Jongg

We meet 1–4 pm every Tuesday, Blue Spruce Room. All players are welcome. Please have the latest Mah Jongg League card. Social game: we

do not play for money, only glory.

Never played Mah Jongg? Come and observe, to see if you wish to learn. Free lessons can be arranged. Call Laurie, 720-210-8033, or Bobbie, 520-743-6849, for information.

Billiard Club

The club meets for Co-ed 8-Ball at 6:30 pm on Tuesdays. Check in before 6:15 pm to play. Men's 9-Ball is at 7 pm on Thursdays. Annual dues of \$12 are payable on Jan. 1 of each year. All new players are welcome. Questions? Call Connie Burns, 303-693-0766, or Judy Brehmer, 303-369-6258.

8-Ball Results August 16

- 1st Brian Bucenec, Mary Frevert
- 2nd John Recob, Don Gunnarson
- 3rd Lindy Davenport, Judy Hein

August 23

- 1st Brian Bucenec, Dee Moore
- 2nd Linda Hileman,
Lindy Davenport
- 3rd John Recob, Don Gunnarson

August 30

- 1st John Recob, Judy Brehmer
- 2nd Brian Bucenec, Shannon Boyd
- 3rd Lindy Davenport, Dee Moore

September 6

- 1st Brian Bucenec, Shannon Boyd
- 2nd Chuck Toner, Don Gunnarson
- 3rd Doug Miller, Mary Frevert

September 13

- 1st John Recob, Connie Burns
- 2nd Brian Bucenec, Judy Brehmer
- 3rd Roger Goldstein,
Shannon Boyd

9-Ball Results August 18

- 1st Brian Bucenec
- 2nd Steve Hesser

August 25

- 1st Kenny Diaz
- 2nd Steve Hesser
- 3rd Roger Goldstein

September 1

- 1st Eddy Biren
- 2nd Roger Goldstein

September 8

- 1st Steve Hesser
- 2nd Eddy Biren

Ladies Golf Club

As the season comes to an end after 22 weeks of golf, I am struck by how fast it went and the commitment of all members to the success of the

club. The work that goes on behind the scenes each week — scoring, handicapping, governance, membership, social activities, intra-club communications — ensures that the club runs smoothly. We are grateful to all members for their contributions.

Our club championship was played over two days, Sept. 7 and Sept. 14. The announcement of the results, including the awarding of the green jacket to the 2022 Club Champion will take place on Oct. 5 at the club's annual luncheon.

The club held its annual election of executive board members on Aug. 31. Thanks to outgoing president Beulah Gould for her thoughtful leadership over the last four years. Congratulations to our 2023 board:

- President – Sara Stoner
- Vice President – Carol Anne Mayne
- Secretary – Linda Savage
- Treasurer – Bonnie McMullen

On Aug. 31 the club held its first Mystery Mixer, a tournament where players from all flights were randomly assigned to teams. The event was a shotgun start followed by lunch and elections. Many thanks to Connie Burns for organizing the event.

The first-place team, based on low net, was Barb Tucker, Linda Savage, Bev Nelson, and Sharon Weiss. The second-place team included Susan Brennan, Barb Gierscher, Marsha Swink, and Corrine Crum.

Closest to the Pin

- Flight A - JoAnn Fitch
- Flight B – Judy Nelson
- Flight C – Bonnie Soman
- Flight D – Susan Craig

Longest Drive

- Flight A – Joyce Rozanskas
- Flight B – Marsha Swink
- Flight C – Gina Studer
- Flight D – Linda Fondacaro

The year's final board meeting will be 1 pm Wednesday, Oct. 26 in the Board Room. All members are invited to attend.

Tournament Results August 17

Flight A

- 1st Margie Francone
- 2nd Nancy Bonniwell
- 3rd Glenda Pitts, Charlane Plu-check, Joyce Rozanskas

Flight B

- 1st Karen Bentley, Linda Hileman
- 2nd Sharon Rademacher
- 3rd Rosalie Einspahr

Flight C

- 1st Gina Studer
- 2nd Bev Nelson
- 3rd Cindy Koch
- 4th Gini Klein

Flight D

- 1st Susan Craig
- 2nd Linda Fondacaro, Kathy Liss,
Vickie Stoeckley, Suzi Stolte

August 24

Flight A

- 1st Nancy Bonniwell
- 2nd JoAnn Fitch
- 3rd Glenda Pitts
- 4th Sara Stoner

Flight B

- 1st Marsha Swink
- 2nd Sharon Rademacher
- 3rd Judy Nelson, Linda Savage

Flight C

- 1st Cecily Kittleson
- 2nd Barb Gierscher
- 3rd JoAnn Sterling
- 4th Pat Profera

Flight D

- 1st Linda Fondacaro
- 2nd Gwen Alexander,
Vicki Stoeckely
- 4th Susan Craig, Sharon Weiss

While it may be fall, the course is open as long as weather permits. So call a few friends and make a tee time. Also, don't forget that prospective members can obtain an application for the 2023 season in the HG Pro Shop, or on our website, www.heathergardensladiesgolfclub.com, or by contacting Membership Chair Mary Jo Prichard, mjpininsurance@hotmail.com

– Suzi Stolte, Publicity Chair

Afternoon Cribbage

We meet 12:30–3 pm Wednesdays, in the Clubhouse lobby, near the fireplace. Information: Dean Lux, 303-353-4267.

Rummikub

This club meets 1–3 pm on Wednesdays, in the Library. We play in groups of 4–6. Stop by, or call Joanne, 719-641-3644. If you can't

See Sports...page 53

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- KW-Top Companies in Real Estate 2022 (LinkedIn)

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Record Price!!

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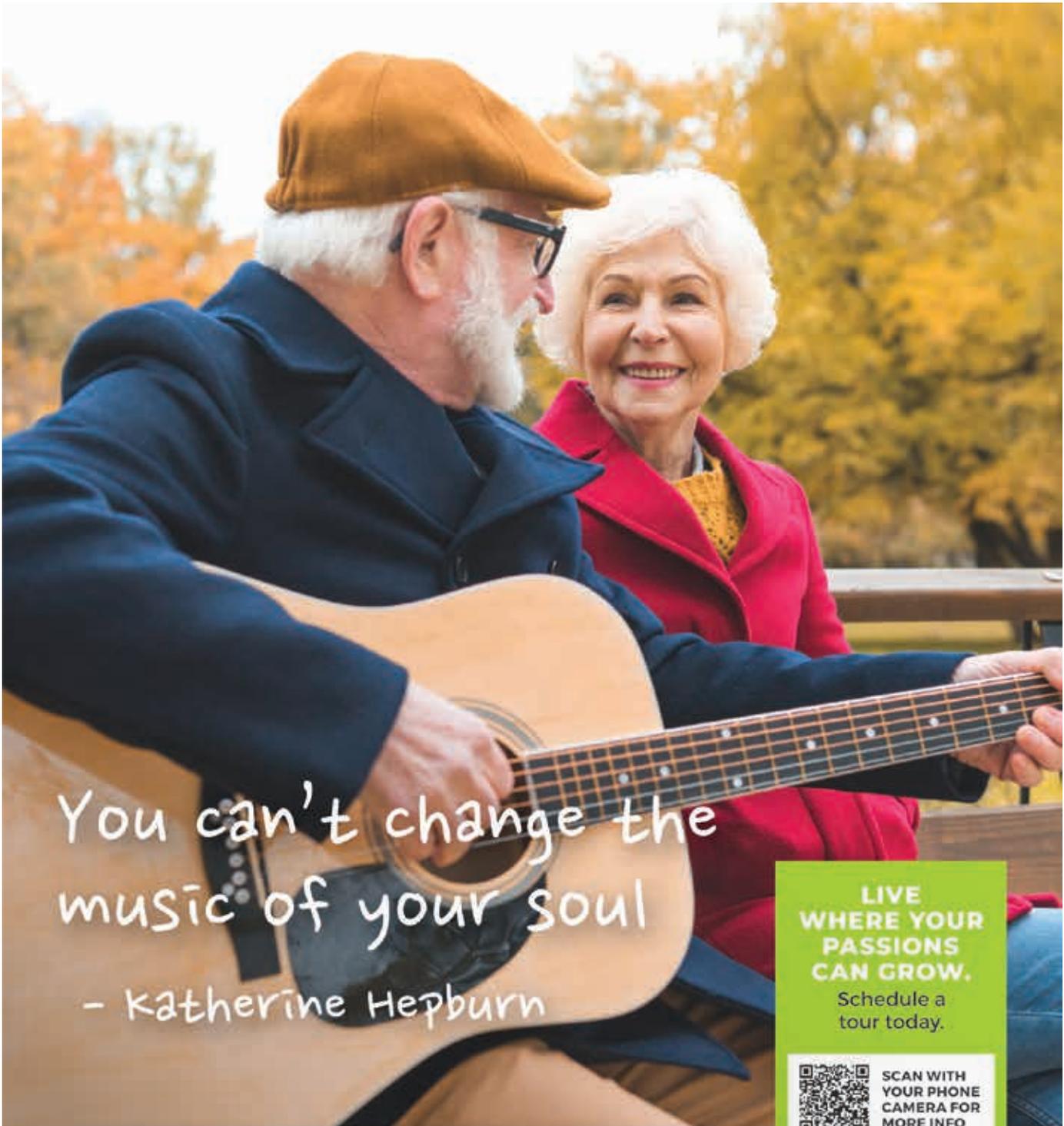
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Sports ...from page 49

make Wednesdays — call. We can see about setting up other days and times. — Joanne Turner

HG ACBL Duplicate Bridge

We play at 1 pm in the Blue Spruce Room each Wednesday. Pre-registration is required, by email, to merrilyv@sonic.net, or call me, 720-282-3199. For partnership information, call Linda Harder, 303-369-2032. — Merrily VanZevern, Director

Pinochle

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

Square Dance

Heather Twirlers would like to invite all square dancers to join us every first and third Wednesday, 7–9 pm. The cost is \$7.

Square dancing is an excellent dance to both experience the joy of moving and improve your skills while meeting with new and old friends. It is a good place to meet other dancers, have a lot of fun. It is great way to exercise. Any questions, call Beverly Nelson, 303-750-6632.

Tai Chi

The 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, which are grouped into forms. It has been described as “meditation in motion.”

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

Bunko

Bunko meets the first and third Thursdays each month, 1–3:30 pm.

We gather in the Blue Spruce Room at 12:45 pm, and start play at 1 pm. Information: Carli Williams, carliwilliams@hotmail.com, 303-518-7337.

Men's Golf League

Club Championship August 16

- 1st Dan Wallace, 37
- 2nd Pete Profera, 39
- 3rd Bill Schmit, 39
- 4th Chris Hughes, 41
- 5th Jake Flint, 42
- 6th Tom Parko, 43

August 19

- 1st Dan Wallace, 36 (73 total)
- 2nd Bill Schmit, 37 (76 total)
- 3rd Chris Hughes, 38 (79 total)
- 4th John Bender, 40 (unknown)
- 5th Tom Parko, 42 (85 total)

August 23

- 1st Chris Hughes, 38 (117 total)
- 2nd John Bender, 39 (unknown)
- 3rd Jake Flint, 40 (unknown)
- 4th Tom Parko, 42 (127 total)
- 5th Bill Schmit, 42 (118 total)

August 26

- 1st John Bender,
Chris Hughes, 38 (155 total)
- 2nd Jake Flint, 39
- 3rd Dave Oakland, 40
- 4th Pete Profera, 41
- 5th Tom Parko, 42 (169 total)

Final Results, all flights

A Flight

- 1st Chris Hughes
- 2nd John Bender
- 3rd Tom Parko
- 4th Pete Profera
- 5th Bill Schmit, Jake Flint

B Flight

- 1st Eric Neel
- 2nd Mike Meagher
- 3rd Vern Thompson

C Flight

- 1st Don Batson
- 2nd Tom Merges, Jess Deal
- 3rd Nick Streno

D Flight

- 1st Henry Ulibarri
- 2nd Bob Streno
- 3rd Vinny Rozanskas, Ben Chavez, Clifford Cresswell

E Flight

- 1st Jon Erion
- 2nd Wayne Wharton
- 3rd Bob Bamford

Tournament Results September 2

A Flight

- 1st Chris Hughes
- 2nd Eli Henrie
- 3rd Gary Ukele
- 4th Charles Marlow

B Flight

- 1st Bob Riley
- 2nd Jim Stebbins
- 3rd Matt Dunne

C Flight

- 1st Mike Benowitz
- 2nd Brian Bucenec, Mark Ruhl,
Nick Streno
- 3rd Neil Buck, Glenn Riggs

D Flight

- 1st Dave Walstrom, Joe Robinson
- 2nd Vinny Rozanskas, Ben Chavez

E Flight

- 1st Paul Spoutz, Kelvin Klink
- 2nd Ray Binder, Kenny Duncan

September 9

A Flight

- 1st Gene Barth
- 2nd Chris Hughes
- 3rd Jake Flint
- 4th Eli Henrie
- 5th Dick Baker

B Flight

- 1st Don Batson
- 2nd Rob Ledford
- 3rd Frank Leydens, Bob Riley

C Flight

- 1st Gary Kessler
- 2nd Tom Fitzgerald, Tom Kappell,
Mark Blagen, Tom Merges,
Bob McElfresh

D Flight

- 1st Cal Green
- 2nd Joe Rook
- 3rd Phil Corliss, Steve Galambos,
Blair Kittleson

E Flight

- 1st Kenny Duncan
- 2nd Phil Haas
- 3rd Paul Spoutz
- 4th Jon Erion

Muu-Muu Hula Club

The club meets Fridays, 1:30 pm, Arts & Crafts Room. All are welcome. Dress is casual. There is no cost for the classes. Questions? Call Cindy Crockett, 303-690-7702.



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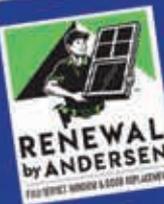
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Eleven HG residents demonstrated the incredible clothing they purchased for only a few dollars that you can find when you shop thrift stores.

Second Hand Rose was a fashion show. Entertainment by Judy Brehmer as Rose, B231, Shel McClaury as Elvis, CP3, and Camella Landrum, B218, as Minnie Pearl wore costumes created from scouting the stores. Savings ranged from \$100-\$200 on some ensembles.



Models found their clothing at ARC (16801 E. Iliff or 1070 S. Sable Blvd); Assistance League of Denver (6265 E. Evans) and Goodwill (15509 E. Iliff). Ask about discount days for seniors (Tuesday at ARC; Wednesday at Goodwill)

Photos by Janis Farrell

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HG Clubhouse Events

Phone 303-751-1811, x5

Clubhouse Manager Montrell Anthony

Assistant Clubhouse Manager Julie Racich

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

Clubhouse Hours

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

•••

AARP Driver's Safety Course

Thursday, Oct. 6, 12:45–5 pm, Arts & Crafts Room

Fee: \$20 AARP members, \$25 non-members (cash or check to instructor, no credit cards); registration required, 303-751-1811 (extension 5).

Are you a driver age 50 and over? Would you like to receive a discount on your auto insurance? Would you like to learn the current rules of the road, defensive driving techniques and how to operate your vehicle more safely in today's increasingly challenging driving environment? If so, consider attending the AARP Driver Safety Class at HG. The class is four hours. Bring your driver's license with you to class. Class size limited to 25 people.

Movie Matinee: *Top Gun: Maverick*

Friday, Oct. 7, 3 pm, Sandberg Auditorium

Fee: \$5 pre-register; \$6 on the day of the event.

Reservation required, 303-751-1811, x5

Top Gun: Maverick is a 2022 American action drama film directed by Joseph Kosinski. It is the sequel to the 1986 film *Top Gun* and the second installment in the *Top Gun* film series. It stars Tom Cruise and Val Kilmer reprising their roles from the original film, alongside Miles Teller, Jennifer Connelly, Jon Hamm, Glen Powell, Lewis Pullman, and Ed Harris. In the film, Maverick confronts his past while training a group of younger Top Gun graduates, including the son of his deceased best friend, for a dangerous mission.

Steady CBD Seminar

Tuesday, Oct. 11, 9–11 am, Aspen/Blue Spruce Rooms

FREE, reservations required, 303-955-7121.

The scientists from America's Finest CBD will be in the Aspen Room to present information that answers all your questions about how CBD can help you. Coffee and donuts will be served. Enter for a door prize.

Clubhouse News:

- Family Swim Saturdays and Sundays only 2–4 pm, indoor pool
- Sign up early for events or trips. No refunds after the posted deadline on trips. Signing up early for events guarantees you a seat.

Bally's Blackhawk Casino

Wednesday, Oct. 12, 7:45 am–3 pm

Fee: \$20, no cancellations or refunds after Oct. 7

Register at the Clubhouse or call 303-751-1811 ext 5.

Players will receive 50 points or one hour of tracked table play and receive a \$15 food coupon. \$10 free slot play. (Guests will need to set up a pin number and update account information upon arrival.) Meet at 7:45 am between B243 and B244 on East Marina Drive. Bus will leave casino at 2 pm, arriving back at HG around 3 pm. This is an ADA/lift accessible bus.

Active Minds: History of Movies

Wednesday, Oct. 12, 2 pm, Sandberg Auditorium

FREE: Reservation required, 303-751-1811, x5

At the turn of the 20th century, inventions by Thomas Edison and others introduced a new art form to the world: motion pictures. From the early era of Nickelodeons and silent films to the era of "talkies" and the growth of Hollywood, movies went from a mere fad to an industry. Now, with the introduction of streaming services like Netflix, films are evolving once again. Join Active Minds as we roll out the red carpet and tell the story of movies.

Flu Shots

Thursday, Oct. 13, 9 am–3 pm, Sandberg Auditorium

David Zazhitskiy PharmD, Pharmacy Manager of Sam's Club, will bring a team to HG to administer flu shots. Space is limited to 80 spots. Please bring your insurance cards.

Mobile Food Pantry

Thursday, Oct. 13, 10 am–noon (or until food runs out), Parking Lot B250

FREE

In response to COVID-19, the city of Aurora, in partnership with SECORCares, is bringing a mobile food pantry for seniors. No cost for the food. Sample food may include but is not limited to: rice, beans or pasta, cereal/oatmeal, various canned items, fresh produce, dairy, eggs, and protein. *Food will be modified to accommodate senior needs as best as possible, i.e., low sodium, low fat, softer foods. Questions? Call 303-739-7281. Please do not line up before 9:45 am. If you have reusable bags, please bring them to shop!

Craft Fair

Friday, Oct. 14; Saturday Oct. 15, 9–4 pm, Multiple Clubhouse rooms

FREE

More than 80 crafters will be onsite to sell handmade items: embroidery, knitting, crochet, wood crafted, paintings, pottery, baked goods and more items too numerous to name.

Ben Torres with Humana: Decompress from Stress

Wednesday, Oct. 19, 1–3 pm, Aspen Room

FREE: Reservation required, call 303-751-1811 ext. 5

Everyone experiences stress from time to time; it isn't entirely avoidable. But how you respond to stress is what matters. So, in this session we will discuss a survey

on stress, personal stressors, and what stress means to you? We will also discuss stress categories, what chronic stress is, and strategies to manage stressors. Participants will not only learn how stress can negatively impact them but strategies that you can use to handle life's challenges.

Fall Bonus: Medicare Basics and considerations for 2023. Key Medicare updates, options and a guide to Medicare choices for 2023 benefits. Choosing a Medicare plan that meets your needs begins with understanding options. In this class, I am here to make the process as simple as possible so that you can choose your plan with confidence.

Watch Batteries Replaced

Thursday, Oct. 20, 9 am–1 pm, Sunburst Café
Cost: \$7 per battery

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

Legends of King Arthur and Camelot with Kathleen Arnold

Thursday, Oct. 20, 1–2 pm, Sandberg Auditorium
FREE, reservations required, call 303-751-1811 ext. 5

No other King in history holds the power that Arthur does. Join Kathleen Arnold as she explores the many questions around King Arthur. Was he real, just a legend or a combination of both? What is known about King Arthur and his court was first written about 500 years after Arthur supposedly lived and died. Today, evidence is scarce that authenticates his true existence. This intriguing presentation is brought to you by Cherry Creek Retirement Village and Garden Plaza of Aurora.

Friday Bingo!

Friday, Oct. 21, 1–3 pm, Sandberg Auditorium
FREE: Reservation required, 303-751-1811, x5.

Back by popular demand, we have a Bingo event every month! Register early.

Halloween Party: A Costume Dinner Dance

Saturday, Oct. 22, 5:30–8 pm, Sandberg Auditorium
Potluck Dinner, costume contest, prizes
Cost \$15 per person, pay at the door
Please sign up by calling the Activities Desk, 303-755-1811, x5, by Oct. 19 so we can get a count for the main dish and table set-up.

Menu: Pulled Pork Sandwiches, and soda included. Potluck dishes brought by guests to share. Music by Final Approach is scheduled to start at 6 pm.

Mountain Man Nut & Fruit Co. will be in the Clubhouse Lobby, 2:15–3:15 pm Tuesday, Oct. 25. They will be selling nuts, seeds, snacks, candies, dried fruits and trail mix.

Movie: Where the Crawdads Sing

Friday, Oct. 28, 3 pm, Sandberg Auditorium
Fee: \$5 pre-register; \$6 on the day of the event.

Reservation required, 303-751-1811, x5

A woman who raised herself in the marshes of the deep South becomes a suspect in the murder of a man she was once involved with.

Puppies on Parade (POP)

Saturday, Oct. 29, 1:30–5 pm, Picnic Pavilion
FREE, reservations required, call 303-751-1811 ext. 5

Dress your Furry friend in a ghostly costume and walk with them in our annual Puppy Parade.

On Sept. 12, the Clubhouse hosted a party for Bronco fans in Sandberg Auditorium to watch the first game of the season for the **Denver Broncos versus the Seattle Seahawks**. (Rendezvous Restaurant is closed on Mondays.)

Cheering for the home team is definitely more fun with a crowd — everyone groaning when something bad happens (fumbles or interceptions), and yelling loudly when your team scores! Despite enthusiastic support throughout

metro Denver, the Broncos lost, 17–16. With a new quarterback, Russell Wilson, who previously was a Seahawk, new owners of the Broncos (Waltons, et al)

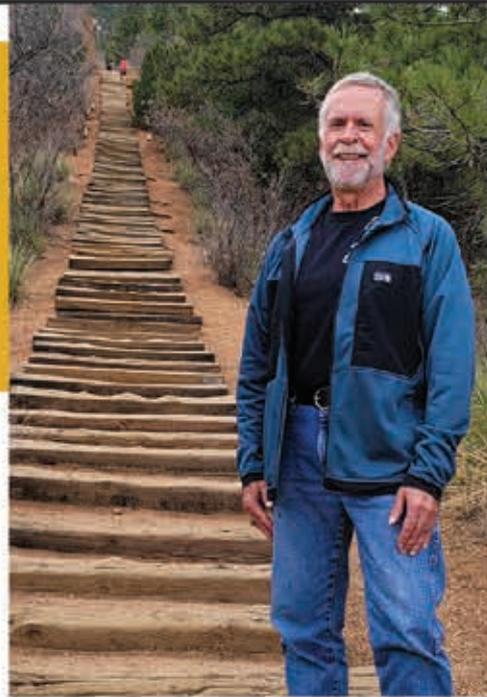


and a new head coach, Nathaniel Hackett, there is still hope that the team's fortunes will improve this year. They did win their second game against the Houston Texans on Sept. 18, 16–8. Keep cheering!



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A reverse mortgage is not the best solution for every homeowner or future homebuyer age 62 or better. When a reverse fits, it can open several fun financial options and benefits. Makes me think of the Manitou Incline. Climbing the 2,744 steps to the top the hill at the base of Pikes Peak is not for everyone, but the feeling of accomplishment and the view from the top can be quite rewarding.

Speaking of the Manitou Incline, it's on my mind since I have decided to climb it for the first time on my 70th birthday which occurs as this issue goes to press.

To find out more about reverse mortgages or if you are just curious to know how the climb went, please give me a call.

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Shadows...from page 17

chair gently. I continued, "Would it be okay if I take some notes? I mean it won't be in the paper again or anything like that."

"Well," he protested by shaking his hand back and forth as if to erase the event. He leaned forward and looked across the room at me.

"My life's not that important that anyone would want to read about it."

"That's not so, Roy," I told him. "Everyone's life is important."

He exhaled deeply, settled back in his rocker. "Well, if you're going to tell it — I guess that's okay with me. Just be sure to tell them it was a miracle. And be sure and tell them about the hand."

"The hand?" I repeated dumbly. "What hand?"

He leaned his head back against the rocker and stared at the ceiling, lost in thought. I knew he was in the swirl of those dark waters again, now searching for words to tell me what he had experienced. Minutes passed. I sat in silence waiting for his response. Roy leaned forward in the chair, gripping the rocker arms and looked straight at me.

"I saw God," he said in a surprising, firm, strong voice. My hand trembled a bit as I began to record his memory of those strong river currents and the miraculous intervention that would save his life.

• • •

Be gentle, go slow — I counseled myself — *he's so fragile*. Roy settled back into his rocker, crossed his legs at the ankles and watched me as I wrote in my notebook.

"Can you remember what pushed your decision that day?" I asked.

Roy did not answer immediately. Then he nodded his head in agreement with himself. Sighing, he began.

"It was like this. I think I was to a point where I just didn't care anymore." In a quavering voice, his thoughts spilled into words.

"You know, for a long time I cared about my son, my wife Lilli, and my little granddaughter." He covered his

eyes with trembling hands.

"I think it started when my son was in Vietnam. He got pulled into that rotten mess over there. His name came up for the lottery and one day — he was just gone. My God! Just like that. Left a new baby and his wife. I think we kinda dreaded he would be called. Every day I'd watch the damn news. They'd be rolling those caskets off the plane." He traced his arthritic finger along the arm of the rocker.

The black and white TV images of caskets being lowered onto U.S. soil flashed before my eyes. A searing reminder of the price we paid to intervene in Vietnam.

"I had a bad feeling I wasn't gonna see my Ronnie again. I think me and the wife kinda dreaded it would be like that."

He spat the words out, "Stinking war!" Roy turned and looked at me. I saw helplessness in his bewildered eyes.

"My son wrote home every week." He motioned to the corner of the room. A squat mahogany bureau stood next to his daybed.

"His mother saved his letters in that chest of drawers over there." On the chest was a large color-tinted photo of a young, solemn, blue-eyed Marine in dress uniform.

"He's a handsome one," I offered. "Blue eyes, just like you, Roy."

"It just about killed us when we got the letter that he was missing in action." He covered his eyes with trembling hands.

"After that his mother went downhill. I couldn't pull her out of the grief. It wasn't like it was easy on me either. But I was in World War 2. I'd seen men die around me." Roy wiped at his eyes with a neatly folded handkerchief.

"I told him when he left for boot camp. *It ain't no easy way for a young fella.*"

"My God, I'm so sorry you lost your son, Roy. I can't imagine the pain of that."

"Yes, he replied. Thank you. Maybe someday we'll get out of this stinking killing business. God knows

we didn't belong over there in that country," he said angrily. "It's not our affair anyhow. It sure wasn't worth my boy's life!"

Looking around the room, I saw no touch of a woman's hand. I was almost afraid to ask the next question. His furnishings were sparse, almost barracks-like, but adequate in the barest sense.

"Roy, may I asked you? Where is your wife?" He stopped rocking and stood. Step by step, he walked stiffly over to the window and stared ahead. Then he turned and looked at me, his eyes blurred with tears.

"That's the day I gave up." He told me that reluctantly, guarding the solitude of his own thoughts.

"She come down with cancer so fast after Ronnie died. The doc said she had it all along, and somehow I figure all the crying and stuff took her quicker. I buried her two months to the day after we got that awful news."

Now silence. Sometimes words violate the sacredness of the moment. Could I comfort this broken man?

"I put her in Rockford Memorial Cemetery. She's right next to our boy's plot. We always hoped someday they'd find his body and bring him home. Then we could bury him proper. So we bought a plot next to ours." His voice trailed off.

"Funny how life goes. Now she's there and his grave is empty."

"What about the rest of your family? Your grand-baby?"

Roy sighed wearily.

"That's the part I still can't understand. After we learned about Ronnie, my daughter-in-law just ran off with some guy me and the missus never met!" He shook his head like he still couldn't believe it.

"A couple of their neighbors told us they heard they was headed back down to Kentucky where the guy came from. Not a call. Nothing. They just disappeared one day. We rode over to their place and stared in the windows. We couldn't believe she'd just leave and take our grand-baby away from us like that. Just a bunch

See facing page

Shadows...from page 64

of empty rooms — that's all we saw."

I was almost to the point where I didn't have to ask any more questions. Everything he told me answered my question as to why he would jump off the bridge. I stood and walked over to the window and touched his arm.

"Maybe social services could help you find her?"

He just stared ahead. "Nah, that's over. She don't want to be found."

"Roy, why don't we sit back down? We don't have to continue talking. I can come back anytime."

"No, no. I'm OK, just let me rest a minute or two." He leaned his weight against me, as I guided him back to his rocker. With a sigh of relief, he sat down.

"I just figured someday I'll hear something — she knows where I live." Then he mumbled softly, "Strange what grief does. It sure ripped us apart."

"Are you sure you want to continue?" I asked.

He waved his hand to protest. "I'll be OK. I just want to make sure you write the part where I saw the hand!" He gave himself a little push to start his rocker again.

"You know, I knew I was going to jump that morning when I woke up. I just wanted to do it right."

"What do you mean — do it right?"

He turned and announced, almost deliberately, "Well, I figured if you're going to meet Saint Pete, don't look like a bum! I put on my blue suit and my favorite tie." He gave me a sad, feeble smile.

"My son gave me that for Christmas, one year ago."

"Did you have any second thoughts when you were dressing?"

"Nope. I just went downstairs and had a cuppa coffee at the diner and said 'hi' to the regulars. They asked me why I was all dolled up. I just left then and started walking to the bridge. I was done thinking. All the way walking, I prayed the Hail Mary: pray for us sinners now and at

the hour of our death. I kept saying it over and over. Then when I got to the railing, I looked down at the water. I wasn't scared anymore."

He leaned forward and looked at me intently.

"The water was so cold. All I can remember then is being upside down. I must have opened my eyes." He nodded his head, affirming his own vision in the murky waters.

"Lord Jesus, that's when I saw God. I'll never forget it! I know that hand. I saw it at the Vatican — the ceiling, the one Michelangelo painted. It was the same hand reaching down for me. It was as big as day, right in front of my eyes."

Astounded, I asked, "Roy, aren't you thinking you saw the hands of the guy that pulled you out?"

"No. No! That couldn't have been. Because the man pulled me from behind like this." He smoothed his hands across his waist.

"It wasn't a struggle or nothing. I just took a hold of God's hand and then I passed out." Satisfied he had explained those moments, a faint smile spread across his face.

"Look lady. I don't know if you believe all I just told you. But for me, that's the reason I'm here today. It ain't no easy way to be left alone with all your family gone. But I know one thing. You sure gave me a hand up today just listening to me talk some."

He continued, "You know, people don't stop and really care about each other too much these days. And here you are — a stranger showing up at my door wanting to know about ole Roy."

I smiled. "I had to come, Roy. The same God that saved you is the same God that urged me to come and visit."

"Well," he responded, "I know for sure now that God is real. I was raised a Catholic. I fell away from the church. I mean I believed in Jesus and all. But that kneeling and confessing wasn't for me. I just figured I could live without it. But the day when I went to the bridge, all of a sudden I remembered my Hail Mary, the Lord is with thee part."

Tears slid down his face as he extended his hand towards me. "God bless you, lady."

I stood and walked over to his chair and clasped his hand in mine.

"Roy, you have given me a great gift to share with people who read of your experiences," I said. "Think of your life this way. Now you are the hand that reaches into so many lives, and perhaps saves them, with your story."

In that moment, a great sense of peace surrounded us in that tiny room.

"How simple," I reassured him, "God's hand is always reaching for us when we extend our hands to each other."

His grip tightened on my hand. I leaned forward to hear him whisper in a hoarse voice, "I know. Thank you for listening to me today."

•••

That bridge still stands in Rockford where a discouraged, lonely guy jumped off into the deep waters below and reunited with his God.

— Diana Valencia
B244



Photo of a rainbow over Heather Gardens at sunset by Steve Samoheyl, B211. Taken after it rained on Sunday, Sept. 18, the photo emphasizes how magical HG can look with natural lighting.

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FYI...from page 39

performances, delicious food trucks, unique vendors, fall-themed activities perfect for the family and a GOURDgeous pumpkin patch. Kids' activities will include inflatables, caricature artists, balloon twisting, face painting and more! Information: 303-739-6702, AuroraGov.org/Events.

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See facing page

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING: Deadline is the 17th of each month. Rate is 50¢ per word with a \$10 minimum. Write your ad and deliver or mail with a check payable to *Heather 'n Yon, c/o Mary Hafka*, 14311 E Marina Dr, Aurora, CO 80014. Keep ads short (50 word maximum).

Publication does not imply endorsement.

Call Mary Hafka, 303-368-7559; e-mail: mhafka@comcast.net

FYI...from page 66

VA-sponsored adaptive eyewear

A device that improves the sight of people with visual impairments will soon be made available to veterans nationwide, and Aurora-based Marathon Medical will be responsible for distributing it.

Marathon Medical, a 20-year-old medical supply distribution company, entered into a partnership

this month with eSight, a health tech company based in Toronto, Canada. As eSight receives orders for its glasses, Marathon Medical will distribute them to Department of Veterans Affairs facilities. Call 303-399-8020, Option 3 for Specialty Clinic Ophthalmology.

Pumpkin Harvest Festival

Oct. 8-9, 9 am-6 pm
Four Mile Historic Park
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and smells of Fall. Pick out the perfect pumpkin or unique local treasure in the Marketplace. Enjoy live music and performances, and dine on seasonal favorites like apple cider donuts. Tickets, \$10-\$18. 715 S. Forest Street, Denver, 80246, info@fourmilepark.org, 720-865-0800.

Civic Engagement Commission

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agement regarding the development and implementation of civic engagement programs and new initiatives to support and partner with community-based organizations, institutions and civic leaders in their civic engagement efforts.

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Overheard @ HG

Great to be golden — wonderful to be weird

by Mary Hafka

"I don't really have a plan. I rely on caffeine and weirdness to get me through the day."

A friend recently sent me the above quote. As she's an Instagram devotee, I suspect that's where it originated.

Anyway, I don't know about y'all, but I have to admit that in recent years, I've had a simply swell time being elderly. I've made a couple of lifestyle changes that probably contribute to my newfound license to let go of much of the structure in my routine.

I've given up all part-time work, except for my assignments on *Heather 'n Yon*. COVID quarantining put an end to my working outside of my home. Differences with the U.S. Postal Service caused me to shut down my eBay online store.

In concert with mostly retiring, I vowed to stop being so careful about money. I didn't realize how much thought I devoted to watching my budget until I stopped doing it. My loosening up of the purse strings has manifested itself in a number of bizarre shopping excursions, though.

I've always been a bit of a shopaholic, but these days, my buying is more free ranging. I went to Costco the other day, even though I didn't have my shopping list with me. It's been my practice, in the past, to frugally adhere to a shopping list. That day, however, I decided it didn't matter.

The result was, I came home from Costco with a leaf blower, and three mosquito-zapper lights. You know — things I didn't know I absolutely had to have, until I saw them.

I used to shop at thrift stores, to seek bargains. Then, thrift stores became a source for unusual and whimsical items to sell through my eBay store.

I still shop at thrift stores, but now, it's for the sheer adventure of it. Just the other day, I bought a tee shirt, which reads: "I'm Gettin' Real Tired of Wearing Pants and Having Responsibilities." This pretty well sums up my current philosophy of life. I've pretty much given up focusing on being responsible, although I continue to wear pants on special occasions.

What added spice to the thrifting endeavor was how I bought the tee shirt. As I was checking out at ARC, another checker ran up to the clerk waiting on me, brandishing a tee shirt, and exclaiming to her co-worker, "Look at this!"

We three all agreed this was one of the all-time great shirts. So much so, that I proclaimed, "I'll buy it! How much?"

The shirt apparently hadn't been entered into ARC's system, before the excited employee snagged it, and brought it to her fellow clerk to see. As it was priceless, in more ways than one, the clerk said, "Two dollars."

I replied sold, and added the shirt to my pile. A shopper would never have an encounter like that at Macy's.

Caught up in the moment, I didn't pay attention to the size of the shirt. After I got home, I discovered it is a 5X; that is, an XXXXXL. I suppose I can wear it to sleep in. It will be roomy and comfortable. Also big enough for the cat and dog — who sleep with me — to fit inside, too.

As a concession to age, I'm trying to simplify my shopping. A few months ago, I bought four pairs of sandals, all the same, in assorted colors. Buying one's shoes by the crate is very efficient — I highly recommend it.

I've been replacing some old furniture this year. Last week, I bought a wooden fish cabinet. (This is a cabinet shaped like a fish, not a cabinet in which to store fish. That would get smelly.)

I got a little ahead of myself — impulse buying the large piece of furniture without measuring it first. It's currently at home in the master bathroom, which I've decorated with a seashore theme.

The delivery guys had a lot of trouble fitting the fish cabinet through the bathroom door. And, really, it takes up too much floor space. It sure holds a lot of towels, though.

Buying fish for my redecorated bathroom has gotten to be a thing. Too much of a thing, actually. I've purchased glass light-diffusing fish figurines, hand towels embroidered with fish, fish soap dishes, fish toilet-paper holders, fish wall art. In the dark, when I'm not looking, I suspect these fish are spawning, and creating little fish, as they seem to adorn every surface.

I also went a bit too far with another furniture purchase. Apparently, falling gets to be a thing as one ages. I have a friend who's fallen twice this year, breaking two separate body parts.

As part of my furniture-replacement program, I bought a new, designer bed frame for the master bedroom. No more than half an hour after it was installed, I was trotting happily around it, putting on new sheets.

I learned the hard way that the new bed had corners that protrude a bit, compared to what I'd been used to. I caught my foot on the corner, and went kerspat! on the tile floor. I'm happy to report that the floor — also newly installed — suffered no injuries. Luckily, neither did I, beyond a few bumps and bruises.

I've decided, however, that Overstock should not sell trendy beds with sticking-out corners to senior citizens. It's a new-fangled invention with which some of us, apparently, aren't capable of coping.

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14152 E. Linvale Place #211
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